Appendix C

CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY
October 29, 2015

Mr. Stephan Vance
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: San Diego River Trail Qualcomm Stadium Segment Project – Cultural Resources Study

Dear Mr. Vance:

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) was contracted to conduct a cultural resources survey in conjunction with the environmental review for the San Diego River Trail Qualcomm Stadium Segment Project (project). This letter report details the methods and results of the cultural resources study, which included a records search, Sacred Lands File search, a review of historic aerial photographs and maps, and a pedestrian survey.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The project site is located in the Mission Valley community of the City of San Diego (City), in San Diego County (Figure 1). The project property is located just south of Qualcomm Stadium and Friars Road, northwest of the Interstate 15 (I-15)/I-8 interchange and adjacent to the San Diego River (Figures 2 and 3). The western portion of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is located in a landscaped slope just south of Northside Drive; descending eastward, it follows the southern boundary of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot to its eastern end. With the exception of this small landscaped area, the APE is entirely within paved areas of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot. The project area is in an unsectioned portion of Township 16 South, Range 2 West, on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5’ La Mesa and La Jolla quadrangles (Figure 2).

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) proposes to construct an approximately 0.8-mile segment of the San Diego River Trail (SDRT) through Qualcomm Stadium in the Mission Valley community. The proposed Qualcomm Segment of the SDRT would extend eastward from the terminus of Fenton Parkway, along a vegetated slope behind the Fenton Marketplace shopping center and through the southern portion of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot to connect with Rancho Mission Road (Figure 3). The proposed trail would be
constructed as a Class I bikeway, which is a path that provides a separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of people walking and riding bikes. Most of the trail would occur on existing paved surfaces within the stadium parking lot. A barrier, such as portable concrete barriers (K rails) or chain-link fencing would be placed along the trail within the stadium parking area to separate trail users from other activities at the stadium. Some grading would be required along the vegetated slope behind the shopping center in the western extent of the trail. This slope is covered primarily with ornamental vegetation. The San Diego River is located adjacent to the trail on the south; however, the trail would not encroach into the river corridor, but it would be entirely within developed areas north of the river.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. 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 (CRHR) (Public Resources Code [PRC] §5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 4852) including the following:

A (1): Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;

B (2): Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

C (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, or:

D (4): Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Cultural resources eligible for the CRHR are considered significant resources, and impacts to them are significant environmental effects under CEQA.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in Mission Valley, directly adjacent to the San Diego River. It ranges in elevation from approximately 70 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at the western end to about 49 feet AMSL at the base of the western slope. Geologically, the project site is underlain by Quaternary Pleistocene stream-terrace deposits and Quaternary Holocene alluvium and slopewash (Kennedy 1975). The soils on site and in the adjacent area consist mainly of made land and riverwash, with a strip of Salinas clay loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes in the east. Made land is imported fill soil compacted and flattened for development; it can be found across the Qualcomm Stadium parking area. Riverwash is located along the San Diego River and consists
of sandy, gravelly, or cobbly soil that is often barren but occasionally supports sparse sycamore, live oak, shrubs, and forbs (Bowman 1973). The Salinas series soils are located in floodplains and alluvial fans and support mainly annual grasses and forbs with scattered trees and shrubs (Bowman 1973). Riparian woodland species such as sycamore, cottonwood, and other wetland plants occur along the river, adjacent to the project APE. These plants and associated animal species would have been used by the Kumeyaay people for food, medicine, tools, shelter, ceremonial, and other uses (Christenson 1990; Hedges and Beresford 1986).

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT


Carter (1957, 1978, 1980), Minshall (1976) and others (e.g., Childers 1974; Davis 1968, 1973) have long argued for the presence of Pleistocene humans in California, including the San Diego area. The sites identified as “early man” are all controversial. Carter and Minshall are best known for their discoveries at Texas Street and Buchanan Canyon. The material from these sites is generally considered nonartifactual, and the investigative methodology is often questioned (Moratto 1984).

The earliest accepted archaeological manifestation of Native Americans in the San Diego area is the San Dieguito complex, dating to approximately 10,000 years ago (Warren 1967). The material culture of the San Dieguito complex consists primarily of scrapers, scraper planes, choppers, large blades, and large projectile points. The San Dieguito complex is chronologically equivalent to other Paleoindian complexes across North America, and sites are sometimes called “Paleoindian” rather than “San Dieguito.” San Dieguito material underlies La Jolla complex strata at the C. W. Harris site in San Dieguito Valley (Warren, ed. 1966).

The traditional view of San Diego prehistory has the San Dieguito complex followed by the La Jolla complex at least 7,000 years ago, possibly as long as 9,000 years ago (Rogers 1966). The La Jolla complex is part of the Encinitas tradition and equates with Wallace's (1955) Millingstone Horizon, also known as Early Archaic or Milling Archaic. The Encinitas tradition is generally “recognized by millingstone assemblages in shell middens, often near sloughs and lagoons” (Moratto 1984:147). “Crude” cobble tools, especially choppers and scrapers, characterize the La Jolla complex (Moriarty 1966). Basin metates, manos, discoidals, a small number of Pinto series and Elko series points, and flexed burials are also characteristic.

Warren et al. (1961) proposed that the La Jolla complex developed with the arrival of a desert people on the coast who quickly adapted to their new environment. Moriarty (1966) and Kaldenberg (1976) have suggested an in situ development of the La Jolla people from the San Dieguito. Moriarty has since proposed a Pleistocene migration of an ancestral stage of the
La Jolla people to the San Diego coast. He suggested this Pre-La Jolla complex is represented at Texas Street, Buchanan Canyon, and the Brown site (Moriarty 1987).

Various authors (Bull 1987; Gallegos 1987) have proposed that the San Dieguito, La Jolla, and Pauma complexes are manifestations of the same culture, with differing site types “explained by site location, resources exploited, influence, innovation and adaptation to a rich coastal region over a long period of time” (Gallegos 1987:30). The classic “La Jolla” assemblage is one adapted to life on the coast and appears to continue through time (Robbins-Wade 1986, 1988; Winterrowd and Cárdenas 1987). Inland sites adapted to hunting contain a different tool kit, regardless of temporal period (Cárdenas and Van Wormer 1984).

Other archaeologists argue that an apparent overlap among assemblages identified as “La Jolla,” “Pauma,” or “San Dieguito” does not preclude the existence of an Early Milling period culture in the San Diego region, separate from an earlier culture (Cook 1985; Gross and Hildebrand 1998; Warren 1998). One perceived problem is that many site reports in the San Diego region present conclusions based on interpretations of stratigraphic profiles from sites at which stratigraphy cannot validly be used to address chronology or changes through time. The subsurface deposits at numerous sites are the result of such agencies as rodent burrowing, insect activity, and other bioturbative factors (Bocek 1986; Erlandson 1984; Gross 1992; Johnson 1989).

The Late Prehistoric period is represented by the Cuyamaca complex in the southern portion of San Diego County and the San Luis Rey complex in the northern portion. The Cuyamaca complex is the archaeological manifestation of the Yuman forebears of the Kumeyaay people. The San Luis Rey complex represents the Shoshonean predecessors of the ethnohistoric Luiseño. The name Luiseño derives from Mission San Luis Rey de Francia and has been used to refer to the Indian people associated with that mission, while the Kumeyaay people are also known as Ipai, Tipai, or Diegueño (named for Mission San Diego de Alcala). Agua Hedionda Creek is often described as the division between the territories of the Luiseño and the Kumeyaay people (Bean and Shipek 1978; Luomala 1978; White 1963), although various archaeologists and ethnographers use slightly different boundaries. The Native American people know their traditional use areas through songs and stories passed down through generations.

The project area is within lands that have traditionally been inhabited by the Kumeyaay people, also known as Diegueño or Ipai/Tipai (Luomala 1978). The area is rich in cultural resources, situated within Mission Valley and the San Diego River floodplain. These areas were occupied for thousands of years. Two ethnohistoric village sites associated with Mission San Diego de Alcala existed in Mission Valley: Cosoy (or Koso) and Nipaquay (Carrico 1993). In her introduction to the autobiography of Delfina Cuero, Shipek wrote that around 1900, many Diegueño Indians lived in Mission Valley and in various other places around San Diego, including “at the foot of Rose Canyon, along Ocean Beach, around the edge of Mission Bay (False Bay), and all up and down Mission Valley. Each of these locations has been corroborated independently by non-Indian ‘old timers’ in San Diego” (Shipek 1970:9).

Mission Valley supported agricultural uses from the Mission period until the development of commercial and residential uses in the past 50 years or so. Dairies were still present in some
parts of the valley in the 1970s. Sand and gravel mining has also been conducted in the vicinity. The area surrounding the project site has been subject to a great deal of disturbance over many years from sand and gravel operations, construction of roadways, development of commercial and residential uses, channelization of the San Diego River, and other improvements.

STUDY METHODS

HELIX conducted a records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) on July 8, 2015. The records search covered a one-mile radius around the project area (the entire Qualcomm Stadium parking lot was included as the project area, to allow for potential expansion of the APE) and included archaeological and historical resources, locations, and citations for previous cultural resources studies, as well as a review of the state Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) historic properties directory. The records search summary and map are included as Confidential Appendix A to this letter report.

HELIX contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on July 6, 2015 for a Sacred Lands File search and list of Native American contacts for the project area. SANDAG conducted outreach to the Native American community regarding the project.

A survey of the APE was conducted on July 13, 2015 by HELIX Cultural Resources Director Mary Robbins-Wade and Native American monitor Natasha Eggen from Red Tail Monitoring and Research, Inc. With the exception of a heavily vegetated slope and landscaped area at the top of the slope, the project APE was entirely paved with asphalt. The portion of the landscaped area and vegetated slope for which rights-of-entry had been granted were walked, and all visible ground that was not paved was carefully inspected for cultural constituents. Thick vegetation totally obscured the ground surface over the vast majority of this area.

A potential staging area was identified just east of the project site, as illustrated in Figure 4. This staging area is a Caltrans yard that has been graded in the past and has gravel surface in some areas. A site visit was made on August 17, 2015 by Mary Robbins-Wade; however, the parcel could not be accessed due to a chain link fence and locked gate.

RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

As previously noted, a records search was conducted at the SCIC for the project site (including the entire Qualcomm Stadium parking lot) and a one-mile radius. Seven resources have been recorded within the search radius (see Table 1, Previously Recorded Resources within One Mile), but none of them are located in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Two of these are prehistoric artifact scatters, one is a prehistoric isolate, two are historic refuse deposits, one is unknown, and one site (CA-SDI-35) is the multicomponent village of Nipaguay and the site of Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The two prehistoric scatters include lithic and ceramic artifacts, as well as shell and bone. The isolate consists of a single lithic flake. The historic refuse deposits include glass, ceramics, metal, and bone and date to the 1940s to 1950s. Site CA-SDI-35 contains the remnants of the prehistoric and early contact period Kumeyaay village site of Nipaguay, noted as one of two large villages in Mission Valley by Carrico (1993). Remnants of
the original Mission San Diego de Alcalá building have been recorded during renovations of the current Mission, including the discovery of a river cobble-packed pavement believed to have been a courtyard west of the main building. At ½ mile to the northeast, this is the nearest, previously recorded historic resource to the project APE. Site CA-SDI-239 and historic address 10818 San Diego Mission Road are also located in the valley, near the Mission. The other sites and nine other historic properties are located in the hills north and south of Mission Valley. The records search map is included as Confidential Appendix A to this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Number (CA-SDI-#)</th>
<th>Resource Number (P-37-#)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Recorder, Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>000035</td>
<td>Prehistoric village of *Nipaguay/*Protohistoric and historic Mission San Diego de Alcalá: Multicomponent site with Spanish, Mexican, and American period historic refuse deposits including glass, ceramics, beads, marbles, nails, and modern trash; prehistoric lithics, shells, and Tizon brown ware ceramics; features include the original Mission</td>
<td>Schaefer, 2013; Wolfe, 2013; Schaefer, 1990; Hedges, 1976; Pilling, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>000202</td>
<td>None noted</td>
<td>Treganza, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>239</td>
<td>000239</td>
<td>Prehistoric artifact scatter including pottery, obsidian and chert flakes, bone, and shell</td>
<td>Hall, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11056</td>
<td>011056</td>
<td>Prehistoric artifact and shell scatter in midden soil, artifacts include lithics</td>
<td>Affinis, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>014959</td>
<td>Prehistoric isolated flake</td>
<td>Clevenger, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>024379</td>
<td>Historic refuse deposit including bottles, jars, tableware, and bones dating to the 1940s</td>
<td>Pierson, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>024380</td>
<td>Historic refuse deposit including mostly bone and metal dating to the 1940s-1950s</td>
<td>Pierson, 2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SCIC has 112 cultural resource studies on file for the one-mile radius around the project area. Of these, seven have been conducted within the project area. Three of these reports were studies of the San Diego River Valley (Mission Valley) that covered the entire project area; two were linear studies conducted for water reclamation and sewer utility lines that run through a portion of the APE. The two remaining reports were for a storm water system maintenance program and covered portions of the APE.
SURVEY RESULTS

The APE was surveyed on July 13, 2015 by Robbins-Wade and Eggen. Ground surface visibility was nonexistent to poor, because the project site was almost completely paved over. The only area with any ground surface visibility was a thickly vegetated, steep slope ascending west from the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot to Northside Drive. The survey was conducted in parallel transects 5 meters (m) apart on the top of the slope, with wider transect intervals on the slope itself, where thick vegetation totally obscured the ground surface. No cultural resources were observed in the little ground surface that was visible.

A potential staging area was visited by Robbins-Wade on August 17, 2015, but access to the parcel was restricted. A portion of the proposed staging area could be viewed through the fence; no cultural material was observed except recent trash. The potential staging area is a Caltrans yard that has been graded in the past and has gravel surface in some areas.

Historic aerial photographs and topographic maps were referenced for historical information about the project site. A 1903 USGS topographic map of the La Jolla quadrangle shows that the San Diego River split along three routes near Murphy Canyon, the top of which covered the project area, before merging into one course again. Historic aerial photographs from 1953 and topographic maps from 1942 reveal that the project site was relatively undeveloped until construction began on Qualcomm Stadium (then known as San Diego Stadium) between 1964 and 1966 (historicaerials.com). The topographic maps show that the San Diego River ran in a single course through the project area directly under the modern stadium from 1942 until its channelization and the beginning of stadium construction. The area immediately around the river appears as an alluvium wash with traces of past river beds scarring the ground. No buildings or agricultural fields were present within the project site before this, though a few short dirt roads appear to have been cut from Camino Del Rio north through the western portion of the APE. Agricultural fields were located southeast and north of the project site, and the nearest buildings were along a dirt road connecting to Camino Del Rio just south of the APE.

As previously noted, HELIX contacted the NAHC for a Sacred Lands File search and list of Native American contacts for the project area. The NAHC response received on August 6, 2015 and confirmed by email on August 10, 2015 indicated that there are “no Sacred Lands File concerns” in the project area. SANDAG conducted outreach to the Native American community regarding the project; no concerns were expressed regarding the project.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

No cultural resources have been identified within the project area. Based on this, the project is expected to have no impacts to cultural resources. Ground visibility was poor during the survey, and a portion of the area could not be surveyed, as rights-of-entry were not granted for that area; however, this area is a manufactured slope. The vast majority of the trail segment would be on existing pavement; the remainder would be on manufactured slopes and areas that have been subject to extensive impacts from the development of stadium uses, the library, and commercial uses at Fenton Marketplace. If fencing is installed within the parking lot, minimal ground
disturbance would be required (post holes for the fencing would be 3 feet deep, and the poles would be 3 inches to 4 inches in diameter).

Although no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated, due to the disturbed nature of the project site, there is a possibility that construction grading could expose, encounter, or accidentally discover cultural resources. Based on this, the following standard measures would be included as part of the project:

- Prior to construction, contractors will receive an archaeological orientation from a professional archaeologist regarding the types of resources that could be uncovered during construction activities and the identification of these resources. The orientation also will cover procedures to follow in the case of any archaeological discovery.

- If cultural resources are encountered at any time during project grading, construction personnel will avoid altering these materials and their context until a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor have evaluated the situation. Project personnel will not collect or retain cultural resources.

- In the event of accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, the County Medical Examiner’s Office shall be notified immediately, and construction activities will be halted within 100 feet of the area of the discovery. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the NAHC will be notified by the Medical Examiner’s Office within 24 hours. The NAHC will notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), and the MLD shall be contacted by the Principal Investigator in order to determine proper treatment and disposition of the remains. All requirements of Health & Safety Code §7050.5 and Public Resources Code §5097.98 shall be followed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Robbins-Wade at (619) 462-1515.

Mary Robbins-Wade, RPA
Director of Cultural Resources
Southern California

Nicole Falvey
Staff Archaeologist

Attachments:
Figure 1 Regional Location Map
Figure 2 Project Vicinity Map (USGS Topography)
Figure 3 Area of Potential Effect (APE)
Figure 4 Potential Staging Area

Confidential Attachments (under separate cover):
A Records Search Map
B Native American Correspondence
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Warren, Claude N. (editor)

Warren, Claude N., D.L. True, and Ardith A. Eudey

White, Raymond C.

Winterrowd, Cathy L., and D. Seán Cárdenas
Regional Location Map

SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL - QUALCOMM SEGMENT

Figure 1
Project Vicinity Map (USGS Topography)

SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL - QUALCOMM SEGMENT

Figure 2
SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL - QUALCOMM SEGMENT

Potential Staging Area

Figure 4