

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net



June 10, 2011

Mr. John Quendo

City of San Bernardino Redevelopment Agency

201 North "E" Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Re: SCH#20110610216 CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the: "Home Depot at Highland and Arden Avenues Project;";
Located in the City of San Bernardino; San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Quendo:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources. The NAHC wishes to comment on the above-referenced proposed Project.

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ... objects of historic or aesthetic significance.' In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC Sacred Lands File (SLF) search resulted in; **Native American cultural resources were not identified** within the 'area of potential effect (APE), based on the USGS coordinates of the project location provided.

The NAHC 'Sacred Sites,' as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Legislature in California Public Resources Code §§5097.94(a) and 5097.96. Items in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory are confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act pursuant to California Government Code §6254.10.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or burial sites once a project is underway. Culturally affiliated tribes and individuals may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). We strongly urge that you make contact with the list of Native American Contacts on the attached list of Native American contacts, to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources and to

obtain their recommendations concerning the proposed project. Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code § 5097.95, the NAHC requests that the Native American consulting parties be provided pertinent project information. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code §5097.95, the NAHC requests that pertinent project information be provided consulting tribal parties. The NAHC recommends *avoidance* as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370(a) to pursuing a project that would damage or destroy Native American cultural resources and Section 2183.2 that requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources.

Furthermore we recommend, also, that you contact the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) California Office of Historic Preservation for pertinent archaeological data within or near the APE, at (916) 445-7000 for the nearest Information Center in order to learn what archaeological fixtures may have been recorded in the APE.

Consultation with tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA (42 U.S.C 4321-43351) and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation.

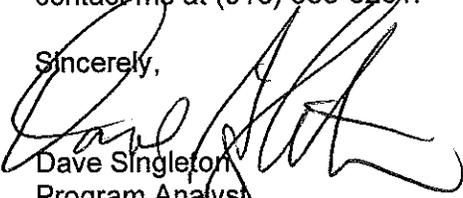
Furthermore, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'.

To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. Regarding tribal consultation, a relationship built around regular meetings and informal involvement with local tribes will lead to more qualitative consultation tribal input on specific projects.

The response to this search for Native American cultural resources is conducted in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory, established by the California Legislature (CA Public Resources Code 5097.94(a) and is exempt from the CA Public Records Act (c.f. California Government Code 6254.10) although Native Americans on the attached contact list may wish to reveal the nature of identified cultural resources/historic properties. Confidentiality of "historic properties of religious and cultural significance" may also be protected under Section 304 of the NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and there may be sites within the APE eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C., 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APEs and possibility threatened by proposed project activity.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,



Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

California Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
June 10, 2011

Pechanga Band of Mission Indians
Paul Macarro, Cultural Resource Center
P.O. Box 1477 Luiseno
Temecula , CA 92593
(951) 770-8100
pmacarro@pechanga-nsn.
gov
(951) 506-9491 Fax

Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105
(951) 763-4325 Fax

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
James Ramos, Chairperson
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933
(909) 864-3724 - FAX
(909) 864-3370 Fax

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission
Anthony Morales, Chairperson
PO Box 693 Gabrielino Tongva
San Gabriel , CA 91778
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com
(626) 286-1632
(626) 286-1758 - Home
(626) 286-1262 -FAX

Gabrielino Tongva Nation
Sam Dunlap, Chairperson
P.O. Box 86908 Gabrielino Tongva
Los Angeles , CA 90086
samdunlap@earthlink.net
(909) 262-9351 - cell

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Michael Contreras, Cultural Heritage Prog.
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
(951) 201-1866 - cell
mcontreras@morongo-nsn.
gov
(951) 922-0105 Fax

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Ann Brierty, Policy/Cultural Resources Department
26569 Community Center. Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933, Ext 3250
abrierty@sanmanuel-nsn.
gov
(909) 862-5152 Fax

Serrano Nation of Indians
Goldie Walker
P.O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton , CA 92369
(909) 862-9883

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2011061021; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the HOME DEPOT at Highland and Arden Avenues; City of San Bernardino; San Bernardino County, California.

California Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
June 10, 2011

Ernest H. Siva
Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribal Elder
9570 Mias Canyon Road Serrano
Banning , CA 92220 Cahuilla
siva@dishmail.com
(951) 849-4676

SOBOBA BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS
Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resource Department
P.O. BOX 487 Luiseno
San Jacinto , CA 92581
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov
(951) 663-5279
(951) 654-5544, ext 4137

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2011061021; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the HOME DEPOT at Highland and Arden Avenues; City of San Bernardino; San Bernardino County, California.



3654 East Highland Avenue, Suite 18, Highland, CA 92346
P.O. Box 3427, San Bernardino, CA 92413

Serving Our Community for Over 50 Years

July 1, 2011

Mr. John Oquendo
Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Bernardino
201 North "E" Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Subject: City of San Bernardino Initial Study for CUP 11-08

Dear Mr. Oquendo:

East Valley Water District has received the City's submitted document for the above-mentioned project. Based on the review of this submitted document, the District has the following comments:

1. Even though the housing, roadways, curb, gutter and sidewalks have all been removed, active sewer and water mains still remain within the project development. Prior to the beginning of any construction activity the sewer and water mains must be properly abandoned, per the approved plans. Please contact the District to coordinate the pipeline abandonments.
2. There is one 12 inch water main in the frontage road of Highland Avenue within the project boundary, and it also cuts through the northeast end of the property. This water main needs to be protected in place.
3. There are two water mains in Arden Avenue that need to be protected in place. One is a 20 inch main and the other is a 12 inch main.

We look forward to working with you on this important redevelopment project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Buchwald'.

Ron Buchwald, P.E.
District Engineer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

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Vice President

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General Manager

Brian W. Tompkins
Chief Financial Officer

Ronald E. Buchwald
District Engineer

RB:eo:ck



July 7, 2011

John Oquendo
City of San Bernardino
Redevelopment Agency
201 North "E" Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, CA 92401

27215 Base Line
Highland, CA 92346
(909) 864-6861
(909) 862-3180 FAX
www.cityofhighland.org

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report –
Home Depot

City Council

Mayor
Larry McCallon

Mayor Pro-Tem
Penny Lilburn

Sam J. Racadio
Jody Scott
John P. Timmer

City Manager
Joseph A. Hughes

Dear Mr. Oquendo:

The City of Highland has reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Home Depot Project and requests that an economic analysis be included which identifies potential impacts to the existing businesses in the area (inclusive of City of Highland businesses within a minimum one [1] mile radius of the site) and discusses the possible loss and closing of businesses and how those impacts might be addressed or minimized.

The City's Engineering Division also requests that they be provided with a copy of the Project's Traffic Study as soon as it is available for review.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please call me at (909) 864-8732, Ext. 209.

Sincerely,

Bruce Meikle
Senior Planner

cc: John Jaquess, Community Development Director
Lawrence Mainez, City Planner
Ernie Wong, City Engineer
Jim Godfredsen, Engineering Project Manager



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Deborah O. Raphael, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 8, 2011

Mr. John Oquendo
Planner II
City of San Bernardino Redevelopment Agency
201 North E Street, Suite 301
San Bernardino, California 92401

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HOME DEPOT AT HIGHLAND AND ARDEN AVENUES PROJECT, (SCH# 2011061021), SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Dear Mr. Oquendo:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received your submitted Notice of Preparation for a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above-mentioned project. The following project description is stated in your document: "Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. and Mark Development, Inc. are proposing the redevelopment of a previously developed multi-family residential site into a commercial shopping center. The Proposed Project includes a subdivision of the 17.37-acre site into seven parcels ranging in size from 0.73 acres to 8.93 acres. The Proposed project would require a General Plan Amendment (GPA) to change the existing land use designation from Public Commercial Recreation (PCR) to Commercial General (CG-1), and approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for multi-tenant use of the Project Site. The Project site is currently vacant and is located south of Highland Avenue and west of Arden Avenue, on the northwest corner of Arden Avenue and 20th Street. Surrounding land uses include commercial development to the north along Highland Avenue, and elementary school to the south, residential development to the west, and Interstate 210 (I-210) Freeway eastbound on-ramp and multi-family residential to the east".

Based on the review of the submitted document DTSC has the following comments:

- 1) The EIR should evaluate whether conditions within the Project area may pose a threat to human health or the environment. Following are the databases of some of the regulatory agencies:
 - National Priorities List (NPL): A list maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA).

- Envirostor (formerly CalSites): A Database primarily used by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessible through DTSC's website (see below).
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS): A database of RCRA facilities that is maintained by U.S. EPA.
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): A database of CERCLA sites that is maintained by U.S.EPA.
 - Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): A database provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board which consists of both open as well as closed and inactive solid waste disposal facilities and transfer stations.
 - GeoTracker: A List that is maintained by Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
 - Local Counties and Cities maintain lists for hazardous substances cleanup sites and leaking underground storage tanks.
 - The United States Army Corps of Engineers, 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90017, (213) 452-3908, maintains a list of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- 2) The EIR should identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation for any site within the proposed Project area that may be contaminated, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight. If necessary, DTSC would require an oversight agreement in order to review such documents.
- 3) Any environmental investigations, sampling and/or remediation for a site should be conducted under a Workplan approved and overseen by a regulatory agency that has jurisdiction to oversee hazardous substance cleanup. The findings of any investigations, including any Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessment Investigations should be summarized in the document. All sampling results in which hazardous substances were found above regulatory standards should be clearly summarized in a table. All closure, certification or remediation approval reports by regulatory agencies should be included in the EIR.
- 4) If buildings, other structures, asphalt or concrete-paved surface areas are being planned to be demolished, an investigation should also be conducted for the presence of other hazardous chemicals, mercury, and asbestos containing

materials (ACMs). If other hazardous chemicals, lead-based paints (LPB) or products, mercury or ACMs are identified, proper precautions should be taken during demolition activities. Additionally, the contaminants should be remediated in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies.

- 5) Future project construction may require soil excavation or filling in certain areas. Sampling may be required. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly disposed and not simply placed in another location onsite. Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) may be applicable to such soils. Also, if the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination.
- 6) Human health and the environment of sensitive receptors should be protected during any construction or demolition activities. If necessary, a health risk assessment overseen and approved by the appropriate government agency should be conducted by a qualified health risk assessor to determine if there are, have been, or will be, any releases of hazardous materials that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.
- 7) If the site was used for agricultural, livestock or related activities, onsite soils and groundwater might contain pesticides, agricultural chemical, organic waste or other related residue. Proper investigation, and remedial actions, if necessary, should be conducted under the oversight of and approved by a government agency at the site prior to construction of the project.
- 8) If it is determined that hazardous wastes are, or will be, generated by the proposed operations, the wastes must be managed in accordance with the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5) and the Hazardous Waste Control Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 22; Division 4.5). If it is determined that hazardous wastes will be generated, the facility should also obtain a United States Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number by contacting (800) 618-6942. Certain hazardous waste treatment processes or hazardous materials, handling, storage or uses may require authorization from the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Information about the requirement for authorization can be obtained by contacting your local CUPA.
- 9) DTSC can provide cleanup oversight through an Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) for government agencies that are not responsible parties, or a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) for private parties. For additional information on the EOA or VCA, please see www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields, or contact Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC's Voluntary Cleanup Coordinator, at (714) 484-5489.

Mr. John Oquendo
July 8, 2011
Page 4

- 10) Also, in future CEQA document, please provide your e-mail address, so DTSC can send you the comments both electronically and by mail.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Rafiq Ahmed, Project Manager, at rahmed@dtsc.ca.gov, or by phone at (714) 484-5491.

Sincerely,



Greg Holmes
Unit Chief
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044
state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov.

CEQA Tracking Center
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Environmental Planning and Analysis
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812
Attn: Nancy Ritter
nritter@dtsc.ca.gov

CEQA # 3243