

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

**RIDGE CAJON CREEK PROJECT**

**CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**LSA**

September 2016

# CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

RIDGE CAJON CREEK PROJECT  
CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

Ms. Kathleen Bonesz  
Ridge Development Company  
2211 Michelson Drive, Suite 650  
Irvine, California 92612

Prepared by:

Gini Austerman, RPA  
LSA Associates, Inc.  
1500 Iowa Avenue, Suite 200  
Riverside, California 92507

LSA Project No. RDD1601

## **National Archaeological Database Information:**

*Type of Study:* Cultural Resources Assessment (Records Search and Survey)

*Sites Updated:* 36-026792

*USGS Quadrangles:* 1967 San Bernardino South, California 7.5'

*Acreage:* Approximately 38.2 acres

*Key Words:* Phase I Survey, no new resources

The logo for LSA Associates, Inc. consists of the letters 'LSA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

September 2016

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) is under contract to Ridge Development Company to conduct an archaeological resources assessment for the development of the proposed Ridge Cajon Creek Project on approximately 18 acres bounded by Cajon Boulevard and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks in the City of San Bernardino, California (vicinity of Verdamonte). This work was completed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project consists of construction of two warehouse buildings totaling approximately 720,000 square feet and associated parking. The project area is currently undeveloped.

A cultural resources records search, literature review, and survey were conducted for the project. Results of the records search indicate that 11 historic-period resources are recorded within one-half mile of the project area, one of which, Site 36-26792 (a can scatter), has been previously documented within the project area. This site is not significant and warrants no further consideration. No other cultural resources were identified within the project area by the survey, although the ground surface was severely obscured by vegetation. No prehistoric resources were identified by the records search or survey, and it is unlikely that any will be encountered by project-related, ground-disturbing construction activities. Aerial photographs indicate that the project area has never been developed; therefore, the likelihood of encountering historic-era resources is low. Overall sensitivity of the project area for potential subsurface resources is negligible. Therefore, no further cultural resource investigations or monitoring are recommended. In the event any archaeological resources are identified during earthmoving activities, work in the area should be halted until the nature of the find can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist and appropriate treatment determined.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	ii
Figures .....	ii
Tables .....	ii
INTRODUCTION .....	1
NATURAL SETTING .....	1
Biology .....	1
Geology .....	1
Hydrology .....	4
CULTURAL SETTING .....	4
Prehistory .....	4
Ethnography .....	4
History .....	5
METHODS .....	6
Records Search .....	6
Field Survey .....	6
Additional Research .....	6
RESULTS .....	6
Records Search .....	6
Resources .....	7
Studies .....	7
Field Survey .....	9
Additional Research .....	9
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	9
REFERENCES .....	10

### Figures

Figure 1: Regional and Project Location .....	2
Figure 2: Overview of Project Site .....	3
Figure 3: Site 36-26792, Can Scatter .....	8

### Tables

Table A: Cultural Resources within One-Half Mile of Project Site .....	6
--	---

## INTRODUCTION

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) is under contract to Ridge Development Company to conduct a cultural resources assessment for the proposed 38.2-acre Ridge Cajon Creek Industrial Project (Project) located in the City of San Bernardino (City), San Bernardino County, California (Figure 1). This work was completed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5.

The proposed Project is located just outside the City neighborhood of Verdemon, between Cajon Boulevard and Cajon Creek. Two proposed warehouse buildings, totaling approximately 720,000 square feet (sf), will be constructed just north and south of the Institution Road and Palm Avenue intersection, which intersects the project. Building one, which will be located north of the intersection, will be bounded by a former County landfill to the east and by an above-grade Southern Pacific Railroad to the west. The building will consist of 325,920 sf on 18.2 acres of land. Building two will be located south of the intersection, will be bounded on the south by the Metropolitan Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District aqueducts, and on the west by an above-grade Southern Pacific Railroad. The building will consist of 385,831 sf on 20 acres of land. Other than one existing detention basin situated between the two buildings, and Edison power lines along Cajon Boulevard, the Project site is vacant and has not been previously developed. The site comprises San Bernardino County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 026-205-142 and 026-205-141.

## NATURAL SETTING

The natural setting of the project vicinity is presented based on the underlying theoretical assumption that humans and human societies are in continual interaction with the physical environment. Being an integral and major part of the ecological system, humans respond to the limits imposed by the environment by technological and behavioral adaptation. Locations of archaeological sites are based on the constraints of these interactions, whether it is proximity to a particular resource, topographical restrictions, or shelter and protection. Sites will also contain an assemblage of artifacts and ecofacts consistent with the particular interaction.

### Biology

At an average elevation of 1,675 feet above mean sea level (amsl), the project falls within the Sonoran Life Zone (Schoenherr 1992), which ranges from below sea level to 3,500 feet amsl. The native vegetation of the project region is predominantly coastal sage scrub (Munz and Keck 1968), which has a range that extends into inland valleys (Schoenherr 1992). Vegetation observed included yerba santa, cactus and yucca, skunkbush, sumac, white and black sage, scalebroom, sagebrush, and buckwheat (Figure 2). Common fauna of the region include coyotes, rodents, birds, reptiles, and insects.

### Geology

The project is situated at the base of the Cajon Pass and on the northeast side of Cajon Creek. It is southwest of the San Andreas Fault, which is the cause of a fractured rift zone that separates the San Gabriel Mountains on the west from the San Bernardino Mountains on the east (Figure 2). The rift

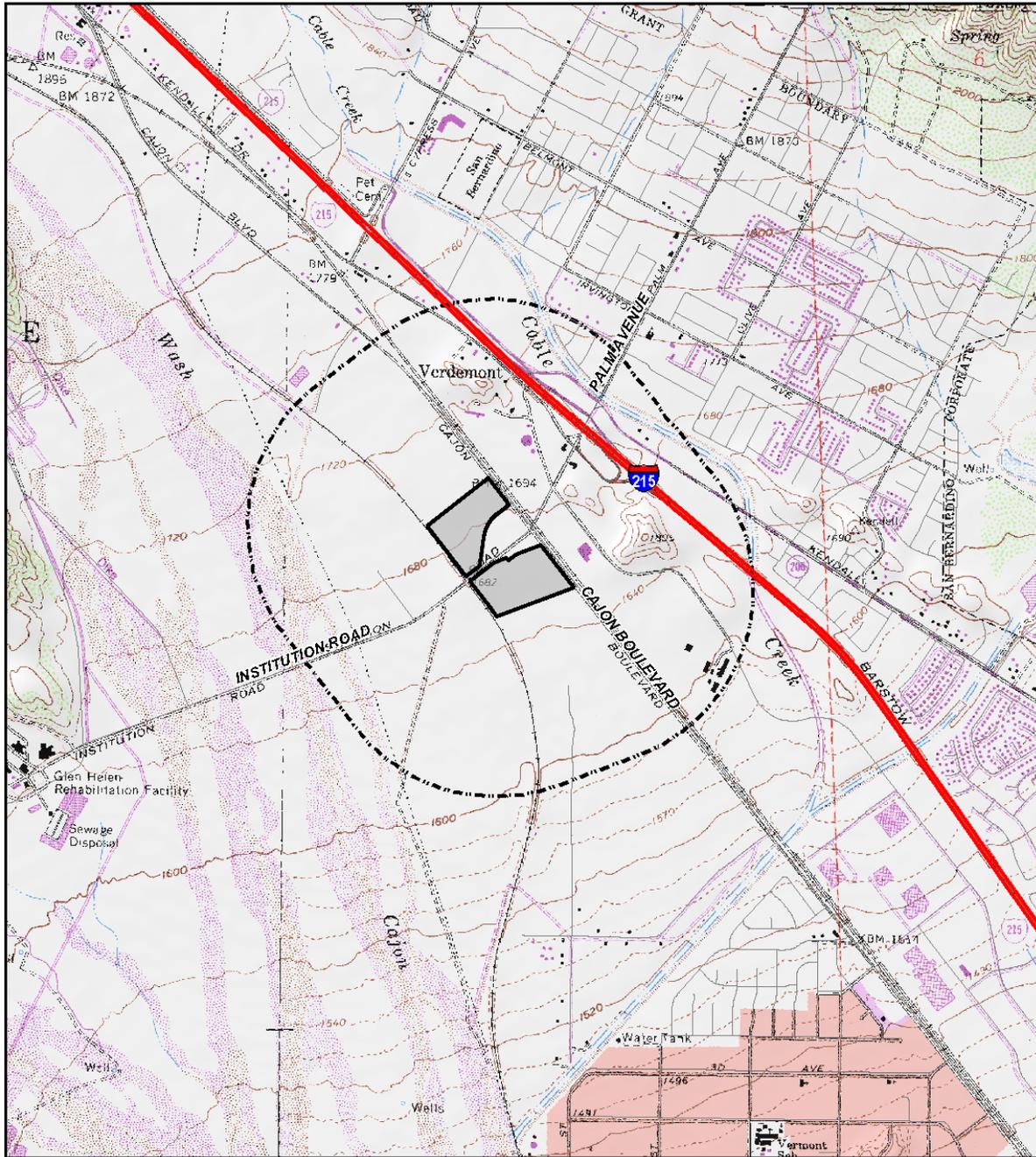


FIGURE 1

**LSA**



0 1000 2000  
 FEET

-  Project Boundary
-  1/2 Mile Buffer of Project

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad: San Bernardino North, 1988, Devore, 1980; ESRI Streetmap, 2013.

I:\RDD1601\Reports\Cultural\RecordSearch.mxd (7/28/2016)

*Ridge San Bernardino*  
 Regional and Project Location



Figure 2: Overview of Project Site

zone is a natural corridor between the Mojave Desert and the San Bernardino Basin. In Cajon Pass, located just northwest of the project, erosion along the San Andreas Fault zone exposes 70 million years of stratigraphic history (Woodburne and Golz 1972; Foster 1980; Woodburne 1991). The two mountain ranges are the eastern portion of the transverse ranges, and peaks rise to 11,000 feet in elevation, catching winter snow and seasonal rain. Tributaries from the ranges drain into Cajon Wash, which runs southeasterly past the Devore Terrace.

## **Hydrology**

The topography in the Cajon Pass area provides year-round water to the down slope areas from creeks and precipitation. Annual rainfall ranges from 5 to 15 inches per year (Beck and Haase 1974). Precipitation usually occurs in the form of winter rain, with occasional warm monsoonal showers in late summer. The project is situated just east of Cable Creek and approximately two mile east of Lytle Creek, both of which flow south-southeast.

## **CULTURAL SETTING**

### **Prehistory**

The description of various prehistoric stages or chronologies identifying cultural evolution in the Southern California area has been attempted numerous times. Several of these chronologies are reviewed in Moratto (1984). No single description is universally accepted. The various chronologies are based primarily on material developments identified by researchers familiar with sites in a region, and variation exists essentially due to the differences in those items found at the sites. Small differences occur over time and space, which combine to form patterns that are variously interpreted.

Currently, two primary regional culture chronology syntheses are commonly referenced in the archaeological literature. The first, Wallace (1955), describes four cultural horizons or time periods: Horizon I – Early Man (9000–6500 BC), Horizon II – Milling Stone Assemblages (6500–2000 BC), Horizon III – Intermediate Cultures (2000 BC–AD 200), and Horizon IV – Late Prehistoric Cultures (AD 200–historic contact). This chronology was refined (Wallace 1978) using absolute chronological dates unavailable in 1955.

The second cultural chronology (Warren 1968) is based broadly on Southern California prehistoric cultures, and was also revised (Warren 1984; Warren and Crabtree 1986). Warren's chronology includes five periods in prehistory: Lake Mojave (7000–5000 BC), Pinto (4000–3000 BC), Gypsum (1000 BC–AD 1), Saratoga Springs (AD 500–1000), and Protohistoric (AD 1500–historic contact). Changes in settlement pattern and subsistence focus are viewed as cultural adaptations to a changing environment, which begins with gradual environmental warming in the late Pleistocene, continues with the desiccation of the desert lakes, followed by a brief return to pluvial conditions, and concludes with a general warming and drying trend, with periodic reversals that continue to the present (Warren 1986).

### **Ethnography**

The project is within the traditional territory of the Serrano (Kroeber 1925; Bean and Smith 1978). Like other Native American groups in Southern California, the Serrano were semi-nomadic hunter-

gatherers who subsisted by exploitation of seasonably available plant and animal resources. They were first encountered by Spanish missionaries in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first written accounts of these groups are attributed to mission fathers. The Serrano have been subdivided based on linguistic differences. These divisions are known as the Serrano (San Bernardino Mountains), Kitanemuk (southwestern Mojave Desert), and Vanyume (along Mojave River) (Kroeber 1925:611–619). Ethnography of the Serrano was documented by Benedict (1924), Strong (1929), Bright (1975), and others.

## History

In California, the historic era is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish (1769–1821), the Mexican (1821–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Early exploration of the San Bernardino County area began in 1772 when Lieutenant Pedro Fages, Military Governor of San Diego, crossed through the area in search of deserters from the Spanish Army. Following the Fages expedition, Padre Francisco Garces crossed through the Cajon Pass in 1776 into San Bernardino Valley (Arnold et al. 1987). The first American citizen to enter the San Bernardino Valley was Jedidiah Strong Smith, who in 1826, traveled down Cajon Pass and arrived near the San Gabriel Mission.

**San Bernardino County.** An *asistencia* of the Mission San Gabriel was established in the San Bernardino area in 1819 at the Indian village of *Guachama* and later named San Bernardino by the Catholic padres (Gudde 1998). The 30,145-acre Muscupiabe Rancho (which includes the project area) was granted to Michael C. White in 1843 (Richards 1966). San Bernardino County was created in 1853 from portions of Los Angeles and San Diego Counties due to mineral wealth, and a year later, the City of San Bernardino was incorporated as the County Seat. Gold was discovered in Holcomb and Bear Valleys in the San Bernardino Mountains in 1860, and placer mining began in Lytle Creek. Silver was being mined at Ivanpah in 1870, and the rich silver mines of the Calico district were developed in the 1880s. Borax was first discovered in 1862 in the Searles Dry Lake area near Trona (Hoover et al. 1990). Produce ultimately assumed prominence as the county's economic base, with thousands of acres under cultivation by the beginning of World War I (Southern California Panama Expositions Commission 1914).

The Cajon Pass was once the only route navigable by wagon trains; it was in this pass that the Mojave Trail, the Mormon Trail, and the Spanish Trail converged. Travelers coming into and out of the San Bernardino Valley used this route to access destinations north. The route became a paved highway in 1916 and was eventually replaced by Interstate 15 in 1969 (<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ca-sanbernardino2.html>).

The Santa Fe railroad was completed in 1885, and was soon followed by the Union Pacific and Southern Railroad. The presence of the railways greatly contributed to the development of the San Bernardino Valley as an important trade center. More people were drawn to settle in the area, and by 1900 the city of San Bernardino was home to over 6,000 residents. Farming became an important industry due to the fertile grounds of the valley that were ideal for orange, and later, tropical fruit crops that soon filled the landscape from the mountains to the coastal plains (Legends of America n.d.).

## METHODS

### Records Search

On August 18, 2016, LSA archaeologist Gini Austerman conducted a records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) located at the California State University, Fullerton. CHRIS cultural resources maps at the SCCIC were checked for possible prehistoric and historic resources previously recorded within one mile of the project area. To supplement the CHRIS data, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Index, Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties, and historic United States Geological Survey topographic maps. In addition, Ms. Austerman reviewed the California State Historic Property Data File (HPD), which includes the National Register, California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI), as well as various local historic registers and historic maps.

### Field Survey

On August 30, 2016, LSA field technician Carlton Bennet completed an intensive pedestrian survey of the project parcels. The entire project was surveyed in systematic parallel transects spaced by approximately 15 meters (approximately 50 feet). Special attention was paid to areas of exposed soil for surface artifacts and features and to stratigraphy and rodent burrows for evidence of buried midden. The purpose of this survey was to identify and document, prior to the beginning of ground-disturbing activities, any cultural resources and thus also to identify any area(s) that might be sensitive for buried cultural resources.

### Additional Research

On August 30, 2016, Ms. Austerman reviewed historic aerial photographs of the project area for evidence of historic use.

## RESULTS

### Records Search

Results of the records search indicate that 14 studies have been conducted within the search area, 2 of which included the project area. Eleven cultural resources are recorded within the search area, and one of these resources (36-26792) is recorded within the project area.

Table A lists the cultural resources within a one-half mile radius of the project site that are mapped, documented on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms, and on file at the SCCIC. A more detailed discussion of these resources and reports is provided below.

**Table A: Cultural Resources within One-Half Mile of Project Site**

Primary #	Site Description
36-002910	Cajon Boulevard, Historic Route 66; adjacent to the northeastern boundary

**Table A: Cultural Resources within One-Half Mile of Project Site**

<b>Primary #</b>	<b>Site Description</b>
36-006793	Atchison Topeka Rail Road track; adjacent to the northeastern boundary
36-013612	Historic concrete foundation
36-013613	Historic concrete foundation and pad
36-013614	Historic concrete pad, road, and landscape tree remnants
36-014898	Cable Creek levee, built in 1944
36-021325	Historic Institution Road
36-021326	Union Pacific Rail Road Colton-to-Palmdale cutoff; adjacent to the southwestern boundary
36-026791	Historic concrete tank
36-026792*	Historic refuse deposit; within the project
36-027100	Isolated artifact- historic glass shards

\* Within project site.

## Resources

The 10 cultural resources recorded outside the project area but within the one-half mile radius of the project include: the Atchison Topeka Rail Road line and Cajon Boulevard (both adjacent to the northeastern boundary; the Union Pacific Rail Road Colton-to-Palmdale cutoff (adjacent to the southwestern boundary); Institution Road, the Cable Creek levee, remnants of three foundations and/or slabs, and some isolated glass shards. No prehistoric resources were noted within the one-half mile records search area.

**Site 36-26792.** This resource was recorded in 2013 by ECORP as a small scatter of rusted cans and one glass fragment located within a drainage in the undeveloped land south of Cajon Boulevard and west of North Palm Road (Figure 3). The artifact scatter is approximately 200 feet south of the intersection of Palm Road and Cajon Boulevard. This artifact scatter likely represents a small roadside refuse deposit that has settled within a seasonal drainage over time; possibly having migrated from an unknown original location. No information is available to associate these items with any event, person, or location of origin. These artifacts are indicative of a transitory use of the area.

## Studies

Data from the SCCIC indicate that there have been 14 previous cultural resource studies conducted in the records search area, two of which (SB-7625 and SB-7637) include the project.

**SB-7625.** This study was conducted in 2012 by ECORP and consisted of a cultural resources survey of approximately 5 acres of undeveloped land for the Muscoy Groin #2 Storm Drain Project. The survey resulted in the identification of a small historic-period refuse deposit, recorded as Site 36-026792, discussed above.



Figure 3: Site 36-26792, Can Scatter.

**SB-7637.** This study was conducted in 2011 by Colleen Hamilton for the Palm Avenue/BNSF Railroad Grade Separation Project; portions of this study fall within the current project. No resources were identified as a result of this study.

### **Field Survey**

The field survey revealed that the project area is undisturbed; overall ground visibility was poor at approximately 10 percent due to dense vegetation. Several ephemeral drainages course through the project in a southwesterly direction, toward Cable Creek. Site 36-026792 was located and found to be consistent with the 2012 survey description. No additional cultural resources were identified during the survey.

### **Additional Research**

Aerial photographs of the project were reviewed and indicate that since at least 1938 the project has remained undeveloped. Evidence of seasonal drainages can be seen in the 1938 photograph, and by 1959 Palm Avenue had been extended to Institution Road (Historic Aerials var.).

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A cultural resources records search, literature review, and survey were conducted for the project. Results of the records search and survey indicate that one previously recorded resource, a historic refuse scatter, was within the project area. Due to the proximity of Cajon Boulevard to the site, this scatter is likely the result of a secondary deposit or a roadside stop and is not indicative of a significant use of the location. No additional archaeological resources were identified within the project area during the survey. No prehistoric sites have been recorded within the one-half mile search area. No further cultural resources investigations or monitoring are recommended. In the event any archaeological resources are identified during earthmoving activities, work in the area should be halted until the nature and significance of the find can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify an MLD. With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

## REFERENCES

- Arnold, J. E., A. Q. Duffield, R. S. Greenwood, R. P. Hampson, and T. M. Van Bueren with contribution by B. E. Lander.  
1987 Archaeological Resources of the Seven Oaks Dam Project, Upper Santa Ana River Locality. Prepared for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Los Angeles, California
- Bean, Lowell John, and Charles R. Smith  
1978 Serrano. In *California*, edited by R.F. Heizer, pp.570–574. *Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 8, W.C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Beck, Warren A., and Ynez D. Haase  
1974 *Historical Atlas of California*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Benedict, Ruth F.  
1924 A Brief Sketch of Serrano Culture. *American Anthropologist* 26 (3).
- Bright, William  
1975 Two Notes on Tactic Classification: Paper read at the Third Annual Uto-Aztecan Conference, Flagstaff, June 19–20, 1975. (Copy, Manuscript No. 76–66 in National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.)
- Foster, J.H.  
1980 Late Cenozoic tectonic evolution of Cajon Valley, southern California. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Geological Sciences, University of California, Riverside, California, 238 pp.
- Gudde, Erwin G.  
1998 *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names*. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged by William Bright. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Historic Aerials (HistoricAerials.com)  
1938, 1948, 1959, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1978, aerial photographs of project area.
- Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, Ethel Grace Rensch, William N. Abeloe, and revised by Douglas E. Kyle  
1990 *Historic Spots in California*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Kroeber, Alfred L.  
1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin No. 78. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. Reprinted in 1976, New York: Dover Publications.
- Legends of America  
n.d. <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ca-sanbernardino2.html>). Accessed September 2, 2016.

- Moratto, Michael J.  
1984 *California Archaeology*. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Munz, P.A., and David D. Keck  
1968 *California Flora and Supplement*. Berkeley, University of California Press: 1681 + 224 p.
- Richards, Elizabeth W.  
1966 *Guideposts to History: Concerning Origins of Place and Street Names in San Bernardino County*. Santa Fe Federal Savings.
- Schoenherr, Allan A.  
1992 *A Natural History of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.
- Southern California Panama Expositions Commission  
1914 *Southern California. Comprising the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura*. Introduction by John Steven McGroarty.
- Strong, William D.  
1929 *Aboriginal Society in Southern California*. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 26(1): 1–358. Berkeley.
- United States Geological Survey (U.S. Department of the Interior)  
1967 *San Bernardino South, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle*. (Photorevised 1980.)
- Wallace, William J.  
1955 A Suggested Chronology for Southern California Coastal Archaeology. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 11(3):214–230.  
1978 Post-Pleistocene Archaeology. In *California*, edited by R. Heizer, pp. 550–563. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8. W.C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Warren, Claude N.  
1968 Cultural Tradition and Ecological Adaptation on the Southern California Coast. *Eastern New Mexico University Contributions in Anthropology* 1(3). Portales.  
1984 The Desert Region. In *California Archaeology*, by M. Moratto with contributions by D.A. Fredrickson, C. Raven, and C. N. Warren, pp. 339–430. Academic Press, Orlando, Florida.  
1986 *Fort Irwin Historic Preservation Plan, Volume 2: The Research Overview*. Coyote Press, Salinas, California. Copies also available from National Park Service-Western Region, San Francisco, and National Technical Information Service, Washington, D.C.
- Warren, Claude N., and Robert H. Crabtree  
1986 Prehistory of the Southwestern Area. In *Great Basin*, edited by W. D’Azevedo, pp. 183–193 *Handbook of the North American Indians*, Vol. 11. W. C. Sturtevant, general editor. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.

Woodburne, Michael O.

- 1991 The Mojave Desert Province. In *Inland Southern California: The Last 70 Million Years*, ed. M.O. Woodburne, R.E. Reynolds, and D.P. Whistler, 60–77. Redlands: *San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly* 38(3, 4).

Woodburne, M.O., and D.J. Golz

- 1972 Stratigraphy of the Punchbowl Formation, Cajon Valley, southern California. *University of California Publications in Geological Sciences* 92, 73 pp.