#### MEMORANDUM

March 5, 2013

то. Angie Kung, LSA Associates, Inc.

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC. 20 EXECUTIVE PARK, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92614

FROM: Ivan H. Strudwick, Archaeologist

LSA Associates, Inc.

SUBJECT. Cultural Resource Survey of the 10.6 acre Camino Del Rio Parcel for the

La Pata Project, City of San Clemente, Orange County California

This memo describes the results of the cultural record search and survey for the 10.6 acre Camino del Rio Extension Project in the City of San Clemente. The project area is located approximately 0.25 mile (0.4 km) west of the current end of Avenida La Pata at its junction with Calle Saluda. The parcel is approximately 2.0 miles (3.2 km) northeast of Interstate-5 and 3.0 miles (4.8 km) northeast of the Pacific Ocean just south of the mouth of Prima Deschecha Cañada. The parcel is located 0.75 mile (1.2 km) east of the inland portion of Prima Deschecha Cañada and 0.5 mile (0.8 km) west of the inland portion of Segunda Deschecha Cañada. The parcel is depicted on the San Clemente, California 7.5' topographic map in the southeastern quarter of Section 16, Township 8S, Range 7W (Figure 1).

The project area measures approximately 1,600 ft (488 m) long by 100-600 ft (30-183 m) wide, and extends lengthwise in a southeast direction from the current eastern end of Camino del Rio (Figure 2). The project area is narrowest, 100 ft wide, along the easternmost 600 ft of existing Camino del Rio and widens to a maximum of 600 ft at its eastern, upslope end.

Physiographically, the Camino del Rio Extension project area is a low drainage area surrounded on the north and south by hillsides. Measuring 10.6 acres, the parcel ranges in elevation from 320 ft at the western end to 520 ft at the eastern end and includes the lower drainage areas and some of the hillside areas. The initial western portion of the Forster Ranch Ridgeline Trail, a graded road in this area, runs along the northern boundary of the Del Rio parcel. The Ridgeline Trail's "Panorama Point" occupies the high point of the hill just south and outside of the parcel, while further south is "Rock Garden."

Previous work for an initial project area included most of the acreage in the current Camino del Rio extension (LSA 2010). This original alignment, slightly smaller in the Camino del Rio area, was surveyed on December 10-11 and 14-16, 2009. No resources were found during this survey. As part of this 2010 project, a record search of the parcel and an area within 0.5 mile (0.8 km) of the parcel was conducted. The record search showed that the current Camino del Rio project area was completely surveyed twice (Nicholl 1974; Padon 1984). The 2010 survey of the area (LSA 2010) was the third survey of the Camino del Rio area. No cultural resources have been recorded within or within 0.5 mile of the current 10.6 acre Camino del Rio project area.

On February 27, 2013, the Camino del Rio area was surveyed a fourth time by LSA archaeologist Ivan Strudwick. The survey was conducted for the entire project area, as depicted in Figure 2, and was completed using a combination of intensive and systematic linear transects spaced by 7-10 meter

intervals. The western end of the parcel along the north and south sides of paved Camino del Rio, was surveyed with one linear transect parallel to the length of the paved road. The area at the eastern end of Camino del Rio was intensively surveyed. East of Camino del Rio, the survey was conducted using linear transects along the length of the graded Ridgeline Trail as well as those areas on the north side of the drainage. The hillside at the eastern end south of the drainage was also surveyed using linear transects. Remaining portions of the parcel were intensively surveyed, except for the steep, heavily vegetated hillside in the middle of the parcel south of the drainage which were difficult to access. In these areas, forays were unsystematically conducted up and down the slopes wherever access was possible. The slope of the hill combined with the dense vegetation makes it unlikely that this area was ever utilized prehistorically.

No cultural resources were found during this survey. The ground surface is completely disturbed along both sides of the paved length of Camino del Rio, as well as near the bottom of the drainage some 400 east of the end-of-pavement. A 30 ft deep drainage/silt basin exists on the south side of the eastern end of the paved road, indicating that substantial grading has occurred here. Grading has also occurred along the Ridgeline Trail leading east-southeast upslope to the eastern end of the project area, where it forks north and south. On the south side of the drainage surface disturbance is evident in areas where sage-scrub is less dense than is natural. Although still 4-8 ft tall, the scrub is sparse in this area, allowing easy passage and ground visibility of greater than 50 percent. Other, steeper areas south of the drainage exhibit a dense growth of sage-scrub 6-10 ft tall with less than 10 percent ground visibility when passable. The north side of the drainage exhibits a low one foot growth of principally grass and thistle with a 30/40 to 70/80 percent ground visibility, depending on density of ground cover. Areas of dense vegetation are easily discernible from areas of sparse vegetation in Figure 2.

Project area sediment is a silt/clay loam, which is drier on the north side of the drainage and more moist on the south side. The north-facing slopes of the areas south of the drainage contribute to the increase in vegetative ground cover. The ground on the south-facing slopes north of the drainage is already dry and beginning to crack with dessication. Cracking indicates high clay content. Few rocks or pebbles were observed in the project area. Sediment appears to have been created through long-term stability. As evident in the roadcut of the Ridgeline Trail, the darker organic clay loam surface sediment extends downward 3-4 ft where it becomes a lighter colored silt-based sediment. The dark loam quality of the upper surface sediment is the result of centuries of decomposing organics, primarily vegetation.

Based on the results of this survey and the three previous surveys of the Camino del Rio parcel, no cultural resources have been identified. As such, no additional cultural resource work, cultural resource management, or construction monitoring or of the project is necessary. In the event that archaeological material is encountered during construction, a qualified professional archaeologist should be contacted in order to assess the nature and significance of the find and to determine the appropriate treatment of the resource.

In the event 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 Native American, the County 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 being granted access to the site. The MLD will have the opportunity to offer recommendations for the disposition of the remains.

Sincerely,

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.

Ivan H. Strudwick Archaeologist

# **REFERENCES**

### LSA Associates, Inc.

2010 Cultural Resources Assessment Report for the La Pata Avenue Gap Closure and Camino del Rio Extension. LSA Associates, Inc. On file, LSA Associates, Inc., 20 Executive Park, Suite 200, Irvine, California, 92614.

# Nicholl, Gerald, A.

1974 Letter of Transmittal – Report of Archaeology and Paleontology Evaluation, ~2,170 Acre Forster Ranch Property, San Clemente, California. G. A. Nicholl and Associates, Inc. On file, South Central Coastal Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

### Padon, Beth

1984 Assessment of Cultural/Scientific Resources for Forster Ranch, San Clemente, California. LSA Associates, Inc. On file, South Central Coastal Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

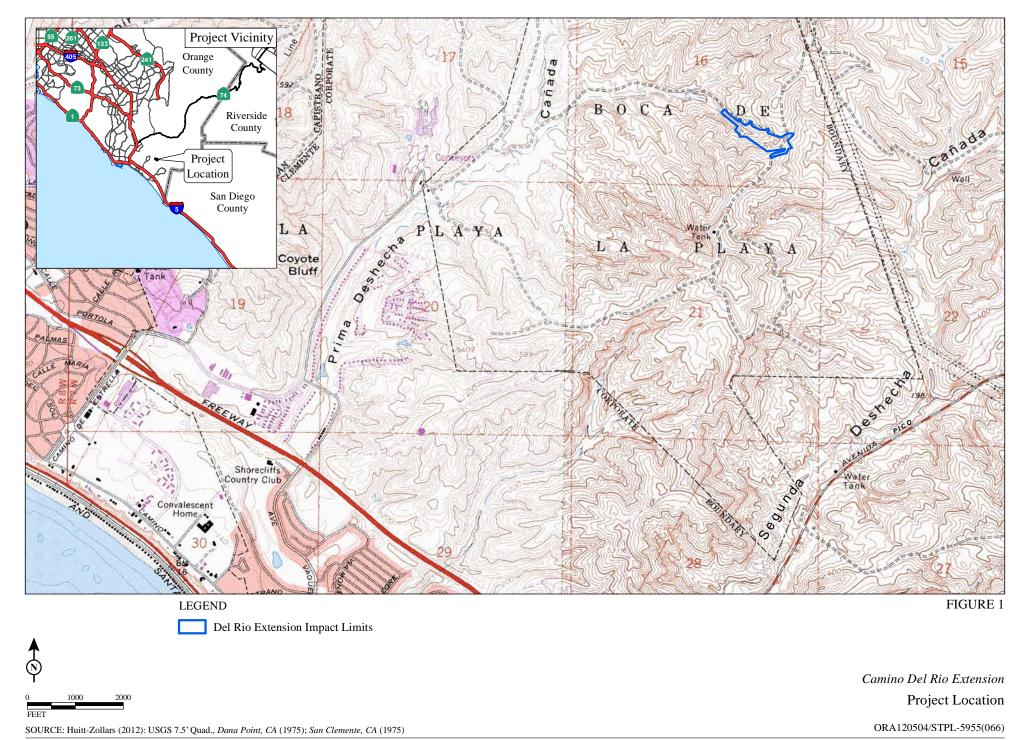
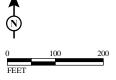




FIGURE 2 LEGEND

Del Rio Extension Impact Limits



Camino Del Rio Extension Project Site

SOURCE: Huitt-Zollars (2012): Eagle Aerial (04/2011)

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