



March 2, 2023

Tom Dodson, President  
Tom Dodson & Associates  
2150 N. Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Re: Update to Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey  
Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 19250  
Assessor's Parcel Nos. 341-501-01 to -065  
City of Placentia, Orange County, California  
CRM TECH Contract No. 3977

Dear Mr. Dodson:

At your request, CRM TECH has completed a cultural resources study on approximately 14.4 acres of vacant land in the City of Placentia, Orange County, California. The subject property of the study, known as Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 19250, consists of what are currently Assessor's Parcel Nos. 341-501-01 to -065, located on the north side of Alta Vista Street between Rose Drive and Jefferson Street, in what would be the southeast quarter of fractional Section 29, Township 3 South Range 9 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, as depicted in the United States Geological Survey Yorba Linda and Orange, California, 7.5' quadrangles (Figs. 1, 2).

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed development of the subject property into a total of 100 single-family residential lots with associated road, utility, and other infrastructure improvements. The City of Placentia, as the lead agency for the project, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the City with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the project would cause a substantial adverse change to any "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, that may exist in the project area.

## **BACKGROUND**

As you know, the project area was covered by an Initial Study and a Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the City of Placentia in 1998 for a similar development proposal submitted by S&S Construction of Newport Beach, with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program implemented for that project. As a result of the 1998 proceedings, the project area was subdivided into the current parcel configuration as a part of the 18.29-acre Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 15700 (City of Placentia 1998).

Since the 1998 proceedings are now 25 years old and considered to be out of date for CEQA-compliance purposes today, the present study was designed and implemented to update the findings and conclusions. Research procedures completed during this study include a cultural resources

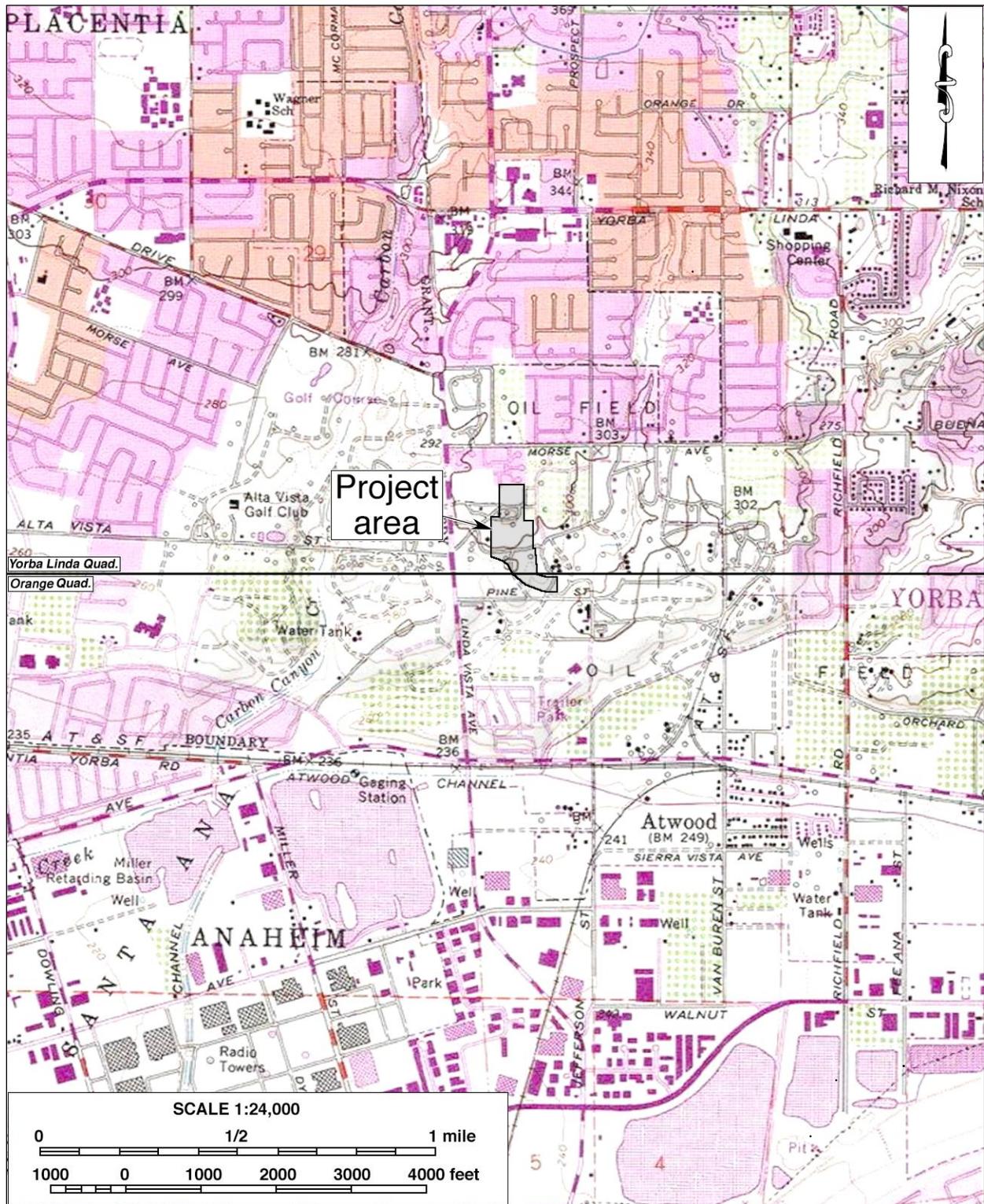


Figure 1. Project location. (Based on USGS Orange and Yorba Linda, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles [USGS 1981a; 1981b] edition)



Figure 2. Recent satellite image of the project area. (Based on Google Earth imagery)

records search, a Native American Sacred Lands File search, historical background research, and an intensive-level field survey of the project area. A summary of the methods and results of these procedures is presented below, along with the final conclusion of the study.

## **RESEARCH PROCEDURES AND FINDINGS**

### **Records Search**

The cultural resources records search for this study was conducted by CRM TECH archaeologist Nina Gallardo, B.A., at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on January 14, 2023. The purpose of the records search was to identify any existing cultural resources studies pertaining to the project location and previously identified cultural resources in the immediate vicinity. Previously identified cultural resources include properties designated as California Historical Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the California Historical Resources Inventory.

According to SCCIC records, a 1988 citywide historic resources reconnaissance and a 2002 update to it are the only cultural resources surveys known to have included the project location, and no cultural resources were previously recorded within or adjacent to the project boundaries. Within a one-mile radius of the project location, SCCIC records indicate 11 additional studies on various tracts of land and linear features, including a 1975 survey of the adjacent property to the north and the east. As a result of the past survey efforts, three archaeological sites were recorded within the one-mile radius, but all of them were found at least a half-mile to the southwest of the project location. Therefore, they require no further consideration in this study.

### **Sacred Lands File Search**

On December 8, 2022, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for information pertaining to the project area in the commission's Sacred Lands File. In response, the NAHC stated in a letter dated January 4, 2023, that the Sacred Lands File identified unspecified Native American cultural resource(s) in the general vicinity of the project area and referred further inquiries to the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation-Belardes. The NAHC further recommended that other local Native American groups be consulted as well and provided a referral list of 13 individuals associated with 10 local tribal groups who may have knowledge of such resources (see Attachment A).

According to CEQA guidelines, the identification of potential "tribal cultural resources" is beyond the scope of this study and needs to be addressed through government-to-government consultations between the City of Placentia and the pertinent Native American groups pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Therefore, the NAHC's reply is attached to this report in Attachment A for reference by the City during the AB 52 consultation process.

### **Historical Research**

The historical background research for this study was conducted by CRM TECH principal investigator/historian Bai "Tom" Tang, M.A., and project archaeologist Hunter O'Donnell, B.A., on

the basis of existing environmental documentation on the project area and other nearby properties, published literature in local and regional history, contemporary newspaper reports, historical maps of the Placentia area, and aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity. Among the maps consulted were U.S. General Land Office (GLO) land survey plat maps dated 1868 and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps dated 1902-1981, which are accessible at the websites of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the USGS. The aerial and satellite photographs, taken in 1946-2022, are available at the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online website and through the Google Earth software.

These sources indicate no evidence of any settlement or development activities within or adjacent to the project area in the 1850s-1890s era, although an early road was known to cross the property in a northwest-southeast direction (Figs. 3, 4). During much of the 20th century and the early years of the current century, the project area was used for oil and gas production as a part of the Richfield Oil Field, which was historically associated with two notable early enterprises in the southern California petroleum industry, the Union Oil Company, founded in 1890, and the Richfield Oil Company, founded in 1898 (Figs. 5-7; *Los Angeles Herald* 1898; NETR Online 1946-2020; AOGHS n.d.). In the most recent decades, the oil field was owned and operated by the Bridgemark Corporation of Placentia (City of Placentia 1998; GeoKinetics 2020).

The history of petroleum industry in northern Orange County began in 1880, when the Brea-Olinda Oil Field was discovered in nearby Puente Hills. The first major “strike” on the Richfield Oil Field occurred in 1919 at the Union Oil Company’s Chapman Well No. 1, located across present-day Rose Drive from the project area, then a part of prominent local rancher Charles C. Chapman’s citrus

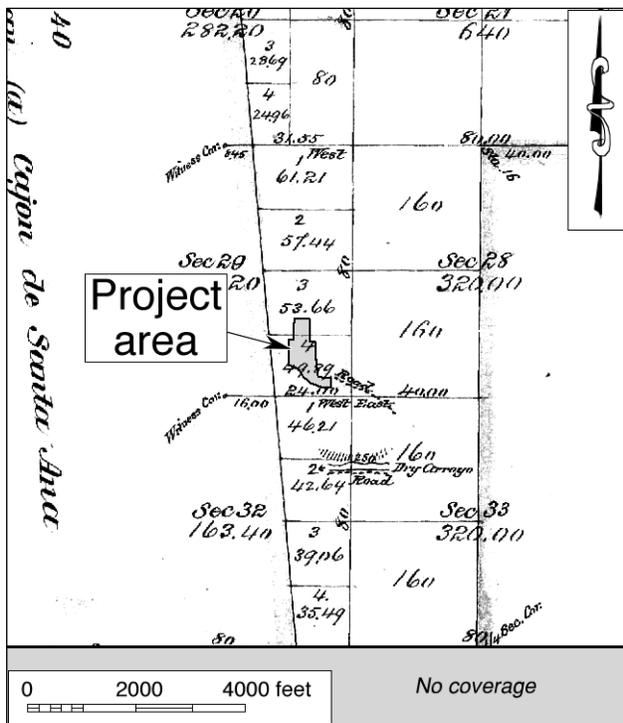


Figure 3. The project area and vicinity in 1853-1858. (Source: GLO 1868)

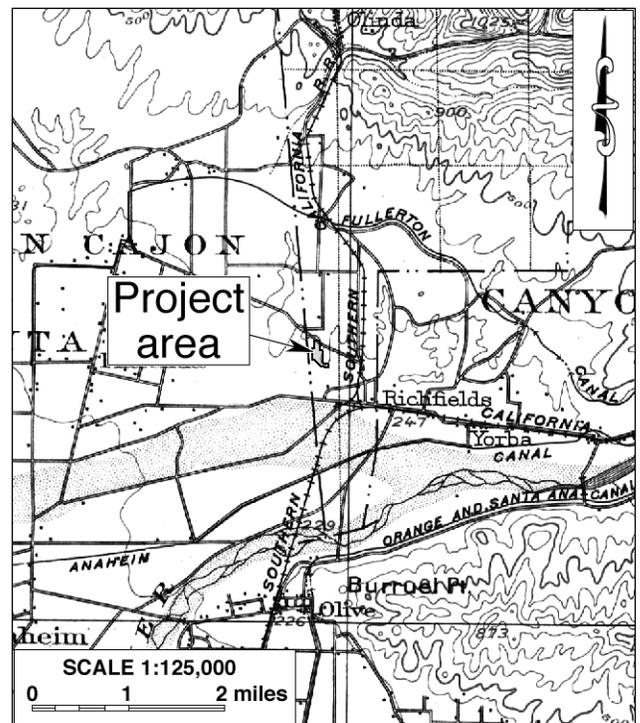


Figure 4. The project area and vicinity in 1894-1899. (Source: USGS 1902)

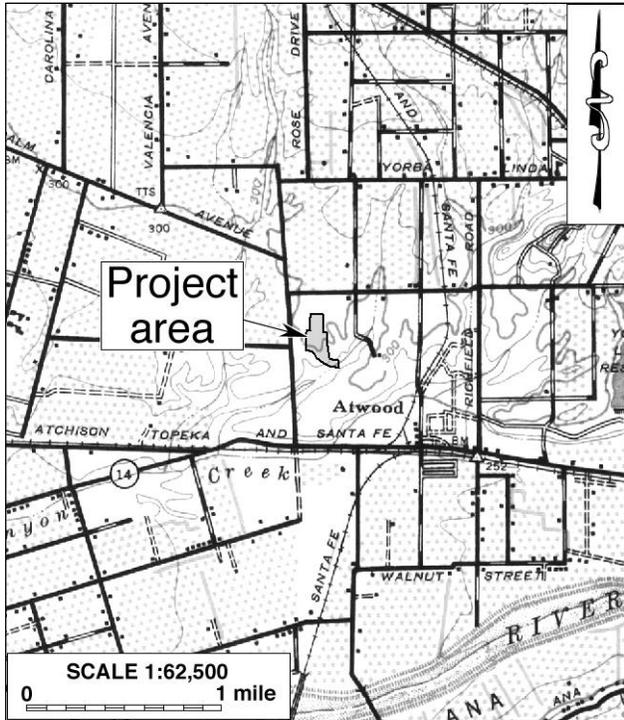


Figure 5. The project area and vicinity in 1939. (Source: USGS 1942)

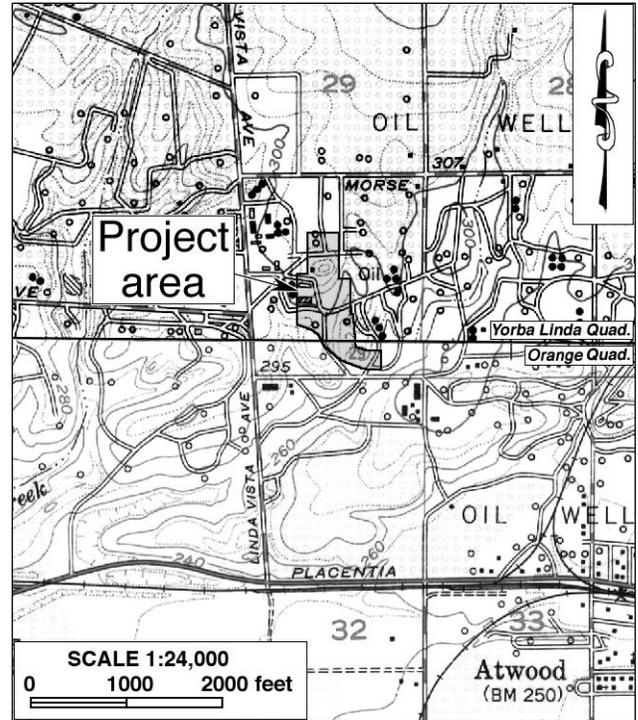


Figure 6. The project area and vicinity in 1946-1949. (Source: USGS 1950a; 1950b)

groves (*Los Angeles Sunday Times* 1919; *Orange County Register* 2013; Brigandi n.d.). In 1921, the oil field came under the control of the Richfield-Union Petroleum Company, a joint venture between the Union Oil Company and the Richfield Oil Company (*Los Angeles Sunday Times* 1919; AOGHS n.d.).

According to data presented in environmental documentation for this project, the portion of the oil field within the project boundaries contains a total of 17 oil and gas production wells and water injection wells (GeoKinetics 2020:Fig. 2). Twelve of these were drilled between 1919 and 1978 (i.e., historical in age), and the other five dated to 1979 or later (*ibid.*:Table 1). Seven of the pre-1979 wells were re-drilled in later years, some of them repeatedly and in one case as recently as 2014 (GeoKinetics 2020:Table 1).

At least three or four oil derricks can be identified in a 1946 aerial photograph of the area, but none were present by 1972 (NETR Online 1946-1972).

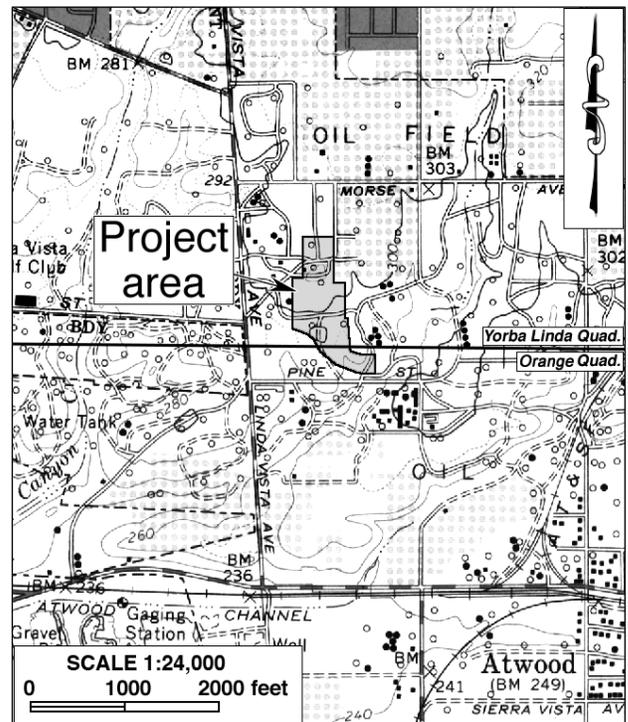


Figure 7. The project area and vicinity in 1963-1964. (Source: USGS 1964a; 1964b)

Instead, pumpjacks were installed sometime before 1980 (NETR Online 1980). Other associated features found in or near the project area included storage tanks, power generating equipment, and metering and gas compression facilities (NETR Online 1946-2020; Google Earth 1995-2022; GeoKinetics 2020). One of the wells in the project area is known to have been abandoned and capped in 1942, and all of the other wells gradually ceased operation after 1991 (GeoKinetics 2020:Table 1). While a few of them apparently remained active as late as 2021, by 2022 all equipment over the wells had been removed, leaving only abandoned concrete platforms visible in satellite images (*ibid.*; Google Earth 2021-2022).

## Field Survey

On January 12, 2023, Hunter O'Donnell and CRM TECH archaeologist Ash Conner-Ayala, B.S., carried out the intensive-level field survey of the project area. The survey was completed by walking a series of parallel east-west transects spaced 15 meters (approximately 50 feet) apart. In this way, the ground surface in the entire project area was carefully examined for any evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., 45 years or older). Ground visibility was generally fair to good (70-85%) except for a few pockets of denser vegetation, especially along the project boundaries (Fig. 8).

During the survey, the remaining features associated with past petroleum extraction and processing operations of the Richfield Oil Field were recorded into the California Historical Resources Inventory under the temporary designation of Site 3977-1H, pending assignment of a permanent identification number by the SCCIC. The primary features of the site are the 12 oil and gas production wells and water injection wells established during the historic period (see above), all of which are now capped and/or buried. Most of the locations are marked by such features as vacant concrete pumpjack platforms, concrete well caps, or vertical marking poles, but in some cases no surface remnants of the wells can be found (see Attachment B for further details).

No other features or artifacts of historical or prehistoric origin were encountered in the project area during the survey. As a result of more than a century of oil field operations, the ground surface throughout the project area has been extensively disturbed, and the subsurface soils therefore appear



Figure 8. Typical landscapes in the project area. *Left*: overview to the southwest; *right*: remains of former oil wells, view to the southwest. (Photographs taken on January 12, 2023)

to be relatively low in sensitivity for buried cultural remains of prehistoric or early historical origin. Essentially the entire project area is situated upon engineered artificial terrain with elevated roads and platforms as well as excavated basins (Fig. 8). The topsoil is a mixture of brown loam with small angular granitic gravel and imported gravel.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Applicable Statutory/Regulatory Framework**

The purpose of this study is to identify any cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area and assist the City of Placentia in determining whether such resources meet the official definition of “historical resources” as provided in the California Public Resources Code, in particular CEQA. According to PRC §5020.1(j), “‘historical resource’ includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.”

More specifically, CEQA guidelines state that the term “historical resources” applies to any such resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the lead agency (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(1)-(3)). Regarding the proper criteria for the evaluation of historical significance, CEQA guidelines mandate that “generally a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be ‘historically significant’ if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources” (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(3)). A resource may be listed in the California Register if it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.  
(PRC §5024.1(c))

### **Resource Evaluation**

In summary of the research results presented above, the only potential “historical resource” identified within or adjacent to the project area is Site 3977-1H, representing the remains of 12 historic-period wells associated with oil extracting operations on the Richfield Oil Field between 1919 and 2021. The oil field was a part of the southern California “oil boom” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its early history was intertwined with the development of two of the more prominent enterprises in the American petroleum industry, namely the Union Oil Company (now Unocal) and the Richfield Oil Company (now a part of ARCO). As such, the Richfield Oil Field, and thereby Site 3977-1H, are arguably associated with a pattern of events that have left a lasting influence in national, state, regional, as well as local history.

In a larger context, however, Site 3977-1H is one of the numerous sites scattered across the Los Angeles Basin region that are similarly related to the oil boom, and it represents a small portion of the Richfield Oil Field (GeoKinetics 2020:Fig. 1). As such, it does not demonstrate a unique or particularly close association with this pattern of events. Furthermore, some of the wells were redrilled during the modern era, and the associated equipment were replaced repeatedly over the years. At this time, all of the wells have been abandoned and capped/buried, and all equipment used in oil extraction and processing has been removed from the site. In the meantime, the surrounding area has undergone a suburban transformation since the 1980s and has been developed for residential, commercial, and recreational uses (NETR Online 1972-2020). As a result, the association of Site 3977-1H with its early historical theme has been greatly compromised through the loss of historic integrity, especially in the aspects of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

There is no evidence that Site 3977-1H is closely associated with any persons or specific events of recognized historic significance, nor do the surviving features of the site, all of them dictated by industry standards and utilitarian in nature, exhibit any significant, special, or remarkable merits in terms of design, construction, engineering, or aesthetics. Additionally, the features and the site in general hold little potential for any important historical/archaeological data related to the early development of the southern California petroleum industry, a subject that is well documented in published literature, archival records, and contemporary accounts.

Based on these considerations, the present study concludes that Site 3977-1H does not appear to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Since it has not been included in a local register of historical resources, this study further concludes that it does not meet the definition of a “historical resource” under CEQA provisions.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, the present study has not identified any “historical resources,” as defined by CEQA and associated regulations, within or adjacent to the project area. However, the NAHC stated that the Sacred Lands File maintained by the commission indicated the presence of unspecified Native American cultural resource(s) in the general vicinity, which will need to be addressed through the AB 52 consultation process between the City of Placentia and the pertinent local tribes. In light of these findings, CRM TECH presents the following recommendations to the City of Placentia:

- A tentative conclusion of *No Impact* on known cultural resources appears to be appropriate for this project, pending the completion of the AB 52 consultation process to ensure the proper identification of potential “tribal cultural resources.”
- No additional cultural resources investigation will be necessary for the project unless development plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.
- If buried cultural materials are discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work in that area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Bai "Tom" Tang, M.A.  
Principal, CRM TECH

## REFERENCES CITED

AOGHS (American Oil and Gas Historical Society)

n.d. Richfield-Union Petroleum Company. <https://aoghs.org/old-oil-stocks/richfield-union-petroleum-company/>.

Brigandi, Phil

n.d. The Oil Industry in Orange County. OC Historyland: Story from the History of Orange County, California. <https://www.ochistoryland.com/oil>.

City of Placentia

1998 Placentia City Council Agenda Report: Vesting Tentative Tract Map 15700. December 11. <http://records.placentia.org/WebLink/0/doc/554/Page10.aspx>.

GeoKinetics

2020 Assessment of Potential Well Abandonment and Oil Field Improvement/Accommodation Costs for Selected Bridgemark Corporation Assets. Prepared by GeoKinetics, Irvine, for Toll Brothers, Inc., Orange.

GLO (General Land Office, U.S. Department of the Interior)

1868 Plat Map: Township No. 3 South Range No. 9 West, San Bernardino Meridian; surveyed in 1853-1858.

Google Earth

1995-2022 Aerial photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1995, 2002-2007, 2009-2011, and 2013-2022. Available through the Google Earth software.

*Los Angeles Herald*

1898 Fullerton: Many Interesting Items Set Forth in Concise Manner. June 19:10. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042461/1898-06-19/ed-1/seq-10/>.

*Los Angeles Sunday Times*

1919 Thousands of Eyes Focusing on Placentia-Richfield Oil Gusher Fields amid the Orange Groves. November 9:16. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/380514648/>.

NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research) Online

1946-2020 Aerial photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1946, 1952, 1963, 1966, 1972, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1992-2000, 2002-2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020. <http://www.historicaerials.com>.

*Orange County Register*

2013 Placentia History: Chapman Well Strikes Oil. July 26. <https://www.ocregister.com/2013/07/26/placentia-history-chapman-well-strikes-oil/>.

USGS (United States Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior)

1902 Map: Corona, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1894-1899.

1942 Map: Anaheim, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); surveyed in 1939.

1950a Map: Orange, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1946, field-checked in 1949.

- 1950b Map: Yorba Linda, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1946, field-checked in 1949.
- 1964a Map: Orange, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1963, field-checked in 1964.
- 1964b Map: Yorba Linda, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1963, field-checked in 1964.
- 1981a Map: Orange, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1964 edition photorevised in 1981.
- 1981b Map: Yorba Linda, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1964 edition photorevised in 1981.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 4, 2023

Nina Gallardo  
CRM TECH

Via Email to: [ngallardo@crmtech.us](mailto:ngallardo@crmtech.us)

**Re: Proposed Tentative Tract Map No. 19250 on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 341-501-01 to -065 Project, Orange County**

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information submitted for the above referenced project. The results were positive. Please contact the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation - Belardes on the attached list for information. Please note that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the SLF, nor are they required to do so. A SLF search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a project's geographic area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites, such as the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) archaeological Information Center for the presence of recorded archaeological sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. Please contact all of those listed; if they cannot supply information, they may 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 or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: [Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Andrew Green  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

SECRETARY  
**Sara Dutschke**  
Miwok

COMMISSIONER  
**Isaac Bojorquez**  
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER  
**Buffy McQuillen**  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER  
**Wayne Nelson**  
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER  
**Stanley Rodriguez**  
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER  
**[Vacant]**

COMMISSIONER  
**[Vacant]**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Raymond C. Hitchcock**  
Miwok/Nisenan

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
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California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
[NAHC.ca.gov](http://NAHC.ca.gov)

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Orange County  
1/4/2023**

**Gabrieleno Band of Mission  
Indians - Kizh Nation**

Andrew Salas, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 393 Gabrieleno  
Covina, CA, 91723  
Phone: (626) 926 - 4131  
admin@gabrielenoindians.org

**Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel  
Band of Mission Indians**

Anthony Morales, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 693 Gabrieleno  
San Gabriel, CA, 91778  
Phone: (626) 483 - 3564  
Fax: (626) 286-1262  
GTTRibalcouncil@aol.com

**Gabrielino /Tongva Nation**

Sandonne Goad, Chairperson  
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., Gabrielino  
#231  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012  
Phone: (951) 807 - 0479  
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**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council**

Robert Dorame, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 490 Gabrielino  
Bellflower, CA, 90707  
Phone: (562) 761 - 6417  
Fax: (562) 761-6417  
gtongva@gmail.com

**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of  
California Tribal Council**

Christina Conley, Tribal  
Consultant and Administrator  
P.O. Box 941078 Gabrielino  
Simi Valley, CA, 93094  
Phone: (626) 407 - 8761  
christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu

**Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe**

Charles Alvarez,  
23454 Vanowen Street Gabrielino  
West Hills, CA, 91307  
Phone: (310) 403 - 6048  
roadkingcharles@aol.com

**Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians Acjachemen Nation -  
Belardes**

Matias Belardes, Chairperson  
32161 Avenida Los Amigos Juaneno  
San Juan Capistrano, CA, 92675  
Phone: (949) 293 - 8522  
kaamalam@gmail.com

**Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians Acjachemen Nation -  
Belardes**

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4955 Paseo Segovia Juaneno  
Irvine, CA, 92603  
Phone: (949) 293 - 8522  
kaamalam@gmail.com

**Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians Acjachemen Nation 84A**

Heidi Lucero, Chairperson  
31411-A La Matanza Street Juaneno  
San Juan Capistrano, CA, 92675  
Phone: (562) 879 - 2884  
hllucero105@gmail.com

**Pala Band of Mission Indians**

Shasta Gaughen, Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officer  
PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Cupeno  
Rd. Luiseno  
Pala, CA, 92059  
Phone: (760) 891 - 3515  
Fax: (760) 742-3189  
sgaughen@palatribe.com

**Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla  
Indians**

Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair  
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla  
Anza, CA, 92539  
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700  
Fax: (951) 659-2228  
Isaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

This list is current only as of the date of this document. 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 Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Proposed Tentative Tract Map No. 19250 on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 341-501-01 to -065 Project, Orange County.

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Orange County  
1/4/2023**

***Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians***

Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson  
P. O. Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA, 92581  
Phone: (951) 654 - 5544  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
ivivanco@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Luiseno

***Soboba Band of Luiseno  
Indians***

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural  
Resource Department  
P.O. BOX 487  
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Phone: (951) 663 - 5279  
Fax: (951) 654-4198  
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov

Cahuilla  
Luiseno

This list is current only as of the date of this document. 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 Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Proposed Tentative Tract Map No. 19250 on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 341-501-01 to -065 Project, Orange County.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY  
RECORD FORMS**

**Site 3977-1H (Temporary Designation)**

State of California--The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code 6Z

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 6

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) CRM TECH 3977-1H

P1. Other Identifier: Richfield Oil Field (portion)  
\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted \*a. County Orange  
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)  
\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Yorba Linda and Orange, Calif. Date 1981  
T3S; R9W; SE 1/4 of Section 29 ; S.B. B.M.  
c. Address N/A City Placentia Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 11 ; 422,231 mE/ 3,748,794 mN  
UTM Derivation:  USGS Quad  GPS (NAD 83)  
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, etc., as appropriate) On the north side of Alta Vista Street between Rose Drive and Jefferson Street

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries): The site consists of a portion of the Richfield Oil Field surveyed on January 12, 2023, for a proposed residential development project. Located within the boundaries of the area surveyed are a total of 12 oil and gas production wells and water injection wells that are more than 45 years old (i.e., drilled in or before 1978), along with five wells that were drilled in or after 1979. All these wells have been capped and/or buried. The remaining features visible at the pre-1979 well locations (see Page 4) are listed below. Morse 2, Morse 6, and Yarnell 31 are marked by vacant concrete pumpjack platforms, each with a metal grate covering the capped well. Morse 10 features  
*(Continued on Page 6)*

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AH16: Other (oil field)

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  
 Other (isolates, etc.)

\*P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



\*P5b. Description of Photo (view, date, accession number): Yarnell 1, 15, 33, and 40; view to the southeast (see also Page 6)

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
1919-1978

\*P7. Owner and Address: Unknown

\*P8. Recorded by (Name, affiliation, & address): Hunter O'Donnell and Ash Conner-Ayala, CRM TECH, 1016 East Cooley Drive, Suite A/B, Colton, CA 92324

\*P9. Date Recorded: January 12, 2023

\*P10. Survey Type (describe): Intensive-level survey for CEQA compliance

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Bai "Tom" Tang (2023): Update to Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey: Tentative Tract Map No. 19250 (TB-083), Assessor's Parcel Nos. 341-501-01 to -065, City of Placentia, Orange County California

\*Attachments:  None  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  
 Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Resource Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  
 Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_

- A1. Dimensions:** a. Length 1,280 feet (N-S) b. Width 590 feet (E-W)  
Method of Measurement:  Paced  Taped  Visual estimate  Other: GIS  
Method of Determination (Check any that apply.):  Artifacts  Features  Soil  Vegetation  
 Topography  Cut bank  Animal burrow  Excavation  Property boundary  Other (Explain):  
**Reliability of Determination:**  High  Medium  Low Explain: Well maps were used to confirm locations of the wells.  
**Limitations** (Check any that apply):  Restricted access  Paved/built over  Site limits incompletely defined  
 Disturbances  Vegetation  Other (Explain): Historically, the oil field operations extended well beyond the site boundaries and the scope of the current survey. The field is no longer operational, and all wells are abandoned.
- A2. Depth:** 4,800 feet  None  Unknown Method of Determination: Well data sheets
- \*A3. Human Remains:**  Present  Absent  Possible  Unknown (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- \*A4. Features:** (Number, briefly describe, indicate size, list associated cultural constituents, and show location of each feature on sketch map.) See Item P3a.
- \*A5. Cultural Constituents:** (Describe and quantify artifacts, ecofacts, cultural residues, etc., not associated with features.)  
None
- \*A6. Were Specimens Collected?**  No  Yes (If yes, attach Artifact Record or catalog and identify where specimens are curated.)
- \*A7. Site Condition:**  Good  Fair  Poor (Describe disturbances.): Only one likely historical element remains visible on the surface: the well cap on Yarnell 15, placed in 1942. The other historical elements are buried or covered with caps.
- \*A8. Nearest Water** (Type, distance, and direction.): Carbon Canyon Creek, an intermittent drainage, runs approximately 1,970 feet to the west.
- \*A9. Elevation:** Approximately 300 feet above mean sea level
- A10. Environmental Setting:** (Describe vegetation, fauna, soils, geology, landform, slope, aspect, exposure, etc.): The site is located on engineered terrain with elevated roads and platforms as well as excavated basins. The topsoil is a mixture of brown loam with small angular granitic gravel and imported gravel. The area belongs to the Creosote Scrub Plant Community, although only fig trees, arrowweed, and small shrubs and grasses are currently present within the site boundaries. The site overlies the Richfield Oil Field, which spans in depth from 2,000 feet to 7,950 feet below surface.
- A11. Historical Information:** The history of petroleum industry in northern Orange County began in 1880, when the Brea-Olinda Oil Field was discovered in nearby Puente Hills. The present site was part of the Richfield Oil Field, where the first major "strike" occurred in 1919 at the Union Oil Company's (now Unocal) Chapman Well No. 1, located across present-day Rose Drive from this location. In 1921, the oil field came under the control of the Richfield-Union Petroleum Company, a joint venture between the Union Oil Company and the Richfield Oil Company (now a part of ARCO). Eventually, it was acquired by the Bridgemark Corporation of Placentia (or its predecessor) sometime before 1998. (Continued on Page 6)
- \*A12. Age:**  Prehistoric  Protohistoric  1542-1769  1769-1848  1848-1880  1880-1914  
 1914-1945  Post 1945  Undetermined Describe position in regional prehistoric chronology or factual historic dates if known: \_\_\_\_\_
- A13. Interpretations:** (Discuss scientific, interpretive, ethnic, and other values of site, if known) \_\_\_\_\_
- A14. Remarks:** The site does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources, especially given its significant loss of historic integrity.
- A15. References:** (Documents, informants, maps, and other references.): See Item P11.
- A16. Photographs:** (List subjects, direction of view, and accession numbers or attach a Photograph Record.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Original Media/Negatives Kept at: CRM TECH, Colton, California
- \*A17. Form Prepared by:** Hunter O'Donnell Date: January 18, 2023  
Affiliation and Address: CRM TECH, 1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B, Colton, CA 92324

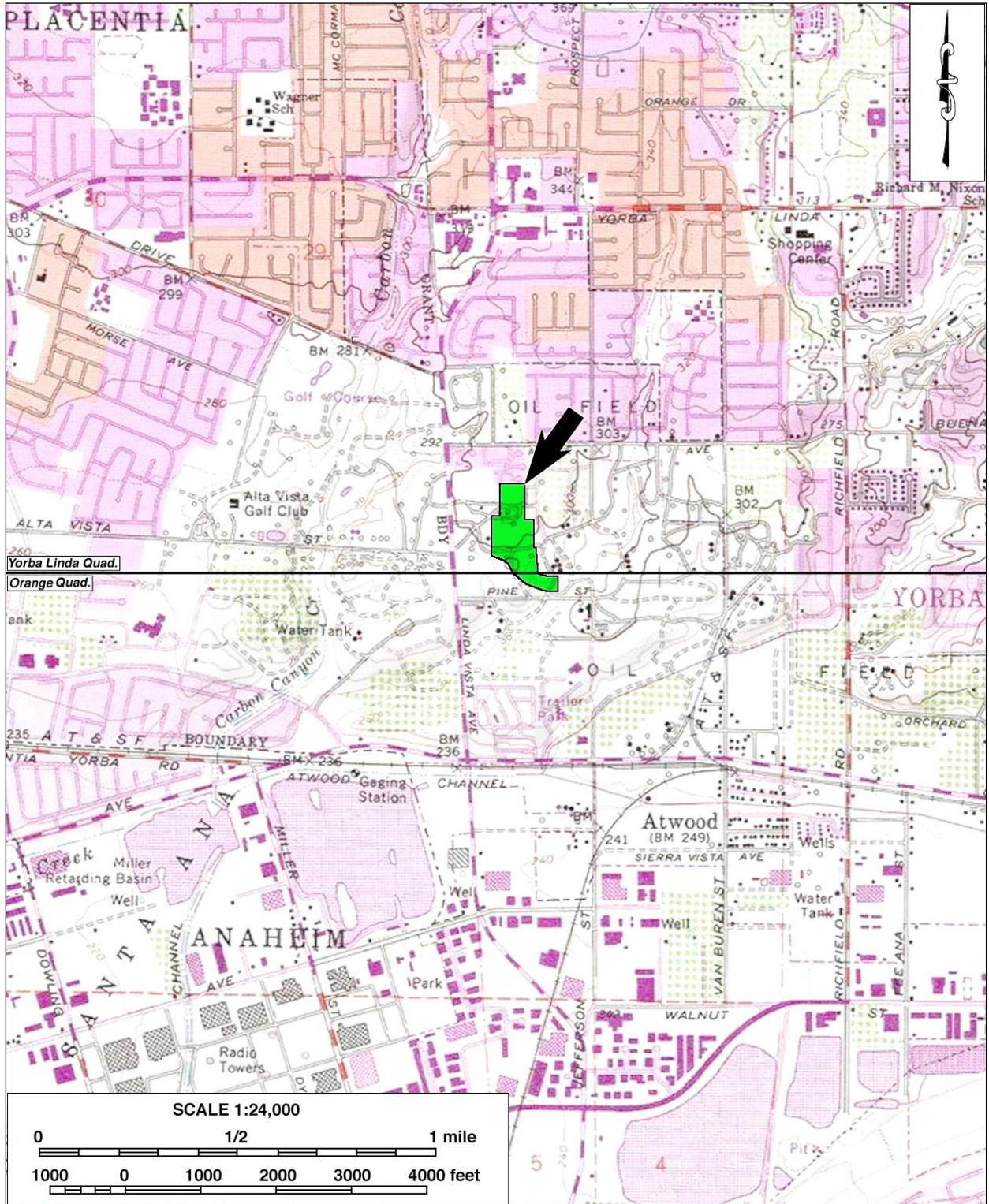
**LOCATION MAP**

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

\*Map Name: Yorba Linda and Orange, Calif.

\*Scale: 1:24,000

\*Date of Map: 1981



**SKETCH MAP**

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

\*Drawn by: Daniel Ballester

\*Date: January 18, 2023



**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Page 5 of 6

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) CRM TECH 3977-1H

Recorded by: Hunter O'Donnell and Ash Conner-Ayala

\*Date: January 18, 2023  Continuation  Update

**\*P3a. Description (continued):** a broken vertical well pipe that is currently submerged in a puddle. Morse 13 has been buried, and the area is now used as an equipment yard. Morse 14 has a cleared concrete pumpjack platform and an exposed well cap, accompanied by a row of similar platforms left by four of the post-1978 wells, Morse 15-18. Yarnell 1 and Yarnell 40 are capped with concrete and marked by vertical marker poles. Yarnell 9 has no visible features on the surface. Yarnell 14 has a vertical marker pole with its base submerged in water. Yarnell 15 is a heavily rusted and dented pipe with a roughly welded cap and a horizontal yellow band painted near the upper end. Yarnell 33 is an excavated hole that has been partially filled with water.

**A11. Historical Information (continued):** According to well data sheets, five of the wells at this site, namely Yarnell 1, Morse 2, Yarnell 14, Yarnell 9, and Yarnell 15, dated to the early years of the Richfield Oil Field, all drilled between 1919 and 1922. Morse 10 followed in 1937, Morse 6 in 1940, Yarnell 31 in 1965, Yarnell 33 in 1976, Morse 13 and Yarnell 40 in 1977, and Morse 14 in 1978. Among the five wells that are less than 45 years old, Morse 15-18 were drilled in 1979, and Morse 19 was drilled in 1982.

Seven of the pre-1979 wells were re-drilled in later years, in some cases repeatedly and, for Morse 2, as recently as 2014. At least three or four oil derricks can be identified in a 1946 aerial photograph of the area, but none were present by 1972. Instead, pumpjacks were installed sometime before 1980. Yarnell 15 was abandoned and capped in 1942, and all of the other wells at the site were gradually put out of commission after 1991. A few remained active as late as 2021, but by 2022 all equipment over the wells had been removed.

**CONTINUATION SHEET**



*Clockwise from top left: Morse 2, drilled in 1922, view to the north; Yarnell 14, drilled in 1920, view to the northwest; Yarnell 15, drilled in 1922 and capped in 1942, view to the north; Yarnell 40, re-drilled in 1977, view to the south.*