

# Archaeological Survey Report for the OTN Parking Lot Project, San Diego, California

Project Number: 615398  
City of San Diego  
APN Number: 667-06-011 and 667-06-012

July 2019 (Revised March 2020)

*Prepared for:*

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Principal Investigator



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ASM Project Number 30460.01



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2034 Corte del Nogal  
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ASM PN 30460.01

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## NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE INFORMATION

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**Report Date:** July 2019 (Revised March 2020)

**Report Title:** Archaeological Survey Report for the OTN Parking Lot Project, San Diego, California

**Party submitted to:** City of San Diego

**Project number:**

**Party submitted by:** Ms. Nancy Gudino  
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**USGS:** 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Otay Mesa, California

**Acreage:** 28.9 acres

**Parcel Number/APN:** 667-06-011 and 667-06-012

**Keywords:** Otay Mesa, Cultural Resources Survey, CA-SDI-7208,  
San Diego, California



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## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) was contracted to provide a cultural resources records search from the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System and to conduct an archaeological survey for a 17.6-acre project area for the OTN Parking Lot project (Project) adjacent to the Cross Border Xpress Terminal located in the Otay Mesa Community of San Diego, California. ASM also requested a search of the Sacred Lands File from the Native American Heritage Commission. The records search was requested from the SCIC on June 13, 2018. The archaeological survey was conducted on June 15, 2018.

The results of the records search at the SCIC yielded information indicating that approximately 460 square meters (m) of the previously recorded site CA-SDI-7208 intersects the northwest corner of the study area. There are 13 previously recorded cultural resources within a 1-mile radius of the Project area. During the archaeological survey, no artifacts were identified in the portion of CA-SDI-7208 that intersected the Project area. However, a shell scatter approximately 320 m<sup>2</sup> in size and consisting of between 30 to 40 shells and shell fragments was recorded just six m south of the boundary of CA-SDI-7208. The shell scatter lies on the western boundary of the Project area with approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup> of the shell scatter inside of the Project area. Additionally, eight isolate artifacts were also recorded within the Project area including two pieces of shell, three flakes, one piece of shatter, a modified cobble, and a scraper.

Given the proximity of the shell scatter to the previously defined boundary of CA-SDI-7208, ASM has redefined the site boundary to include the shell scatter. Given that SDI-7208 has previously been evaluated and identified as not significant, ASM does not recommend archaeological testing of the shell scatter just outside of the previous boundary of SDI-7208. The isolates also by definition are not significant. However, ASM recommends archaeological monitoring for a portion of ground-disturbing construction activities to verify subsurface deposits are not present in the project area. Monitoring to a depth of two feet below the surface (or immediately below the plow zone) should be sufficient to verify the presence/absence of subsurface deposits. In the event that at least 50 percent of the project area is graded during construction without indications of subsurface deposits, the qualified archaeologist in concurrence with the City of San Diego may agree to a cessation of the monitoring program.

Subsequent to the 2018 survey, ASM was informed that unpermitted ground disturbance occurred within the project area and ASM was requested to conduct an assessment survey. The assessment survey was conducted on March 12, 2020. ASM observed that portions within the northern half of the project were disturbed through the placement of fencing and shallow grading of approximately 5 acres. Aside from a single flake, no other artifacts were observed during the survey, and except for the original recommendation for a monitoring program, no other actions are recommended for this project.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a records search and cultural resources survey of a 17.6-acre project area for the OTN Parking Lot project (Project) adjacent to the Cross Border Xpress Terminal located in the Otay Mesa Community of San Diego, California (Figure 1). The study was conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City of San Diego Land Development Code. The Project location is shown on the USGS Otay Mesa 7.5-minute quadrangle in Township 19 South, Range 1 West, Section 3 (Figure 2). The Project site is between Siempre Viva Road and the US-Mexico International Border (Figures 3 and 4).

The Project site consists of two parcels (APNS 667-060-11 and 667-060-12) which total 28.9 acres. The project will develop 17.6 acres (project area) of the 28.9 acres Project site. 11.3 acres of the Project site will remain undeveloped as this area has been designated for 100% conservation as part of the City's adopted Vernal Pool HCP. ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) was contracted to provide a records search from the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System, and an archaeological survey with a Native American monitor. Mark S. Becker served as Principal Investigator for the survey. Jason Kjolsing conducted the pedestrian survey of the study area on June 15, 2018. Jason Pinto from Jamul Indian Village served as the Native American monitor for the survey. A subsequent assessment survey was conducted by Zaira Marquez on March 12, 2020 of unpermitted ground disturbance within the project area.

Cultural resource investigations followed the procedures and guidelines set forth in the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update (City of San Diego 2013). Under HIST-1: Prior to issuance of any permit for a future development project implemented in accordance with the CPU area that could directly affect an archaeological resource, the City shall require the following steps be taken to determine: (1) the presence of archaeological resources and (2) the appropriate mitigation for any significant resources which may be impacted by a development activity. Under the initial determination, the environmental analyst will determine the likelihood for the project site to contain historical resources. This is typically performed through a records search and cultural resources survey of the property. Under Steps 1 and 2, if there is evidence that the project footprint contains historical resources, preparation of a historic evaluation is required, along with making a significance determination. Tribal representatives are requested to be involved during this phase of the process. Even if no significant resources are found, if the archaeological findings indicate that there is still a potential for resources to be present on the property, then mitigation monitoring is required. The preferred mitigation for known historical resources is to avoid or minimize impacts through redesign whenever possible. Under Steps 4 and 5, the qualified archaeologist prepares an archaeological resource management report, and all cultural materials and data are permanently curated with an approved institution.

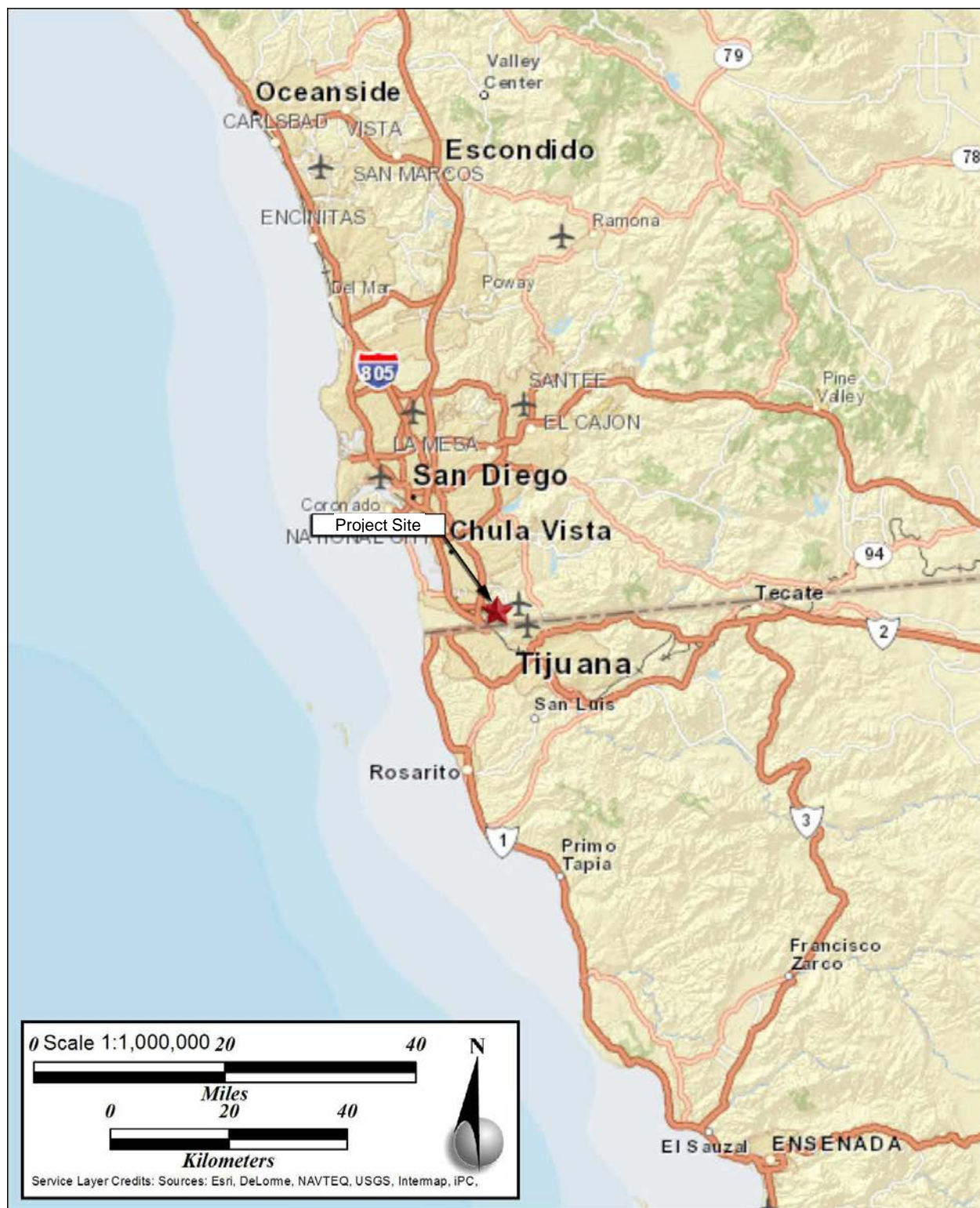


Figure 1. OTN Parking Lot Project Parcel vicinity map.

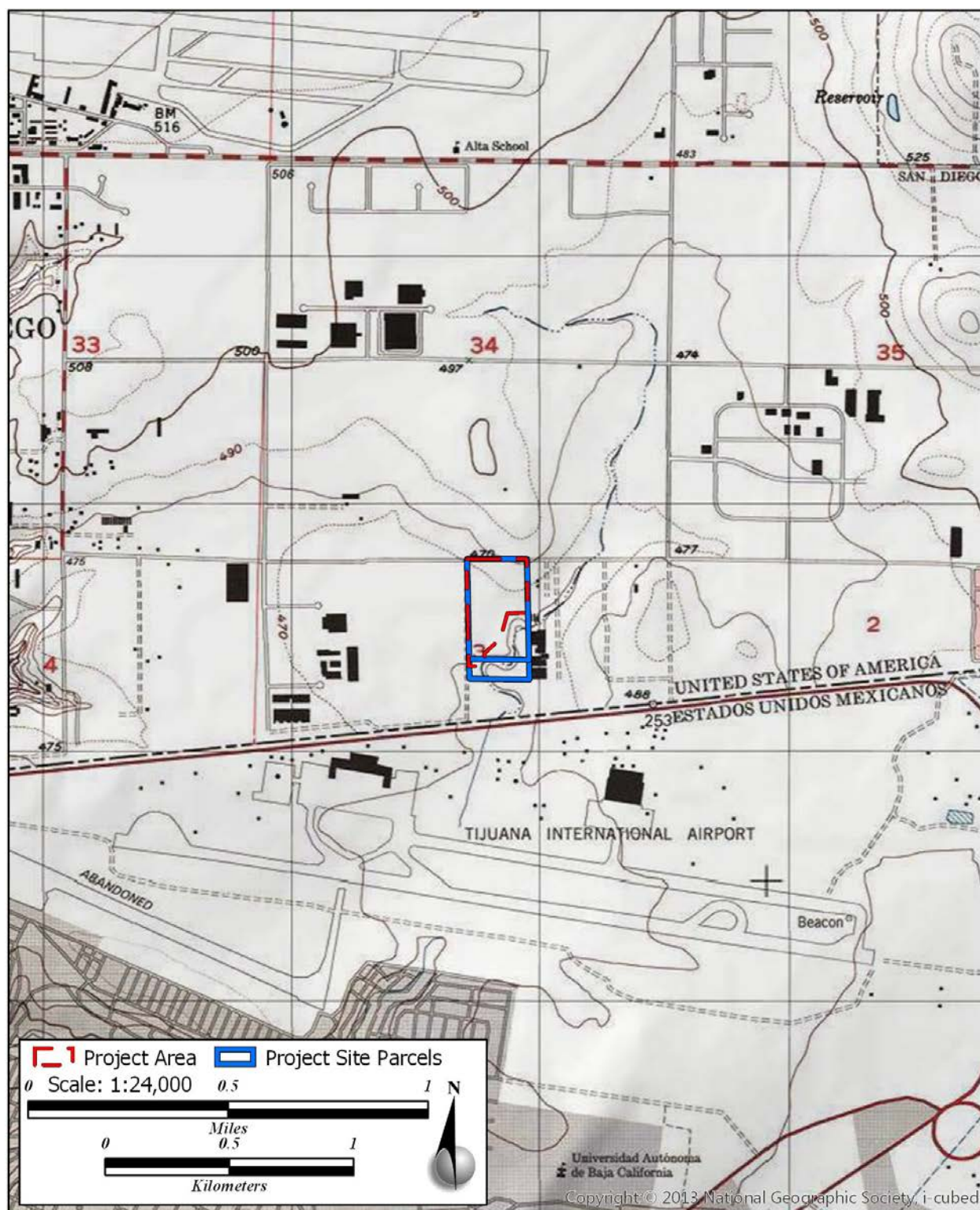


Figure 2. OTN Parking Lot Parcel location map.





Figure 3. Aerial Map showing location of OTN Parking Lot Project Site

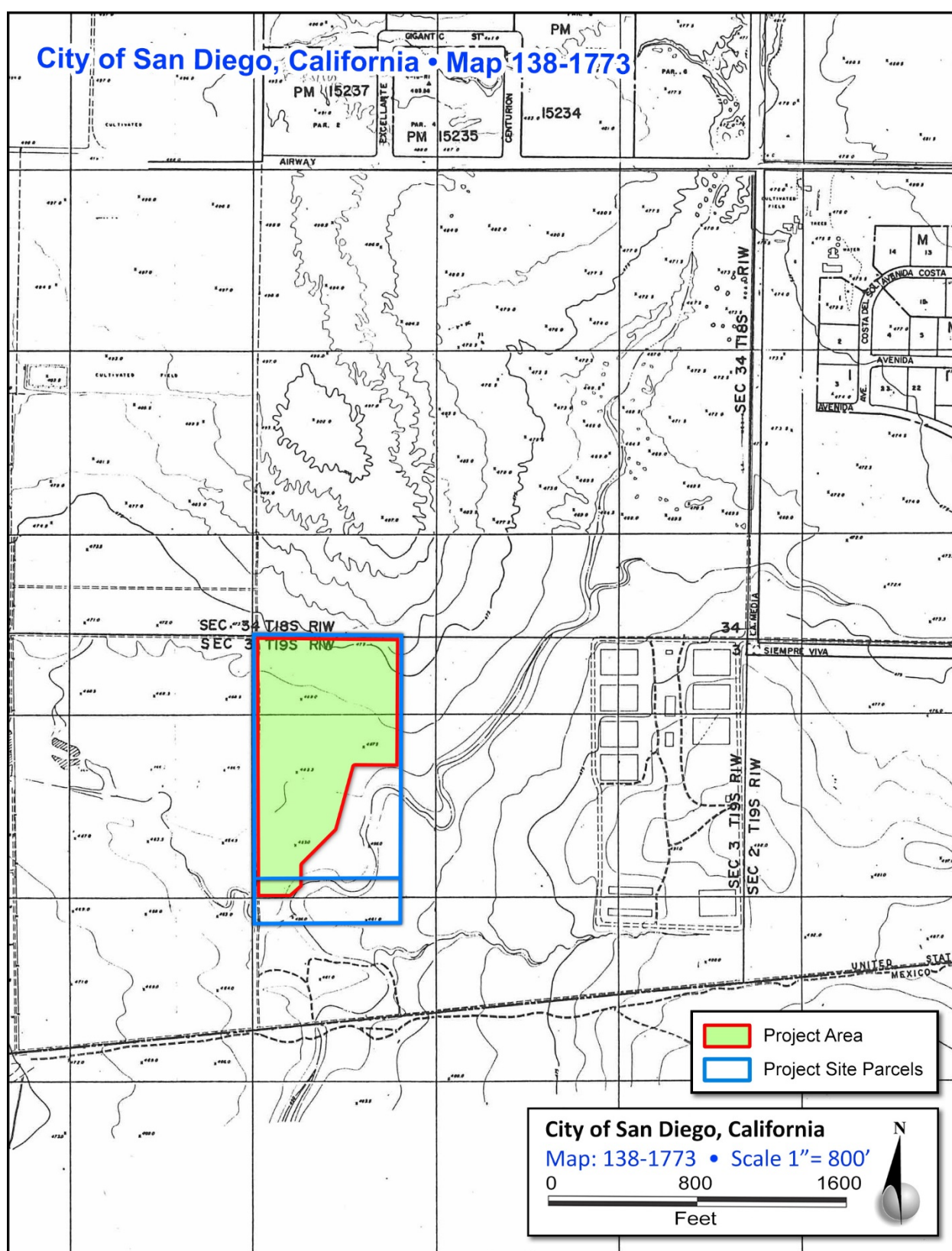


Figure 4. OTN Parking Lot Project Parcel location, 1:800 scale City of San Diego engineering map.





## 2. SETTING

### NATURAL SETTING

The current study area is located on Otay Mesa, a relatively flat mesa top cut by numerous small drainages, and within the Otay Mesa Community Planning area. Dennerly Canyon lies to the north of the Project area; Moody Canyon lies to the west; and the Dillon and Spring Canyons are south of the project area and feed into the Tijuana River Valley. The location of the current Project area ranges in elevation from 520 feet (ft.) to 540 ft. above mean sea level.

The Project area consists of Quaternary alluvium and marine sediment. Located east of the current study area, the San Ysidro Mountains are composed of the Upper Jurassic-age Santiago Peak Volcanic formation. The Santiago Peak Volcanics consist of volcanic rock, predominantly andesite, dacite, and rhyolite, that has been subjected to low-grade metamorphism (Jahns and Lance 1950). Cobbles of this material occur across the mesa top and in the drainages. These fine-grained materials were highly preferred by aboriginal inhabitants of the San Diego region due to their predictable conchoidal fracturing abilities.

Otay Mesa lies within a semi-arid climate zone, rainfall averaging 10 inches per year, with most falling between November and April (Pryde 2004). Average daily maximum temperatures range from 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter to 75 to 80 degrees in the summer.

Prior to the introduction of agriculture and cattle ranching, the vegetation in and around the study area was predominantly coastal sage scrub (Munz 1974). Typical species found within this community include California sagebrush (*Artimisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and white and black sage (*Salvia apiana* and *S. mellifera*). The entire Project area has been disked for agricultural purposes, so none of these native species were present in the current Project area.

The vegetation communities found on Otay Mesa support a variety of wildlife species, including over 50 bird species. Animal species include jackrabbit, brush rabbit, woodrat, and California ground squirrel. The riparian and marsh communities of the nearby river valleys provide habitats for a diversity of water fowl, while the San Diego Bay, a few miles to the northwest, supports abundant marine life.

### CULTURAL SETTING

Archaeological investigations have documented human occupations in San Diego County that span at least the last 10,000 years. A variety of different chronological divisions and sets of terms have been used to sort the archaeological evidence into temporal and, to a lesser extent, geographical units. Some confusion has resulted from the mixing of analytical units that were defined on the basis of chronology with units defined by the contents of cultural assemblages or by inferred ethnicity. The present discussion is framed in terms of five main divisions: an early period, linking the late Pleistocene with the early Holocene, prior to about 6000 B.C.; a long middle Holocene period, stretching from about 6000 B.C. to about A.D. 500; a late Holocene period, between about A.D. 500 and A.D. 1769; a synchronic ethnographic present, representing cultural conditions as they existed just prior to European contact, as inferred from ethnographic studies; and the historical period, subsequent to A.D. 1769.

#### Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene

The antiquity of human occupation in the New World has been the subject of considerable debate over the last few decades. The most widely accepted model at present is that humans first entered the western hemisphere between 13,000 and 10,000 B.C. Much earlier dates have also been proposed (Bada et al. 1974; Carter 1957, 1980). However, the amino acid racemization technique that was used to date some of the

early sites has been discredited by more recent accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating of early human remains along the California coast (Taylor et al. 1985). Despite intense interest and a long history of research, no widely accepted evidence of very early human occupation in the San Diego region has emerged.

The generally accepted record for the initial period of human occupation, prior to about 6000 B.C., includes archaeological manifestations that have variously been labeled as Clovis, Paleoindian, Lake Mojave, San Dieguito, Scraper Maker, and Western Pluvial Lakes, as well as some of the components that have been termed Archaic, La Jolla, or Encinitas.

Archaeological evidence assignable to the Clovis complex of the terminal Pleistocene (ca. 11,000 B.C.) is fairly well documented in North America, including several parts of California (Rondeau et al. 2007) and Baja California (Hyland 1997). The diagnostic Clovis artifacts are fluted projectile points. Such remains appear to be very scarce within San Diego County (but cf. Davis and Shutler 1969; Kline and Kline 2007; Rondeau et al. 2007).

The earliest widely recognized local archaeological pattern is the San Dieguito complex. Dates for the San Dieguito component at the C. W. Harris Site begin at 9,030 radiocarbon years before the present (RCYBP). Claude N. Warren has projected a starting date for the component at about 10,500 RCYBP (corresponding to ca. 10,500 B.C.) (Warren et al. 2008). Building on the discussion of North American cultural stages by Willey and Phillips (1958), some scholars have seen the San Dieguito pattern as representing a Lithic or Paleoindian stage, characterized by high mobility and an emphasis on big game hunting. Others have classified San Dieguito as belonging to the early Archaic stage, rooted in a more diversified and plant-oriented adaptation. Remains that have been considered to be characteristic of San Dieguito components include large stemmed projectile points (Lake Mojave and Silver Lake forms), crescents, heavy unifacial tools (scraper planes), a focused use of the local metavolcanic rock for flaking, a scarcity of milling tools, and little emphasis on shellfish harvesting.

According to a paleo-coastline reconstruction by Patricia Masters (1988), around 12,000-10,000 B.C., the Pacific coastline lay about 7 kilometers (km) west of its present location, and the ancestral Otay River merged with Sweetwater River before entering the sea. By 8000 B.C., the coastline was still about 3 km west of its present location, and Otay River entered it directly.

## **Middle Holocene**

A long middle Holocene period (ca. 6000 B.C. to A.D. 500) encompasses most of the assemblages assigned to the Archaic (or Early Archaic, or Middle Archaic), La Jolla, Millingstone, Littoral, Shell Midden, Encinitas, Campbell, and Pauma analytical units. Such components are frequently characterized by shell middens, fairly abundant ground stone, generally simple flaked stone assemblages, and inhumation burial. Spanning six millennia or more, the middle Holocene pattern in western San Diego County is notable for its apparent continuity and conservatism, as compared with somewhat more dynamic contemporaneous patterns in other parts of southern California, including the Santa Barbara coast and the Mojave Desert. Several proposals have been made to subdivide the period locally into two or three separate chronological units (e.g., Harding 1951; Moriarty 1966; Rogers 1945; Sutton and Gardner 2006; Warren 1964; Warren et al. 2008). However, firm criteria to be used as a basis for such distinctions have not been identified, and even the general directions of cultural change during this period remain uncertain.

At inland San Diego County locations, sites dating from the middle Holocene period have sometimes been labeled as Pauma, Campbell, or Inland La Jolla. Most of the Pauma complex sites were identified either in the San Luis Rey River valley upstream from Pala or else on the Valley Center plateau. Various relationships between middle Holocene coastal sites and the sparser contemporaneous manifestations

inland have been suggested, including interpretations according to which coastal and inland sites were produced by the movements of members of a single population on a seasonal or episodic basis, by separate but related populations that complemented each other economically, or by ethnically distinct groups, with the inland and some of the coastal components perhaps having been produced by intruders who had migrated from the deserts to the east (True 1958, 1980; Warren 1968; Warren et al. 2008).

In Masters's (1988) paleo-coastal reconstruction, San Diego Bay formed around 4000 B.C., with sandy spits and barrier beaches closing off the Otay and Sweetwater rivers' direct access to the sea. By ca. 1500 B.C. to B.C./A.D., San Diego Bay had reached essentially its modern dimensions and habitats.

## **Late Holocene**

The latest period of the region's prehistory is known by such labels as Late Prehistoric, Late Archaic, Yuman, Patayan, Hakataya, and Cuyamaca. Hallmarks of the period include the mortar and pestle, arrow-size projectile points, ceramics, and human cremation. The chronologies for the introduction or local innovation of these traits are only imprecisely known, and the new patterns probably arose at separate times, possibly extending over a period spanning as much as 1,500 years. In most inland areas of San Diego County, archaeological sites that are assignable to the late Holocene appear to be much more numerous than earlier sites (Christenson 1992), and there are suggestions of a decline in the use of coastal resources. However, the area around San Diego Bay has been suggested as an exception to that generalization.

## **Ethnographic Present**

The project area is located in the ethnographic territory of the Kumeyaay. Early descriptions of the lifeways of this group were provided by missionaries, administrators, and other travelers, who gave attention primarily to the coastal populations (Fages 1937; Geiger and Meighan 1976; Laylander 2000). Subsequent ethnographers during the early twentieth century were able to provide much more objective, detailed, and penetrating accounts (Drucker 1937, 1941; DuBois 1908; Gifford 1918, 1931; Hohenthal 2001; Kroeber 1925; Spier 1923; Waterman 1910). In most cases, the later investigators described inland rather than coastal lifeways. Most of the ethnographers attempted to distinguish between observations of the customs of surviving Native Americans and orally transmitted or inferred information relating to the lifeways of native groups prior to European intrusion into the region.

The Kumeyaay or Diegueño language belongs to the Delta-California group within the Yuman family, with relatives to the east and south. Diegueño has sometimes been treated as a single language with various dialects, sometimes as two (Ipai, Tipai), three (Ipai, Kumeyaay, Tipai), or more closely related languages. The debatable technique of glottochronology and other linguistic methods of estimating time depths suggest that Diegueño diverged from Cocopa between 1,500 and 1,000 years ago (Laylander 2010; cf. Golla 2007, 2011).

Aboriginal subsistence in the region was largely or entirely based on the harvesting of natural plants and animals, rather than on agriculture. Acorns were a staple food source for the western groups, while agave and mesquite were staples for people living to the east of the Peninsular Range's crest. Numerous other plants were exploited for the food value of their seeds, fruit, roots, stalks, or greens, and a still larger number of species had known medicinal uses. Game animals included deer, first and foremost, but mountain sheep and pronghorn antelope were also present, as well as bears, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, badgers, and other medium-size mammals. Small mammals were probably as important as larger animals in aboriginal diets, and perhaps more so. Jackrabbits and cottontails were preeminent, but woodrats and other rodents were also commonly exploited. Various birds, reptiles, and amphibians were caught and eaten. Food taboos were few in number and inconsistently applied, to judge from the ethnographic record. The only pre-contact domesticated animal was the dog. It is not clear whether marine fish and shellfish were a mainstay for some groups based on the coast, or whether marine resources served merely as supplemental foods used by groups

whose primary focus was on terrestrial resources. Interregional exchange systems are known to have linked western San Diego County with areas to the east in particular (Davis 1961), but such exchange may have been motivated primarily by social and ceremonial objectives rather than to meet material needs.

The Kumeyaay had developed a varied material culture that functioned well, but it was not highly elaborated by worldwide standards. An array of tools was made from stone, wood, bone, and shell, and these served to procure and process the region's resources. Needs for shelter and clothing were minimal in the region's forgiving climate, but considerable attention was devoted to personal decoration in ornaments, painting, and tattooing. The local pottery was well made, although it was not elaborately decorated. The craft of basketry was particularly refined.

The Kumeyaay were subdivided into essentially sovereign local communities or tribelets. Community membership was generally inherited through the male line. However, in practice some degree of geographical intermixing of these patrilineal groups was probably present during the historical period, and this may have reflected a degree of flexibility in community membership during prehistoric times as well. Later descriptions of the settlement systems were inconsistent, and there may have been considerable variability in practice (cf. Laylander 1997). In some areas, substantially permanent, year-round villages seem to have existed, with more remote resources beyond the daily foraging range being acquired by special task groups. In other areas, communities appear to have followed an annual circuit among seasonal settlements, or to have oscillated between summer and winter settlements, often with the community splitting up into its constituent families during certain seasons. Rights of ownership over the land and its various resources were vested both in individual families and in the clan or the community as a whole. Leadership within communities had at least a tendency to be hereditary, but it was relatively weak; authority was more ceremonial and advisory than administrative or judicial in character. Headmen had various formally designated assistants, and shamans exerted an important influence in community affairs, beyond their role in curing individual illness.

## **Historical Period**

European activity began to impinge on the project vicinity as early as A.D. 1542, when Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo landed in San Diego Bay. Sebastián Vizcaíno returned in 1602, and it is possible that other contacts between local Native Americans and Europeans occurred during the next 150 years but went unrecorded. These brief encounters made the local native people aware of the existence of other cultures that were technologically and socially more complex than their own. Epidemic diseases may also have been introduced into the region at an early date, either through direct contacts with the infrequent European visitors or in waves of diffusion emanating from other native groups farther to the east or south. It is possible, but as yet unproven, that the precipitous demographic decline of native peoples had already begun prior to the arrival of Gaspar de Portolá and Junípero Serra in 1769. Any archaeological evidence concerning biological and cultural changes in the San Diego area during the protohistoric centuries between 1542 and 1769 would potentially hold considerable research interest.

Spanish colonial settlement began in 1769. Multiple expeditions arrived in San Diego by land and sea in that year. The land route took the colonizers to the southern end of San Diego Bay and on to San Diego proper. They then continued northward toward Monterey through the coastal plain. Initially, a military presidio and a mission were established at San Diego, in the region of the Kumeyaay and their close linguistic kin, the Ipai.

Further disruptions of native peoples in western San Diego County occurred in the early nineteenth century. These resulted from a growing number of private land grants, including Rancho de la Nación, northeast of the project area; Mexico's separation from the Spanish Empire in 1821; and the secularization of the California missions in the 1830s. Some of the former mission neophytes were absorbed into the work forces

on the ranchos, while others either drifted toward the urban centers at San Diego and Los Angeles or moved to the eastern portions of the county where they were able to join still largely autonomous native communities.

United States conquest and annexation of California, together with the gold rush in the northern part of the state, drew many additional outsiders into the region. Development in San Diego County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was fitful, undergoing cycles of economic boom and bust. Chula Vista was incorporated as a city in 1911, and Imperial Beach was incorporated in 1956. In the immediate vicinity of the project area lies industrial development, to the west and north while to the south, to the United States and Mexico Border, and east of the project site are undeveloped lands. Immediately south of the US Mexico Border is the Tijuana International Airport also referred to as the General Abelardo L. Rodriguez International Airport.



### 3. METHODS AND REPORT OF FINDINGS

This section summarizes the results from the records search from the SCIC and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File as well as the archaeological survey methods. The full results of the SCIC records search are in Confidential Appendix A. The records search request letter to the NAHC and the response are in Appendix B.

#### RECORDS SEARCH

##### Previous Cultural Resource Reports

A records search was requested by ASM Associate Archaeologist Jason Kjolsing from the SCIC on June 13, 2017. The requested search area included the Project area and a 1-mi. buffer surrounding it. The results of the records search identified 86 previous cultural resource reports that addressed areas with a 1-mile (mi.) radius of the Project area, and 11 of those previous reports encompass or intersect the current project area (Table 1). However, the two reports by Cheever and Davis (NADB #s 1120589 and 112909) appear to be different versions of the same report, as they have the same titles. The same can be said for the four reports by Carolyn Kyle (NADB #s 1124548, 1127143, 1128257, and 1128773). There is also a draft and final version of the City of San Diego Program Environmental Impact Report for Otay Mesa (NADB #s 1134368 and 1134714). Hence, six previous studies cover all or portions of the current study area.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Studies within the Otay Mesa Parcel Project Area

SCIC #	NADB #	Title	Author(s)	Year
00589	1120589	Cultural Resource Survey & Test Excavations at the Pacific Business Park, Otay Mesa, CA	Cheever, Dayle M. and Davis McMillan	1988
00909	1120909	Cultural Resource Survey and Test Excavations at the Pacific Business Park Otay Mesa, California	Cheever, Dayle M. and Davis McMillan	1988
04548	1124548	Cultural Resource Survey for The Las Californias Center Project City of San Diego, California	Kyle, Carolyn	2002
07143	1127143	Cultural Resource Survey for The Las Californias Center Project City of San Diego, California	Kyle, Carolyn	2002
08257	1128257	Cultural Resource Survey for The Las California Center Project City of San Diego, California	Kyle, Carolyn	2002
08273	1128273	Public Notice of a Proposed Negative Declaration for Las Californias Center		
08773	1128773	Cultural Resource Survey for The Las Californias Center Project, City of San Diego, California	Kyle, Carolyn	2003
09991	1129991	Cultural Resources Services for the Cox La Median Road Fiber Run Border Crossing Project, San Diego, California	Wesson, Alex	2005
11826	1131826	Archaeological Resources Analysis for The Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program, San Diego, California Project. No. 42891	Robbins-Wade, Mary	2008
14368	1134368	Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update, City of San Diego Project Number 30330/304032	City of San Diego	2013
14714	1134714	Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update, City of San Diego Project Number 30330/304032	City of San Diego	2013

## Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The results from the records search at the SCIC identified one previously recorded cultural resource (CA-SDI-7208) that intersects the current Project area, and 12 additional cultural resources within the 1-mi. buffer surrounding the Project area (Table 2) (Figure 5 *Confidential*). A 460-m<sup>2</sup>-corner of CA-SDI-7208 intersects the northwest corner of the Project area.

Table 2. Recorded Cultural Resources within a 1-mi. Radius around the OTN Parking Lot Project Area.

Designation		Resource Attributes	Recorder, Date
P-37-	CA-SDI-		
007208*	7208*	AP2. Lithic Scatter	Ferguson 1979; Cheever 1988; Kyle and Tift 1995; Robbins-Wade 2000; Robbins-Wade 2001; Pierson 2002; Robbins-Wade 2008; Meriwether 2010; Bowden-Renna 2011; Bietz 2013; Brunzell and Maloney 2014
007857	7857	AP2. Lithic scatter	Walker 1980; Kyle and Tift 1995
010734	10734	AP2. Lithic scatter	Seneca 1985
010748	10748	AP2. Lithic scatter	Wade 1987
010963	10963	AP2. Lithic scatter	Roth 1988; Guerrero et al. 2005
011065	11065	AP2. Lithic scatter	Cook 1986
011080	11080	AP2. Lithic scatter	Pignuolo and Briggs 1988; Robbins-Wade et al. 2002
012257	12257	AP2. Lithic scatter	Shilz 1989
012258	12258	AP2. Lithic scatter	Shilz 1989; Benjamin 2000
012259	12259	AP2. Lithic scatter	Shilz 1989
012337	12337	AP2. Lithic scatter; AP15. Habitation debris	Rosen 1989; Gross 1993; Kyle, Ghabhlain, and Tift 1995; Robbins-Wade 2002; Robbins-Wade, Sivba, and Kitchen 2007; Blotner 2010
015988	--	AH16. Church location	Kyle and Phillips 1998

\*cultural resources intersecting the project area.

### CA-SDI-7208

CA-SDI-7208 is considered to be associated with the “Otay Mesa Smear” of lithic material. This smear can be thought of as a natural pavement of volcanic cobbles that attracted prehistoric flintknappers searching for suitable materials for tool manufacture over thousands of years (Gallegos et al. 1998). Since its initial recordation by Ferguson (1979) measuring 80 acres, the site’s boundaries have been extended in all directions by subsequent discoveries, so that the site currently measures approximately 725 acres (Bietz 2013). It is noted that the overall site is characterized by a low-density artifact scatter with occasional artifact concentrations and some shell (Pierson 2002). Various testing projects throughout portions of this site have all determined the site as not significant for the California Register of Historic Resources.

## Native American Consultation

On September 5, 2018, ASM requested a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File to determine whether cultural resources of special Native American concern are within or in close proximity to the area of potential effect (APE) and to obtain a list of tribal contacts who might have additional knowledge of cultural resources in the area. ASM received a response from Frank Lienert of the NAHC on September 13, 2018, that the search results were negative (Appendix B). Mr. Lienert also provided a list of Native American tribes, Native American individuals, and organizations that may have additional information or knowledge of cultural resources in or near the Project area. The NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory search request and response letter is in Appendix B.



Confidential Figure Removed

Figure 5 *Confidential*. Results of records search from the SCIC showing sites within the 1-mile search radius around the OTN Parking Lot Project area.

## **Pedestrian Survey Methods**

The project area was subjected to a full coverage survey done at 15-m transect intervals. Full coverage survey, as it relates to this survey, is best defined as a 100 percent coverage involving systematic examination of blocks of terrain at a uniform level of intensity. Standard global positioning systems (GPS) aided in navigation and a differential, post-processed, decimeter-level GPS unit was used to record the location of any newly discovered sites. GPS systems offer precise site location data that can be easily and accurately integrated into a GIS archaeological database.

Survey efforts concentrated on both relocating previously documented sites and searching for undocumented cultural resources. This survey design called for the collection of only time-sensitive diagnostic artifacts (e.g., projectile points) or unique artifacts subject to illicit collecting. Archaeologists recorded non-collected artifacts in the field to facilitate interpretations of site character. ASM was to record any new prehistoric and historic sites associated with the project. Sites in San Diego County are often defined as any concentration of three or more artifacts in a 25-m<sup>2</sup> area, with site boundaries being defined when not more than 50 m of open space separates artifact scatters. Isolated artifacts are defined as fewer than three artifacts in a 25-m<sup>2</sup> area. However, as identified by Gallegos et al. (1998), Otay Mesa presents a challenge for defining sites due to the presence of lag material commonly found throughout the mesa. Hence, using a standard definition results in large, sparsely defined sites that can stretch for kilometers. That is, the mesa contains a background noise of artifactual materials. A typical solution when examining sites within lag deposits or quarry locations is to simply increase the ratio so that artifact concentrations stand out against the background, such as around the Coso Volcanic fields near China Lake, which also produces extensive background noise for defining archaeological sites (Epsilon Systems Solutions 2003; Becker 2005). Gallegos et al.'s (1998:3-29;3-37) solution was to propose a minimum of four contiguous 10-by-10-m units, each containing a minimum of three associated artifacts to qualify as a site, which translates to fewer than three artifacts in a 20-m<sup>2</sup> area with not more than 40 m of separation. ASM was to assign all new cultural resources that meet the definition of archaeological sites with temporary site numbers.

Site recording was to include definition of site boundaries and documentation of features and formed artifacts. Detailed maps would then demonstrate the relationship of the sites' location to topographic features and other landmarks. Site forms would contain detailed information on environmental context, artifact content and density, cultural affiliation, and function. ASM was to complete California State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 site forms for submittal to the SCIC for assignment of primary numbers and site trinomials to newly discovered sites and will submit a site update form for the previously recorded sites located within the project area. Recordation efforts were to include the plotting of each new site on USGS 7.5-minute quad maps. Digital photographs documented the environmental associations and the specific features of all sites, as well as the general character of each survey area.

## REPORT OF FINDINGS

### Survey Results

An initial archaeological survey was conducted on June 15, 2018, and covered approximately 18.9 acres (Figure 6). Jason Kjolsing conducted the survey, and Justin Linton of Redtail Monitoring served as the Native American monitor. Visibility during the survey was approximately 30 percent due to dense vegetation. Deep grading scars were noted in the eastern half of the survey area as well as dirt and concrete push piles and garbage dumps (Figure 7 and 8).

During the survey, the 460-m<sup>2</sup> portion of CA-SDI-7208 that intersects the northwest corner of the proposed project APE was examined, but no archaeological artifacts were observed. However, just six m south of the site boundary, a sparse shell scatter approximately 320 m<sup>2</sup> in size was identified along the east and west edges of a concrete-lined drainage ditch running north/south along the western edge of the Project area (Figures 9 and 10). Approximately 30+ pieces of shell were visible, consisting of *Chione sp.*, *Argopecten sp.*, and *Donax sp.* The shell was likely exposed during the excavation of the drainage. The shell scatter straddles the current western edge of the Project boundary, with only approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup> of the scatter located within the Project boundary. Given that shell has previously been identified within the boundaries of CA-SDI-7208 that lie outside of the current project area by Gallegos et al. (1998) and Tuma (2002), the site boundary of CA-SDI-7208 was expanded to include this small scatter of shell.



Figure 6. An overview of the OTN Parking Lot Project survey area looking south from northern boundary.





Figure 7. Push piles located in the center of the Project survey area.



Figure 8. Trash dumping along eastern edge of the Project survey area.

Confidential Figure Removed

Figure 9 *Confidential*. Location of shell scatter in relation to current Project area and site boundary of CA-SDI-7208.





Figure 10. North facing view of shell scatter located along edges of concrete drainage. Shell and shell fragments are marked with orange survey flags.

In addition to the shell scatter identified in the northwestern corner of the site, a total of eight isolate artifacts were also identified with the Project area surveyed (Figure 11 *Confidential*). The isolates include one scraper flake, one modified cobble, three secondary flakes, one piece of shatter, and two pieces of *Chione* sp. shell.

Subsequent to the 2018 survey, ASM conducted an assessment survey of unpermitted ground disturbance within the project area on March 12, 2020. ASM observed that portions within the northern half of the project were disturbed through the placement of fencing and shallow grading of approximately 5 acres. Aside from a single flake, no other artifacts were observed during the assessment.

Confidential Figure Removed

Figure 11 *Confidential*. Map of isolate artifacts identified during the survey of the OTN Parking Lot Project area.





## **4. CONCLUSIONS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study presents the results of a record and archival search, and a cultural resources survey conducted for the OTN Parking Lot Project. The cultural resource investigation was conducted in compliance with the CEQA, the City of San Diego Land Development Code, and was conducted and documented in accordance with the City's Historical Resources Guidelines (City of San Diego 2001) and Program Environmental Impact Report (City of San Diego 2013).

The records search results indicated that a small 460-m<sup>2</sup> corner of CA-SDI-7208 intersects the northwest corner of the Project area. During the survey, no artifacts were identified within the previously defined boundary of the site that intersects the project area, but a small very disturbed area with a dispersed shell scatter was identified six meters south of the site boundary along the banks of a concrete drainage. Additionally, eight isolate artifacts were also identified during the survey of the Project area. The shell scatter is likely a continuation of the CA-SDI-7208, and thus, ASM has updated the site boundary and will submit an updated site record and GIS shapefile to the SCIC along with a copy of this report. Shell was previously reported in other portions of the site that were evaluated by Pierson (2002) and determined as not significant, that portion of the site apparently having better context than the shell scatter reported for this investigation.

Based on the previous investigation conducted within the portions of CA-SDI-7208 outside of the current Project area, the site is part of the "Otay Mesa Smear" of lithic material. This smear can be thought of as a natural pavement of volcanic cobbles that attracted prehistoric flintknappers searching for suitable material, and is characterized by a low-density artifact scatter with occasional artifact concentrations. In a 2005 report written for the Otay Mesa Trunk Sewer Project, Guerrero and Gallegos note that portions of CA-SDI-7208 outside of the current Project APE were previously evaluated and determined to be not significant (Cheever and Davis 1988; Gallegos et al. 1998, Hector 1986, Kyle et al. 1997, Pierson 2020). Compared to earlier studies, there are no indications that the portion of CA-SDI-7208 that falls inside the present Project area differs from those prior determinations of not significant. Additionally, the Project area was found to be highly disturbed due to previous heavy machine activity, and years of plowing and other agricultural activities within the project area have resulted in a large number of mechanically spalled and broken cobblestones scattered across the site in addition to the prehistorically modified stone that was the focus of the present survey.

Based on the findings of prior ground and agricultural disturbance, prior evaluation studies immediately outside the project area that determined the site as not significant, and that the site is part of the Otay Mesa Smear, this portion of the site is also determined to be not significant. However, ASM recommends archaeological monitoring for a portion of ground-disturbing construction activities to verify subsurface deposits are not present in the project area.

Additionally, based on March 12, 2020 assessment survey of the area disturbed by unpermitted ground disturbance, no significant finds were observed in the project area. Hence, except for the original recommendation for a monitoring program, no other actions are recommended for this project.



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## **APPENDICES**





**CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX A**  
**SCIC Records Search Result**





South Coastal Information Center  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-5320  
Office: (619) 594-5682  
www.scic.org  
nick@scic.org

## CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM RECORDS SEARCH

**Company:** ASM Affiliates, Inc.

**Company Representative:** Jason Kjolsing

**Date Processed:** 7/29/2018

**Project Identification:** Cross Border Survey

**Search Radius:** 1 mile

**Historical Resources:** YES

Trinomial and Primary site maps have been reviewed. All sites within the project boundaries and the specified radius of the project area have been plotted. Copies of the site record forms have been included for all recorded sites.

**Previous Survey Report Boundaries:** YES

Project boundary maps have been reviewed. National Archaeological Database (NADB) citations for reports within the project boundaries and within the specified radius of the project area have been included.

**Historic Addresses:** YES

A map and database of historic properties (formerly Geofinder) has been included.

**Historic Maps:** YES

The historic maps on file at the South Coastal Information Center have been reviewed, and copies have been included.

### Summary of SHRC Approved CHRIS IC Records Search Elements

<b>RSID:</b>	2491
<b>RUSH:</b>	no
<b>Hours:</b>	1
<b>Spatial Features:</b>	95
<b>Address-Mapped Shapes:</b>	no
<b>Digital Database Records:</b>	95
<b>Quads:</b>	1
<b>Aerial Photos:</b>	0
<b>PDFs:</b>	Yes
<b>PDF Pages:</b>	154



**APPENDIX B**  
**NAHC Response Letter**



September 5, 2018

Frank Lienert  
California Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Blvd., Room 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

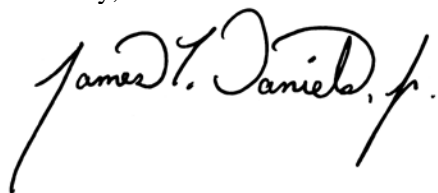
Re: Cultural Resources Inventory for the Cross Border Xpress (CBX) Terminal in Otay Mesa, California

Dear Mr. Lienert,

ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) is conducting a cultural resource inventory of a 18.9-acre parcel located in Otay Mesa, California between Siempre Viva Road, the Otay Mesa Cross Border Xpress (CBX) terminal, Inbound Street, and the US-Mexico International Border (Project). The investigation will be conducted in compliance with the City of San Diego (City) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The project seeks to develop a terminal for international border crossing of pedestrians between Mexico and the United States. ASM has requested a records search with the South Coastal Information Center and a small portion of a previously recorded site intersects the northwestern corner of the site. I am writing to request a search of the Sacred Lands File and to inquire if you have registered any cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, or areas of heritage sensitivity within this proposed project area.

We would like to request a list of Native American tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. Please submit your response to me via e-mail at [jdaniels@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:jdaniels@asmaffiliates.com).

Sincerely,



James T. Daniels, Jr. MA, RPA  
Senior Archaeologist

Attachment:

Map of project parcel  
Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

**Your Requested Information:**

County – San Diego  
USGS Quad – Otay Mesa  
Townships – 19 South  
Ranges – 1 West  
Sections – 3

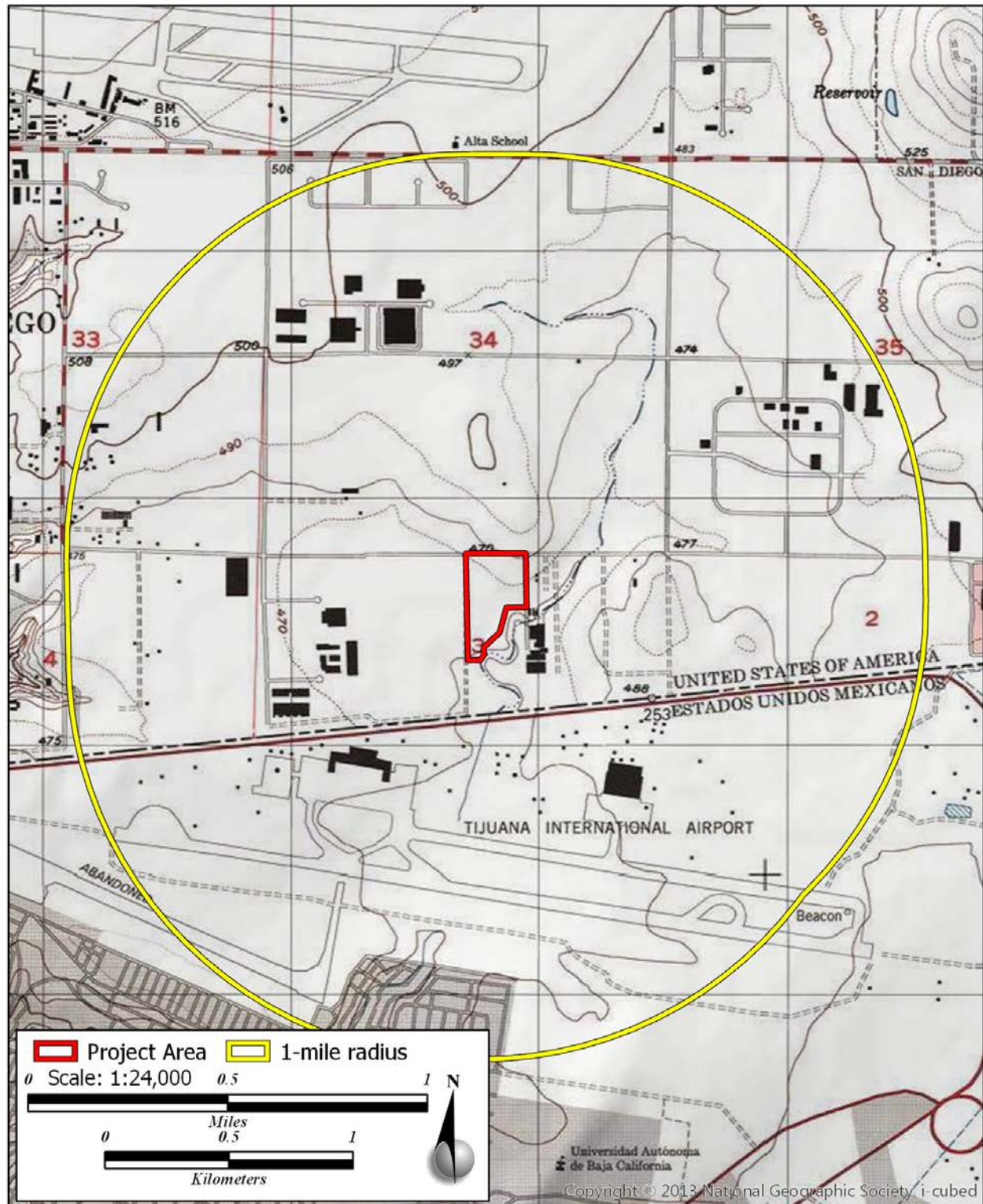


Figure 1. Location map of project area and 1-mile radius buffer.



**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Environmental and Cultural Department  
1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100  
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
Fax (916) 373-5471



September 11, 2018

James Daniels

ASM Affiliates, Inc.

Sent by Email: [jdaniels@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:jdaniels@asmaffiliates.com)

Re: Cross Border Xpress, San Diego County

Dear Mr. Daniels,

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not preclude the presence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources for cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and/or recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans tribes who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 916-573-1033 or [frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Frank Lienert

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Native American Heritage Commission**

**Native American Contacts**

**September 11, 2018**

**Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

**Robert Pinto Sr., Chairperson**

**4054 Willows Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay**  
**Alpine , CA 91901**

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**(619) 445-9126 Fax**

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**Svcuan Band of the Kumevaav Nation**

**Cody J. Martinez, Chairperson**

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**(619) 445-1927 Fax**

**Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

**Robert J. Welch, Jr., Chairperson**

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**(619) 445-5337 Fax**

**Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians**

**Ralph Goff, Chairperson**

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**rgoff@campo-nsn.gov**

**(619) 478-9046**

**(619) 478-5818 Fax**

**Jamul Indian Village**

**Erica Pinto, Chairperson**

**P.O. Box 612 Diegueno/Kumevaav**  
**Jamul , CA 91935**

**(619) 669-4785**

**(619) 669-4817**

**Kwaavmii Laguna Band of Mission Indians**

**Carmen Lucas**

**P.O. Box 775 Diegueno-Kwaaymii**  
**Pine Valley , CA 91962 Kumevaav**

**(619) 709-4207**

**Kumevaav Cultural Repatriation Committee**

**Clint Linton, Director of Cultural Resources**

**P.O. Box 507 Diegueno/Kumevaav**  
**Santa Ysabel , CA 92070**

**clinton73@aol.com**

**(760) 803-5694**

**Iipav Nation of Santa Ysabel**

**Virail Perez, Chairperson**

**P.O. Box 130 Diegueno/Kumevaav**  
**Santa Ysabel , CA 92070**

**(760) 765-0845**

**(760) 765-0320 Fax**

**This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.**

**Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.**

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed Cross Border Xpress, San Diego County**

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contacts  
September 11, 2018**

Ewiiapaavo Band of Kumevaav Indians  
Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson  
4054 Willows Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay  
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michaela@leaninrock.net  
(619) 445-6315

(619) 445-9126 Fax

Ewiiapaay Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
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Jamul, CA 91935  
lcumber@iiv-nsn.gov  
(619) 669-4855 Office

(619) 669-4817 Cell

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