

APPENDIX O-3:
LETTER TO PLAYA VISTA REGARDING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE
VILLAGE AT PLAYA VISTA, JULY 18, 2003



STATISTICAL RESEARCH, Inc.

ARCHAEOLOGY • ANTHROPOLOGY • HISTORY • HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

July 18, 2003

Marc Huffman
Playa Vista
12555 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90066

RE: Archaeological Resources within the Village at Playa Vista

Dear Mr. Huffman:

As a subunit of the overall Playa Vista development, cultural resources in the Village at Playa Vista are subject to the stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) developed for the Playa Vista project among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council). The PA requires the implementation of the research design prepared in 1991 as part of the Playa Vista Archaeological and Historical Project. In executing the research design, four archaeological sites have been found within the boundaries of the Village. These are CA-LAN-62, CA-LAN-211/H, CA-LAN-1932/H, and CA-LAN-2769 (hereafter the prefix CA- will be dropped). Of these four sites, LAN-211/H and LAN-2769 lie completely within the Village, whereas only the eastern ends of LAN-62 and LAN-1932/H extend into the Village parcel (Figure 1).

All four sites have been evaluated for possible listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as contributing elements of the Ballona Lagoon Archaeological District (BLAD). Two of the sites have been recommended as not eligible for listing. LAN-1932/H lies under the runway created by the Hughes Aircraft Company in the 1950s. The site was not simply disturbed by the runway, but actually appears to have been created by the construction of the runway. The archaeological material recorded as LAN-1932/H originated at some other location and was transported and used as fill to level the runway. The site is of little scientific importance, and thus, does not meet the eligibility criteria listed in 36 CFR 800. LAN-2769 also was recommended to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP. This site consists of a small number of artifacts of questionable integrity. This site, too, may have been created by the Hughes Aircraft Company as part of their endeavor to level the property for industrial use.

In contrast, LAN-62 and LAN-211/H are significant archaeological resources. LAN-62 has a long history of archaeological interest, which is a consequence of the site being perhaps the largest and richest in the Ballona. In 1991, the Corps of Engineers, in consultation with the SHPO and the Council, determined the site eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element of the BLAD. An archaeological treatment plan to mitigate the adverse effects of construction to the site also was approved at this time.

In the late 1980s, Dr. David Van Horn and his colleagues attempted to locate LAN-62 and LAN-211, which had been buried by the Hughes Aircraft Company during the construction of

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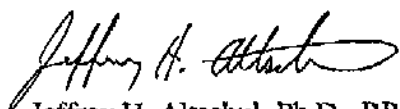
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their corporate headquarters. They correctly identified the main deposit at LAN-62 near Lincoln Boulevard, but incorrectly argued that LAN-211 was located several hundred meters to the east. Subsequent investigations by Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), have shown that the archaeological deposit at LAN-62 stretches continuously from near Lincoln Boulevard into the western end of the Village. The deposit identified by Dr. Van Horn as LAN-211 falls well within the boundaries of LAN-62. Approximately 1 km east of the center of LAN-62 is another deposit, identified by SRI in 1991. After archival and field investigations, SRI concluded that this deposit was the site officially designated LAN-211 in 1953. This deposit contains the best evidence of protohistoric and early historical-period occupation in the Ballona (ca. A.D. 1650-1820) as well as materials from earlier prehistoric periods. SRI recommended the site to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element of the BLAD and prepared a treatment plan to mitigate the adverse effects of Playa Vista construction.

The attached document, *At the Base of the Bluff: Archaeological Inventory and Evaluation along Lower Centinela Creek, Marina del Rey, California*, was prepared by SRI to meet the stipulations of the PA for the southern and western portion of Area D at Playa Vista. Much of this area is covered by the Village. The focus of this report is LAN-211/H, LAN-62, and LAN-2769, with reference made to the collections and deposits at LAN-1932/H. Therefore, the research design and treatment plan presented for LAN-211/H discusses all the resources encountered in the Village and constitutes the Village-specific research design and treatment plan.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey H. Altschul, Ph.D., RPA
President

The exact location of archaeological resources and sites are not subject to public disclosure to prevent harm and unauthorized disturbance of the resources and sites, pursuant Section 5097 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 800.11 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Therefore, this figure has been excluded.