Appendix C

Archaeological Survey Report

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Archaeological Survey Report

Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Trail
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
City of Malibu, California

Prepared by:

David Stone, M.A., RPA

Prepared for:

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA

May 2018

USGS Point Dume 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
0.54 Acres

amec foster wheeler

104 West Anapamu Street, Suite 204A
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone (805) 962-0992

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an intensive archaeological ground surface survey of areas that would be improved with the Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Trail, APN 4467-003-900 and 4460-002-902, in the City of Malibu, California (see Figure 1). The cultural resources investigation, prepared pursuant to the City of Malibu Cultural Resources Guidelines, included an archaeological site records and literature search at the South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC), located at California State University, Fullerton, and an intensive archaeological field survey of the project area, consistent with the City of Malibu Local Coastal Program Local Implementation Plan, Chapter 11, Archaeological/Cultural Resources.

The Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Trail (Project) would construct a 3,900-foot (0.74-mile) long multi-purpose trail within a portion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) located entirely within the City of Malibu (City) and the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone (see Figure 2). The proposed multi-use trail would connect Murphy Way to the west with the existing Escondido Falls Trail to the east to provide additional access to Escondido Canyon Park. The entire segment of the proposed trail would be designed as a 3-foot wide, multi-use trail with stability and grade sufficient to provide safe use for a variety of users, including walkers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The proposed trail's design, construction, and maintenance would be funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA).

This report documents the background research, Native American consultation, and archaeological survey conducted for the Project. The report was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler archaeologist David Stone, M.A., RPA. Mr. Stone has over 35 years' experience in central and southern California.

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Project Vicinity

Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector

Point Dume USGS Quad

1 inch = 2,000 feet

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

FIGURE 1

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is located within the SMMNRA, a United States (U.S.) National Recreation Area and unit of the U.S. National Parks Service (NPS). The Project lies north (inland) of the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) along the coastal foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains in the City, 1.3 miles inland from the coast of the Pacific Ocean and approximately 15.5 miles west of the City of Santa Monica along the PCH (Figure 1).

The parcels on which the proposed trail would traverse are surrounded by undeveloped lands within the County of Los Angeles to the north, public park lands of Escondido Canyon Park and low-density single-family residential development to the east, both vacant and developed parcels designated for low-density single-family uses within the City to the south, and vacant lands within the City to the west. Trail construction would occur within an average 6-foot wide corridor to accommodate the installation of slope-stabilization and erosion-control features (e.g., rock and timber walls). Trail construction would require approximately 326 cubic yards (cy) of cut and fill within a roughly 0.54-acre corridor of ground-disturbing activity. The final trail corridor, including slope protection features, would encompass an area of approximately 0.36 acre. Maximum disturbance depth would be approximately 3 feet below existing grade.

The proposed trail's western and central sections would be comprised of a series of switchbacks and steeper trail segments, with a slope ranging from approximately 12 to 23 percent in grade. The trail's eastern section would parallel a dry wash to the existing Escondido Falls Trail and generally be more level, with a slope ranging from approximately 6 to 9 percent in grade. The proposed trail would cross the dry washes of the unnamed tributary canyon at nine locations, and cross Escondido Creek at one location. The proposed trail would be supported by slope-stabilization and erosion-control features.

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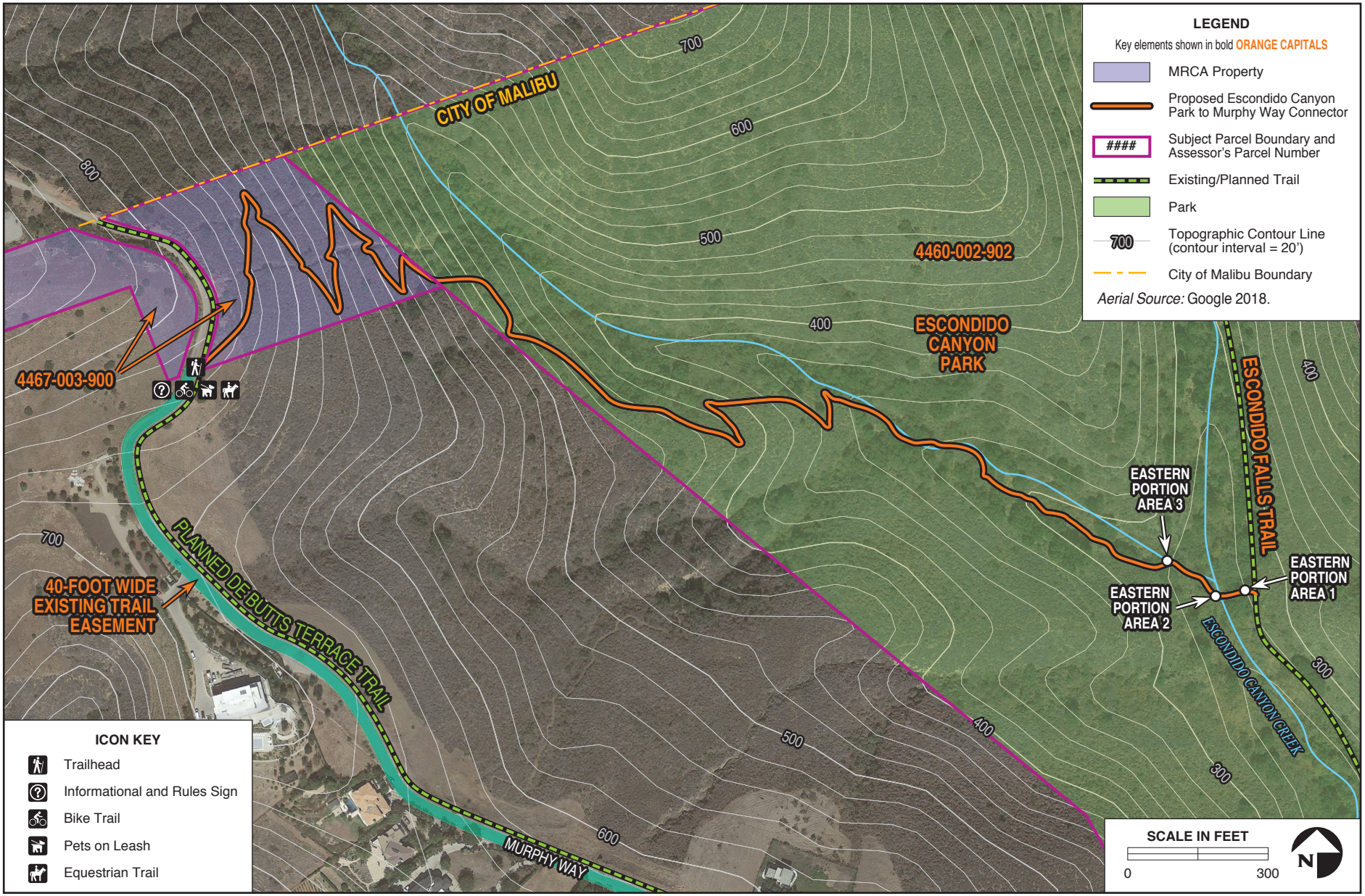

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Project Site

Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector

FIGURE 2

3.0 SOURCES CONSULTED

This section describes the methods and results of the records search conducted at the regional Information Center for the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS); presents results of literature review and summarizes correspondence with the Native American Heritage Commission and Native Americans regarding the Project.

3.1 Cultural Resources Records Search

An archaeological site records and literature search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) was conducted to identify all recorded archaeological sites and previous cultural resource surveys within 0.5-mile of the trail alignment (see Appendix A). The SCCIC records indicate that sixty-five cultural resource surveys have been completed within 0.5-mile extending in all directions from the trail alignment (see Appendix A). One Phase 1 ground surface survey conducted in 1989 (RMW Paleo Associates, 1989) assessed a majority of the proposed trail corridor, except for the western-most portion near Murphy Way.

No prehistoric or historic archaeological sites have been recorded within the trail corridor. Two prehistoric archaeological sites, CA-LAN-1879, CA-LAN-2049, and one artifact isolate P-19-1000017, are recorded within the 0.5-mile radius. One historic-period archaeological site, CA-LAN -004111H, has been recorded within the 0.5-mile radius.

The four archaeological resources are described below:

CA-LAN-1879: This site was originally recorded as a moderately sized (1,200 square meters [m^2], or 12,900 s.f.) prehistoric lithic scatter located approximately 2,300 feet southeast of the trail alignment (Becker, 1989a) on a south-east facing side slope 400 meters (1,300 feet) southeast of a blue-line unnamed drainage. Two rhyolite scrapers, one fused shale blade fragment, one chert core, and “many fused shale and chert flakes” were identified approximately 250 meters (820 feet) from the top of the ridgeline. The site was revisited during a subsequent investigation (King 1995), resulting in the size

increase to 2,500 m^2 (26,900 s.f.), extending up the side-slope to the top of a ridgeline on the west ridge of Escondido Canyon. Chipped stone tools and flakes of "chert and chalcedony" were identified on the side slope, similar to the original recordation in 1989, but "shell" and "fire altered rock" were identified "near the ridge top." The site was interpreted as a "small- to medium-sized settlement occupied during the Early Period and/or early Middle Period (prior to 300 BC)."

CA-LAN-2049: This site was recorded as "three large Monterey chert flakes" (King 1992) within a 150 m^2 (1,600 s.f.) area located on a ridgeline on the west side of Escondido Canyon, approximately 1,100 feet south of the trail alignment. Dense annual grasses were thought to have precluded additional artifact recognition. In 1995, a pre-monitoring survey was unable to locate the chert flakes originally recorded (Bleitz, 1995). The area that the original artifacts were observed has been destroyed, but it is believed intact areas of the site still exist within that area. However, due to dense ground cover, no other artifacts have been observed. The site was revisited (Dana Bleitz 1995) prior to construction of a swimming pool and tree landscaping and no prehistoric artifacts were identified. Monitoring of the pool and landscaping did not identify any cultural resources.

P-19-100017: An Intensive Phase 1 ground surface survey was conducted in 1989 during a Cultural Resource Reconnaissance of a Portion of Escondido Canyon (RMW Paleo Associates, Inc. 1989) that assessed a majority of the project area except the western most portion, near Murphy Way. An isolated prehistoric chert core with numerous flake scars was identified on a southwest-facing slope within Escondido Canyon, approximately 200 feet north of the trail corridor (Kenneth Becker, 1989b). Vegetation was characterized as coastal sage scrub, likely affecting the reliability of the survey results.

CA-LAN-4111H: This historic-period resource is basal concrete pavement identified under the Winding Way paved surface, buried one to two feet of soil under the present elevation (Gooding 2009). The roadway is indicated on a 1932 map, located approximately 2,600 feet southeast of the trail alignment.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Environment

The trail corridor is in the south-facing coastal foothills and drainages of the Santa Monica Mountains and is located through undeveloped portions of two parcels. The proposed trail traverses slopes of the Escondido Creek watershed located between north and south components of the Malibu Coast Fault and within upper middle Miocene sedimentary rocks exhibiting predominantly marine characteristics, within the Upper Topanga Formation or "Topanga Group," per Figure S-1 of the City's General Plan Safety and Health Element containing generalized geologic map sections of the south-central Santa Monica Mountains, and Figure S-3 indicating offshore geology and faults (City of Malibu 2017). The Topanga Group includes a thick stratigraphic section primarily of marine sandstone, siltstone, clay shale and volcanic materials. Sedimentary units are expected to be most prevalent along the proposed trail alignment. Near-surface bedrock is expected to be highly fractured and degraded to a texture of clay shale fragments in a matrix of sandy clay to clayey sand. The trail alignment will cross gullies and drainages that are subject to high amounts of erosion and occasional washouts (Southwestern Engineering Geology, 2016).

Existing vegetation is dominated by two distinct vegetation communities including sage brush communities and Oak Woodland/Riparian communities along the unnamed drainage. Purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla)* is present along the slopes and hillsides, along with California sagebrush *(Artemisia californica)* elderberry *(sambus nigra ssp. caerulea),* laurel sumac *(Malosma laurina)*, and toyon *(Heteromeles arbutifolia)*. Down within the riparian environments present in the drainages, California Live Oaks *(Quercus agrifolia)* are present. Other plants species within the riparian environments include: poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), and climbing penstemon *(Keckiela californica*). Invasive species are present within the drainages and have been observed within the area of the proposed trail alignment and along Escondido Creek, and include, but are not limited to: maltese star thistle (*Centaura melitensis*); milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*); castor bean (*Ricinis communis*); english ivy (*Hedera helix*); and Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) (Forde Biological Consultants, 2016).

4.2 Ethnography

At the time of historic contact, the project area was occupied by the Ventureño Chumash (Kroeber 1925). The Ventureño Chumash band territory extended from Malibu westward along the Pacific Coast and along the Santa Barbara Channel as far as Carpinteria, and extended inland as north as the headwaters of the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers (Grant 1978). The Chumash were matrilocal, based on baptismal, marriage and death registers kept by Franciscan missionaries (Johnson 1988). Lineage groups within villages were probably matrilineal. Specific information on settlement systems based on ethnographic data indicate that villages were headed by chiefs who controlled wealth as distributed through the shell-bead money economy. The nearest ethnohistoric Ventureño village occupied when encountered by Franciscan missionaries was *maliwu*, on the banks of the Malibu Lagoon (Kroeber 1925). This important village, like *muwu* at Point Mugu and *šišolop* next to Ventura Harbor, supported a population of several hundred and was situated adjacent to estuary and a permanent water course draining into the Pacific Ocean. Settlement in the inland portions of the Ventureño territory was densest adjacent to the major drainages such as the Santa Clara River, where villages have lended their names to contemporary communities including Saticoy, Piru, and Somis (Grant 1978).

Chumash relied extensively on maritime food resources, including shellfish, fish, and sea mammals, particularly during the summer and fall when anadromous ocean fish were plentiful. Terrestrial resources, large and small game, birds, and rodents were hunted. Acorns were processed, as well as various seeds including sage. The bountiful food resources in the coastal and inland areas allowed the Chumash to develop a highly sophisticated hunting and gathering subsistence, extensive trading, an exchange system based on shellfish beads, and a chiefdom level of social organization (Grant 1978). The complex social organization included the *antap*, a religious elite of twelve members in each village who were responsible for leading ceremonies, dances, and were curers of disease (Gamble 2008). These individuals were also likely responsible for the painted rock art found throughout the Chumash territory backcountry, including several in the Santa Monica Mountains in sandstone bedrock outcrops (Grant 1978).

Within the Project area, the Ventureño Chumash would have potentially hunted and collected plants along the riparian corridor of the unnamed drainages, and chia (sage) seed in the foothills. Any habitation would be expected to have been temporary during trips of smaller family or specific activity groups focused on

specific hunting or collecting. Collection of plant foods and hunting may have occurred on level and steep slopes over 20 percent. Any habitation and activity area such as a temporary camp or hunting station, where stone tool maintenance or resharpening would have occurred, would reasonably be expected to occur on gentler slopes of less than 20 percent, as steeper topography would have not been comfortable and was easily avoided.

4.3 Prehistory

Evidence of cultural activity along the coastline extends over 9,000 years and indicates an increasing level of complexity and technological development through time. The prehistoric cultural development has been characterized in three stages. The Early Period (ca. 8,000 to 5,000 years ago) has traditionally been identified as a time of dependence on seed grinding, based on the presence of mano and metate grinding stones, and terrestrial game. More recently, however, the importance of shellfish gathering in Early Period subsistence practices has been identified (Erlandson 1988, 1992). The Middle or Intermediate Period (ca. 5,500 to 900 years ago) was a time of diversification, with the introduction of acorn processing (mortar and pestle grinding implements and hunting of large terrestrial game and sea mammals. The Late Period (ca. 900 to 200 years ago) marked the culmination of prehistoric cultural development with greater dependence on a variety of shellfish, smaller land game (introduction of the bow and arrow) and open sea fishing. Many consider the overall trend of cultural complexity in the Chumash cultural area as having resulted from increasing population pressure and/or environmental change which resulted in greater demands on the available resources, leading to a reliance on subsistence activities requiring greater energy (Arnold, Colten, and Pletka 1997).

4.4 History

The historic occupation of southern California can be divided into three settlement periods: the Mission Period (A.D. 1769 – 1830); the Rancho Period (ca. A.D. 1830 -1865); and the American Period (ca. A.D. 1865 – 1915). Construction of the missions altered both the physical and cultural landscape of the region. The missions were the center of Spanish influence in the region and affected native patterns of settlement, culture, trade, industry, and agriculture. Following the secularization of the Missions by the Mexican Government in 1821, California became part of the Republic of Mexico.

Secularization of lands and a focus on cattle raising marked the Rancho Period, where large land grants of Mission lands were ceded to wealthy, prominent Spanish families. Native Americans continued to work as laborers on ranchos during this period. With California statehood in 1850 and the advent of the American Period, farming and more intensive land uses steadily replaced cattle stock raising. Cattle ranching was substantially curtailed by a prolonged drought in the 1860s.

Since statehood, major forces of regional change during the last 150 years have been railroads, maritime shipping, agribusiness concerns, the oil industry, college institutions, and the military.

5.0 FIELD METHODS

The field survey was completed by Lucas Nichols, Amec Foster Wheeler Staff Archaeologist, on April 4, 2018, under the direction of principal investigator David Stone. The proposed trail corridor and improvement areas were intensively surveyed in 1-meter (3.3-feet) or less transects.

The topography of the proposed trail corridor crosses several gullies and drainage channels into its descent into Escondido Canyon Park from Murphy Way. As such, topography varied from steep slopes exceeding 20 percent along the proposed switchbacks in the northwestern area of the proposed trail, steeper slopes within drainages, relatively level topography beyond the drainages on the Escondido Falls trail in the southeastern portion of the trail alignment.

A majority of ground surfaces were covered by dense annual grasses, shrubs, and trees, with small areas of exposed ground surfaces visible in accessible areas. The proposed trail alignment was accessed from both the west and east sides of the proposed trail. However, a majority of the proposed trail corridor, including all of the middle portion of the proposed trail, was inaccessible due to thick sage brush. Accessible trail segments include the western segment located near Murphy Way, and the eastern segment located near the existing Escondido Falls Trail.

The western terminus of the proposed trail alignment extends from the east shoulder of Murphy Way. The immediate area on the shoulder of Murphy Way was covered in wood chips, precluding ground surface visibility (see Appendix B, Photo 1). The trail corridor continued eastward and down over a

20 percent slope that was covered with dense annual grasses and bushes, resulting in poor to fair (10-30 percent) ground surface visibility (see Appendix B, Photo 2). Rodent burrow soil tailings were observed throughout this area that provided additional opportunities to evaluate subsurface soils for evidence of prehistoric occupation. Soils were a reddish brown silty loam. The proposed trail corridor was surveyed over a length of approximately 200 feet before the topography became inaccessible in a series of proposed switchbacks, due to very thick sagebrush (see Appendix B, Photo 3).

The middle portion of the trail corridor runs along steep slopes leading down to Escondido Canyon and through the canyon and parallel to an unnamed drainage, with slopes exceeding 20 percent. This area of the trail corridor was entirely inaccessible due to very thick sage brush (see Appendix B, Photo 4).

The proposed eastern trail terminus starts at the Escondido Falls Trail (see Appendix B, Photo 5). From the Escondido Falls Trail, the trail corridor crosses through a drainage covered with riparian vegetation and heads to the steep slopes of Escondido Canyon that parallel the drainage, and continues up and over the foothills to Murphy Way. The riparian corridor was characterized by a gentle downward sloping drainage bank (Area 1, see Appendix B, Photo 6) from the Escondido Falls Trail to the drainage, followed by an approximately 3.5-feet deep erosional cut that continued down to a small drainage (Area 2, see Appendix B, Photo 7). On the other side of the drainage was a gentle to moderately sloped drainage bank (Area 3, see Appendix B, Photo 8) that lead to the steeper slopes of Escondido Canyon. Ground surfaces within Area 1 were partially covered by leaf fall, poison oak, and sagebush, resulting in poor to fair (10–30 percent) ground surface visibility (see Appendix B, Photo 6). Shovel scrapes were performed at 1-meter (3.3-feet) intervals to increase ground surface visibility. Ground surfaces within Area 2 were highly eroded, with thick brush limiting visibility, including annual grasses, leaf fall, willow, and poison oak, resulting in poor to good (10–50 percent) ground surface visibility. Within this area multiple exposed banks were visible in addition to rodent burrow soil tailings, providing excellent opportunities to evaluate subsurface soils (see Appendix B, Photo 7).

Area 3 was characterized by a gentle to moderate side slope covered with very dense vegetation including oak trees, willows, and riparian bushes including poison oak, resulting in poor to fair (10–30 percent) ground surface visibility. The trail corridor at the western end of Area 3 was impassable due to very thick brush as it continued on the edge of the riparian corridor to the steep slopes of Escondido

Canyon (see Appendix B, Photo 8). Soils were comprised primarily of reddish brown silty loam, with some areas of brown silt.

No prehistoric cultural materials were found during the survey. No historic materials were found during the survey. Though slopes over 20 percent were not inspected, primarily because of dense native vegetation, no sandstone bedrock outcrops were noted on these slopes that might have been used for protected locations of rock art.

6.0 STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Proposed Western Trail Terminus Along the East Shoulder of Murphy Way

Based on the absence of significant prehistoric and historic materials within this segment of the proposed trail corridor, the improvements are not considered to have the potential to impact significant or important prehistoric or historic cultural remains. In addition, the proposed trail corridor improvements would occur on steep slopes greater than 20 percent, outside of likely areas of temporary prehistoric habitation.

Middle Section of the Proposed Trail Alignment, Between Murphy Way and Escondido Falls Trail

A complete surface survey was not possible due to the dense surface vegetation. As the trail corridor runs along on steep slopes greater than 20 percent and along the slope of a drainage where prehistoric settlement would not have occurred, the area is not considered archaeologically sensitive.

Proposed Eastern Trail Terminus Along the Existing Escondido Falls Trail

Based on the fair reliability of the archaeological surface survey and the absence of significant prehistoric and historic materials within the proposed improvement area, the proposed trail improvements would have a low potential to impact significant or important prehistoric or historic cultural remains.

The results of the extensive Phase 1 survey (RMW Paleo Resources 1989) covering nearly all the proposed trail corridor except for the western-most portion near Murphy Way, suggest that the likelihood of encountering a substantial temporary camp is limited. The previously recorded artifact isolate 200 feet northeast of the trail segment was on a side-slope. However, much of the trail segment ground surface visibility was compromised during the present survey by dense vegetation, precluding conclusive recognition of the presence for cultural materials. Based on the results of previous archaeological

investigations within 0.5-mile of the project, potential prehistoric resources would reasonably be expected to reflect short-term or seasonal resource procurement activities such as hunting and plant gathering. Evidence of these activities is not considered likely to be encountered on landforms steeper than 20 percent and within the drainage bottoms.

These resources are capable of providing information that meet the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code §§5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852; California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines 15064.5[3]):

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

Therefore, disturbances to such an unknown resource during construction would represent a potentially significant impact on cultural resources.

The following measure is identified to ensure that such potential short-term or seasonal resource procurement activities such as hunting and plant gathering that might not have been potentially identified during the present intensive archaeological surface survey due to extensive ground surface vegetation are adequately assessed.

Vegetation removal within trail corridor segments of less than 20 percent (excluding within drainage corridors) shall initially be cut and removed at the ground surface and shall avoid soil disturbances. After removal of the vegetation, these trail segments shall be resurveyed by a qualified archaeologist. In the event that no cultural resources are recorded, no further measures shall be required.

If prehistoric cultural resources are identified during the survey and subsequent disturbances cannot be avoided through minor redesign, a Phase 3 mitigation data collection program shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to adequately characterize the nature and research value of the resource, relative to City of Malibu Cultural Resource Guidelines. This may include a limited excavation, analysis, reporting, and curation of artifacts, as well as monitoring trail construction.

Implementation of this measure would ensure that potential trail construction segments would be reduced to less than significant.

7.0 OTHER RESOURCES

Unidentified Cultural Materials

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work should be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.

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APPENDIX A

South Central Coast Information Center

Archaeological Records Search

(On File with SCCIC & MRCA)

APPENDIX B

Project Site Photos

Photo 1: Proposed trailhead along Murphy Way, looking north.

Photo 2: Project site northeast of Murphy Way trailhead, looking south.

Photo 3: Heavy brush within western section of Project site, looking south.

Photo 4: Inaccessible middle section of Project site, looking east.

Photo 5: Eastern trailhead connection to Escondido Falls trail, looking west.

Photo 6: Sloping drainage bank of Area 1, looking east.

Photo 7: Drainage within Area 2, looking south.

Photo 8: Heavy brush within Area 3, looking northeast.