

**APPENDIX G**

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**Phase I Archaeological Survey/Paleontological Records Search Results**

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MOUNTAINGATE SOUTH  
STUDY AREA, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

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## **Management Summary**

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted for the approximately 281 acres Moutnaingate South study area, City of Los Angeles, California. This involved background studies of the prehistory and ethnography of the study area; an archival records search of published and unpublished books, articles, maps, site forms and documents; and an intensive on-foot survey of the subject property. No previously recorded sites, prehistoric or historical, exist within the study area. An intensive surface survey of the study area failed to find evidence for extant prehistoric or historical archaeological resources. Development of the Mountaingate South study area, therefore, will not result in adverse impacts to cultural resources.

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1.0  
INTRODUCTION

At the request of Impact Sciences, Inc., a Phase I archaeological survey was conducted for the Mountaingate South study area. This approximately 281 acres study area lies within the area of Sepulveda Pass within the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1). This cultural resources study was conducted by W & S Consultants, with David S. Whitley, Ph.D., serving as principal investigator.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the potential for the proposed development to result in adverse impacts to cultural resources. It involved background studies of published and unpublished articles, books, manuscripts, maps, drawings and photographs, as well as archaeological site records and files, to establish the ethnography and prehistory of the study area, to determine whether sites had been previously recorded or were known to exist within the study area, and to assess the sensitivity of the study area for extant but currently unknown cultural resources. Aspects of the background studies were conducted by the UCLA Archaeological Information Center (AIC), concerning archaeological site files, in addition to the research conducted by W & S Consultants.

This manuscript constitutes a report on this Phase I survey. Following a description of the proposed project area, the second chapter reviews local prehistory, ethnography and history. The next chapter summarizes the archival record search conducted by the UCLA AIC. This is followed by the details of an on-site intensive survey of the property in question. We

conclude with recommendations for the treatment of cultural resources within the study area.

## **1.1 Description of the Study Area**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a residential housing development within a 281 acres parcel located in the Sepulveda Pass area of the Santa Monica Mountains (Figure 1). The study area lies west of the San Diego Freeway (U.S. 405) and Sepulveda Boulevard, and east of Mandeville Canyon Road. More specifically, the existing Mountaingate residential development and golf course and the Mission Canyon Landfill form the eastern boundary of the study area, while the steep eastern slopes of Mandeville Canyon serve as the western boundary. Northern and southern boundaries are within the rugged terrain of this mountainous area. Residential development is proposed for the central-eastern portion of the study area, with the remainder planned for open space dedication.

The study area consists of very rugged terrain which may be best described as two primary ridgelines, a series of ridge spurs, and intervening steep slopes. Elevation ranges from about 1640 feet a.s.l. in the central area, to under 1000 feet, on the western border on the slopes of Mandeville Canyon. The primary ridgelines have been graded with firebreaks and an electrical transmission corridor access road. A large water tank, the construction of which involved considerable considerable grading, has also been constructed on one of the primary ridgelines.

Vegetation within the study area appears to primarily consist of the

chaparral association. In this region, this covers steeper slopes with poorly developed soils and xeric conditions, and it is therefore not unusual that it is found within the study area. It includes the following species: California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), white sage (Salvia mellifera), black sage (S. apliana), purple or white-leaved sage (S. Leucophylla), California encilia (Encilia californica), California buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum), chamise (Adneostoma fasciculatum), buckbrush (Ceanothus cuneatus), scrub oak (Quercus dumosa), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides), lemonade sumac (Rhus integrifolia) and sugar sumac (R. ovata; Muntz 1974).

## 2.0

### BACKGROUND STUDIES

#### 2.0 Introduction

In preparation for the Phase I archaeological survey of the proposed Mountaingate South study area, background studies were conducted on the prehistory and ethnography of the study area and relevant surrounding regions. We consider below existing knowledge relevant to these topics for the study area.

#### 2.1 Prehistoric Background

Western Los Angeles County, including the study area, is situated in a zone known prehistorically to have comprised a portion of the prehistoric Canaliño culture area (Rogers 1929; Wallace 1955), and historically to have been located within the territory of the Gabrielino ethnolinguistic group (Kroeber 1925; Johnston 1962; Bean and Smith 1978). Our current understanding of the Canaliño prehistory is summarized below.

Canaliño prehistory was first defined in a chronological system established by D.B. Rogers (1929), working on the Channel Islands and the Santa Barbara coastline. At a later date, Rogers' scheme was modified in terminology and improved with additional and more detailed data and radiocarbon dates by W.J. Wallace (1955), who applied it to southern California more generally. Subsequently, the Rogers/Wallace chronology had been successfully applied to inland Los Angeles County (e.g., McIntyre



1990), and is now recognized as having applicability to a wide area of mesic (i.e., that area west of the xeric desert zone) Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange Counties. Due to the widespread application of this chronological scheme, we employ Wallace's framework for the purposes of this study.

#### Late Pleistocene Period (Pre-10,000 years B.P.)

Wallace's chronology for southern California includes four time periods, the earliest of which (Early Man/Big Game Hunting period) was considered speculative, and was correlated with the end of the Pleistocene, or Ice Age. This would represent an occupation prior to about 10,000 years B.P. (Before Present). Although it is likely that inhabitation of the southern California coastal region occurred during this early time period, evidence for such is currently extremely limited. To date, Late Pleistocene archaeological remains in southern California comprise two kinds of evidence. First, in the inland Mojave Desert region, petroglyphs (rock engravings) and surface stone tools have been dated back to approximately 20,000 and 30,000 years B.P., respectively (Whitley and Dorn 1993; Whitley et al 1996). These may well reflect the initial human occupation of North America. The contexts of these dated finds provide only limited kinds of archaeological information and, while there is much more to be discovered about this earliest prehistoric culture, existing data nonetheless suggest that these earliest inland Californians may have dwelled along the shores of Pleistocene lakes; that they exploited chert quarries to make relatively crude stone chopping tools; and that they also made rock art, perhaps as part of shamanistic religious practices.

Second, a limited number of large fluted projectile points have been found

in isolated locales in the Mojave Desert and along the California coast. These projectile points functioned as parts of spears and are known to date between 11,200 and 10,000 years B.P., falling within what is called the Paleoindian Period on the Great Plains. On the Plains, such points are associated with the hunting of extinct Pleistocene fauna, such as the Columbian Mammoth. Although it is likely that these spear points were similarly used in southern California, the isolated nature of the discovered artifacts precludes any certain inference about their use or function in the California region.

Uncertainty concerning these early prehistoric cultures results from the characteristic geomorphological instability of the California coastline and the general youthfulness of the southern California interior, combined with the major change in erosional/degradational regimes that occurred at the end of the Pleistocene (Whitley and Dorn 1993). Each of these factors does not favor the preservation of remains from this period. It is therefore likely that Late Pleistocene human occupation of Los Angeles is under-represented in the local prehistoric record, simply due to problems in site preservation.

#### Early Millingstone Period (10,000 - 3500 years B.P.)

With the transition towards a modern environment, starting approximately nine to ten thousand years ago, an adaptation referred to as the Early Millingstone Period or Horizon began. This is particularly evident along the coast, where many such sites are found, although a few examples are known from the inland region. Most sites of this stage date between 8500 and 3500 years in age.

Recent studies by Erlandson (1988; see also Erlandson and Colton 1991) provide evidence of a significant, even if small, population of coastal hunter-gatherers in the region before 7000 years ago, or essentially at the beginning of this Early Millingstone period. He has shown that these were neither Big Game hunters, nor specialized, hard-seed gatherers, but instead generalized foragers that relied on a variety of different kinds of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources, and that they were adapted to estuarine embayments that have long-since disappeared from the local environment. Further, his evidence indicates that their primary protein sources were shellfish and other marine resources. Extending a pattern first identified by Meighan (1959) on the Channel Islands, in other words, this suggests that the adaptation to the seashore is a very ancient and long-lived tradition in local prehistory.

In the inland region, perhaps the earliest evidence of the Early Millingstone Period is provided by so-called Los Angeles Woman, a female skeleton found in the La Brea Tar Pits which has been radiocarbon dated to 9000 years B.P. Lacking clearly associated artifacts or other remains, it is difficult to interpret the Los Angeles Woman beyond observing simply that her discovery signals the fact that the inland region was in use shortly after the end of the Late Pleistocene.

Later Early Millingstone sites (post-dating approximately 6000 years B.P.) are dominated by assemblages containing large numbers of groundstone artifacts, along with crude choppers, scraper planes, and other core/cobble tools. These are thought to represent an adaptation to gathered plant foods, especially a reliance on hard-shelled seeds. Accordingly, it has been common practice to identify any site with a dominance of these plant

processing implements as Early Millingstone in age. More recently, it has also been suggested that scraper planes, in particular, may have served in the processing of agave (Kowta 1969; Salls 1985); that the association of groundstone and core/cobble tools represents a generalized plant processing toolkit, rather than one emphasizing hard-seeds, per se (Whitley 1979), and that this toolkit was used in appropriate environmental settings throughout the prehistoric past. That is, that the so-called millingstone toolkit is environmentally rather than chronologically specific and reflects localized exploitative patterns, rather than a chronologically-specific adaptational strategy (Kowta 1969; Leonard 1971; McIntyre 1990). Thus, many inland sites identified as dating to the Early Millingstone Period solely on the basis of their groundstone toolkits may, in fact, not be of such age at all. However, on the coastal strip there continues to be evidence that such sites date to the earlier end of the time-frame. These sites are generally located on terraces and mesas, above the coastal verge, near permanent streams.

Although Early Millingstone period sites are relatively common along the coast, there is little evidence for the occupation of the inland region during this early time period. That is, although the millingstone adaptation to seeds and plants, and toolkits dominated by plant processing tools, are present in the inland zone, they appear to date to a later time period, with true Early Millingstone period occupation apparently restricted to the coastal strip, proper (Whitley and Beaudry 1991; cf. Leonard 1971; McIntyre 1990). Again, it is currently unclear whether this pattern reflects real differences in inland versus coastal settlement distributions, or is simply a function of site preservation problems in the inland region. Whatever the cause, it is worth noting that there are currently no reliable

or plausible (even reasonably-so) chronometric dates from inland sites that are Early Millingstone in age. All current temporal assignments of inland sites to the Early Millingstone period are based on putative diagnostic artifacts but, when these are examined critically, the verity of the early age assignments become dubious. And, too often, such early age assignments are based on functional/adaptive traits rather than stylistic criteria, thus confusing adaptive patterns for temporal ones.

A good example of the confusion of millingstone functional and adaptational patterns for Early Millingstone chronological diagnostics in inland Los Angeles County is provided by the so-called "Topanga Culture", as exemplified by excavations at CA-LAN-1, the "Tank Site" (cf. Heizer and Lemert 1947; Treganza and Malamud 1950; Treganza and Bierman 1958), located in the Santa Monica Mountains approximately three miles (as the crow flies) from the study area. This site is widely regarded as "Early Millingstone" chronologically, and its base ("Phase I") has been assigned 10,000 years of age, essentially due to the large numbers of millingstones, crude choppers and "cog stones" (see Treganza and Bierman 1958:75, Table 1). But, as Johnson (1966) has rightly pointed out, Phase III of the Topanga Culture is only 3000 years old, as demonstrated by his excavations at CA-LAN-2. That is, it is Intermediate and not Early Millingstone in age. It then must follow that the preceding Phase II can only be considered 3500 to 3000 years old, due to the presence of (Intermediate period) mortars and pestles in the Phase II assemblage. That is, Phase II of the Topanga Culture also can only be Intermediate period in age. Since Phase I lies conformably and immediately below Phase II stratigraphically, it likewise must follow that it immediately predates the Intermediate period Phase II remains. At best, then, Phase I

of the Topanga Culture is terminal Early Millingstone or transitional Early Millingstone/Intermediate, but not necessarily of any great antiquity.

This fact is emphasized when it is recognized that one of the key classes of temporal diagnostics said to support the very early age assignment for Phase I at the Topanga Site, the cog stones, were all recovered from the Phase II deposit, even though Treganza and Bierman (1958) incorrectly assign them to the Phase I assemblage (Eberhart 1961:366-7). Thus, there is currently no evidence to suggest any great antiquity for Phase I of the Topanga culture; instead it may simply be 4000, rather than 10,000 years in age, and may represent an early manifestation of the Intermediate Period movement of a millingstone adaptation into the interior, rather than a manifestation of a coastal Early Millingstone culture in the inland zone.

#### Intermediate Period (3500 - 800 years B.P.)

As implied above, a transitional stage followed the Early Millingstone, which is referred to as the Intermediate Period (Wallace 1955). It is believed to have begun about 3500 years ago, and to have lasted until about A.D. 1200 (according to the latest revisions; cf. Arnold 1987). It is marked on the coast by a growing exploitation of marine resources, the appearance of the hopper mortar and stone bowl/mortar, and a diversification and an increase in the number of chipped stone tools. Projectile points, in particular, are more common at sites than previously, while artifacts such as fish hooks and bone gorges also appear.

As noted above, cog stones also first appear during the Intermediate Period, although they are widely misinterpreted as Early Millingstone in age. These are relatively small, flat cobbles, about the size of a large

biscuit, that were shaped to resemble a kind of mechanical cog or gear. Although the function of these is unknown, it is likely they served as ceremonial objects, and their geographical distribution has an important implication for regional prehistory. As first identified by Eberhart (1961), cog stones are only found from Los Angeles County south and eastward; that is, they are absent in the areas of the Santa Barbara Channel region (Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties) that, historically, were occupied by Chumash-speaking groups. Although speculative, this suggests that the initial distinction between the Hokan Chumash and Takic-speaking groups (which included the Gabrielino) may have developed as early as 3500 years ago (cf. Kowta 1968:50; McIntyre 1990:5), rather than only 1500 years B.P., as Kroeber (1925) first hypothesized. That is, the distribution of these "ceremonial" artifacts essentially follows the boundaries of ethnolinguistic groups during the historical period, suggesting that such boundaries may have been more-or-less stable for about 3500 years.

As also implied above, there is growing evidence that it was at the beginning of this Intermediate Period that inland sites, such as those found in the Conejo Corridor on the north side of the Santa Monica Mountains, the upper Santa Clarita Valley, the Antelope Valley, and western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, were first established and occupied. Whether this pattern holds for the interior Los Angeles Basin has yet to be determined, but it seems likely. This suggests the exploitation of more varied environments and perhaps an increase in population at this time and, again, it may correlate with Kroeber's "Shoshonean Wedge" moving into mesic southern California at circa 3500 years B.P. (Whitley et al n.d.; cf. Whitley and Beaudry 1991). In general, however, the Intermediate Period can be argued to have set the stage for the accelerated changes that

took place immediately following it.

Canaliño/Late Prehistoric (800 to 200 years B.P.)

With the transition to the Canaliño or Late Prehistoric period at A.D. 1200, we can correlate local prehistory with the ethnographic societies as described (even if in abbreviated form) by early chroniclers and missionaries. However, this is not to suggest that local societies and cultures were in any way static, for the transition to the Canaliño period was marked by the evolution and eventual dominance of a sophisticated maritime economy. Further, among the Chumash to the west, a rise in social complexity has been shown to have been associated with the development of craft specialization, involving the use of standardized micro-drills to mass produce shell beads on Santa Cruz Island (Arnold 1987), which occurred during this period. This, apparently, contributed if not caused the appearance of a simple chiefdom in the southern Chumash region (cf. Whitley and Clewlow 1979; Whitley and Beaudry 1991).

Although we do not have evidence that the Gabrielino developed into a chiefdom like the neighboring Chumash, the Canaliño period nonetheless witnessed a fluorescence of local aboriginal culture paralleling the Chumash case. This included a substantial growth in population, the establishment of permanent settlements on the coast (and probably at favored locales in the inland area), a high degree of sociopolitical complexity, and the development of a very sophisticated maritime economy. It was during the Canaliño period, thus, that the occupants of the Santa Barbara Channel and Los Angeles County region achieved levels of cultural and social sophistication perhaps unrivaled by hunter-gatherer-fisher groups anywhere else in the world (Wallace 1955; Johnston 1962;



Landberg 1965; Brown 1967).

## 2.2 Ethnographic Background

As noted above, the study area falls within the ethnographic territory of the Takic-speaking Gabrielino; more specifically, near the approximate boundary of the Gabrielino proper and the Fernandeano dialect of Gabrielino. “Fernandeano” and “Gabrielino” are terms of Spanish derivation, resulting from the standard missionary practice of naming indigenous peoples after the mission to which they were attached, in this case the Missions San Fernando Rey and San Gabriel Arcangel, respectively. True indigenous names for the Gabrielino included Kij or Kizh (Johnston 1962; Reid 1968), the etymology of which is unknown; Kumivit, “easterner”; and Tobikhar, etymology, again, unknown (Bean and Smith 1978:548), although it is not clear that any of these terms were actually employed by the Gabrielino as self-referents (see below). In contrast, the Fernandeano were known to the Gabrielino as Pasekwarum, from Pasekngna (referring to a village near the San Fernando Mission). Thus, although “Gabrielino” and “Fernandeano” are in some senses inappropriate, they continue in standard usage.

Regardless of appellation, what historically have been referred to as the Gabrielino extended from Orange County north through the Los Angeles Basin to the crest of the San Gabriel Mountains, including the headwaters and watershed of the San Gabriel River, and from the coast eastward to include Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) and western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. To the west, Gabrielino territory extended to

Topanga Canyon, and included the San Fernando Valley (Kroeber 1925: Plate 57; Johnston 1962; Bean and Smith 1978a:538). Fernandeno was spoken primarily if not exclusively within the confines of this large inland valley.

Although the Gabrielino were culturally extinct by the beginning of this century (Bean and Smith 1978a:538) - that is, prior to the recording of any detailed ethnography on them - various sources, and analogies with better known surrounding groups, can be employed to reconstruct aspects of their ethnographic lifeways. For example, the Gabrielino and the linguistically-related Serrano shared many, if not most, cultural traits (Kroeber 1925:578-580; Bean 1972:69, 1978:575-576). We base the following reconstruction, accordingly, on Gabrielino, Serrano and Cahuilla sources (e.g., for the Gabrielino, see Dakin 1939, Reid 1968, Kroeber 1925, Johnston 1962, and Bean and Smith 1978a; for the Serrano, see Benedict 1924, Kroeber 1925, Strong 1929, and Bean and Smith 1978b; for the Cahuilla, see Barrows 1900, Kroeber 1908, 1925, Hooper 1920, Strong 1929, Bean 1972, 1978; and Bean and Saubel 1972, etc.).

The terms "Gabrielino" and "Fernandeno" strictly apply to groups of people united only by the use of a dialectical variant of the Gabrielino language (itself a Cupan language of the Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family). That is, they imply no necessary sociopolitical unity (as in a single 'tribe') and, in fact, a series of different political units may have existed among the Gabrielino at the time of Spanish contact, explaining why there were no generic terms for these groups as unified corporate units. Further, there may have been as many as six dialectical variants of the larger Gabrielino language (Kroeber 1925:620), the best known of which was

Fernandeño (cf. Englehardt 1927).

Based on these ethnographic sources combined with early Spanish accounts, we may confidently infer that the inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin and San Fernando Valley region were hunters-gatherers, with subsistence emphasizing acorns, yucca, juniper berries, sage seeds, mesquite, pinyon and islay and other plant resources. Following a sexual division of labor common throughout native California, women were principally responsible for the acquisition and preparation of plant foods. Game was also hunted, with small animals, such as rabbits/hares and rodents, probably representing more significant contributions of meat protein than larger game, such as deer. Women and children contributed to the hunting (often with nets and drives) of the smaller game. The large game, however, was the exclusive domain of the adult male hunters. Also following practices common throughout the state, specific resources exploited at any given time were a function of what was then seasonally available. Since this was somewhat a function of time of year and elevation, a pattern of transhumance was followed, indicating that only a few of the local villages (exclusive of those on the coast) would have been inhabited year around. Instead, inhabitation followed a pattern of population aggregation into large villages, usually during the Fall/Winter, when stored resources like acorns and pinyon nuts were eaten, and dispersal into single family units, typically during the Spring/Summer, when resources were more widely distributed.

It is likely that Gabrielino inhabitants wintered in large villages near permanent water sources on the Los Angeles Basin floor, whereas the Fernandeño would have occupied similar villages at springs on the San

Fernando Valley floor or foothill edges. Upland zones, such as are found in the San Gabriel and Santa Susana Mountains to the north, and the Santa Monicas containing the study area, would have been exploited seasonally, during the Spring, Summer and Fall, when valuable plant species ripened (e.g., on the northern slopes, pinyon nuts in the fall). Small, single family camp-sites would have been established near to the plant resources at this time. The highest elevations of the mountains, comprising pine forests, would probably only have been usable for hunting, with only minimal camp-sites established.

Social and political organization can be assumed to have been similar to the well-described systems of the Cahuilla (see Strong 1929; Bean 1972, 1978). These involved patrilineal moieties and clans of three to ten lineages that served as political-ritual-corporate units (Bean 1978:580). Each lineage maintained a village site and resource exploitation area. The office of the ceremonial leader was usually restricted to the founding lineage of the clan, which also owned the ceremonial house and ceremonial bundle. Each lineage had its own lineage leader who served in a variety of sacred and secular capacities, and who met with other such leaders to adjudicate inter-lineage disputes. This office was hereditary and patrilineal. He was assisted in many tasks and responsibilities by a paxa, or assistant, also an inherited office. Ceremonial song-leaders also aided in ritual activities (ibid).

It is also likely that religion followed the patterns found among surrounding groups. In this case, shamanism would have functioned as the central element. This posits a direct and personal relationship between each individual and the supernatural world, with this relationship enacted

by entering a trance or hallucinatory state (usually based on the ingestion of psychotropic plants, such as jimsonweed and, especially, native tobacco). Shamans, per se, were considered individuals with an unusual degree of supernatural power, and served as healers or curers, diviners, and controllers of natural phenomena (such as rain or thunder). Shamans are also known to have produced the rock art of this region, which depicted the hallucinations and spirits they observed in their vision quests. In addition, however, rock art was also painted by male and female initiates at the conclusion of a puberty ritual. Importantly, this initiatory art was also intended to display the spirit helper the initiate received during these ceremonies. Thus, two kinds of ethnographic rock art can be expected in the region: sites owned and made by shamans, and sites used for village initiations (Whitley 1992, 1996).

Given the early disruption of aboriginal lifeways in historical times, it is not surprising that little in the way of information about historical villages and aboriginal place names has been recorded for Gabrielino and Fernandean territory. However, the exploration and settlement of the San Fernando Valley region did result in the recording of a small number of place-names. Pasekngna was a village near the San Fernando Mission, while Achoicomina was the location of the mission itself. Tuhungna was a village located on the north bank of Big Tujunga wash, while Muhungna served the same purpose near the mouth of the Little Tujunga. Tongva was another village name in the Tujunga area, and was sometimes used to refer to the residents of this area, while Kawengna contributed its name to the Cahuenga Pass. Less information was recorded for the Los Angeles side of the Santa Monica Mountains, but Topangna was recorded for the village at the mouth of modern Topanga Canyon (from whence it gets its

name), and Kuruvangna is a village name recorded in the Santa Monica area (Kroeber 1925; Johnston 1962; Reid 1968).

### 3.0

#### ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

An archival records search of archaeological site maps, records and files was conducted at the UCLA Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Information Center (AIC) by the AIC staff. This was intended to determine whether the study area had been previously surveyed by archaeologists, and/or whether archaeological sites had been recorded on it. The complete results of this archival records search are included here as Appendix A.

Site files at the AIC indicate that the Mountaingate South study area had never been systematically surveyed by archaeologists. Furthermore, no prehistoric archaeological sites had been recorded within or adjacent to the study area. Given the very rugged terrain within the study area and the surrounding region, it seemed unlikely that site density could be high in this area. The archaeological sensitivity of the study area, accordingly, was considered moderate to low.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

### 4.1 Field Methods

An intensive Phase I surface survey of the Mountaingate south study area was conducted by D.S. Whitley, Ph.D., and J.M. Simon between January 7-9, 1998. This was intended to locate and record archaeological sites, and to assess potential impacts to them.

In the areas of flat terrain the groundsurface was examined with the crew spaced at 15 meter intervals, walking transects across the study area to identify artifacts or other archaeological indicators that might be present on the groundsurface. Generally, flat areas were restricted to ridgelines. Special attention was paid to depositional environments, such as saddles, swales and toeslopes, where the likelihood of archaeological preservation is enhanced. Areas of steep terrain, exceeding the angle of repose, could not be walked for safety purposes; however, the deposition and preservation of archaeological remains in such steep environments is extremely unlikely. The survey, therefore, covered 100% of the study area that might potentially contain archaeological remains.

In general, groundsurface visibility during the fieldwork was found to be fair. That is, the flat terrain contained only a low cover of vegetation. While dense chaparral was present on the slopes, the steepness of these areas precludes the preservation of archaeological remains.



## **4.2 Field Results**

An intensive Phase I archaeological survey of the Mountaingate South study area failed to result in the discovery of archaeological resources of any kind. Given the nature of the terrain found within the study area, it is very unlikely that this area ever experienced prehistoric or historic use of any consequence.

## 5.0

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive Phase I archaeological survey was conducted for the Mountaingate South study area, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. This involved background studies reviewing the prehistory and ethnography of the study area; an archival records search to determine whether any prehistoric or historical archaeological sites had been recorded or were known to exist on this property; and an intensive on-foot survey of the study area.

Background studies failed to demonstrate existing knowledge of any prehistoric or ethnographic occupation or use of the study area, per se and, given the ruggedness of the study area, the likelihood for such use seemed low.

The Phase I field survey failed to find any evidence for the existence of extant sites within the 281 acres study area.

#### 5.1 Recommendations

No extant cultural resources of any kind have been identified with the Mountaingate South study area. Development of the study area, therefore, does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts to cultural resources. Based on this fact, no additional archaeological work is recommended for the study area. In the unlikely event that archaeological

resources are uncovered during construction or grading, however, it is recommended that an archaeologist be contacted to evaluate such remains.

6.0  
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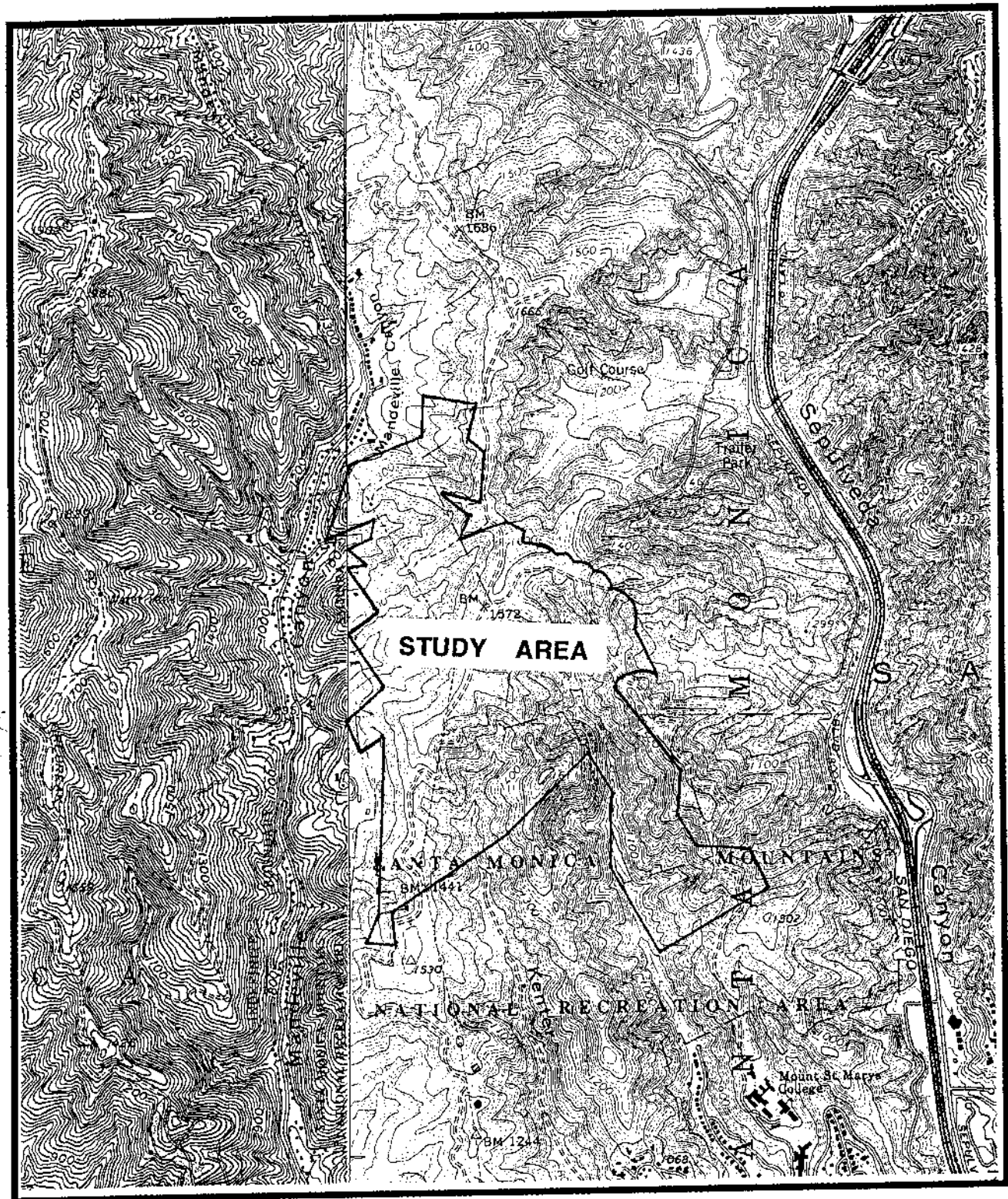
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n.d. Out West at 3500 B.P. Manuscript.



**7.0**  
**FIGURES**

1 - Location of the study area.



**FIGURE 1:** Location of the Mountaingate South study area, Los Angeles, California. Base maps: USGS Beverly Hills and Topanga quads; scale 1 ; 2000.

**8.0**

**APPENDIX A: ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH**

**South Central Coastal Information Center**  
*California Historical Resources Information System*  
UCLA Institute of Archaeology  
A163 Fowler Building  
Los Angeles, California 90095-1510  
(310) 825-1980 / FAX (310) 206-4723 / [sccic@ucla.edu](mailto:sccic@ucla.edu)

---

*Los Angeles*  
*Orange*  
*Ventura*

January 5, 1998

Joseph Simon  
W and S Consultants  
2242 Stinson St.  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

RE: Records Search Request for the Mountaingate South Project

Dear Mr. Simon,

As per your request received on December, 29 1997, we have conducted a records search for the above referenced project. This search included a review of all recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites within a half mile radius of the project area, as well as a review of all known cultural resource survey and excavation reports. In addition, we have examined our file of historic maps, the California State Historic Resources Inventory, the National Register of Historic Places, the listing of California Historical Landmarks and the California Points of Historical Interest. The following is a discussion of our findings for the project area

**PREHISTORIC RESOURCES:**

No prehistoric archaeological sites have been identified within a half mile radius of the project area.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES:**

No historic archaeological sites have been identified within a half mile radius of the project area.

Inspection of our Historic Maps - Sawtelle 6' series 1925 and 1934- showed an unimproved road along Mandeville Canyon and numerous drainages cutting through the area.

The California State Historic Resources Inventory lists no properties that have been evaluated for historic significance within a half mile radius of the project area.

The National register of Historic Places lists no properties within a half mile radius of the project area.

The California Historical Landmarks (1990) of the Office of Historic Preservation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no Landmarks within a half mile radius of the project area.

The California Points of historical Interest (1992), of the Office of Historic Preservation California Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a half mile radius of the project area.

**PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS:**

Three surveys and/or excavations have been conducted within a half mile radius of the project area. Report number LA336 lies partially within the project area. Twenty six additional investigations have been conducted on the Beverly Hills and Topanga quadrangles, but lack sufficient locational information.

If you have any questions regarding our results of this records search, please feel free to contact our office at (310) 825-1980.

Invoices are mailed approximately two weeks after records searches are completed. This enables your firm to request further information under the same invoice number. Please reference the invoice number listed below when making inquiries. Requests made after invoicing will involve the preparation of a separate invoice with a \$15.00 handling fee.

Sincerely,



Dina Rachal  
Assistant Coordinator

Enclosures:

- (X) Map
- (X) Bibliography
- ( ) Invoice 7060

**INVOICE#7060****ITEMID:** LA1034**DATE:** 1981**PAGES:** 10**AUTHOR:** Clewlow, C. W.**FIRM:** Ancient Enterprises, Inc.**TITLE:** Archaeological AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF TENTATIVE TRACT 41784,  
BEL AIR CREST ESTATES, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY**AREA:** 600 ac**SITES:** none**QUADNAME:** Beverly Hills**MEMO:****ITEMID:** LA1092**DATE:** 1981**PAGES:** 10**AUTHOR:** Padon, Beth**FIRM:** JIM HINZDELL AND Associates, INC.**TITLE:** Archaeological ASSESSMENT OF TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 41726 LOS  
ANGELES COUNTY, (EIR NO. 419-81-SUB)**AREA:** 260 ac**SITES:** none**QUADNAME:** Topanga**MEMO:****ITEMID:** LA336**DATE:** 1977**PAGES:** 5**AUTHOR:** Bove, Frederick J.**FIRM:** UCLA Archaeological SURVEY**TITLE:** Archaeological RESOURCE SURVEY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CANYON 8, MISSION CANYON  
LANDFILL, LOS ANGELES COUNTY**AREA:****SITES:** none**QUADNAME:** Beverly Hills**MEMO:**

# NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

of Los Angeles County

Vertebrate Paleontology Section  
Telephone: (213) 763-3325  
FAX: (213) 746-7431  
e-mail: smcleod@rcf.usc.edu  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007

10 November 1997

Impact Sciences, Inc.  
30343 Canwood Street, Suite 210  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Attn: Robert Manford, Jr.

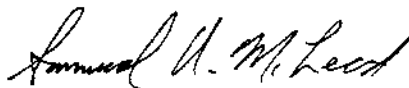
re: Paleontological resources for the Mountaingate South project (Vesting Tentative Tract. No. 44958)

Dear Robert:

I have searched our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the Mountaingate South project (Vesting Tentative Tract No. 44958) as outlined on the sheets you faxed to Dr. J. D. Stewart on 6 and 10 November 1997. We have no localities directly within the project boundaries. All of our closest fossil localities are from rock units different from those exposed in the project area. It appears that the rock units exposed in the project area are the upper Miocene marine Modelo Formation and an upper Jurassic marine unit known as the Santa Monica Shale. This latter rock unit is the predominantly exposed Formation in the area. The Modelo Formation is exposed extensively on the northern side of the Santa Monica Mountains, but a finger-like exposure extends down the Mandeville Canyon in the general vicinity of the proposed project. The Santa Monica Shale is not very fossiliferous and is mostly known from fossil gastropod molluscs. The Modelo Formation is fossiliferous and contains all of the typical Late Miocene marine vertebrate taxa of sharks, bony fish, sea turtles, marine birds, sea lions, dolphins and whales. In addition, the peculiar extinct marine mammals called desmostylians are known from tantalizing isolated skeletal elements preserved in the Modelo Formation. Larger fossil vertebrate remains are uncommon in the Modelo Formation and their occurrence is unpredictable.

If any fossil vertebrates were found in the Santa Monica shale, it would be extremely exciting and important because no Jurassic vertebrates have been discovered in California. Given the lack of knowledge of Jurassic vertebrates in California and the paucity of knowledge of the fossil vertebrate faunas from the Modelo Formation, along with the likely potential of encountering significant vertebrate remains during subsurface excavations over a wide area in the Modelo Formation, any substantial excavation should be monitored closely to recover any fossil remains exposed so that they may be collected quickly and professionally without hindering development activities.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. McLeod  
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice



**FOUNDATION INVOICE**  
**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007

10 November 1997

**INVOICE TO:**

Impact Sciences, Inc.  
30343 Canwood Street, Suite 210  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Attn: Robert Manford, Jr.

Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search for  
Mountaingate South project (Vesting Tentative Tract. No. 44958)

**AMOUNT DUE: \$ 140.00**

Vertebrate Paleontology Account #437 - invoice # VP971110B

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

---

Impact Sciences, Inc.  
30343 Canwood Street, Suite 210  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Attn: Robert Manford, Jr.

Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search for  
Mountaingate South project (Vesting Tentative Tract. No. 44958)

**AMOUNT DUE: \$ 140.00**

*Please make your remittance to:*

*Natural History Museum Foundation Account #437 - invoice # VP971110B*

*and return to:*

*Dr. Samuel A. McLeod  
Vertebrate Paleontology Section  
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007*

**Thank you**