

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Cultural Resources Inventory Archaeology

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Santa Susana Pass SHP
Cultural Resources Inventory

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(Cover Photo by Patricia McFarland)

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INTRODUCTION

A cultural resources inventory was undertaken at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, beginning in August 2004 for the purpose of determining presence and extent of cultural resources within the park. This report presents the findings of the archaeological investigations. The Ethnographic and Historic reports are being compiled independently and will be presented under separate covers.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is located in northern Los Angeles County (Figure 1). The park is shown mostly on the Simi Valley East and Oat Mountain 7.5-minute USGS quadrangles, with small portions in the southern extent of the park appearing on the Calabasas and Canoga Park quadrangles. The park falls within Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 2 north, Range 17 west of the San Bernardino Base Meridian. Much of the western boundary of the park follows the Los Angeles-Ventura county line. Chatsworth Park South is within the eastern portion of the State Historic Park and Oakwood Memorial Park is to the east at the southeast end of the park. Much of the northern boundary of the park is



along Santa Susana Pass Road, and the Southern Pacific Railroad runs east-west through the middle of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Private land holdings also surround the park. Access is from Santa Susana Pass Road and Lilac Lane in the north or Devonshire Street, Jeffrey Mark Court, or Andora Avenue/Valley Circle Boulevard in the south via Topanga Canyon Boulevard from either Highway 118 or from Highway 101.

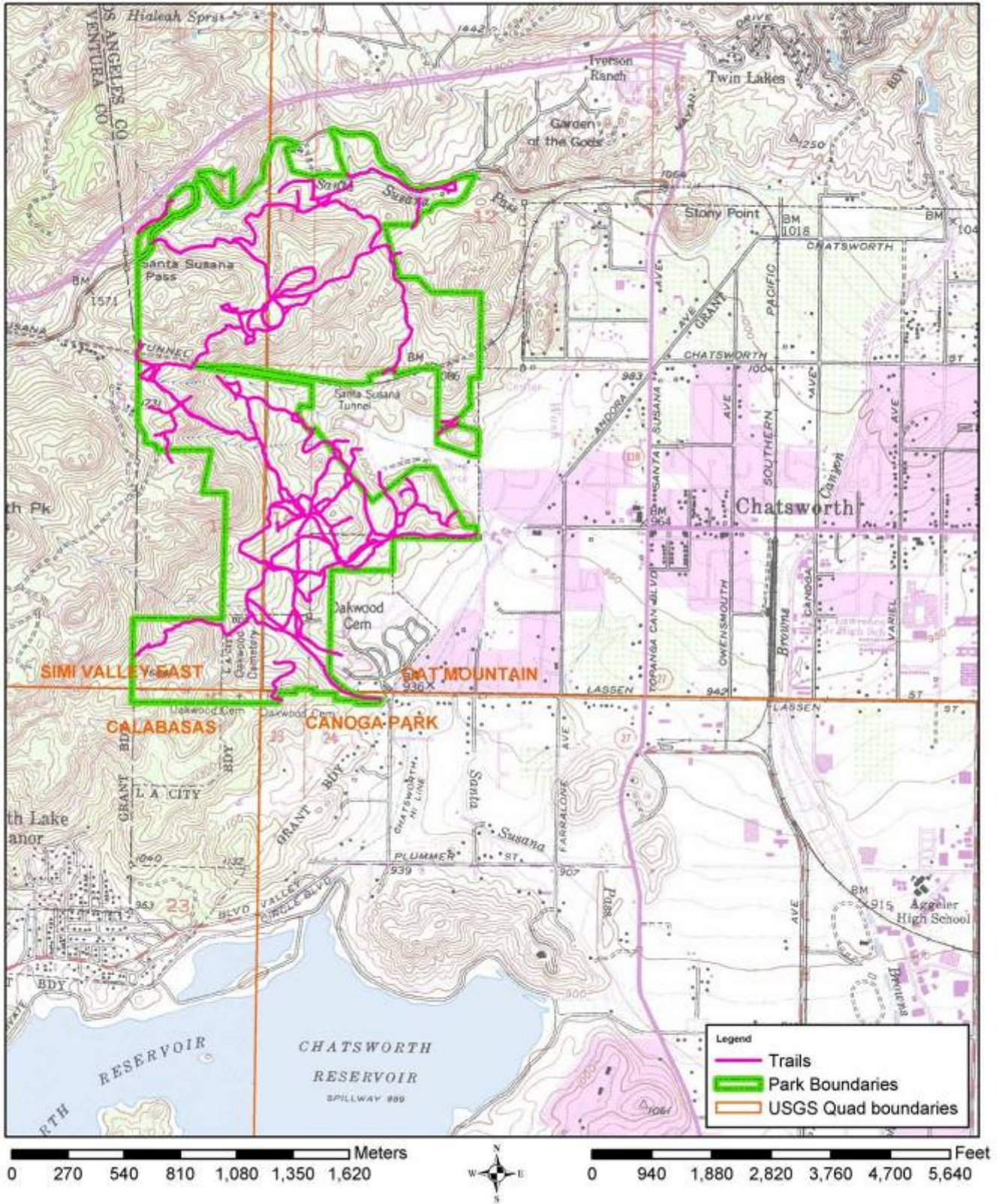
Santa Susana Pass SHP lies in the western portion of the Transverse Ranges at the junction of the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains, marked by the Simi Fault. Late geological activity in the area produced narrow ridges and peaks as well as deeply cut valleys, creating the Chatsworth Formation between 85 to 70 million years ago. The elevation ranges from 1,700 to 1,000 feet (California Department of Parks and Recreation [DPR] 1997).

The Santa Susana Mountains typically have warm, dry summers, with mean temperatures ranging from 55°F to 90°F in July. Winters are mild with temperatures ranging from 41°F to 63°F. Most of the annual 19 inches of precipitation fall in the winter and early spring. This area is also subject to Santa Ana conditions, including strong, hot, dry winds, subsequently increasing the chances for wildfires (DPR 1997). Wildfires have swept through the park on various occasions, most recently on September 28, 2005 (“Topanga” fire). Previous fires have occurred in 2003, 1993, 1981, 1970, and 1967.



The spectacular sandstone outcrops and varied terrain form a range of microclimates and habitats. The park lies within the Upper Sonoran Zone, which includes both chaparral and savanna or oak woodlands (Moratto 1984). Characteristic plants in this area include coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), wild lilac (*Ceanothus oliganthus*), willow (*Salix* spp.), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), coast live oak (*Quercus*

FIGURE 1
Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
Location Map



agrifolia), California walnut (*Juglans californica*), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). Of particular note is the rare Santa Susana tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*), usually found on or near sandstone outcrops (DPR 1997). Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and yucca (*Yucca whipplei*) were also observed during fieldwork. It should be noted that the September 28, 2005 “Topanga” wildfire swept through the park, burning most of the smaller shrubs, grasses, and forbs. This fire was driven by strong Santa Ana winds and appears to have passed quickly through many areas of the park. It is estimated that 90 percent of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was burned. Only those fingers of the park that wrap around the city park and cemetery did not burn during this fire.

Characteristic fauna of the area include mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mule deer, bats, and non-native rodents. Bird species include Cooper’s hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, and burrowing owl. Reptiles and amphibians include the sensitive southwestern arroyo toad, San Diego horned lizard, California red-legged frog, and the southwestern pond turtle (DPR 1997). Rattlesnakes, racers, a western toad (see photo) and various birds, insects, and arachnids were also observed during fieldwork. After the 2005 fire, a few carcasses including a rabbit and small rodents (rat, mouse, etc.) were observed, however, living lizards, a rattlesnake, and birds were also observed indicating survival of some wildlife.



CULTURAL SETTING

Precontact Setting

The earliest inhabitants of southern California seem to have been nomadic hunters and gatherers, although there is some evidence to indicate maritime exploitation on the Channel Islands as early as 13,000 years ago (Johnson 2000). Subsistence strategies appear to have changed over the years with grinding implements (mano and metate) becoming more common on sites from about 5,000 to 8,000 years ago. Another change appears to have occurred around 5,000 years ago with a shift to mortar and pestle grinding implements, larger projectile points, and, along the coast, a predominance of fishhooks and other tools indicating increasing marine resource exploitation.

Some researchers have identified the Santa Susana Pass area as a transition zone between the ethnographic territories of three culture groups: the Ventureño Chumash, the Gabrielino/Tongva, and the Fernandeano/Tataviam. The large village site within the park has been indicated as one possible location for the ethnographic Tongva village of Momonga (although some researchers such as King [2000:5] have placed Momonga within the linguistically-related Tataviam territory). Detailed ethnographic research for this project was conducted through an independent contract and is presented under separate cover.

Historic Setting

The full historic report is presented under separate cover, outlining the progression from the arrival of Europeans in 1769 when Gaspar de Portolá led his expedition through the San Fernando Valley, through the use of Santa Susana Pass as a stagecoach road in the 1860s and 1870s, to the sandstone quarrying activities of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The completion of the railroad tunnel in 1905 and the construction of the new Santa Susana Pass road at the northern end of the park in 1895 led to the abandonment of the Devil’s Slide stage route through the middle of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Later uses of the park lands include ranching and filming locations, off road activities, and as a party spots for local teenagers and young adults. Vandalism, in the form of graffiti is found throughout the park, and accounts from the 1970s indicate unauthorized excavations, collecting, and campfires destroyed or damaged many sites and features.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

A literature and record search conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center in 2004 identified fifteen previously recorded sites in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and provided a list of archaeological investigations in the area. Most of the information on file is regarding the three largest previously recorded sites within the park: CA-LAN-448, CA-LAN-449, and CA-LAN-1126H.

Gates (1972) was the first to record CA-LAN-448. The site was initially described as a rockshelter with pictographs, midden soil, and surface lithic material. Upon relocation in 1979 (Hector), the site boundaries were extended and included the Santa Susana Stage Road. Subsequent excavations at the site yielded debitage, shell, beads, bone, groundstone, and historic material (Weil et al. 1981). An investigation regarding rock art reported only one prehistoric petroglyph in the rockshelter (Knight 1999). Additional assessments of the site have indicated surface disturbance and erosion have greatly impacted the site and the surrounding area (Archaeological Planning Collaborative [APC] 1980; Barter et al. 1993; Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2001; DPR 1997; Knight 1996).

Site CA-LAN-449 was also recorded by Gates (1971). This initial report includes a description of “a surface scatter of lithic material, rockshelters (one of which had a fake pictograph), a steatite bowl fragment, bone, etc.” Midden soil and additional artifacts were noted by Weil (1981). Further investigation indicated CA-LAN-449 was possibly the ethnographic village of *Momonga*, as well as the historic Old Stagecoach Trail including the foundation of a stage station and the De la Osa House, three cisterns, two stone walls, and associated occupation and utilization debris (Bessom et al. 1971; Knight 1992). Excavations within the site boundaries yielded further prehistoric artifacts including lithics, groundstone, stone beads, bone tools, and faunal remains (Arnold and Blume 1993; Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2001; Pletka and Arnold 1995). Subsequent surveys have indicated disturbance to the site (Barter et al. 1994; Henton 1976; Knight 1996, 1990).

Site CA-LAN-1126 is a historic site associated with the Chatsworth Sandstone Quarry (Knight 1992). An interview with Joseph W. Bannon, the son of the former owner of the quarry, describes the workings of the quarry and other activities that took place in the early 1900s (Hinkston 1974). A recent survey identified the main quarry area and debris field, additional working faces, and isolated boulders and outcrops of sandstone with drilled holes (Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2001).

A comprehensive report discussing these three sites by R. Ciolek-Torrello, F. R. Beardsley, A. Q. Stoll, and D. R. Grenda provides extensive background and the results of recent testing and survey (2001). The report presents findings from excavation units placed within the site boundaries and in the area impacted by the Southern California Edison grading incident (see below). Artifacts recovered from the historic portion of CA-LAN-449 include historical-era glass, metal, and iron stove parts, attributed to a secondary dump for the “commissary.” Artifacts from the prehistoric component of CA-LAN-449 include flake tools and faunal remains. Artifacts from CA-LAN-1126 include prehistoric and historical-era materials, the latter likely associated with the quarry activities. Artifacts from CA-LAN-448 include three Cottonwood-triangular-style bifaces, other flake tools, and faunal remains. The authors conclude all sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The sites described above were severely impacted by a grading project by Southern California Edison in 1993 (Barter 1994; Jackson 1999; Sampson 2000). Bulldozing to create a wider access road destroyed portions of the sandstone quarry (CA-LAN-1126) as well as an area in which human remains were recovered at the edge of CA-LAN-448 near a rockshelter with midden deposits and petroglyphs (Jackson 1999). Nearly all the affected areas involved in the grading incident were described as having an ‘extreme impact’ to the cultural resources, to the extent that many prehistoric and historic artifacts were destroyed (Barter 1994). The grading in the area has also subsequently increased surface erosion at all three sites (Ciolek-Torrello 2001).

Albert Knight’s *Rock Art of the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills* (1999) presents a fairly comprehensive report of rock art in Santa Susana Pass SHP and the surrounding areas. The study includes descriptions of prehistoric and historical-era petroglyphs and pictographs, associated cultural groups, and

references for initial recordation of each area. The sites discussed in this report within the Park boundary include CA-LAN-448 and CA-LAN-449.

Other sites within the park boundary include CA-LAN-1028, CA-LAN-1718, CA-LAN-1719, CA-LAN-1728, CA-LAN-1736, CA-LAN-1737, CA-LAN-1738, CA-LAN-2173, P-19-150127, and P-19-150436. Prehistoric sites include rockshelters, lithic scatters and flake tools, groundstone and bedrock grinding features, and associated midden soil. Historic sites include mostly trash scatters and dumps. Most recorded sites have evidence of recreational digging for artifacts, graffiti, modern trash, and other disturbances.

Well over one hundred archaeological studies have been reported outside, but in the vicinity of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, including surveys, testing, and data recovery excavations. Results of these investigations have yielded the recordation of three culturally significant sites immediately outside the park boundary, LAN-851, CA-LAN-2174, and CA-LAN-2198.

Site CA-LAN-851 was recorded by Ivie and Whitley (1976) and includes two prehistoric bedrock mortars in a cluster of oak trees. CA-LAN-2174 consists of an historic building of native sandstone identified as the "Old Powder House" associated with the Bannon/Chatsworth Sandstone Quarry (Knight and Sherman 1993b). CA-LAN-2198 consists of a prehistoric lithic scatter located on a hill near CA-LAN-1718 (Knight et al. 1994).

METHODS

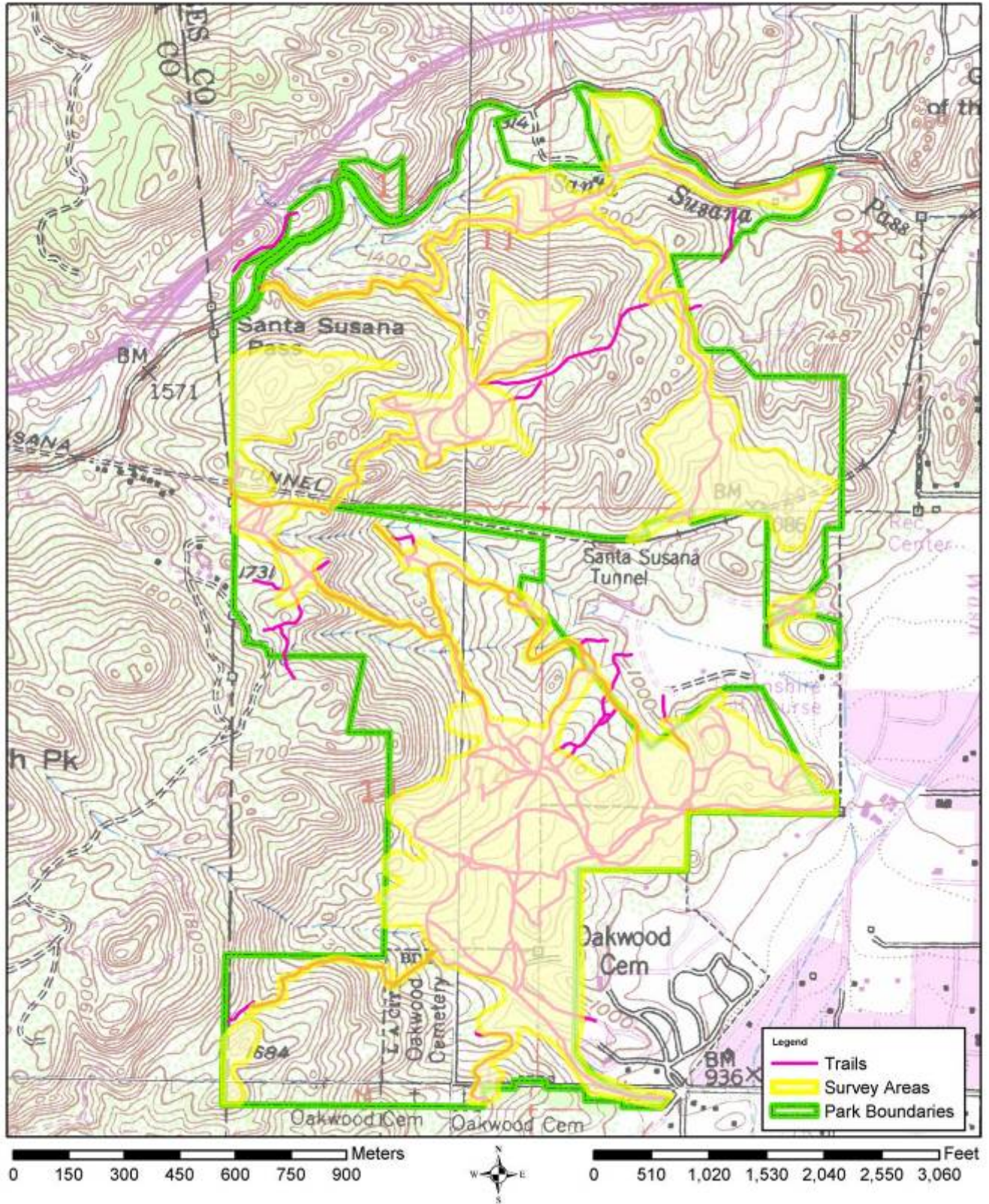
ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS

A sacred lands review conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) did not identify any sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, or other Native American cultural resources that have been recorded with the NAHC, but did identify 26 individuals and organizations to contact about resources and issues within the park. Letters explaining the resources inventory project and requesting any information, comments, or concerns were sent to each individual and organization on the NAHC list. All of those listed were also called on October 14, 2004, to make sure that the letters had been received and to see if there were any questions or comments. Three individuals responded with concerns and comments including (1) a request that any work done within the known archaeological sites be monitored by a Native American, (2) concern over impacts to archaeological sites by development of park facilities, (3) a comment on human remains found in the area, and (4) information about sites, damages by the utility company, and other involvement with archaeologists in the area. One of the Native Americans from the area requested a site visit; so on February 3, 2005, Associate State Archaeologist, Marla Mealey visited the park with this individual. During this site visit additional comments and concerns were presented including (1) avoidance of sites as much as possible, (2) possible capping along trails that pass through archaeological sites to reduce impacts and ongoing damages, (3) presence of Native American monitors for all trail work on those trails that pass through sites, (4) possibility of sending out letters to the local community requesting the return of artifacts from these sites, (5) concern over the amount of graffiti and need for visitor education about importance of the sites to Native Americans, and (6) desire to have an area set aside for ceremonial use by Native Americans.

Most of the lowland areas and some of the upland areas were examined during this project. Approximately 255 acres of the 680-acre park were surveyed by a 2- to 4-person crew on July 19 and 20, August 10 through 13, September 15 and 16, and November 15 through 19 of 2004, and April 4 through 8 of 2005 (see Figure 2). Survey personnel included Associate State Archaeologist—Marla Mealey, Associate State Archaeologist—Roy Pettus, Associate State Archaeologist—Herb Dallas Jr., State Historian II—Alexander Bevil, Archaeological Project Leader—Patricia McFarland, Archaeological Project Leader—Natalie Brodie, Archaeological Project Leader—Michael Buxton, and Archaeological Project Leader—Sarah Farmer of California State Parks' Southern Service Center. Additionally, Associate State Archaeologist—Kathie Lindahl and Assistant State Archaeologist—Kelly Long, from State Parks' Cultural Heritage Section, assisted with post-fire site inspection work. Post-fire site inspection took place on October 5, 2005, following the September 28, 2005 "Topanga" wildfire. Local Archaeologist Albert Knight was contracted to provide additional information regarding the sites and to help State Parks staff in relocating sites and features that he originally recorded (see below). Archaeologist and Ethnographer, John Johnson was contracted to complete the Ethnographic research for this project (presented under separate cover).

During the field survey, crewmembers walked 10- to 15-meter transects through the areas identified for this project, checking bare ground and rock outcrops for artifacts and features. Visibility was mixed (see under Results section below) and varied over the course of the project. When a feature or artifact was found, the rest of the crew was alerted and an intensive examination of the area was completed. One or more digital photographs were taken of each feature and of the overall site. The photo number, site information, view, and direction of each photograph were recorded on a Photo Log (DPR 523 I). Some features, especially those with multiple elements, were sketched and measured in the field as time permitted. Site Locations were recorded in the field with a Trimble GeoExplorer III, global positioning system (GPS) rover unit, either by taking a datum point at a feature, walking a linear site such as a wall or trail, or by walking the perimeter of the site area. All features and some unique and/or diagnostic artifacts were also recorded with a GPS point, line, or area. Each GPS-recorded site, feature, or artifact was assigned a record number for data tracking and this number was written on a data-recording sheet along with the site name or number, feature designation, and other pertinent information. Standard Southern Service Center procedures for GPS recordation include recordation of data using a minimum of four satellites, a signal-to-noise (SNR) ratio of 6 or higher, an elevation mask of

FIGURE 2
Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
Areas Surveyed



14 degrees, and a position dilution of precision (PDOP) of 6 or less. All GPS data were recorded using a Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) North American Datum 1983 (NAD83) projection.

Diagnostic artifacts were photographed and/or traced and sketched to provide details such as artifact dimensions and placement of such characteristics as flake scars, battering, and damage. Artifacts were not generally collected, but left in place on the site where they were found. Sometimes diagnostic artifacts were buried a couple inches below surface at or near where they were found, to protect them from casual collection or erosional displacement. Only one historic artifact (a piece of roofing tile from the “Cabin Site”) was collected for identification purposes.

The Trimble GPS receivers that are currently in use by the Department of Parks and Recreation correct for most of the errors that are introduced when the satellite signals travel through the ionosphere and troposphere. However, there is still a potential for some errors that can lead to inaccuracies in the raw GPS data. A GPS receiver at a known location (called a “base station”) can identify and correct for these errors by calculating the difference between its known position and the position identified by the GPS receiver. Continuously operating base stations collect and store such correction information in files that cover hour-long spans of time. Mobile GPS receivers that record data within a certain distance of a base station can use the base station’s correction protocol to correct for most of the errors recorded in the field. This process is called “differential correction” and can bring accuracy down to within 5 meters. If multiple points are recorded at the same location and then averaged, the positional error can drop to less than a meter. The data recorded in the field with the GeoExplorer were downloaded to a personal computer with Pathfinder Office software installed. Differential corrections were done using the UTM NAD83 projection and a WGS84 datum. These data were then exported as shapefiles into ArcGIS/ArcMap Version 8.1 & 9.1 for mapping and Geographic Information System (GIS) use.

Archaeological site information was recorded on DPR 523 forms (January 1995 version). Forms were created using Microsoft Word 2002 software for Windows on a personal computer. The UTM coordinates and site dimensions were determined from the GPS data. Digital photographs were pasted into the digital site forms. Site and location maps were compiled from the GPS data and various base data layers. The site forms for new sites and the update forms for previously recorded sites are included in Appendix C (confidential appendix, not for public distribution).

After the survey work was completed, DPR contracted with archaeologist Albert Knight for the purpose of identifying features and sites that he had previously recorded, but that DPR archaeologists were unable to relocate. On August 25 and 26, 2005, Knight met with DPR archaeologist Marla Mealey, and DPR Interpreter Karen Beery at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Knight was able to relocate or identify locations of 20 of the 27 features and sites that had not been found during the survey work for this project. Photographs were taken of these relocated features and GPS points were taken at each, following the same procedures as those used during the survey work.

Post-fire site inspection and assessment was done on October 5, 2005 approximately one week after the Topanga fire. Site inspection consisted of visiting some of the known features and sites within the park to see how they were affected by the fire. Eight of the previous and newly recorded sites were inspected during this post-fire visit. Some unrecorded features and artifacts were observed at this time and were documented using GPS, photographs, and notes as per the earlier survey methods. See the “Results” and the “Conclusions and Recommendations” sections below for more details on post-fire work.



RESULTS

Approximately 255 acres were surveyed during this project (see Figure 2). At the time of the survey work, tall grasses and thick brush, especially on open flatlands and hillsides, reduced surface visibility throughout the park. Even so, 31 new sites, 5 new isolates, and 12 previously recorded sites were examined and recorded during the course of the project. Most of the sites fall into two main site types: lithic scatters and historic trash scatters. Rockshelters are also prevalent throughout the park, however most of these lack sufficient evidence of use or have been so damaged by modern use and vandalism that it is impossible to tell for certain if they were used prehistorically or historically.

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES

Of the 15 previously recorded sites that were on file at the South Central Coastal Information Center, four (CA-LAN-1728, CA-LAN-1737, P-19-150127, and P-19-150436) were not relocated. Many of the previously recorded sites were found to be much larger, with features and artifacts extending far beyond the original site boundaries. Because of this, a number of the sites (e.g., CA-LAN-1718 and CA-LAN-1719, and CA-LAN-448, CA-LAN-449, CA-LAN-1126, and CA-LAN-1728) were combined together (see below). Site CA-LAN-640, which was originally thought to be within the park boundaries, was actually found to be located outside the park.

CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728/National Register Site #74000517/Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument #92/Ventura County Historical Landmark #104

These sites were originally recorded as CA-LAN-448 a prehistoric rockshelter with petroglyphs and artifacts, CA-LAN-449 a prehistoric village site, CA-LAN-1126 a historic sandstone quarry, and CA-LAN-1728 a historic trash dump. The historic stage route, stage station, and various features relating to historic uses, as well as portions of the prehistoric sites have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (listed 1/10/1974). The stage route was also declared Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument #92 (designated 01/05/1972) and Ventura County Historical Landmark #104 (designated 10/21/1986). A plaque commemorating the stage route was placed along the stage route by the Native Daughters of the Golden West in 1939.



A site record prepared by DPR staff in 1993 (Barter et al.) combined these sites, as well as some additional features to the south, into one large resource. However, it does not appear that this information was plotted on the site location maps at the South Central Coastal Information Center, and it is unclear if that site record was ever actually sent to the information center.

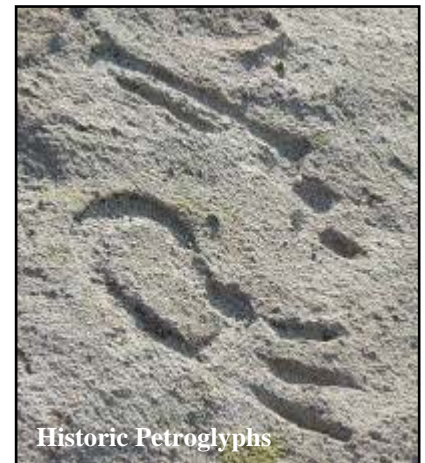
Fieldwork for the 2004-2005 resources inventory found no significant break in the distribution of artifacts or features to warrant keeping sites CA-LAN-448, CA-LAN-449, CA-LAN-1126, and the various artifacts and features associated with the stage route as separate sites. It was decided that because the features and loci from different time periods overlapped, and because the entire area was considered a cultural zone for management purposes, that all of these sites should be combined into one large multi-component site complex. This complex also includes the mapped location of the trash dump recorded as CA-LAN-1728. Although CA-LAN-1728 was not relocated in the field, its mapped location (and the location identified by Knight during his field visit with DPR staff) falls within the boundaries of this site (along Feature CB) so it was also included within this complex. However, according to Knight, the trash dump has most likely been destroyed by fire and illegal collection (A. Knight, personal communication, August 25, 2005).

Within this large site boundary, several loci were identified. The prehistoric portions of CA-LAN-448 and CA-LAN-449 were combined into Locus 1 and a smaller area of prehistoric artifacts and features along the southern edge of the site was identified as Locus 2. The historic features and artifacts connected to the operation of the stage route (some of which were previously included with CA-LAN-449) and the later quarrying activities (CA-LAN-1126) overlay and intersect many of the features and areas of Loci 1 and 2. Loci A, B, C, D, E, F, and G contain features and artifacts that appear to be associated with quarrying activities.

Forty-eight features were identified as having been previously recorded at this complex. During the fieldwork, 41 of these features were relocated and an additional 110 features that had not been previously recorded were identified. Knight helped relocate a number of features within this site complex during his site visit in August 2005, and additional features and artifacts were observed after the September 2005 fire. Of the 158 total features, 32 are prehistoric in origin, 123 are historic, and 3 have both prehistoric and historic elements. Prehistoric features included rockshelters, hearths, mortars, cupules, and lithic and artifact scatters. Historic features included drill holes from stone quarrying, quarry blocks and tailings piles, wells and cisterns, building foundations, rock walls, stage route and marker, historic petroglyphs, pecked stone steps, olive trees, and iron rings, nails, and stakes in rock faces. There are also numerous tinajas (water catchment areas that occur naturally in sandstone, some of which may have been enhanced or modified) that may have been used both prehistorically and historically.

During the field visit with Knight, he brought up the possibility that a small cave located along the Devil's Slide portion of the stage route, may be the "vulva rock" identified in the legend of "Gavilán" as recorded by Harrington (1917). Knight also discusses this possibility in a report he prepared in 1997. This feature was recorded as Feature CD.

Damages to this complex are severe in some places. The historic use of the area damaged the prehistoric village and associated sites and features. Historic and modern uses include the construction and operation of the stage route and other roads, excavation of cisterns, sandstone quarrying, agriculture, off-road activities, and other forms of recreation. At some point "pictographs" were painted (in oil-based paint) in the rockshelter at CA-LAN-448 (Weil et al. 1981), and additional ones were done (in watercolor paint) at CA-LAN-449 (Knight, personal communication, 2005). It has been speculated that these were placed there either during the stage route era as a "point of interest" for travelers, or during early filming activities within this area. Historic "petroglyphs" were also carved into a rock at CA-LAN-449 (Knight and Sherman 1993a). Fire has damaged and killed off some of the olive trees along the stage route, and possibly other fruit trees from historic orchards. After the 2005 fire, the olive trees were observed to be blackened and singed and at least one was still smoldering nearly a week after the fire swept across the site. However, some green leaves still remained on some of the trees and it is expected that most will resprout and recover.



Since the cessation of the use of Devil's Slide as a stage route, the road has been hiked, biked, used for horseback riding, and possibly other recreational activities. Portions of the route are in current use as an access road and it is driven by utility trucks and other vehicles. In 1994 portions of the road, the historic site, and the prehistoric deposits were bulldozed during unauthorized grading activities undertaken by Southern California Edison. Damage to this complex is also prevalent in the form of abundant graffiti, and recreational collecting of artifacts (surface collection and digging) has been reported since historic times (e.g., Hinkston 1974; Weil et al. 1981; Knight 1990b; Knight, personal communication, 2005; Knight and Sherman 1993a).

CA-LAN-640

This site was originally recorded as a series of small shelters with fire blackening and exfoliating pictograph (pictograph reported by "NARC" 1974 but not noted after), 3 possible bedrock mortars (Knight 1991a), some quartzite flakes (reported by "NARC" 1974 but not noted after), and midden soils (Weil 1980). Although the

site map showed the site to be within the park boundaries, current investigations found the site to be just outside the boundaries of the state park, within the lands of the city park (Chatsworth Park South). Due to this, the area was not examined in detail. The site consists of a rock formation with a few “rockshelter”-sized areas and a dark midden-like soil. No artifacts were observed during this site visit and no evidence of rock art or mortars was noted. The area is being used as a party spot and homeless camp, with graffiti and trash located in and around the shelters. An updated site record showing the true location of the site has been prepared. This area did not burn in the 2005 fire.

CA-LAN-1028

Site CA-LAN-1028 was originally recorded along the eastern edge of a knoll in the middle section of the park (Rosen et al. 1979). It was recorded as a rockshelter with a light-density scatter of flakes. The site was tested in the early 1980s (Weil et al. 1981) and found to contain chipped-stone tools, groundstone tools, and shell beads. The site was relocated and expanded during the 2004 fieldwork.

The site was found to include more than three rockshelters, at least two complete tinajas (natural or modified water catchment basins), and one “broken” tinaja (natural rock fracture). The shelters are all part of the same formation but spread out over approximately 100 meters. The western-most shelter has significant amounts of modern graffiti, fire blackening, and trash. Other rockshelters have graffiti and trash as well. Prehistoric artifacts associated with the western-most shelter (Feature 1) include black and white, grey, and reddish porphyritic volcanic flakes, black and white chert flakes, grey and orange quartzite flakes, a possible black and white chert flake tool, and a white quartzite biface (see photo).



The other rockshelters do not have associated artifacts, but modern disturbances may have obscured or destroyed evidence of prehistoric use. The site measures approximately 80 meters north/south and 122 meters east/west. Disturbance to the site includes trail and road construction, modern dumping, fire blackening, and graffiti. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

CA-LAN-1718/1719



CA-LAN-1718 was originally recorded as “two shelter-crevices in a large rock-formation” with two quartzite scrapers and a small amount of quartzite debitage (Knight and Atherton 1989b). CA-LAN-1719 was recorded as an “open air” lithic scatter site with “one or two small rock-shelters,” some fire-affected rock including a possible hearth, and midden (Knight and Atherton 1989c). A 1992 update (Knight and Alvitre 1992) of CA-LAN-1718 expanded the site area to include “at least 7 small rock shelters” including one with a rock wall and several lithic tools and tool fragments. The 1992 update also commented on the severe disturbance/vandalism that had occurred at the site in February 1992. According to the documentation, all of the shelters were completely dug out and the contents (soil, midden, rock, artifacts, etc.) piled directly in front of each shelter (Knight and Alvitre 1992).

During the 2004 survey the boundaries of both sites were expanded such that there was no longer a significant break between them, and it was decided to combine them into one site. This combined site contains eight areas with rockshelters, various lithic scatters consisting of quartzite, chert, and volcanic flakes, a white chert biface fragment (see photo), a possible sandstone grinding basin, one tinaja (water catchment basin), a rock wall in Shelter 4a, possible rock work in Shelter 5a, a reddish quartzite hammerstone, a granitic mano fragment, a

possible porphyritic volcanic mano fragment, midden, possible fire blackening on some shelter ceilings, an old road, and a pile of 18+ bricks under a laurel sumac bush.

In addition to the 1992 vandalism, disturbances include slopewash, erosion, off-trail use, modern trash, and trail and road construction. Also, during the spring of 2005, trail work consisting of knocking down bunks to fill in ruts was observed along the main trail through the site. This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.

CA-LAN-1736

This site was originally recorded as a sparse scatter of lithic debris and “not-too-old historic trash” (Knight & Atherton 1989d). Thick grasses made visibility very low in this area. Only two artifacts were found: a dark gray quartzite core fragment measuring 6 cm by 4.5 cm by 4.5 cm and a wire nail approximately 5 inches long. The location map for this site was found to be inaccurate. A site record update with the correct site location has been prepared. This area was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

CA-LAN-1737

This site was originally recorded in 1989 by Knight and Atherton (1989e). The site was not relocated during the 2004-2005 field survey due to the site being mismapped on the original location map. During a field visit in August 2005, Knight was able to point out the actual location of the site. It is located south of the Concrete Slab site (see below), in a flat, open area that was covered with dense grasses. The artifacts mentioned on the site record (sparse scatter containing 1 core, 1 large quartzite flake, 2 pieces sandstone fire-affected rock, and debitage) were not relocated due to poor visibility. A site record update showing the correct site location has been prepared. Although this area was quickly inspected after the 2005 fire, the site was still not relocated and further examination should be conducted.

CA-LAN-1738

Knight and Atherton (1989f) recorded this site as a “very sparse lithic scatter” in and around a large, prominent rock formation. The site was found to include a gray quartzite hammerstone, a large, gray quartzite flake, two chert flakes, a porphyritic volcanic flake, and a historic Coke bottle. There is a can lid benchmark near the quartzite hammerstone.

Disturbances to the site include road and trail construction and modern trash including glass bottles and shotgun shells. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

CA-LAN-2173

Knight originally recorded this site in 1993 as an archaeological deposit consisting of a mano, metate fragment, and a lithic scatter containing hundreds of quartzite flakes and debitage. During the 2004-2005 fieldwork, the site was found to consist of two loci. Locus 1 includes a dispersed scatter of fused shale, quartzite, volcanic, and chert flakes, one portable sandstone mortar, a quartzite core, and a quartzite scraper. Locus 2 consists of a large, dispersed scatter of flakes and debitage. Material types include quartzite, fused shale, chert, chalcedony, and black volcanic. Other artifacts include a flake from a hammerstone, a quartzite core, and a granitic bowl/metate fragment. Historical artifacts noted at Locus 2 include a “Neat Silver” metal spoon, a wide mouth purple glass bottle fragment, amethyst glass fragments, a broken whiteware cup, milk glass fragments, cans, light blue bottle glass fragments, metal scraps, and cement.

Disturbances to the site include earth movement around the southeast edge, the old road, the existing trail, grading to the north, and modern dumping and off-trail use. Some tire tracks were observed here after the 2005 fire (see photo), but do not appear to have caused much damage.



CA-LAN-2198

This site was recorded in 1993 (Knight et al. 1994). It was originally recorded as a lithic scatter on the top of a small ridgeline. During fieldwork in 2004-2005, the site boundary was expanded to include a rockshelter with fire blackening on the ceiling, a possible quartzite mano fragment, a possible porphyritic volcanic mano fragment, more than two quartzite hammerstone fragments, white, grey, and purple quartzite flakes, and a piece of light green ribbed glass bottle base with embossing. Most of this site, except for the very eastern extent, is outside the park boundary.

Disturbances to the site include modern graffiti in the rockshelter and fire blackening. This area was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

P-19-150427

This primary number was assigned to a structure that appeared on the 1895 Surveyor's Map at the Los Angeles County Engineer's Office (Edberg 1978). The site was never field-checked and it is not known if any physical remains exist. Although this site was not relocated in the field, it is possible that it is located within or near to the site recorded as the Homestead Site (see under Newly Recorded Sites below). This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.

P-19-150436

As with P-19-150427, this number was assigned to a structure that appeared on an early map of the area. No evidence of a structure was observed in this location, although there is a cleared and graded area with an old roadway that runs through it, in the general location of this site. Modern trash, recent building debris, and gravel also cover this area. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

NEWLY RECORDED SITES

Thirty-one newly recorded sites and five newly recorded isolates were identified during fieldwork for this resources inventory. Of these 36 sites and isolates, 12 are prehistoric, 20 are historic, 3 are modern, and the time period of one site (Hill Shelter) was undetermined.

Brick Dump #7 (19-120085)

This site consists of a scatter of bricks and other debris along El Camino Nuevo (see below) in the northern part of the park. The bricks and debris are similar to those found at the Upland Meadow site (see below) and were probably dumped around the same time. They appear to be modern and were dumped after the period of use of this road as the stage route/Santa Susana Pass road. This area was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Cabin Site (19-003509)

The site consists of two loci. Locus 1 contains terraces, concrete foundations, excavated pits, rectangular trenches, an asphalt pad/road remnant, stone retaining walls, dugout areas, and historic trash scatters. Artifacts include glass fragments (clear, aqua, olive, lime green Depression glass), bottle embossed with "whistle", cans, transfer ware (1 embossed floral rim; 1 burgundy grape pattern), white ware ("Made in Holl..."), milled wood, plywood, round wire nails, roofing tile ("L.A. pressed brick"), ceramic tile, red bricks, metal sewer pipe, ceramic drain pipe, decorative twisted wrought iron railing pole, and a stove. Locus 2 is 35 to 40 meters northeast of Locus 1 and consists of a concrete footing, an asphalt dump, and a dugout area with a coil of thick baling wire. Additional features and artifacts were observed after the 2005 fire. The 1938 aerial photo shows what appears to be a camp or other development in the area where this site was found. One reference (Paul 1953) indicates the area was used as a work camp for "indigent old men" during the 1930s.



Disturbances to the site include numerous trails (animal and human made), which crisscross the site, and modern trash and debris that are mixed in with site material. Tire tracks observed after the 2005 fire indicate that some recent vehicular traffic has occurred here as well.

Car and Shelter (19-003510)

The site consists of a rockshelter containing evidence of modern and possibly historic use. The sandstone shelter has room for at least two individuals. There is also a car, upside down in the drainage, across from the shelter. The car was not closely examined due to dense vegetation. The trail that runs through the site appears to be used mainly by equestrians. This area was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Car in Gully (19-120086)

This site consists of the body of a car in an unnamed seasonal drainage. The car appears to be a late 1960s-early 1970s Chevrolet. The remains of the car are severely rusted, with plants growing directly through the body. All major components such as the engine, wheels, etc. have been removed or decomposed. This area was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Cement Dump (19-003491)

The site consists of four loci. *Locus 1* contains many fragments of cement, cinderblocks, bricks, clay tiles, slate fragments, and modified earthworks. *Locus 2* contains asphalt, wood, chain-link fence fragments, bricks, ceramic pipe, and a fragment of resin. *Locus 3* consists of a well with an associated bent metal pipe and a metal pole. *Locus 4* is a metal pole set into the ground. Much of the debris that has been dumped here appears to be

modern, however, some of the artifacts may be historic, but more research is needed to identify the time period of this site.

Disturbances to the site include modern dumping, erosion, and earth movement. This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.

Concrete Slab (19-003492)

The main component of this site is a poured concrete slab with a wood form and associated pipes. This feature appears to match Feature 7 “well head” recorded by Barter et al. in 1993 as part of the CA-LAN-448/449/1126 complex; however, over 100 meters separate this feature from the southern boundary of



CA-LAN-448/449/1126, so it was decided to record this feature and associated artifacts as a separate site. Artifacts include more than four chunks of formed, rounded concrete on the west side of the site and a pile of concrete box remnants to the south. It was suggested that the concrete box pieces could be pieces of a crypt from the nearby Oakwood Cemetery. Additional pipes, valves, and apparatus were observed after the 2005 fire, within the large bush that was east of the concrete slab.

Disturbances to the site include fire damage, modern trash, and some earth movement. The wood form was burned and charred during the September 28, 2005 Topanga Fire, as well as by previous fires (fire damage was noted during survey work prior to the 2005 fire).

Core and Flake Isolate (19-003493)

This isolate includes a white chert flake and a porphyritic volcanic core fragment.

Disturbances to this area include trail construction, off-trail use, and modern trash. This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire, but should be inspected to see if these artifacts are part of a larger site, or if they eroded down from elsewhere.

Downslope Flake Isolate (19-120087)

The isolate is a white, gray, and purple quartzite flake. It may be associated with site CA-LAN-2198, but it is approximately 50 meters southeast of the southeastern boundary of that site. Additional survey work should be done in this area to determine the relationship between this isolate and CA-LAN-2198. This area was not inspected after the 2005 fire.

Earthen Dam (19-120078)

The site is an earthen dam or fill-in of an unnamed seasonal drainage. The fill-in is between two hillsides. It is located on the margin of the park and may be on private lands, just outside park boundaries. The actual site location was not inspected during fieldwork. The photo was taken from the nearby trail and the location was estimated on a topographic map. The area was also not visited after the 2005 fire.



El Camino Nuevo (19-003511)

This is the stage road that was built in the mid 1890s to replace the Devil's Slide route. James W. Bannon said that his father contributed to the construction of this road: "Wherever they had to build a retaining wall, you will notice it's all dimension stone—cut stone. My father did all of this. Of course the County did quite a bit of work too" (Hinkston 1974:12).

In 1899 Los Angeles County made extensive repairs, which included the removal of large boulders embedded in the roadway (Ciolek-Torrello et al. 2001; Goldman 1973a). According to Havens (1986b) those portions in Ventura County were constructed by Bryand & Green in the



mid-1890s and improved in 1899 by the Young Brothers. That portion was declared a public highway by the Ventura County board of supervisors in 1894. The Ventura County portion was declared a Historical Landmark in 1986 (Ventura County Historical Landmark #105). This "new" road was the main route between the San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley from 1895 until 1917, when the current Santa Susana Pass Road was constructed to the north. Although most traffic moved to the 1917 route after its construction, it appears that "El Camino Nuevo" was still used for recreation and access into the northern portion of the park and the "Stoners' Point" region (see under "Upland Meadow" below). The route is currently inaccessible by vehicle due to a locked iron gate and large boulders that were placed across the western entrance along Santa Susana Pass Road, and a locked chain gate, road curbs, and rocks at the eastern access point. The other access points are either on private property, or have been made inaccessible by road upgrades and guardrails along the current Santa Susana Pass Road.

Disturbances to the site include modern road/trail use, washouts, erosion, dumping, and vegetation overgrowth. Portions of the road that are outside park boundaries have been paved and modified and are currently in use. The eastern entrance was inspected and photographed after the 2005 fire, and photographs were also taken of other portions of the route from Santa Susana Pass Road less than a week after the fire.

Flake and Shelter (19-003494)

The site consists of a rockshelter, a white quartzite flake, quartzite debitage, possible fire blackening on the roof of the shelter, and darker, midden-like soil located near the shelter.

Disturbances to the site include dirt bike activity and modern trash. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

Flakes-in-the-Trail (19-003507)

This site is made up of two quartzite flakes and a piece of quartzite debitage.

Disturbances to the site include trail construction and trail use as well as modern trash and off-trail use. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Glass Dump & Blasting Hole (19-003495)

The site includes multiple fragments of purple, blue, brown, and milk glass. There is also a "blasting" hole drilled into a sandstone outcrop adjacent to the glass.

Disturbances to the site include trail construction, trail use, and modern trash. This site was visited following the 2005 fire and no additional disturbance was noted at that time.

Grey Flake Site (19-003512)

The site consists of a low density scatter of more than eleven quartzite and chert flakes, some burned and melted aqua, purple, and clear historic glass, and two burned wood posts along the trail in the southwestern part of the site.

Disturbances include trail construction and use, and modern trash including glass beer bottles and plastic. It is unclear if the burned trash was a result of one of the many wildfires that have gone through this area, or if it was as a result of historic trash burning. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire, although the posts were still standing and visible from a distance.

Hill Shelter (19-120080)

The site consists of a sandstone rockshelter with no obvious artifacts. There are rock piles at the back of the shelter to fill a hole. It is unclear if the rock piles were emplaced recently, historically, or prehistorically.

Disturbance to the site includes modern trash and graffiti. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

Homestead Site (19-003496)

The site contains at least five cleared and leveled terraces with sandstone retaining walls, posts, and associated debris, landscaped eucalyptus trees, and more than two structure foundations. The homestead records for this location list the applicant as James Williams, and the patent for the homestead is dated 1897. However, it says that Williams settled and established residence on the land in ca. 1884. Williams had a wife and five children living there in 1895. The homestead record also lists a 4-room house, a barn, a honey house, half a mile of post and wire fence, a small orchard and 20 acres of cleared land. Williams and his wife are listed on the 1910 and 1920 census records for the area. The USGS maps show a structure on the south side of the drainage in 1952 that seems to correspond to this site location.

Disturbance to the site includes modern use and trail use, although the property manager for the church claims much of the debris has been cleared from the area. According to Stephen Bylin, who was a ranger at the park:

The area in question was covered with trash and debris. I first dealt with the area when we had a contractor living on the site, he had camper trailer set up and great deal of construction related material and supplies on the area of the corrals. There were old pipe corrals sections remaining about the corrals. The corrals are the built up flat areas above the access road to the west. The access road was a dump area of trash and debris such as piles of old concrete and asphalt blocks, vehicles, and pipes. I have never noticed any old structure foundations or building materials that look in any way historic.

The clean-up I arranged, cleaned-up the construction supplies and materials of the illegal camper, the pipe corrals, the concrete and asphalt, and miscellaneous trash. One 10 yard, and two 40 yard dumpsters were needed. The old concrete and asbestos material pipe were not cleaned up, along with an old generator trailer and a massive iron pump (Bylin 2005).



Cement Pad & Generator

This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Knoll Flake (19-003506)

The site consists of a gray quartzite flake and two pieces of porphyritic volcanic debitage.

Disturbances to the site include trail construction and use, modern dumping (trash and debris), earth movement, and dirt bike use. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

Metal Door (19-003497)

The site consists of a ¼-inch-thick sheet of iron set in a frame with a rough-cut hole (3 ½ inches in diameter) in the center. The “door” (60 inches tall by 48 ¾ inches wide, including frame) is planted upright in the ground. There is a small roll of barbed wire and metal hook located at the base of the “door”. A metal pipe fragment is located 88 feet to the southwest and a sheet of metal soldered into a tube or pipe was found 95 feet to the south-southwest.

Disturbances to the site include modern trash, unauthorized footpaths, earth movement, and old road/trail adjacent to site. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire, although the door was still standing and visible from a distance.



Metal Eyelet (19-120079)



The metal eyelet is made of possibly hand-forged ¼” thick iron with a ¾” hole cut in it and was pounded into a sandstone boulder. The site measures less than 1m by 1m. The condition of the site is good and disturbances include trail construction. This site may be associated with the “Metal Loop” or Metal Loop 2” sites (see below). This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Metal Loop (19-120081)

The site is a U-shaped iron bar pounded into a sandstone boulder. The bar has wire wrapped around one end and two strands of barbed wire are below the west side of the boulder. The site is in good condition. It may be associated with the “Metal Eyelet” site (which is located approximately 115 meters to the north-northeast) or the “Metal Loop 2” site (which is approximately 1.70 km to the north-northeast). This site was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.



Metal Loop 2 (19-120082)



This site is a bent iron loop in a sandstone boulder adjacent to the railroad tracks. This metal loop is similar in shape and appearance to the “Metal Loop” site and a similar feature type as the “Metal Eyelet” site and Features M and O at CA-LAN-448/449/1126 (see above). May have been emplaced and used during construction of the train tracks and tunnels (ca. 1900-1904) or during subsequent repairs or upgrades.

The immediate area has been affected by modern disturbances including railroad use, graffiti, and trash dumping. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

Modern Trash Dump (19-120083)

The dump consists of bed springs, rug pieces, cement chunks, a ceramic pot lid, a shoe, metal scraps, and more. The gully runs through the dump to the seasonal drainage. The surrounding vegetation includes oak and poison oak. The site limits are incomplete due to time constraints and a buried deposit.

Disturbance to the site includes erosion. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Old Fenceline (19-003498)

The site consists of old fence posts and barbed wire. All the posts have been burned (site was not revisited after the 2005 fire) and some are no longer standing. There are three posts visible on the east side of a small drainage and more than nine visible on the west side.

Disturbance to the site appears limited to severe fire damage. Although this site was not revisited after the 2005 fire, increased damage from the fire is expected if this area burned.

Phone Site (19-003499)

The site consists of two features. Area A contains barbed wire and more than two pieces of an aqua glass insulator. Area B contains a cut telephone pole, a drilled hole in the sandstone bedrock with an anchor bolt (eye-loop), and wire cable.

Disturbances to the site appear limited to off-trail use indicated by clear, brown, and green bottle glass. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Quarry Road (19-003500)

The site consists of a trail that appears to have been used historically as a road. Pick marks and drill holes similar to those seen in association with the Stage Route and quarry features at CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728 were noted in at least one location along the road. It is unclear how this site relates to the sandstone quarry features at CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728 or if this segment of road was constructed for some other purpose. It does not provide access all the way down to the valley floor in the north due to large boulders that are blocking it from that direction. It is more likely that if this was an access road for quarrying, materials were removed to the south and brought to the railroad spur to the west.

Disturbance to the site include trail use, erosion, and modern trash. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Quartz and Brick (19-120084)

The site consists of three red bricks set in the ground with cement mortar and a scatter of decorative, small, white, quartz rocks. The site measures less than 10 feet by 10 feet and is located approximately 73 meters south-southwest of an unnamed seasonal drainage. Dense vegetation prevented good surface visibility.

Disturbance to the site appears limited to nearby trail use. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Shell Isolate

The isolate is a single valve of *Chione* sp. The shell looks weathered and it is speculated that it may be part of a larger site that has eroded down to this location.

Disturbance to the area includes sandstone quarrying, trail construction, and trail use. This area did not burn during the 2005 fire.

Spahn Ranch (19-003502)

The site consists of the remains of an old movie ranch including slate tile, concrete chunks, glass fragments, red bricks, terra cotta fragments, a ceramic sewer/water pipe, green and red painted ceramic fragments, white glazed ceramic, a white hexagonal tile, a "U.S." 2-post pin, red ceramic tile, a metal water pipe, milled wood, a rusted metal strap, a small concentration of older Dr. Pepper bottle glass, a cone-top can, car parts, railroad spikes, a porcelain fixture, and other various materials. There is a cylindrical, green metal cover box for a utility on the southeast edge of the site with two associated poles.



Two structures that appear on the USGS quadrangle map have been torn down and most of the associated material has been removed. According to reports of the early 1970s, the movie set and associated buildings were burned in the 1970 fire and the area was bulldozed. There is also evidence of modern and unauthorized use in the form of modern trash within the site boundary. This site was visited after the 2005 fire, and a few additional artifacts were observed and photographed at that time.

Spillway (19-003501)

The site consists of a cement-and-rebar retaining wall on the south side of the drainage and a “channel” across the bottom of the drainage. The spillway measures approximately 25 feet by 25 feet by 10 feet. Rebar on the north side of the drainage may represent the remains of another retaining wall. There is a wood plank visible on the top of the southern retaining wall and a piece of corrugated metal pipe was observed on the south bank slightly downstream from the feature.

Portions of the feature on the north side of the drainage appear to have been removed or destroyed. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Terrace Flakes (19-003503)

This site consists of one black quartzite flake, one light brown chert flake, one red brown chert flake, three grey/white quartzite flakes, one quartzite angular waste, one mottled grey/white chert flake, and grey quartzite debitage. Fragments of burnt bone were also found at the site. Potentially historic artifacts include more than five whiteware plate sherds, one decorated sherd (“transfer ware”), one metal pan, and assorted broken glass.

Disturbances to the site include trail and road construction and use, earth movement, and modern dumping. This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.

Three-Flake Site (19-003504)

The site is made up of more than three flakes (1 black chert and 2 white quartzite, one with cortex) and five pieces of lithic debitage (white quartzite, black quartzite, mottled black & white chert, banded tan and white chert) scattered over a 12 x 7 meter area at the top of a prominent knoll. One granitic cobble (not local material) was also found here.

The trail is the greatest impact to this site. There also appears to have been some unauthorized visitor use (based on “volunteer trails” and trash) in the area. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Trail Flake Isolate (19-100563)

The isolate is a reddish quartzite flake that was found within the trail bed. It is possible that it has eroded down to this location from CA-LAN-1718/1719 or CA-LAN-2198 (see above). This area was not reexamined after the 2005 fire.

Two Flake Isolate (19-100564)

Isolate consists of two flakes, one orange-tan quartzite and one grey porphyritic volcanic, on a relatively flat bench.

The area has been disturbed in historic times as evidenced by the presence of foundations and debris in the area (see “Cabin Site” above), the historic stage road (see CA-LAN-448/449/1126/etc. above), and animal trails, authorized park trails, and other unauthorized use. This area was examined after the 2005 fire, although the flakes were not relocated at that time.

Upland Meadow (19-003505)

This site includes at least eight separate brick dump areas with red brick and cinderblocks, various tools and building materials, an “asphalt dump” including asphalt, cement, pink cinderblock, glass, metal, tile, and brick, and modern trash and debris including glass bottles, cans, carpet scraps, graffiti, batteries, a safe without a door, and spray paint cans. This area is known as “Stoners’ Point” and is a well known party spot. There has been some speculation about what this site represents. Knight (personal communication,



2005) thought it may have been used in filming of movies. It may have been quarried at one time as well. At this point there is nothing at this site that indicates historic or prehistoric use, and all the debris appears to be recent and modern in origin.

Disturbances to the site include earth movement, fire, modern dumping, dirt road construction, trail construction, unauthorized use, and graffiti. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

Water Tank Site (19-003508)

The site consists of a scatter of artifacts across a terrace and slope of a knoll. Artifacts include hundreds of flakes and debitage, a volcanic hammerstone measuring 6.5 cm by 6 cm by 4 cm, a quartzite core measuring 8 cm by 6.5 cm by 6.5 cm, a quartzite flake tool (with a bifacially flaked edge) measuring 6.5 cm by 6 cm by 2 cm (see photo), a possible mano fragment measuring 10.5 cm by 6 cm by 5.5 cm, a red porphyritic volcanic core with more than five flake scars measuring 5 cm by 6 cm by 5 cm, and burned mammal bone. Lithic material types include gray, white, orange, and red quartzite, black, white, mottled, and red chert, purple, black, and gray volcanic, and a small piece of fused shale.



Disturbances to the site include water tank construction, earth movement, modern dumping, and old roads and trails. There has been modern/unauthorized use of this area as well. This site was not revisited after the 2005 fire.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the 46 sites that are recorded within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, 31 are new sites, 5 are new isolates, and 10 are previously recorded sites. Of these, 22 were identified as mainly historic, 18 were found to be mainly prehistoric, 3 were determined to be modern, 2 had significant components from both the prehistoric and historic eras, and 1 could not be placed within any time period due to lack of diagnostic materials. Two of the previously recorded historic sites (P-19-150127 and P-19-150436) and one previously recorded prehistoric site (CA-LAN-1737) were not relocated, but are included in the count of sites for the park. Six other previously recorded sites (CA-LAN-1718, CA-LAN-1719, CA-LAN-448, CA-LAN-449, CA-LAN-1126, and CA-LAN-1728) were combined with newly recorded sites and features such that these six previously recorded sites now make up two larger sites (CA-LAN-1718/1719 and CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728). Site CA-LAN-640, although examined during this project, was actually found to be located outside the park boundaries and is not included in the final count of sites for the park.

Based on post-fire site inspection it appears that 35 of the sites recorded within the park were burned over by the fire. Approximately four other sites were on the fringes of the burn area but were not inspected after the fire and it is unclear if they were affected or not. The only sites that are known or expected to have suffered significant damages from the fire are those with wooden elements such as the Concrete Slab site, Cabin Site, Grey Flake site, Homestead Site, and Old Fenceline site. The greater threat from the fire is the increase in surface visibility and potential for erosion of denuded slopes during winter rains. Sites such as CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728, CA-LAN-1028, CA-LAN-1718/1719, CA-LAN-2173, CA-LAN-2198, Downslope Flake, El Camino Nuevo, Flake and Shelter, Flake in the Trail, Knoll Flake, Trail Flake, Terrace Flakes, and Water Tank Site are in the greatest danger from post-fire erosion and should be included in a more intensive site condition assessment program.

The archaeological and historical sites that were identified during the resources inventory were mainly located along trails or other areas of current and recent use. Because only about a third of the park was surveyed for cultural resources during this study, and because there is a potential for other sites to be present in this unit, surveys should be completed prior to any development or undertaking that may disturb cultural resources. Additionally, other archaeological investigations such as archival research, detailed site recordation and mapping, and possible subsurface testing should be required at any project undertaking that will disturb a known or potential cultural site.

In order to protect the recorded sites within this park, their locations should be made known to patrol rangers so that they can monitor their conditions and watch for deterioration, erosion, vandalism, or other activities that may damage or impact cultural resources. Periodic examinations of known sites should also be conducted by a qualified state archaeologist, and update forms (including photographic documentation, and archaeological site condition assessment records) should be prepared and submitted to record observed changes.

The records search conducted with the Native American Heritage Commission revealed that no traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been recorded within the unit. However, it is known from ethnographic research and other information that there are landscape features and locations that are or were important to the Native American community. If, as Knight has suggested (Knight 1997, 2005), the “vulva rock” mentioned in the legend of “Gavilán” (Harrington 1917), is actually the small cave above the Devil’s Slide portion of the stage route, this feature may be considered significant to the Native American community. It is recommended that an effort be made to work with representatives of the local Native American communities to identify and document this and other important cultural resources.

Of the 46 known sites within the park, only 2 are not impacted by, located in, or immediately adjacent to trails or other use areas. Impacts to sites should be evaluated and determinations should be made to identify trails that should be closed or rerouted. There are many redundant trails and “volunteer” trails that could be closed without impacting access or circulation throughout this park. Better management of trail use as it relates to damages and impacts to archaeological sites should be one of the issues examined in a Trail Management Plan. The district previously identified seven main trails within the park. All of these trails impact or are located immediately

adjacent to cultural resources. Most of them (n=6) cross through the large village site/stage site/quarry site that has been identified as CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728. The Trail Management Plan should also address protection measures to reduce ongoing impacts to this large and significant site.

Additional research should be conducted to identify and map the actual location of site CA-LAN-1737 (estimated location identified by Knight during field visit), and to identify if there is any physical evidence of P-19-150127 and P-19-150436 (not relocated during the 2005 fieldwork). More research also needs to be done on CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728, “Quarry Road” site, “Glass Dump and Blasting Hole” site, “Metal Loop” site, “Metal Loop 2” site, and “Metal Eyelet” site to determine how these sites relate to each other and to quarrying activities in general.

Additional research should be carried out at the “Cabin Site” to determine its actual use and time period. If it was indeed a work camp for “indigent old men,” what projects were they working on during the operation of the camp? Similarly, more research should be done on the “Homestead Site” to determine its origin and period of use, and how it relates to P-19-150127, the Williams Homestead, and El Camino Nuevo. Also, more research should be done to determine if the “Spillway” site is related to El Camino Nuevo, filming activities in the area, or if it has some other use or purpose.

Further research should be done for the “Upland Meadow” site. Although its modern use is as a party spot and dump site, the area appears to have been graded, and a spur road off of El Camino Nuevo comes to this location at least by 1928 (according to 1928 aerial). Knight (personal communication, 2005) thinks it may have been used for filming, and others have mentioned possible sandstone quarrying in this area. However, there is no physical indication of either filming activities or quarrying, or any real understanding of what this area was used for historically.

Opportunities for interpretation and education regarding cultural resources are needed within the park. Site studies should be undertaken to determine if onsite interpretation and education programs (signs, tours, education programs, etc.) should be developed for those archaeological features located in or adjacent to trails or other park facilities, or if the park should passively manage these resources. Locations that should be studied for interpretation include CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728, the “Cabin Site”, “Metal Eyelet”, “Spillway”, and “El Camino Nuevo.” Interpretation and education overviews of the Native American use of this area and the region in general should also be developed.

There is still a majority of the park that has not been surveyed or inspected for the presence of cultural resources. These areas should be surveyed as time allows, or if there are any projects planned in unsurveyed portions of the park. Additionally, subsurface testing may be appropriate in some areas prior to implementation of projects that have the potential to impact buried cultural resources.

Archaeological and Native American monitors should be present at all subsurface or ground-disturbing work within the large village site at CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728, including “routine” trail maintenance. Due to the presence of human remains at this site, consultation with Native Americans should be undertaken for any projects within the prehistoric site boundary. Archaeological monitors should also be present for any subsurface or ground-disturbing project within or adjacent to any of the prehistoric sites and many of the historic archaeological sites within the park. Project review by an archaeologist can help ensure avoidance of significant impacts to archaeological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

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