

**Finding of Effect Report for the  
Metro Rail Red Line Universal City Station  
in the City and County of Los Angeles, California**

Prepared for:

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## Finding of Effect

### Cultural and Historic Resources

This document analyzes potential effects on an historic property (CA-LAN-1945H) which has been identified and evaluated at the Campo de Cahuenga City Park in the City and County of Los Angeles, California. The Park consists of two elements: subsurface (archaeological) remains of the stone foundations and tile floors of an adobe where the Articles of Capitulation effectively ending the war between Mexico and the United States were signed in 1847, and a standing structure built by the City in 1949-1950 as a commemorative replica. Based on project engineering and a series of archaeological studies summarized below, this report updates the preliminary findings expressed in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)* prepared in 1983 and the *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report* submitted in 1989. The effects being evaluated will result from the anticipated improvements of Lankershim Boulevard in connection with development of the Universal City Station of the Metro Rail Red Line Segment 3.

### Section 106 Compliance

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) have taken into account the effects of the Metro Rail Red Line project on properties listed, or eligible for inclusion, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These agencies have undertaken testing and evaluation of an historic archaeological resource potentially affected by this project.

The evaluation of eligible historic and archaeological sites is based upon the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including an historic context statement and research concerning the subjects of architectural, historical, and archaeological significance. This information was provided in March 1997 to the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), with the supporting reports and documentation, in a *Request for Determination of Eligibility Report*.

### Section 4(f) Evaluation

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) permits the Secretary of Transportation to approve a project which entails the use of a public park or any land from an historic site of national, state, or local significance if there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land, and if planning has been undertaken to minimize harm to the 4(f) lands which would result from such use. Because a portion of the historic property described below extends into the Fremont-Pico Memorial Park acquired and established by the City of Los Angeles in 1923, a Section 4(f) Evaluation was submitted in 1996. A work plan was designed, reviewed and approved

by OHP, and additional archaeological investigation was conducted in the footprint of the haul road. Mitigation measures were stipulated to lessen any adverse effects upon the archaeological site, and in 1996, the Secretary of Transportation approved limited use of a portion of the park for a temporary construction haul road placed over the archaeological site, with a protective covering in place. The 4(f) Evaluation is now being revised in light of a subsequent archaeological investigation and will be submitted to the FTA and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) shortly.

#### Identification of Historic Properties

The FEIS identified the Campo de Cahuenga as State Historic Landmark No. 151, and acknowledged the volunteer excavation in 1932 which exposed areas of stone foundations and Mission-period tile floors, not further described or recorded in detail. An "old road" was mentioned, and the likelihood that a portion of the adobe extended under Lankershim Boulevard, but the text concluded that "there were very little archaeological remains left at that time" (1983:4-41). The postulated location and orientation of the original adobe are illustrated in the 4(f) section of the FEIS (1983:4-61), together with the boundary of the City park and the commemorative structure.

As construction of the Universal City Station began, MTA provided an historical context statement (Kaptain 1994); monitoring of subsurface work in the general area, followed by archaeological test excavation in 1995 (Foster and Selverston); amending the site record for CA-LAN-1945H to include the subsurface discoveries; submittal of a work plan and test excavation in the lawn in front of the commemorative Campo structure in 1996; and finally, extended testing below the sidewalk and into the curb lane of Lankershim Boulevard in 1997. Based on Criteria A, B, and D, the archaeological site was believed to be significant. The request for Determination of Eligibility was forwarded to OHP in March 1997.

The reports which contributed to this evaluation include:

Kaptain, Neal

1994 Campo de Cahuenga, An Historic Site in San Fernando Valley.

Foster, John M., and Mark Selverston

1995 Interim Excavations at Universal City Station, C-301: Campo de Cahuenga (CA-LAN-1945H).

Foster, John M., and Roberta S. Greenwood

1996 Evaluation of Significance: Campo de Cahuenga, CA-LAN-1945H, Los Angeles, California.

Foster, John M., and Roberta S. Greenwood

1997 Addendum Report on Archaeological Investigations at Campo de Cahuenga, CA-LAN-1945H.

Together, the available data confirm that stone foundations representing a minimum of six rooms, four of them with tile floors, remain intact, and that the foundations extend below the sidewalk and beneath at least the curb lane of Lankershim Boulevard. From the sketch map of 1932, before the City structure was built, it is possible that there are additional remains of porches, pillars, and a detached kitchen, butchering waste pits and other deposits of discards.

A request for Determination of Eligibility for the archaeological site designated as CA-LAN-1945H has been submitted to OHP. The commemorative structure built by the City of Los Angeles in 1949 has not been evaluated for its eligibility to the National Register, and is not included within this Finding of Effect.

#### Public Participation

An illustrated presentation was made to the local community on March 31, 1997, as part of a regular MTA public interpretive meeting. Communications have been maintained with the curator of the Campo de Cahuenga Memorial Museum which operates the City park, and the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. There has been frequent coverage by local and national television and press. The site was described at the annual conference of the California Preservation Foundation in Pasadena on May 31, 1997 as an outstanding example of how archaeology and history conducted as part of responsible cultural resource management contribute to historic preservation.

#### Description of Eligible Property

The archaeological site is recognized as the adobe built by Don Tomas Feliz in 1845. In 1847, the Articles of Capitulation ending hostilities between the United States and Mexico were signed here by Lt. Col. John C. Fremont and General Andres Pico. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which followed effectively transferred to the United States nearly 500,000 square miles of territory, not only leading to statehood for California but comprising Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

Limited archaeological testing has so far revealed the presence of stone foundations of at least six rooms, with intact tile floors in at least four rooms. Construction methods, including the use of differential tile sizes, and one threshold with a socket for the door post, have been demonstrated. A broadly dispersed scatter of roof tiles suggests that additional features may be present in areas not sampled. Artifacts were not abundant in direct association with the foundation but included types consistent with the period of occupation: Chinese Export porcelain, pearlware and edgewares, hand-painted "Gaudy Staffordshire," two backstamped British imports dated 1800-1850 and 1810-1825, and an anthropomorphic kaolin pipe bowl. Four fragments of Tizon Brown pottery appear to represent two different vessels of Native American manufacture.

#### Application of the Criteria of Effect

Any effects on historic properties listed on or determined eligible for the National Register must be

reviewed for compliance with Section 106 by applying the rules and regulations found in CFR Part 800 setting forth the criteria of effect, no effect, and no adverse effect with conditions.

MTA has analyzed four alternatives for widening Lankershim Boulevard to avoid the traffic congestion which would otherwise occur when the Universal City Station is opened. These alternatives were: (1) no widening; (2) widening by 11 feet on the west side of Lankershim, north and south of the 4(f) property (Campo de Cahuenga archaeological site and City park); (3) widening of Lankershim by 11 feet on both the west and east sides of the thoroughfare; and (4) widening by 22 feet on the west side of Lankershim with a raised street profile of about 20 inches in the vicinity of the 4(f) property.

The analysis concluded that alternative 2 (above and Figure 1) constitutes the preferred option as a feasible and prudent alternative which would provide acceptable traffic service levels. It would meet the goal of mitigating the station's significant traffic impact, minimize the 4(f) use, avoid the use of the known historic elements of the 4(f) site, and provide for archaeological participation to identify, evaluate, and recover any data exposed as an unanticipated discovery. The new pocket lane extends for 100 feet, beginning at the extreme southwesterly corner of the park, south of the known foundations.

Pending concurrence by OHP, the effects of the undertaking on the archaeological site at Campo de Cahuenga (CA-LAN-1945H) would be *No Adverse Effect*. This applies when FTA and MTA, as federal and local lead agencies, respectively, determine that the effects of an undertaking that might be otherwise adverse may be considered not adverse under the following circumstance:

When the historic property is of value only for its potential contribution to archaeological, historical, or architectural research, and when such value can be substantially preserved by the conduct of appropriate research, and such research is conducted in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines [36CFR 800.9(c)].

Adequate conditions to ensure preservation of the property's significant historical/archaeological values exist in the Memorandum of Agreement of 1983 for this project. In accordance with Sections II.A. and B. (FEIS 1983:4-28), MTA has prepared an Identification Study and Treatment Plan, and has committed to the stipulation that any disturbance or intrusion into areas of the site not previously examined will be preceded by archaeological testing, and that any impacts to features or deposits determined to be significant will be mitigated by scientific data recovery. Present engineering is intended to avoid known portions of the site.

Following the consultation process, the Section 106 process for the Campo de Cahuenga archaeological site will have been completed.

