

**FINAL**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report for the Green Line  
Maintenance of Way Facility, Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, California**



**APRIL 1999**

**Prepared for  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority,  
Construction Division,  
Environmental Compliance Section  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Prepared by  
Evelyn N. Chandler and Cary D. Cotterman  
Tetra Tech Inc.  
348 W. Hospitality Lane, Suite 300  
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3216**

**F  
869  
.C53  
A433**

4,226,179

**FINAL**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report for the Green Line  
Maintenance of Way Facility, Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, California**



**APRIL 1999**

**Prepared for:**

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority,  
Construction Division,  
Environmental Compliance Section  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Prepared by:**

**Evelyn N. Chandler and Cary D. Cotterman  
Tetra Tech Inc.  
348 W. Hospitality Lane, Suite 300  
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3216**

**(TC# 6771-01)**

**MTA LIBRARY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND..... 1  
2.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS ..... 1  
3.0 FIELD METHODS ..... 3  
4.0 RESULTS..... 4  
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS..... 4  
6.0 REFERENCES..... 6

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1 Project Location..... 2

## **1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) plans to construct a Maintenance of Way (MOW) facility along its Green Line which runs from Norwalk to Redondo Beach. The facility will be located in Willowbrook, California, just north of Interstate 105 on Imperial Highway between Wilmington and Compton Avenues (Figure 1). Prior to construction of the facility, the project area was tested for lead contamination. Results of the testing indicated some soil contamination at the western end of the long-narrow lot. The lead-contaminated soil must be excavated and removed from the project area before the MOW facility can be built.

To identify cultural resources that may exist within the project area, a record search for previous surveys and recorded archaeological sites was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Based on the results of the record search, archaeological monitoring of the soil removal process was recommended to ensure that no subsurface cultural resources are inadvertently disturbed and/or destroyed during the excavation.

Preliminary soil removal activities occurred in October 1998 and were monitored by an archaeologist from Tetra Tech. During that excavation, soils were only removed from the western end of the project area to a depth of approximately 1.5 feet (.5 meter). No archaeological sites were identified during that process (Guerrero 1998). After soil removal, further testing of the project area for lead contamination revealed some contamination remaining along the western and northern boundaries and in the southeastern corner of the project area. Additional soil removal activities were conducted in March 1999 and were monitored for archaeological resources. This report presents the methods and results of the March 1999 monitoring.

## **2.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

A record search was conducted on March 9, 1998 at the South Central Coastal Information Center at UCLA. A 1-mile radius of the project location was checked for previous archaeological or architectural surveys, known sites, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or the City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments list.

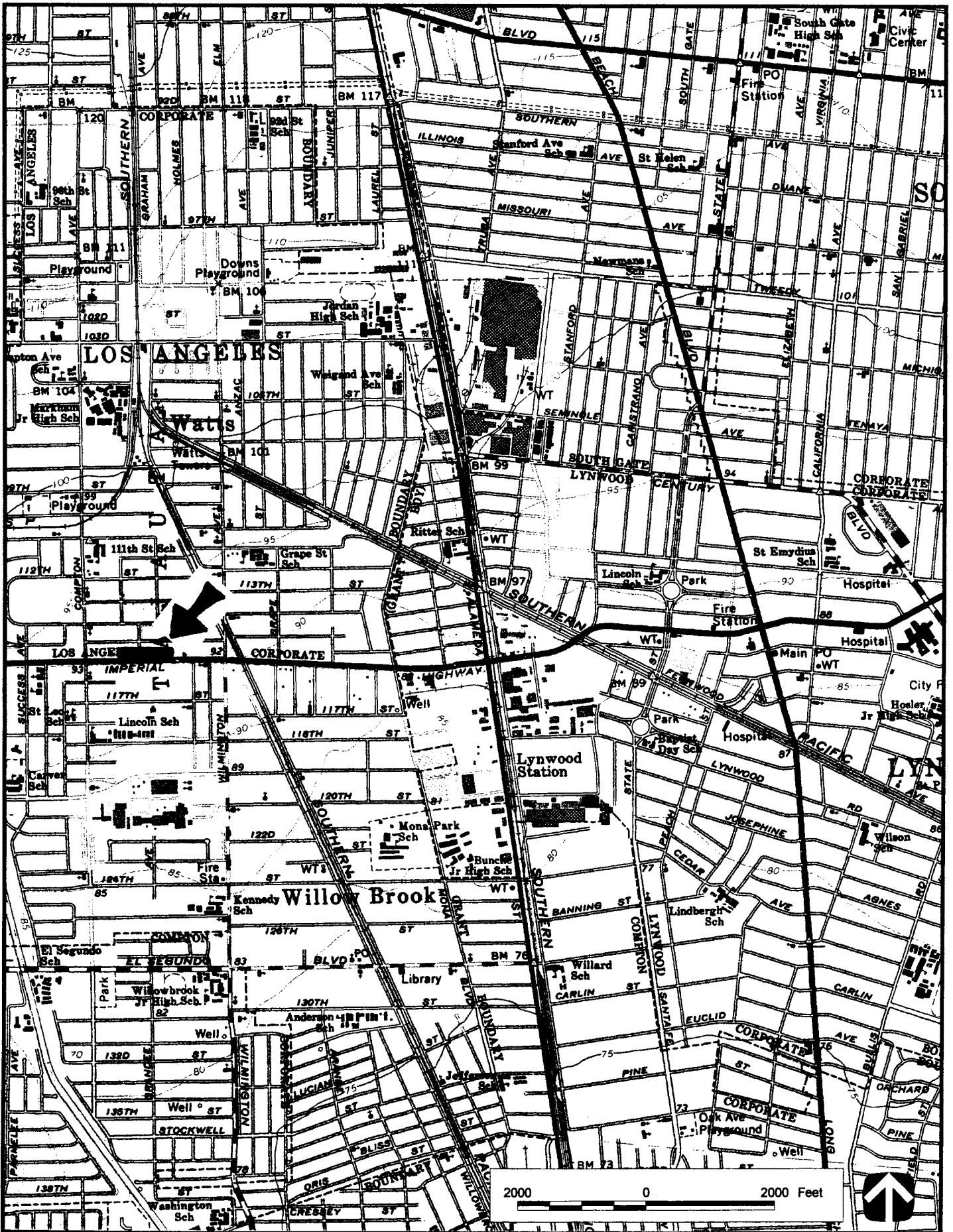


Figure 1, Project Location

1:24000 USGS Topographic Quad, South Gate 1981

No previous surveys have been conducted and no cultural resources have been recorded in the project area. However, several sites have been identified within a 1-mile radius of the project area. The Watts Towers of Simon Rodia, located approximately 1 mile north of the project area, is listed on the NRHP and the CRHR (Office of Historic Preservation 1996) and is a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

A prehistoric site, CA-LAN-385, was recorded in 1969 approximately ½ mile north of the project area. The site, which contained burials and midden deposits, was destroyed by subsequent development (Clewlow 1969). One linear resource, CA-LAN-2950, an historic railway line, was recorded in 1993, also approximately ½ mile north of the project area (Peak and Associates 1993). A survey at 1601-1625 117th Street and 11668 Compton Avenue, southwest of the project area, was conducted in 1997 with no resources found (ENSR 1997). Another archaeological survey was conducted in 1997 at 2053 Santa Ana Blvd, north of the project area. No resources were found during that study (Romani 1997). In 1995 an archaeological survey was conducted of several parcels at 1941-1947 E. 113th Street, located approximately 1000 feet (305 meters) north of the project area. No resources were identified as a result of that survey (Petra Resources 1995). A record search and review of known resources was conducted in the 1970s for the Century Freeway Corridor, which is directly adjacent to and south of the project area. No resources were identified as a result of that search (UCLA Archaeological Survey 197x).

While no resources have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the project area, the area has not been surveyed for cultural resources. The area was developed prior to the implementation of cultural resource review requirements and, while intact resources are unlikely to exist on the ground surface, archaeological resources may be present below disturbed soil. Prior to development, the general vicinity of the project area was a marsh environment (Petra Resources 1995) which could have provided many resources to prehistoric inhabitants. Likewise, unrecorded historic-era resources may also occur.

### **3.0 FIELD METHODS**

Soil removal was conducted on March 16 and 17, 1999. A qualified archaeological monitor was on-site both days to observe all excavation activities. Any materials that were uncovered were examined to determine their age and possible association. The area and extent of excavation was documented and all uncovered materials were recorded. Previous disturbances to the project area were also noted.

## 4.0 RESULTS

All ground-disturbing activities during soil removal were monitored for the presence of archaeological deposits. Soil was removed from four separate locations within the project area, numbered 1 to 4. Area No. 1 is located within the northwest corner of the project area and measures approximately 22 feet (7 meters) square. The first 1.5 feet of soil had been removed in October 1998 and archaeological monitoring at that time had revealed no cultural resources (Guerrero 1998). During the current project, an additional 2 feet of soil were removed from this location. No materials of any kind were observed in this area during monitoring.

Area No. 2 is located along the northern perimeter of the project area, approximately 40 feet (12 meters) east of Area No. 1. The excavated area measures approximately 125 feet (38 meters) east/west by 15 feet (4.5 meters) wide. Soil removal here varied in depths from 1 to 3 feet (0.3 to 1 meter). No cultural resources were identified during soil removal; however, modern debris was noted. Observed materials included a green glass bottle with an aluminum cap, 1960s-era bottle necks, an aluminum soda can, plastic, rags, carpet fibers, a potato chip bag, an automobile oil filter, electrical wire and conduit, ceramic and metal water pipe fragments, chunks of concrete with rebar, asphalt, stucco with chicken wire, painted redwood, lumber, and bricks. None of the material appeared to be historic in age.

Area No. 3 is located just south of Area No. 2 and measures approximately 26 feet (8 meters) north/south by 20 feet (6 meters) east/west. Soil was removed to a depth of 2 feet. No cultural or modern materials were observed in this area during monitoring.

Area No. 4 is located in the southeastern portion of the project area, in an area that was believed to have been filled to bring it to grade level during the construction of Interstate 105. The fill in this spot reportedly reaches a depth of at least 3 feet. Only the first foot of soil was removed during the current project. An archaeologist monitored this soil removal to ensure that no original soil levels or intact cultural resources were encountered. Based on visual observations, all soil excavated from this area was fill material. Debris observed within the fill included large gravel, brick, plastic fragments, and asphalt and concrete chunks. Although some of these materials may be over 50 years of age, they were recently deposited here from another location and have no association with any known historic resource.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

No cultural materials were observed during monitoring of soil removal activities. Therefore, no cultural resources were affected by the project. Given the results of the archaeological monitoring conducted to date

in this area and the high level of disturbances that have occurred here, it is unlikely that intact subsurface deposits exist within the project area. If additional soil removal activities are to be performed within this area, no further monitoring will be required. However, in the unlikely event that cultural deposits are encountered during any ground-disturbing activities, all work in the vicinity of the find should stop until the resource can be documented and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist.



## 6.0 REFERENCES

### ENSR

1997 *Negative Phase I Archaeological Survey, Willowbrook CRP, Los Angeles, CA*. Prepared for the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission.

### Clewlou, William

1969 *Archaeological Site Record Form for CA-LAN-385*.

### Guerrero, Kyle M.

1998 *LACMTA Green Line Maintenance of Way Facility, Archaeological Monitoring Report*. Prepared for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Construction Division, Environmental Compliance Section, Los Angeles, California. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc., San Bernardino, California.

### Office of Historic Preservation

1996 *California Historical Landmarks*. State of California - The Resources Agency, Sacramento, California.

### Peak and Associates

1993 *Cultural Resource Studies for the Proposed Pacific Pipeline*. Prepared by Peak and Associates, Sacramento, California.

### Petra Resources

1995 *Archaeological Survey Report for 1941-1947 E. 113th Street, Los Angeles, California*. Prepared by Petra Resources, Irvine, California

### Romani

1997 *Results of a Phase I Archaeological Survey of 2053 Santa Ana Blvd, Los Angeles, California*.

