

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Burro Flats Site (Boundary Decrease/Additional Documentation)
Also known as CA-VEN-1072****THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Archaeological and traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

The Burro Flats Site (CA-VEN-1072) is located within the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). The SSFL occupies 2,850 acres approximately 29 miles northwest of Los Angeles, in the Santa Susana Mountain Range. The majority of the Burro Flats Site is located on National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)-administered property, and the remainder is located on Boeing-owned property immediately adjacent to the south and west. The site incorporates the Burro Flats Painted Cave (Locus 10) and twenty-seven other loci. Notable features of the Burro Flats Site include pictographs, petroglyphs, mortars, tool sites, and habitation sites. Although CA-VEN-1072 has been subject to some disturbance during the area's use as a rocket engine testing site, the SSFL operated as a secure research facility, protecting the resource from vandalism and the effects of development. The property retains integrity.

Although the Burro Flats Site was listed on the National Register in 1976 before the forms clearly identified the specific criteria, it was noted in the original nomination that the site is significant for its data potential. This nomination provides additional documentation to establish eligibility under multiple criteria at the local level of significance and designate previously recorded multiple trinomials as loci of the listed site. CA-VEN-1072 is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Native American and Religion for its association with ceremonial solstice events. The Burro Flats Site is the only one of its kind in the region, where it has been determined that both winter and summer solstice observations were made. The site is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Art for its remarkable examples of prehistoric Native American rock art that possess high artistic value and are important representatives of the aesthetic and possibly religious values of the Native American groups who created them.

As previously documented, the site is eligible under Criterion D in the area of Archeology: Prehistoric for its potential to contribute information to important regional research themes, including regional and local prehistoric settlement patterns, prehistoric subsistence, prehistoric lithic technology, and prehistoric rock art. As a property significant under another historical theme—ethnic heritage, and eligible for its artistic distinction and information potential, the Burro Flats Site satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties. The period of significance is from approximately 5,000 BC, based on artifact types excavated from CA-VEN-1072 (Locus 1), to 1947, when establishment of the SSFL closed the area to public access.