

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## **Luiseño Ancestral Origin Landscape**

### **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 Luiseño Ancestral Origin Landscape is a Traditional Cultural Property located primarily in southwest Riverside County, California near the City of Temecula, with a small portion just over the county line in San Diego County. The district covers 8.39 square miles, encompassing approximately 5,373 acres. The boundary is plotted based on oral tradition and ethnographic literature, and is significant to Luiseño traditions. The nominated area extends from the canyon floor of the Santa Margarita River to 2,200 feet above mean sea level at the top of the mountain that is approximately 20 air miles from the coast. The eastern boundary drops dramatically to the I-15 freeway and extends along a gradual slope to the Temecula Valley. The Santa Margarita River and the bluffs that surround the River form the western and northwestern boundary. This property represents the Luiseño Ancestral Origin Landscape, where the Creation of the World occurred and where the *Káamalam*, Luiseño First People, lived. There are 28 mostly intact resources located within the boundary, which include sacred rock formations, rock art, and village sites. The majority of the property is undeveloped and located in a protected ecological reserve.

The Luiseño Ancestral Origin Landscape (Origin Landscape) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, C, and D at the local level of significance in the areas of Religion, Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Archaeology. The Origin Landscape is one of the most important areas for the Luiseño People: the place of their origin, the beginning of the world, and place where *Wuyóot*, one of the first born and a prophet to the *Káamalam*, First People, instructed the people on how to live and gave them their religious songs and ceremonies that are still practiced today. The Origin Landscape is one of the most sacred areas for all Luiseño People. It is eligible under Criterion A as a hilltop associated in oral historical accounts with the founding of a tribe and is associated with events significant to the cultural traditions of the Pechanga Tribe and larger Luiseño community. The property is eligible under Criterion B for its association with tribal prophet *Wuyóot* and tribal leader *Naxáchish*. Under Criterion C the district is eligible because it derives its importance from being a unified entity whose interconnected resources reflect the cultural narrative. The Origin Landscape is eligible under Criterion D for its potential to yield important ethnographic, archaeological, and historic information about the Luiseño People.