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## RE: Recommendations for Cultural Resources Associated with Seven Proposed Intersection Improvement Alternatives to Support the Proposed Stoneridge Project, Riverside County

#### Greetings:

In January 2023, ECORP Consulting, Inc. was notified of six alternatives being considered for offsite improvements that could be used in support of the proposed Stoneridge Project in Riverside County. If selected, these alternatives would require modifications of up to seven existing paved intersections at up to seven locations, which are shown in Appendix A and summarized in Table 1.

able 1. Intersection Locations and Associated Truck Trip Alternatives		
Map Identification Number	Location of Intersection	Truck Trip Alternative
53	Nuevo Road and Menifee Road	4 and 5
54	San Jacinto Avenue and Menifee Road	2 and 5
56	Mapes Road and Menifee Road	4
57	Watson Road and Menifee Road	5
58	Ethanac Road (State Route 74) and Menifee Road	3 and 4
61	Nuevo Road and Lakeview Avenue	4 and 5
77	San Jacinto Road and Dunlap Drive	1, 2, and 5

Any selected truck trip alternatives would require modifications at these intersections. Such modifications may include additional pavement laydown; installation of traffic signals; and curb and cutter installation. All of this activity would be at or near the surface and all at existing paved intersections.

Inspection of the original ground surface is not possible due to the presence of existing pavement and road facilities at all of these locations. Therefore, ECORP examined other lines of evidence composed of existing baseline data available for this area. The data set included a combination of records search results from the Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System obtained from the inventory for the onsite development footprint (ECORP 2019) and several supplemental inventories of offsite infrastructure improvements, historical through modern-era aerial photographs and topographic maps, soils and geology data; and background literature for the area. A summary of information is provided below.

## **INTERSECTION 53**

The intersection of Nuevo Road and Menifee Road (formerly Pozo Avenue) is an existing paved T-intersection of two-lane roads surrounded by rural residential and agricultural land uses. The sequence of modern aerial photographs between 1985 and the present show active agriculture, plowing, and surface grading on all sides of the intersection and shoulders. An abandoned ranch style single-family residence at 22030 Menifee Road is present at the southeastern corner of the intersection, and was present as of 1967 (Perris, CA 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map, 1967, revised 1979). The road shoulders on the eastern and western sides of Menifee Road are currently used for parking by customers of pop-up produce stands and is heavily disturbed.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. The records search results indicate this intersection was surveyed by Greenwood and Associates in 1993 (EIC Report RI-3739, 1084558) for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project. No cultural resources were mapped in the location of this intersection.

## **INTERSECTION 54**

The intersection of San Jacinto Avenue and Menifee Road is an existing paved intersection surrounded by recent residential and commercial development. Modern aerial photographs between 1985 and the present show residential and commercial development on all sides of the intersection and shoulders. Curbs, gutters, and landscaping are present on all corners except the southwestern corner.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. The records search results indicate this intersection was surveyed by Greenwood and Associates in 1993 (EIC Report RI-3739, 1084558) for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project. No cultural resources were mapped in the location of this intersection.

### **INTERSECTION 56**

The intersection of Mapes Road and Menifee Road is an existing paved intersection surrounded by rural residential and agricultural land uses. Modern aerial photographs between 1985 and the present show a gated residence on the northwestern corner of the intersection and vacant or graded land on all other corners. A transmission line that passes near the southeastern corner of the intersection and aboveground utility lines are evident along Menifee Road.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. The records search results indicate this intersection was surveyed by Greenwood and Associates in 1993 (EIC Report RI-3739, 1084558) for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project. No cultural resources were mapped in the location of this intersection.

## **INTERSECTION 57**

The intersection of Watson and Menifee roads is an existing paved intersection surrounded by rural residential and agricultural land uses. The sequence of aerial photographs from 1985 to present indicate that development of a utility facility in the southwestern quadrant of the intersection occurred between 1996 and 2002. The intersection is currently surrounded by utility lines, residential fencing, road culverts, and grass.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. The records search results indicate this intersection was surveyed by Greenwood and Associates in 1993 (EIC Report RI-3739, 1084558) for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project. No cultural resources were mapped in the location of this intersection.

#### **INTERSECTION 58**

The intersection of Ethanac Road (State Route 74) and Menifee Road is an existing paved intersection surrounded by utility infrastructure and agricultural land uses. This four-lane major roadway is heavily built and currently has a traffic signal. A utility substation and gas station have been developed on the southern sides of the intersection, and as recently as March 2021, substantial ground disturbance and construction was observed on the northern sides of the intersection.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. The records search results indicate this intersection was surveyed by Greenwood and Associates in 1993 (EIC Report RI-3739, 1084558) for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project. No cultural resources were mapped in the location of this intersection.

## **INTERSECTION 61**

The intersection of Nuevo Road and Lakeview Avenue is an existing paved angled T-intersection surrounded by commercial land uses. Extensive landscaping, including palm trees, various shrubs, and ground cover, is evident. Customer parking areas for adjacent commercial businesses reach to the curb, leaving very little ground surface visibility.

This intersection was included in the records search and literature review by ECORP as part of the 2020 offsite infrastructure inventory. Although no previous surveys were documented inside the intersection at the time, there are several immediately adjacent surveys, including one on the southern side of the intersection. The nearest previously recorded resource is the 1919 Hanzlik House located at 29571 Nuevo Road.

## **INTERSECTION 77**

The intersection of San Jacinto Road and Dunlap Drive is an existing paved intersection surrounded by undeveloped agricultural land on all four corners. This intersection was previously assessed by ECORP in 2021 through a records search, literature review, and historic image review. No previously recorded

resources were documented at this intersection. Because the ground surface was not accessible for field survey, ECORP recommended that a professional archaeological monitor be present during ground disturbance at these locations.

## **BURIED SITE POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Geologic maps show that the vicinity contains late Pleistocene alluvium and Holocene alluvium. Pleistocene sediments are generally considered to have a low potential for buried archaeological resources, as they only have the potential to bury resources associated with the earliest human occupation of the region. Thus, the presence of Pleistocene sediments does not necessarily negate the potential for subsurface deposits and these sediments are considered to have a moderate to high potential for subsurface resources. The Holocene sediments were deposited concurrently with human occupation of the region and are generally considered to have a moderate to high potential for buried resources. However, all of these intersections have been previously constructed and paved, and future modifications would be at or near the surface. The potential for the Project Area to contain unidentified subsurface resources is considered low, however the inaccessibility of the ground surface for inspection means that a qualified archaeologist cannot confirm this by field survey. Should any of these intersection alternatives be selected, ECORP recommends that a professional be present during the removal of pavement or other impervious surfaces and monitor ground disturbing activity at these locations.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at <a href="https://www.userscons.gov/lws.two.news.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.two.news.news.gov/lws.two.news.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.gov/lws.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.two.news.gov/lws.gov/lws.gov/lws.gov/lws.gov/lws.gov/lws.

Sincerely,

Lisa Westwood, RPA

**Director of Cultural Resources** 

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**Enclosures:** 

Appendix A: Maps

## REFERENCES

ECORP Consulting, Inc. 2021. Addendum Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Stoneridge Project Offsite Intersection Improvement Areas, Riverside County, California. Prepared for County of Riverside Planning Department and Richland Planned Communities, Inc.
2020. Addendum Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Stoneridge Project, Offsite Limits of Disturbance, Riverside County, California. Prepared for County of Riverside Planning Department and Richland Planned Communities, Inc.
2019. Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Stoneridge Project, Riverside County, Californic Prepared for County of Riverside Planning Department and Richland Planned Communities, Inc.
Greenwood and Associates. 1993. A Cultural Resources Survey for the Gas Pipeline No. 6900 Project, Riverside County, California. Prepared for P&D Technologies, Inc., Orange, California.

# APPENDIX A

Maps

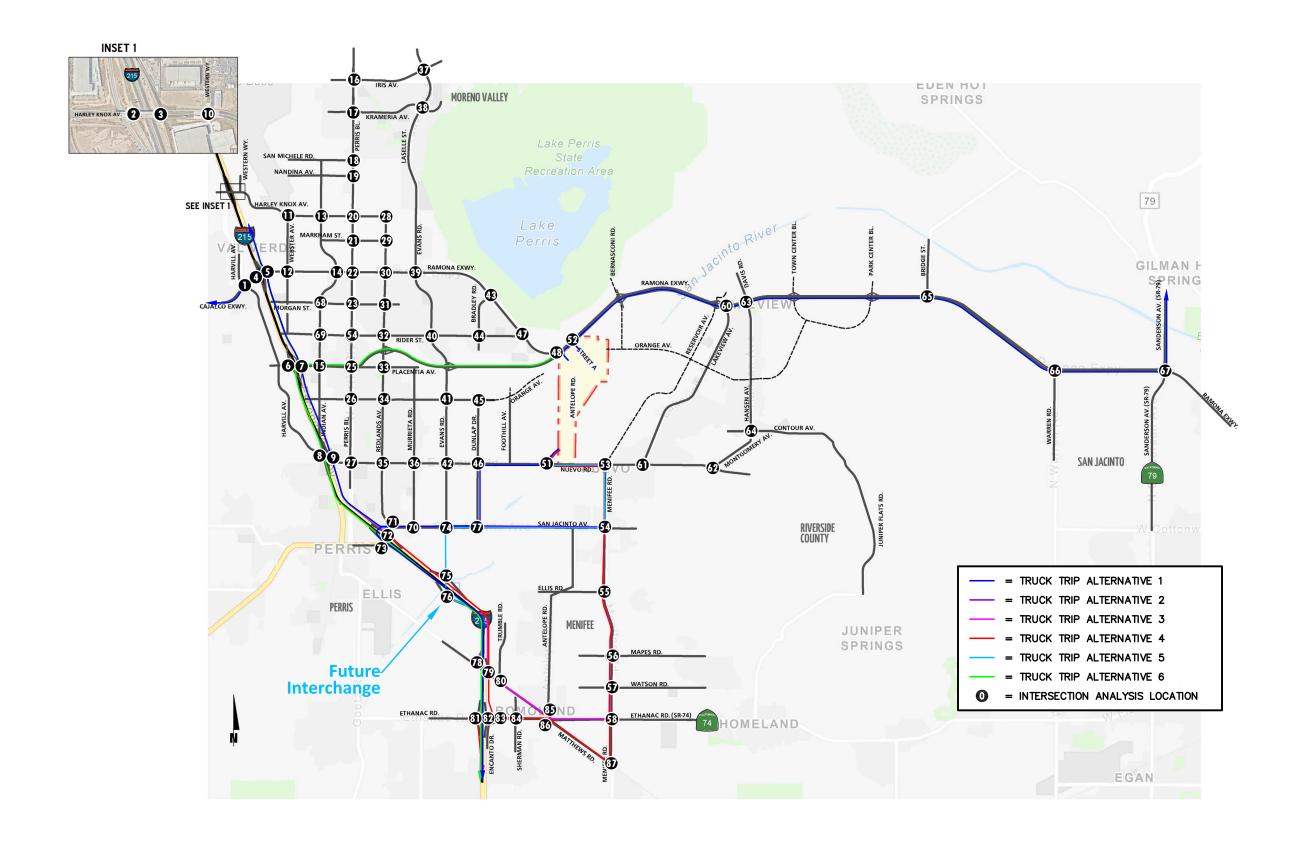




Figure x. Stoneridge Project - Intersections 53 & 61

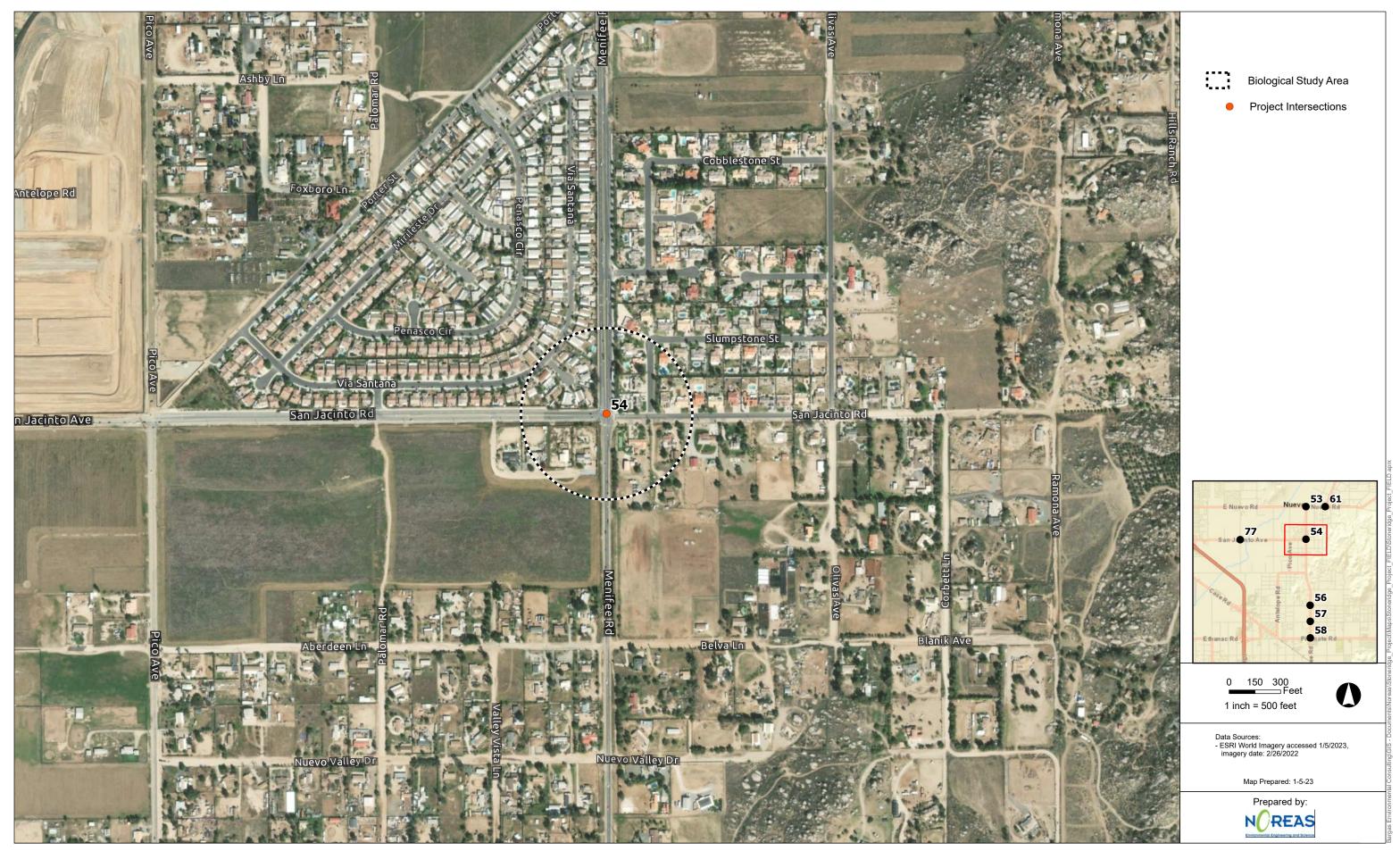


Figure x. Stoneridge Project - Intersection 54



Figure x. Stoneridge Project - Intersection 77



Figure x. Stoneridge Project - Intersections 56 & 57



Figure x. Stoneridge Project - Intersection 58