Historical Resources Survey for the Dhir Residence Project San Diego, California

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE REPORT FORM

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

This report summarizes the background information, methods, and results of the historical resources survey of the Dhir Residence project (project). The project site is located within the community of Carmel Valley, in the city of San Diego (Figure 1). The project is located within Township 14 South, Range 3 West on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Del Mar 7.5-minute quadrangle (USGS 1994; Figure 2) and is located off Via Del Mar. Figure 3 shows the site on the City of San Diego 800-scale map. The project includes constructing a single-family residence in the center of the property, with a pool on the west side and a casita east of the house. The project would also include a driveway and minor off-site road improvements to Via Del Mar. The area of potential effect (APE) totals 1.24 acres, including the approximately 1-acre project and 0.24 acre of off-site improvements (Figure 4).

II. SETTING

Natural Environment (Past and Present)

The project area is within erosional marine terraces formed by several major drainages, which drain into Carmel Valley. Vegetation consists of native and non-native plants. The project elevation ranges from 260 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) to 280 feet AMSL. Carmel Valley is situated approximately 1,460 feet north and northwest, and Soledad Valley and Interstate 5 are west and southwest. The Pacific Ocean is less than two miles west.

The project area has been mapped as Terrace escarpments (TeF). Terrace Escarpment soils consist of steep to very steep escarpments, which occur on the nearly even fronts of terraces or alluvial fans. There are 4 to 10 inches of loamy or gravelly soil over soft marine sandstone, shale, or gravelly sediments (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1973).

Ethnography/History

The prehistoric cultural sequence in San Diego County is generally conceived as comprising three basic periods: the Paleoindian, dated between about 11,500 and 8,500 years ago and manifested by the artifacts of the San Dieguito Complex; the Archaic, lasting from about 8,500 to 1,500 years ago (A.D. 500) and manifested by the cobble and core technology of the La Jollan Complex; and the Late Prehistoric, lasting from about 1,500 years ago to historic contact (i.e., A.D. 500 to 1769) and represented by the Cuyamaca Complex. This latest complex is marked by the appearance of ceramics, small arrow points, and cremation burial practices.

The Paleoindian Period in San Diego County is most closely associated with the San Dieguito Complex, as identified by Rogers (1938, 1939, 1945). The San Dieguito assemblage consists of well-made scraper planes, choppers, scraping tools, crescentics, elongated bifacial knives, and leaf-shaped points. The San Dieguito Complex is thought to represent an early emphasis on hunting (Warren et al. 1993:III-33).

The Archaic Period in coastal San Diego County is represented by the La Jolla Complex, a local manifestation of the widespread Millingstone Horizon. This period brings an apparent shift toward a more generalized economy and an increased emphasis on seed resources, small game, and shellfish. The local cultural manifestations of the Archaic Period are called the La Jolla Complex along the coast and the Pauma Complex inland. Pauma Complex sites lack the shell that dominates many La Jollan sites. Along with an economic focus on gathering plant resources, the settlement system appears to have been more sedentary. The La Jollan

assemblage is dominated by rough, cobble-based choppers and scrapers, and slab and basin metates. Elko series projectile points appeared by about 3,500 years ago. Large deposits of marine shell at coastal sites argue for the importance of shellfish gathering to the coastal Archaic economy.

Near the coast and in the Peninsular Mountains beginning approximately 1,500 years ago, patterns began to emerge that suggest the ethnohistoric Kumeyaay. The Late Prehistoric Period is characterized by higher population densities and elaborations in social, political, and technological systems. Economic systems diversify and intensify during this period, with the continued elaboration of trade networks, the use of shell-bead currency, and the appearance of more labor-intensive but effective technological innovations. The Late Prehistoric archaeology of the San Diego coast and foothills is characterized by the Cuyamaca Complex. It is primarily known from the work of D. L. True at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (True 1970). The Cuyamaca Complex is characterized by the presence of steatite arrowshaft straighteners, steatite pendants, steatite comales (heating stones), Tizon Brownware pottery, ceramic figurines reminiscent of Hohokam styles, ceramic "Yuman bow pipes," ceramic rattles, miniature pottery, various cobble-based tools (e.g., scrapers, choppers, hammerstones), bone awls, manos and metates, mortars and pestles, and Desert Side-Notched (more common) and Cottonwood Series projectile points.

Ethnohistory

The Kumeyaay (also known as Kamia, Ipai, Tipai, and Diegueño) occupied the southern two-thirds of San Diego County. The Kumeyaay lived in semi-sedentary, politically autonomous villages or rancherias. Settlement system typically consisted of two or more seasonal villages with temporary camps radiating away from these central places (Cline 1984a and 1984b). Their economic system consisted of hunting and gathering, with a focus on small game, acorns, grass seeds, and other plant resources. The most basic social and economic unit was the patrilocal extended family. A wide range of tools was made of locally available and imported materials. A simple shoulder-height bow was utilized for hunting. Numerous other flaked stone tools were made including scrapers, choppers, flake-based cutting tools, and biface knives. Preferred stone types were locally available metavolcanics, chert, and quartz. Obsidian was imported from the deserts to the north and east. Ground stone objects include mortars, manos, metates, and pestles typically made of locally available, fine-grained granite. Both portable and bedrock types are known. The Kumeyaay made fine baskets using either coiled or twined construction. The Kumeyaay also made pottery, utilizing the paddle-and-anvil technique. Most were a plain brown utility ware called Tizon Brownware, but some were decorated (Meighan 1954; May 1976, 1978).

Spanish/Mexican/American Periods

The Spanish Period (1769–1821) represents a time of European exploration and settlement. Military and naval forces along with a religious contingent founded the San Diego Presidio, the pueblo of San Diego, and the San Diego Mission in 1769 (Rolle 1998). The mission system used forced Native American labor and introduced horses, cattle, other agricultural goods, and implements. Native American culture in the coastal strip of California rapidly deteriorated despite repeated attempts to revolt against the Spanish invaders (Cook 1976). One of the hallmarks of the Spanish colonial scheme was the rancho system. In an attempt to encourage settlement and development of the colonies, large land grants were made to meritorious or well-connected individuals.

In 1821, Mexico declared its independence from Spain. During the Mexican Period (1822–1848), the mission system was secularized by the Mexican government and these lands allowed for the dramatic expansion of the rancho system. The southern California economy became increasingly based on cattle ranching.

The Mexican period ended when Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, concluding the Mexican-American War (1846–1848; Rolle 1998). Just prior to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, gold was discovered in the northern California Sierra-Nevada foothills, the news was published on March 15, 1848, and the California Gold Rush began. The great influx of Americans and Europeans eliminated many remaining vestiges of Native American culture. California became a state in 1850.

The American homestead system encouraged settlement beyond the coastal plain into areas where Indians had retreated to avoid the worst of Spanish and Mexican influences (Carrico 1987; Cook 1976). A rural community cultural pattern existed in San Diego County from approximately 1870 to 1930. These communities were composed of an aggregate of people who lived on scattered farmsteads tied together through a common school district, church, post office, and country store (Hector and Van Wormer 1986; Pourade 1963).

III. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

The APE consists of 1.24 acres.

IV. STUDY METHODS

The cultural resources survey included both an archival search and an on-site foot survey of the project area. A records search with a one-mile radius buffer was requested from the South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University in order to determine if previously recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources occur on the project area. Additionally, historic aerial photographs were reviewed to assist in identifying past ground disturbances.

A letter was sent on December 11, 2020 to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting them to search their Sacred Lands File to identify spiritually significant and/or sacred sites or traditional use areas in the project vicinity. The NAHC was also asked to provide a list of local Native American tribes, bands, or individuals who may have concerns or interests in the cultural resources of the project.

The field survey was conducted on December 18, 2020, by RECON archaeologist Carmen Zepeda-Herman accompanied by Shuluuk Linton, a Native American representative from Red Tail Environmental. The spacing between the field personnel was 5 meters. The survey area was inspected for evidence of archaeological materials such as flaked and ground stone tools, ceramics, milling features, and historic features. Photographs and field notes were taken to document the environmental setting and general conditions.

V. RESULTS OF STUDY

The records search indicates that there have been various historical resource investigations within a one-mile radius of the project (Confidential Attachment). One of the investigations titled Cultural Research Survey of the Villa Costa Monte Residence, City of San Diego included the project area. RECON Environmental conducted the survey of the project area in January 2002. No cultural resources were identified. The western area appeared to have been partially graded. Pine needles and accumulated brush trimmings resulted in poor visibility. Overall surface visibility was 50 percent. No buildings were noted (RECON 2002).

The records search also lists 100 cultural resources recorded within a one-mile radius of the project area of which 72 are prehistoric resources, 7 are isolated prehistoric artifacts, 12 are historic-era resources, and 3 are multi-component resources; 6 site forms have no information listed. Two historic addresses have also been recorded. None of these resources are recorded within the APE. No response has been received from the NAHC as of the writing of this report.

Review of historic aerial photographs indicate that the project area has been crossed by dirt pathways or tracks beginning in 1967. A building is noted in the 2009 photograph and the existing driveway is in the 2012 photograph (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 2020).

The survey resulted in finding no cultural material. Ground visibility was less than 20 percent due to the ground being mostly covered by pine needles and other vegetation (Photograph 1). There is a concrete driveway on the north end leading to a set of foundations in the southeastern part of the APE (Photograph 2). Other ground-disturbance noted included areas where the topsoil has been removed and revealed subsoils (Photograph 3).

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The cultural resource investigations summarized herein satisfy the study and documentation requirements identified by City of San Diego Development Services Department staff and are consistent with the goals and policies of the City of San Diego as published in the Land Development Manual. As such, the efforts to identify and document historical resources in the APE for the project reveal that the project will have no impact on previously recorded prehistoric cultural resources.

The possibility of significant historical resources being present within the project is considered low. The majority of the area has been highly disturbed by past grading and construction of a former building and by erosional events. RECON recommends no further cultural resources work; construction monitoring is not recommended.

VII. SOURCES CONSULTED

SOURCES CONSULTED	DATE
National Register of Historic Places ☑	Month and Year: December 2020
California Register of Historical Resources ☑	Month and Year: December 2020
City of San Diego Historical Resources Register ☑	Month and Year: December 2020
Archaeological/Historical Site Records: South Coastal Information Center ☑	Month and Year: December 2020

Other Sources Consulted:

VIII. CERTIFICATION

Preparer: Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.	Title: Principal Investigator
Signature: Carmen Zepeda-Herman	Date: December 21, 2020

IX. ATTACHMENTS

Bibliography
Attached.

National Archaeological Data Base Information
Attached

Maps (include all of the following maps.)

Figure 1. Project Location
Figure 2. USGS Quadrangle
Figure 3. City of San Diego 800' scale
Figure 4. Aerial Photograph of Project Site

Photographs

Photograph 1. Dense Pine Needles and Other Vegetation Cover, Looking Southeast
Photograph 2. Overview of Foundations, Looking Northeast
Photograph 3. Exposed Subsoil within the Southwestern Portion of the Project Area

Personnel Qualifications (Include resumes if not already on file with the City.)
Resumes are already on file with the City.

X. CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS (bound separately)

Record search results.
Maps from record search results from South Coastal Information Center

Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence

New or updated historical resource records
None.

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NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

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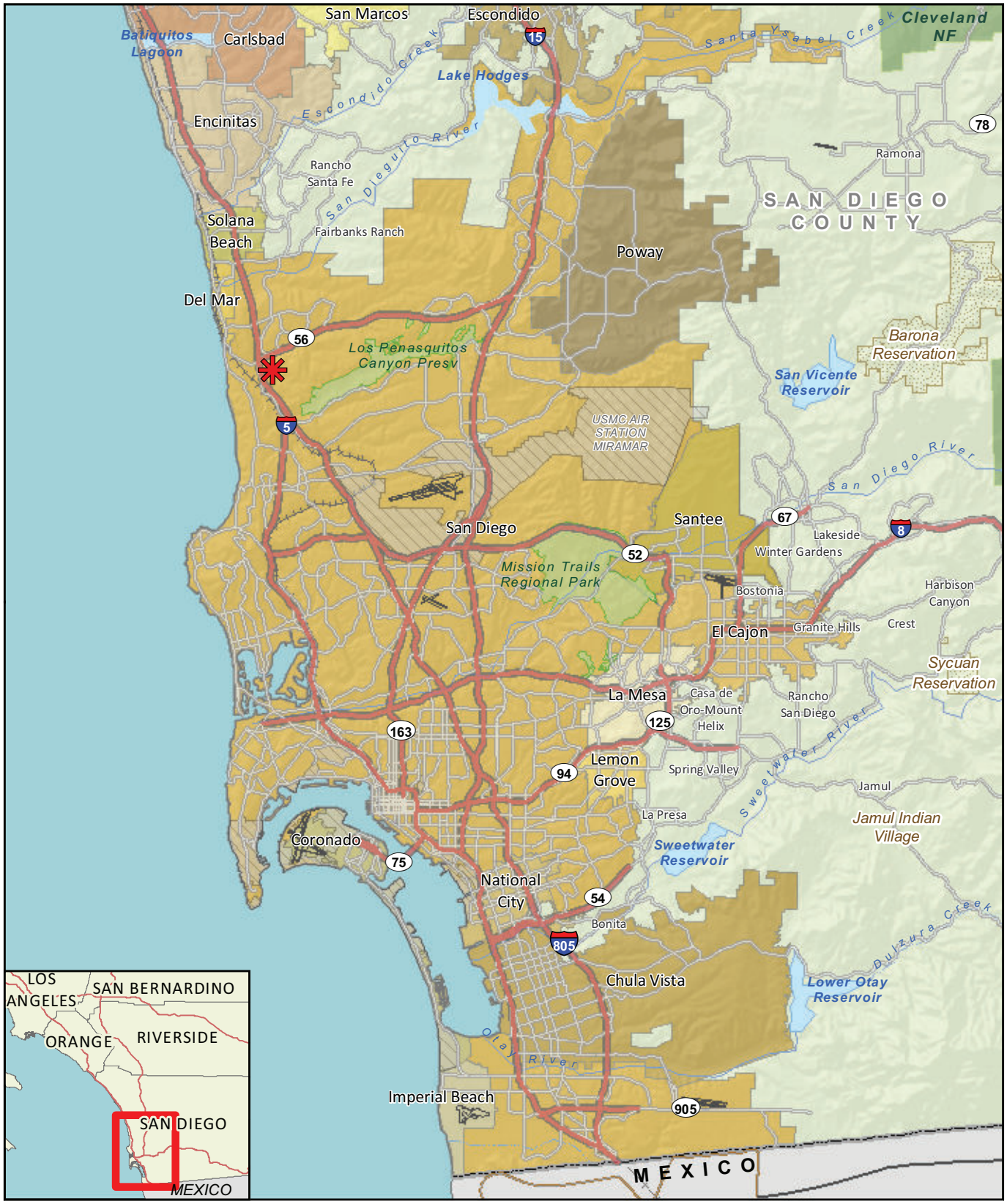
Prepared for:	Lalit Dhir 11649 Thistle Hill Place San Diego, CA 92130
Contract Number:	RECON 9827
USGS Quadrangle Map:	Del Mar Quadrangle
Keywords:	Negative survey, marine terrace escarpments

ABSTRACT

A cultural resources survey was conducted for the Dhir Residence project in the city of San Diego. The survey included a records search from the South Coastal Information Center and a sacred lands search from the Native American Heritage Commission. No prehistoric resources have been recorded within the project vicinity. A past survey of the project area was negative.

A RECON archaeologist and Native American monitor from Red Tail Environmental completed the field survey on December 18, 2020. The project area was disturbed by past grading and construction for the existing concrete driveway and foundations. The topsoil has been removed and exposed subsoils in some areas. Ground visibility was poor due to pine needle cover. The possibility of significant historical resources being present within the project area is considered low. The majority of the area is highly disturbed by past grading and construction and erosional events. RECON recommends no further cultural resources work.



Project Location

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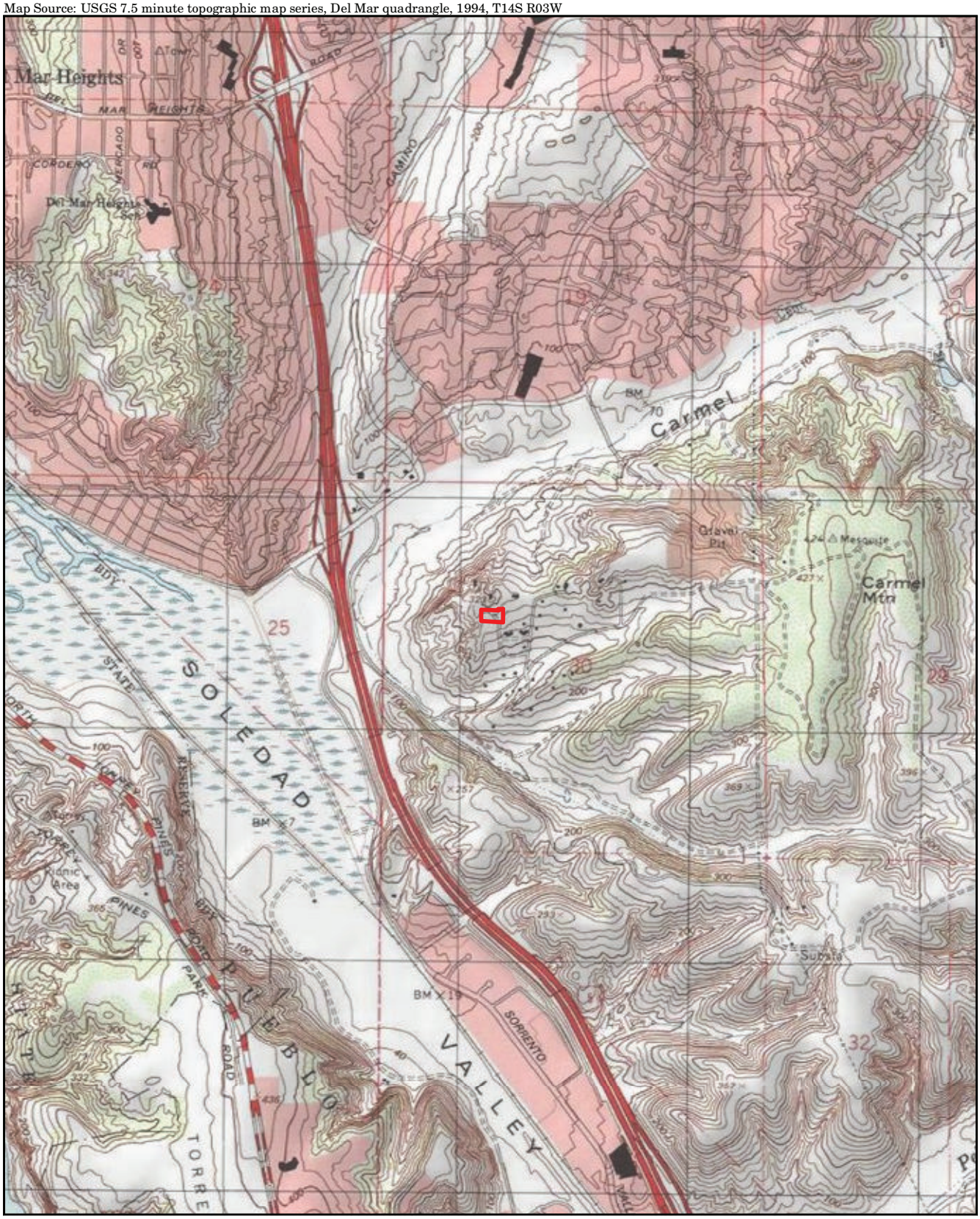
FIGURE 1
Regional Location

Map Source: USGS 7.5 minute topographic map series, Del Mar quadrangle, 1994, T14S R03W



0 Feet 2,000

Project Boundary

RECON

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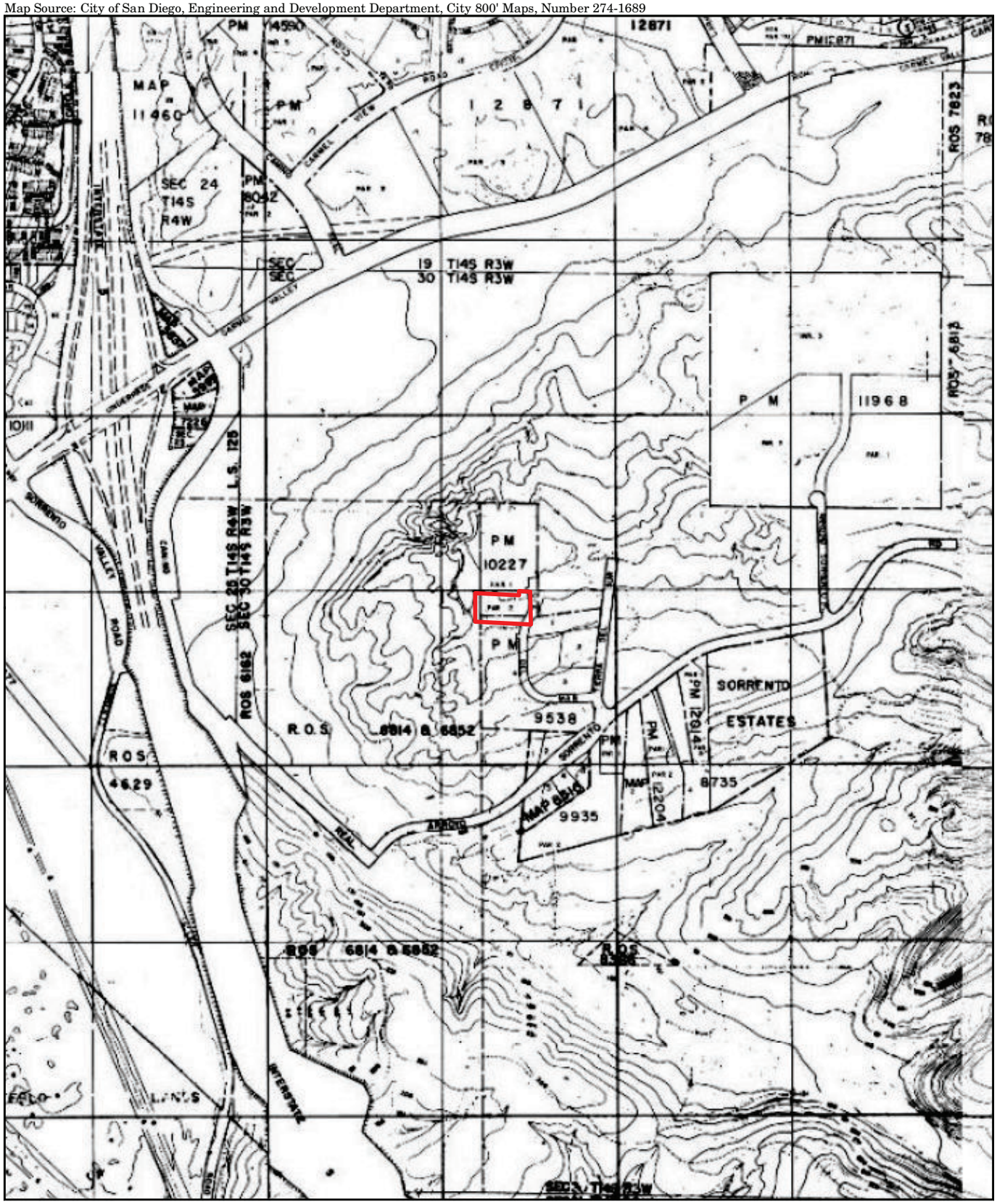
FIGURE 2
Project Location on USGS Map

Map Source: City of San Diego, Engineering and Development Department, City 800' Maps, Number 274-1689



0 Feet 800

Project Boundary

FIGURE 3

Project Location on City 800' Map

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Image Source: Nearmap (flown September 2020)

0 Feet 100

Project Boundary

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FIGURE 4

Project Location on Aerial Photograph

PHOTOGRAPH 1
Dense Pine Needles and Other Vegetation Cover, Looking Southeast

PHOTOGRAPH 2
Overview of Foundations, Looking Northeast

PHOTOGRAPH 3
Exposed Subsoil within the Southwestern Portion of the Project Area

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS

Are not for public review