APPENDIX G – HISTORICAL RESOURCES REPORT
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Equestrian Facilities Project
Historic Land Use Study and Analysis

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28 January 2010
Updated 11 May 2010
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Purpose
The purpose of this report is to provide historical background and analysis of three areas located in Rancho Cuyamaca State Park that are being considered for possible new equestrian facility improvements: the Descanso Area Development; the Paso Picacho Staging Area; and the Green Valley Loop Alternative.

Executive Order W-26-92, California Public Resources Code (PRC) 5024, CA State Parks Resource Management Directives, as well as an operational Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) directs CA State Parks to preserve and protect cultural resources within its purview by avoiding adverse effects during their management. The Department’s Resource Management Directives state that “cultural resources in the State Park System shall be protected against damaging or degrading influences, including deterioration. The Department’s Operational Manual [DOM] states that California State Parks is responsible for finding a balance between the preservation of culturally significant buildings, their adaptive reuse, and removal if they serve no useful purpose, are unsafe or hazardous, or have become financially impractical to maintain. The purpose of this report is to verify if the proposed project is consistent with these management directives to preserve historic resources that are potentially eligible for listing on the California and National registers on their own merit or as contributors to potential historic thematic districts.

Descanso Area Development
The first project location, the Descanso Area Development, is located in the park's southern portion adjacent to the unincorporated community of Descanso. Proposed site improvements include a campground, day-use amenities, and equestrian staging area. Within the latter will be approximately fifteen individual campsites, a host site, shade ramadas, picnic areas, landscape and shade tree plantings, and a comfort station. Other equestrian-related improvements include hitching rails, horse corrals, round pens, arena, day use equestrian staging, and associated amenities, utilities, and other infrastructure.

Descanso: Early History
The history of the project site is tied to the surrounding Descanso Valley’s transition from a ranching settlement to a mountain resort community. It is located at the confluence of three streams: the Sweetwater, Descanso, and Samugantua. They form natural corridors that connected coastal Kumeyaay Indians with Yuma tribes on the Colorado and Gila rivers via the Cuyamaca Mountains and the Carrizo Corridor in what is now the Anza-Borrego Desert.

Early Exploration Period
The project site’s earliest historic use dates back to the early 1770s, when Spanish soldiers and settlers based at the San Diego presidio and mission come in contact with the area’s indigenous Kumeyaay tribal group. The latter, which never came under Mission suzerainty, had used the valley as a summer camp and nexus for mountain trails connecting the coastal and desert regions. In 1772, and again 10 years later, Spanish military governor Pedro Fages followed the Kumeyaay trails linking San Diego to Spanish settlements along the Colorado River and Sonora. In 1825, 15 years after California became a Mexican territory, Alférez (Second Lieutenant) Santiago Argüello of the San Diego Presidio reaffirmed the Fages Trail, which became the official overland mail and immigrant route between San Diego and Mexico City. The trail, which basically follows the present Viejas Grade Road and SR-79 to Green Valley before veering northeast toward Oriflamme Canyon, continued this important function when California became part of the United States after the 1846-1848 Mexican-American War. Between 1857 and 1860 it was part of the San Antonio and San Diego mail line, the first federally subsidized overland mail route connecting San Diego to the east coast.

**Mexican Rancho Period**

Alta California eventually came under the influence of the new Mexican Republic after the latter won its independence from Spain in 1821. While the Kumeyaay living in the Descanso-Green Valley area had remained relatively autonomous during Spanish Colonial times, this ceased under Mexican rule. Threatened by the steady encroachment into their traditional hunting/gathering areas by Mexican ranching activities, in 1837 a band of Indians attacked Pio Pico’s Rancho Jamul. The marauding Indians killed the ranch’s majordomo, and carried off Pico’s two young daughters. In retaliation, a small force of soldiers and Indian allies spent four months pursuing the recalcitrant Indians through San Diego’s backcountry. The Indians chose to make a last stand at the village of Ah-ha-kwe-ah-mac (or Cuyamaca). Located within the present State Park's boundary, the village location was slightly north of Stonewall Peak. After several Indians were killed, the rest surrendered and agreed to submit to Mexican authority. As a result of the “Battle of Cuyamaca,” the Cuyamacas were “pacified”, opening the area for exploitation.

Eight years later, in 1845, Governor Pío Pico granted a “tract known as Cuyamaca [consisting] of 11 leagues, more or less” to his nephew by marriage, Augustín Olvera. Don Olvera, who never resided at his Rancho Cuyamaca, was more interested in exploiting the area’s timber. He sent his agent, Cesario Walker, to manage his affairs at the ranch. Walker lived in an adobe near the Indian village of Mitaragüí, on the south side of Green Valley. Although Walker had begun lumbering operations, the local Indians managed to drive him away. Olvera, who would become a prominent figure in Los Angeles (Olvera Street in Downtown Los Angeles is named in his honor), allowed others to graze their cattle in the ranch’s meadows, which was known for its rich pasturage.
In 1846, Governor Pico also granted four leagues of neighboring land to Ramón Osuna, son of San Diego’s Alcalde, Don Juan María Osuna. Located due west of Olvera’s rancho, Rancho Valle de las Viejas, was a broad valley between present-day Alpine and Descanso. However, he was never able to substantiate his claim to the United States Land Commission after California became part of the United States of America.

**American Homesteading/Ranching Period**

Olvera too began to have difficulty defending his claim. In 1856 James Ruler Lassator and his stepson, John Mulkins, “purchased” 160 acres of land in Green Valley from a local Indian. The land included the site of Cesario Walker’s adobe at the former Mitaragui Indian ranchería. To hedge off further squatters, in 1869, Olvera began selling off parcels himself. One third of what was left of his 35,501-acre ranch he sold to Isaac Hartman, while he sold the remainder to Samuel Stewart. Stewart later sold one-half of his portion to Robert Allison, one quarter to John Treat, and one-quarter jointly to Allison and Juan Luco. Treat, who homesteaded just south of present-day Cuyamaca Lake, between Middle and Cuyamaca peaks, established the Milk Cattle Ranch, where he raised prized Durham cattle and horses. Together, Treat and Allison operated a sawmill on South Cuyamaca Peak.

Robert Allison and his family homesteaded the eastern half of the “Big Guatay Valley” along the Samagatuma Creek, while his son homesteaded the neighboring Samagatuma Valley. Allison, who also raised “a lot of fancy stock” on his ranch, reportedly planted the first ornamental poplar trees in the Guatay/Descanso area. He would go on to become a major land owner in San Diego County, owning most of what is now La Mesa, Spring Valley, and parts of Encanto. Between 1870 and 1884 he and his fellow ranchers Hartmann, Treat, and Luco, were co-defendants in a legal claim against their property. They had allegedly “floated” the boundaries of their land to include the nearby Julian Mining District to claim royalties on gold taken out of their property. The resulting court decision led in favor of the mining district. Only Juan Luco was ordered to disclaim his “right title” and interest to his one quarter section.

A man identified only as Chase reportedly owned the homestead ranch west of Allison in the Descanso Valley, which was then known as “Little Guatay Valley.” It is not known if his ranch encompassed the proposed Descanso Area Development. Chase may have been neighbors with or parcelled out his ranch to subsequent homestead families, who by 1890 had supplanted the local Kumeyaay. The latter had been reduced from fifty to eight families due to a smallpox epidemic and other factors. Among the new homesteaders were Trinidad Rodriguez, Julian Sandoval, Moses Manasse, James Flinn, and Gavino Aguilar. The Sandovals raised barley and grazed horses, mules, and cows. Their adobe ranch house was an important stopover for mail and coach runs between Guatay Valley and San Diego, and was often used as an election polling place of which his neighbor, Gavino Aguilar officiated. Moses Manasse raised mules, hogs, and cattle on his ranch in the western part of Guatay Valley.
Road Development

As more and more homesteaders established small ranches and farms, by 1900 the Big and Little Guatay valleys were developing into a small rural mountain community. Besides the soil’s fecundity, the community’s success lay in its geographical location as the nexus of two important backcountry roads: the "Alternate-Eastern" San Diego-Yuma Road and the Descanso-Julian Road. The current Viejas Grade Road that borders the Descanso Area Development project southern boundary roughly follows the historic east-west route's original right-of-way. From the early 1870s to 1913 passenger coach and freight wagons traveling east up the Viejas Grade Road continued along this route, which was known variously as Viejas Boulevard or County Route 8, to the Samagatuma Creek crossing. Here, they could veer northeast through Green Valley, then up over the circuitous Paso Picacho (Sp. "The Pass through the Peak"). Also known as "Stonewall Gap" after the nearby peak, Paso Picacho connected Green Valley to the Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage Route to Cuyamaca City on the south shore of Cuyamaca Lake. Continuing on to the mining town of Julian to the northeast, the road connected the Cuyamaca area east to Vallecito in the Anza-Borrego Desert via the Banner Grade. Returning to the Descanso Area, the Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage Route also connected the Paso Picacho pass east along Samagatuma Creek to the Yuma Road (or County Highway 8). Past Guatay Mountain, the road continued in a southeasterly direction to Buckman Springs, where it then traveled south to Campo. Here, the road splits east to El Centro and Yuma, or west to the communities of Potrero, Dulzura, and National City.

By 1913 automobile traffic slowly began to supplant horse-drawn stages and freight wagons along the road. As a result of a 1909 bond issue, existing winding wagons roads were straightened out and graded, or abandoned in favor of less hazardous routes. One of these was the road from Julian south through Cuyamaca City to Descanso. In addition, the Viejas Grade Road was discontinued in 1926 in favor of a new alignment of the old Yuma Road a mile south to Descanso Junction. The new concrete-paved highway continued west at Los Terrenitos in favor of a less precipitous route south of Viejas Valley. Part of the transcontinental Lee Highway, it linked San Diego to the East Coast via the Imperial Valley until 1970, when the multi-lane Freeway 80 supplanted it.

Continuing road and highway improvements attracted another sort of visitor to the Descanso area. For an 85 cent bus ticket, a day tripper could travel the 42.6 miles from San Diego to Descanso in a few hours. At Descanso, the traveler could buy a picnic basket at the local general store or café and walk a short distance to any number of scenic locations to enjoy a picnic lunch before taking the return bus back to San Diego. The visitor could also avail himself to an overnight stay in a mountain cabin near the general store or at Hulburd Grove, just west of the study site.
Descanso Area Developed as a Mountain Resort

The Descanso area had been promoted as a mountain retreat as early as 1884. Originally known as “Guatay”, its oak-shaded glen offered a Descanso or Place of Rest (Spanish) for travelers making the long, hot, and dry thousand-foot climb along the Viejas Grade Road. The valley was officially changed to “Descanso” in 1877. Seven years later, a group of four Spiritualists, among them Ebenezer W. Hulburd, came to Descanso. Each filed for a 160-acre homestead, built small cottages and began to farm and raise stock. They soon added adjacent parcels by preemption and timber claims. The group eventually owned some 2,200 acres in partnership and named it the Mountain View Ranch. The group also built a number of additional cottages and promoted the ranch as a retreat for Spiritualists. Many came to attend séances held by Justin Robinson, a well-known spiritualist medium at the time. Although built for utility and economy, the cabins’ stone and timber construction had a certain rustic charm that set the standard of building in the area. By the 1920s, the Hulburd Grove Resort [as it was now known] was a major tourist destination, with a hotel, small store, swimming pool (water was pumped out of the Sweetwater River bed), and riding stable. In addition, a large number of “artistic and commodious homes” were built on the surrounding hillsides and “along the streams”. Many of these homes were built as second homes or vacation rentals for families from San Diego, El Centro, and Los Angeles who were taking advantage of the improved automobile access via the Imperial Valley and Cuyamaca highways.

Also vying for the weekend or summer vacationer was the Descanso Park Addition. Developed in 1926 by Peter Jacobs, a construction engineer who, through the Jacobs Brothers Development Company, was also developing desert properties in Ocotillo, its boundaries encompass the study site as related in a 1930 San Diego Union article:

“The natural beauty of the place is set off by the background of Guatay Mountain, eastward, and by Cuyamaca Mountain and the Cuyamaca Range to the north and east. At the west of Descanso Park runs the Sweetwater River, flooded in the winter season. A smaller stream, which is said never to run dry, Agua Blanca (now known as Descanso Creek), traverses the Park through ravines of granite boulders, shaded by old oaks and pines.”

Jacobs and his sons reportedly designed and built between fifteen to twenty cottages within the tract to “fit in with the natural contour and scenic beauty of the surrounding hills”. One of these cottages, located a half mile to the east of the study site at 25133 Oak Lane, was listed on the San Diego County Register of Historic Places in August 2006.

Both Jacobs, and Hulburd before him, were motivated to develop Descanso into a mountain resort by real estate speculation during economic boom times. The first,
between 1887 and 1915, had been stimulated by hopes of San Diego becoming an entrepot for transcontinental shipping. The second, between 1920 and 1930, was in response to an increase in the area’s economy due to military and tourist-oriented development. This was especially true regarding the latter, which offered greater profits for rural landowners than agriculture.

The decade of the 1920s represented a period of phenomenal growth throughout Southern California. As more and more motorists came to rely on the automobile as their means of primary transportation, they demanded new and improved paved roads and highways. The result was a network of county and state highways branching out from urban centers into nearby mountain communities like Topanga, Lake Arrowhead, Idyllwild, and Descanso. Expecting an increase in automobile-oriented tourism, real estate speculators purchased and subdivided agricultural land into smaller lots on which they built rustic rental cottages. Others, like Los Angeles industrialist Ralph M. Dyar, who purchased the majority of the adjacent Rancho Cuyamaca in 1924, hoped to build mountain or lakefront resort lodges with rental cottages amid golf courses, equestrian trails, polo fields, and private airports. Here, they would entice tourists to buy lots in nearby tracts so that they could “realize the delights of a whole summer spent in the mountains or the advantages of having a place to run out to for weekends . . . [by building] rustic cottages of their own”.

Allen T. Hawley Ranch

One San Diego urbanite who was attracted to Descanso’s natural beauty was Allen T. Hawley, who purchased over 2,200 acres of land in a portion of Lot L of Rancho Cuyamaca on November 29, 1929. The scion of a pioneer ranching family, Hawley’s family first came to the El Cajon Valley from Nebraska in 1884. His father helped organize and finance the San Diego Flume Company, which brought water from Lake Cuyamaca to El Cajon Valley in 1886. He was also one of the first to grow oranges commercially in the valley. His son Allen and his wife Annie L. Hawley moved to San Diego in 1906 where he became a financier and real estate broker. He is recognized as the founder of Hillcrest, a suburban community north of downtown San Diego. Although involved in San Diego’s suburban development, Hawley and his family also invested in San Diego’s rural backcountry. He was the first president of the Cuyamaca State Bank, owned and sold farmland in the El Cajon Valley, and his son Forrest L. Hawley owned and operated a ranch at Flynn Springs.

It is not known if Allen T. Hawley commissioned someone to build or moved into an already built stone cabin on his Descanso ranch. Located at 24910 Viejas Boulevard, the property’s Residential Building Record states that it was built in 1929. It does not state if it was built before or after he bought the property from Jacobs. There is, however, a concrete retaining walled garden terrace in the backyard with the date “11 1 30” etched into the concrete wall’s upper surface, which indicates that the wall was constructed during Hawley’s ownership. While it is likely that the Jacobs built Hawley’s cabin (and a
smaller stone-walled automobile garage nearby), there were two other local stone masons, Harry McCoy and his son Austin “Ott” McCoy, who were known for the artistry of their stonework. Two existing cabins that can be used for comparison purposes are the nearby McCoy family cabins at 24978 Viejas Boulevard.

The Allen Ranch’s one-story, 57-foot by 18-foot cabin’s singular distinguishing architectural feature is its rustic ten-to-fourteen-inch-thick cement-mortared fieldstone and stone veneer and concrete exterior walls. On close inspection, the cabin’s battened stone-faced walls can yield important information regarding early 20th century local stone masonry building practices. The battened stone walls consist of uncoursed river cobbles and rough coarse stone rubble gathered on-site and set in concrete mortar. Prior to the walls’ construction, workers would erect a temporary wooden falsework of upright wooden planks laid vertically on either side of the wall. Braced by upright sleepers, light diagonal braces, and alignment trusses, the planks formed a sort of trough. Stonemasons simply filled the trough with stone set in concrete mortar, leaving a space between the stones and the wooden panel for the interior concrete wall. As the wall rose, they merely slid the vertical planks higher up the falsework and continued the process. After the cement and mortar hardened, they removed the falsework and applied a finish to the interior walls’ surface.

As stated previously, the use of natural building materials, including native stone, together with slab and half-timbered wood construction, reflects local and regional building traditions that date back to the 1880s. While most, like the Allen Ranch Cabin, were simple, comfortable, inexpensive homes, some of multi-room “cabins” were worth as much as $20,000 (or $234,770.29 at the present rate of inflation). Hawley’s two-bedroom cabin would have been adequate for himself and his wife, as well as a guest or two. At fifty-nine, Hawleys may have bought the cabin as a retirement home where he could live out the rest of his life as a “gentleman rancher”. An early-to-mid-20th century phenomenon, a “gentleman’s ranch” was a type of property where affluent urbanites could recreate on a seasonal or permanent basis amid an actual working cattle ranch, orchard, or vineyard. The owners, who man or may not have been actively involved in the ranch’s operation, normally placed the ranch’s every-day operations in the hands of a manager or foreman.

Besides the stone veneer walls, the cabin contains an interesting surviving exterior feature: a wood-fired stone masonry and iron oven/grill in backyard. Known as a “summer kitchen”, it would be used to bake bread and slow-cook meals outside the house during hot summer months. The only other improvement to the cabin was a 12-foot by 8-foot frame kitchen addition built around 1940. While it is not known if or what type of livestock Hawley grazed on the ranch, he did build two chicken coops on the hillside behind the cabin. No longer extant, one structure measured 8 feet by 10 feet, while the other was 16 feet by 7 feet. Hawley and his wife sold the property in 1941 to Lawrence
and Mary Oliver. Poor health may have played a role; Allen Hawley passed away three years later in 1944.

The Oliver Ranch

Arguably the most important historical figures associated with the study property are Lawrence and Mary Emily Oliver. An innovative entrepreneur, businessman, rancher, community leader, and philanthropist, Lawrence Oliver was another gentleman rancher who contributed to San Diego’s economic and social history. A naturalized United States citizen, Oliver had emigrated from the Azores in 1903. Eventually settling in San Diego, he worked his way up from delivery boy, laborer, and fish peddler to president of one of the largest fish meal processing plants in California. Founded in 1922, the Oliver Meal and Oil Company, which later became the American Processing Company, was one of the most successful businesses of its kind on the Pacific Coast. Under Oliver’s management, the company shifted from salting dried fish to processing the byproducts of San Diego’s tuna canning industry into fish meal and oil sold under the Oliver Brand Fish Meal trademark. Local ranchers bought and used it for citrus tree fertilizer or stock feed. Another product, tuna oil, which was high in Vitamin D, was bottled and sold as a food supplement. During its peak, the company’s Beardsley Street plant could produce from 1,000 to 2,000 tons of fish meal a month. However, when San Diego’s tuna canning industry began phasing out after World War II, American Processing shifted to processing meat byproducts from slaughterhouses into poultry feed. Oliver took an active role in the company’s operations until June 22, 1962, when he sold it to the Peterson Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles. Instead of retiring, the then 75-year-old business executive formed another company, the Circle L Investment Corporation, to manage his three deep-sea tuna fishing boats, two downtown San Diego office buildings, and the El Rancho Verde Country Club near Rialto, California.

Oliver’s success garnered him the attention of San Diego’s business elite. On June 16, 1934, C. Arnhold Smith, chairman of United States National Bank of San Diego’s Board of Directors, announced that Oliver had been elected as a fellow board member. Smith described Oliver as “a man of integrity and of recognized business ability”; and as a “self-made man, having reached his present high standing among the business men of San Diego only through his own effort and initiative.” Smith also recognized Oliver as a key member of numerous civic and fraternal organizations, particularly the San Diego Chamber of Commerce’s Industrial and Harbor committees, Rotary, and Elks clubs. Thirteen years later, Lawrence Klauber, vice president of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company, asked Oliver to serve on the company’s Board of Directors, as well as that of the San Diego Zoo. He served on both boards for almost twenty years.

Besides his active role in San Diego’s business affairs for over forty years, Lawrence Oliver and his wife made important contributions to San Diego’s cultural development, particularly to the local Portuguese and Roman Catholic communities. Lawrence Oliver held positions of honor in two Portuguese-American fraternal organizations: the
Irmandade do Divino Espírito Santo and the União Portuguesa do Estado de California. Between the two organizations, he served as secretary, president, conventional delegate, and Supreme Director. His wife, Mary Oliver, was also active in the local Portuguese community, being a member of the Portuguesa Rainha Santa Izabel and the União Portuguesa Protectora do Estado de California, serving as the latter’s Grand President from 1946 to 1947. Together, the Olivers volunteered to maintain the House of Portugal during the 1935-1936 California Pacific Exposition in Balboa Park; and also helped organize the local Portuguese-American League, and the Portuguese-American Social and Civic Club in 1936 and 1940, respectively. Both served as officers for the next twenty years. For his work in promoting the interests of San Diego and California’s Portuguese-American community, during the 1950s the government of Portugal awarded Lawrence Oliver, along with fellow Azorean emigrants Manuel G. Rosa, and M. O. Medina, medals of Honor. Likewise, the Brazilian government awarded Lawrence a medal and title of Comandador.

Lawrence and Mary Oliver also served with distinction as members of the St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church parish, which was located in the heart of San Diego’s Portuguese-American fishing community on Point Loma. His beneficence extended out into the Descanso area. During the late 1940s he donated twenty-two acres of his ranch south of Highway 79 east of Descanso Junction to the Sisters of Social Service as a camp for underprivileged children. During the camp’s 1954 dedication ceremonies, to the Olivers’ surprise, the Sisters named it “Camp Oliver” in their honor. The camp continues to function to this day as a non-denominational all-year non-profit group campground.

Because of his work within the local parish and the community in general, on August 22, 1954 Lawrence Oliver received one of the greatest honors that could be bestowed upon a Roman Catholic: investiture as a Papal Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory. He regarded this honor, the highest that the Catholic Church can give a layman of “unblemished character and [who displayed] a history of promoting the interests of both society in general and the Catholic Church,” as the high point of his career. Equally active in Catholic charities, Mary Oliver also received papal recognition when Pope Paul VI awarded her the Order of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, the highest medal that the Vatican can bestow to the laity for distinguished service to the church.

The Olivers’ near-fanatical zeal in preserving San Diego’s Portuguese-American heritage resulted in an opera buffa-like escapade in which they and a fellow accomplice were involved in the “theft” and “hijacking” of the iconic statue of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (João Rodriques Cabrilho in Portuguese). A gift from the Portuguese government to California, the statue of the allegedly Portuguese-born Cabrillo was supposed to be on display at the 1940 San Francisco Exposition. However, it languished in its original packing crate in an undisclosed location in want of $600,000 worth of unpaid custom fees. The Olivers, who had been involved in organizing the Exposition’s House of Portugal, located the statue in a San Francisco friend’s garage. They immediately
contacted fellow San Diegan and State Senator Ed Fletcher. Fletcher, who arrived at the house with a crane and flatbed truck, presented a “permit” that allowed him to take possession of the 14-foot high, 14,000 pound statue, which he immediately shipped by rail to San Diego. Governor Olsen, who had promised to give the statue to the City of Oakland, threatened to have Fletcher arrested; however, he never followed through. After Fletcher and the Olivers paid for the statue’s assembly, it was erected near the mouth of San Diego Harbor in time for the 400th anniversary celebration of Cabrillo’s 1542 landing. San Diego newspapers had a field day reporting how Oliver and Fletcher had “taken [the statue] from under the noses of Oakland officials.” And that, “Historically speaking, it is likely that the Olivers’ role in the midnight banditry of the 12-foot [sic] statue of Juan Cabrillo will be remembered longest”. In his 1972 autobiography, Lawrence Oliver stated that “For many years the story behind the statue was kept secret because of the hard feelings, but that’s all over now. The statue is where it belongs.”

Like Hawley before him, 54-year-old Lawrence Oliver hoped to live the life of a semi-retired gentleman rancher on his Descanso ranch. His various businesses were prospering under capable managers, so he could afford to spend some time away from them. Prior to his purchase, Oliver had been involved in a hog and cattle raising ranch on the site of Camp Kearny, a former World War I army training center [now USMC Air Station Miramar]. In 1941 the U. S. government acquired the 360-acre ranch via eminent domain. Oliver, however, refused to accept the government’s $14,000 offer and sued the federal government. Oliver eventually won his case, receiving over $50,000. While the case was pending, he sold his hogs and moved the cattle and some horses to his new Descanso ranch.

**Oliver Ranch Improvements**

Between 1941 and 1958, Oliver made improvements to the Descanso ranch including the addition of several buildings and structures. Among these was a 22-foot by 20-foot rectangular, board-sided wood-framed gable-roofed cabin. Set upon a poured-in-place concrete slab, the single-story cabin was built on a flat sandy terrace behind the stone cabin. In 1950, two separate room additions were built on this cabin, measuring 12 feet by 8 feet and 14 feet by 12 feet. Another 54-foot by 28-foot single-story wood-frame, board-sheathed gable-roofed cabin was built on a poured concrete pad in 1952. Because of its size, the Olivers may have used this cabin as their main residence while staying at the ranch.

Besides the original 1929-built stone cabin and two new wood-frame cabins, the Oliver Ranch contained four additional structures: 1) an 80-foot by 48-foot all-redwood-built wood-framed barn, clad in 1-inch by 12-inch vertical board-n-batten redwood planks, built on a concrete foundation; 2) an 18-foot by 20-foot 1-inch by 12-inch vertical board-n-batten redwood plank-clad shed; 3) a 20-foot by 70-foot closed wood-framed workshop and open-bay storage shed, with only its 10-foot by 20-foot western section built on a poured concrete foundation; with 4) an attached 18-foot by 100-foot wood-framed open-
bay implement shed extending south from its southeast corner. The Oliver-built barn and workshop also featured concrete foundations and corrugated iron-covered gable roofs. The ranch complex also contained two electric water pumps, and a 550 gallon above ground fuel storage tank next to the workshop. Except for the original 1929-built stone masonry cabin, all of the other buildings and structures have been removed. The current visitor parking lot southeast of the stone cabin is the site of the L-shaped implement shed, while the area north and northwest of the stone cabin is where the majority of the other structures were built. A short curving dirt road that branches off the study area’s southeast to north dirt access road dates back to the Oliver Ranch era.

In his autobiography, Oliver wrote that he and his family, including his grand-children, loved the ranch, which they visited on weekends. “The place was lovely,” he wrote. “We planted flowering trees and pines which grew tall. We [also] imported lilac from the east.” “Two lakes,” he continued, “were made for irrigation.”

As mentioned, previously, Oliver regarded raising and breeding cattle as “an interesting and successful hobby”. He initially crossed his original herd of English Devon cattle with White Face Herefords. However, the result was not of his liking, so he sold them and bred White Face Herefords alone. Satisfied with the result, he began entering his stock in cattle shows across the nation. During one such show, he was offered $50,000 for an eighteen-month-old bull. He refused and kept the bull for seven years. Named Baca Duke, the nationally recognized award-winning bull later sired two champions; one of which, a heifer, Oliver sold for $12,000. In 1956, the last year he attended stock competitions, he owned the number one undefeated prize heifer of the Pacific Northwest. His wife, May remarked: “I became interested in the cattle and enjoyed the cattle shows. The cattle people are different and intriguing. I even learned to ride a horse.”

Oliver may have called his Descanso ranch and marked his cattle with the “Circle R” brand. The 1940 issue of the California Bureau of Livestock Identification Brand Book indicated that Lawrence Oliver had a cattle brand consisting of an R within a circle. There is no corroborating evidence at this time that indicates whether or not Oliver referred to his Camp Kearny or Descanso ranches as the “Circle R Ranch”. There is also no direct evidence suggesting that the ranch was named the “Circle L”, a name which he later used for his investment corporation. Subsequent research may reveal the answer.

During Oliver’s 1941 to 1958 ownership, he kept his stock numbers below 250 head. Once a year he would employ local cowboys to roundup and cull the herd; the surplus being sold for beef. Coincidentally, Oliver employed Austin “Ott” McCoy as ranch foreman during the 1940s. McCoy also served as a fireman at the Camp Lockett army base near Campo during World War II. After the war he joined the County Road Department, and served as an officer of the State Livestock Commission.
By the late 1950s Oliver found the demands of raising cattle and attending stock shows no longer enjoyable. His advancing age also made it more difficult to travel and oversee the ranch’s activities. Besides, according to Oliver, “Good help was hard to get.” His wife reportedly also wished to spend more time at their Point Loma home instead of at the Descanso ranch. As result, in 1958 Oliver sold his ranch to Dr. and Mrs. Haig C. and Joann M. Merigan.

The Merigan Ranch
The son of Armenian immigrants, Dr. Merigan was born near Fresno, California. After earning degrees in both pharmacy and dentistry, he moved to La Mesa, California, where he practiced both professions for many years. As was Hawley and Oliver, Dr. Merigan was reportedly “a very good business man” who also invested in local real estate. Among his investments were a dental building and several apartment properties.

According to Dr. Merigan’s daughter, the family shared an interest in horses, which they kept and rode near their Mt. Helix [La Mesa] home. However, due to encroaching suburban development, it became increasingly difficult to keep and ride their horses close to home. As a result, her parents decided to find a ranch property which could serve as a weekend retreat where they could continue to ride horses. Finally, after a number of exploratory Sunday automobile rides through San Diego’s backcountry, they found out that the Oliver Ranch was for sale. Oliver agreed to sell his ranch to Dr. Merigan. Part of the deal involved a land swap of the doctor’s Chula Vista apartment properties to Oliver.

After acquiring the Descanso property, the Merigans, who had relocated their horses to the ranch, purchased 100 head of Black Angus cattle. They decided to continue its historic operation as a “gentleman’s ranch”. Indeed, Oliver had left them a fully equipped ranch, with a fleet of trucks and farm implements in two storage sheds. The entire family was involved in “living the life of a cowboy”—riding, herding, branding, medicating, feeding, and selling Merigan Ranch cattle.

While the ranch buildings on and near the knoll continued to play an important role in the ranch’s support operations, the former “Red Auction Barn” was still the ranch’s center of operations. Here livestock were kept in sorting and holding corrals and pens. A “squeeze chute” was used for doctoring and branding cattle. The cattle were grass fed until the last few months, when they went to the feed lot to fatten up before being sold for beef. Still standing along Viejas Boulevard’s south shoulder is the ranch’s loading chute where cattle were offloaded and shipped out by trucks.

The Merigans continued to utilize the fields north of Viejas Boulevard on a rotational basis for livestock grazing and growing and harvesting alfalfa hay. They continued to use the Hawley and Oliver-built foreman and worker cabins, barn, workshop, and other storage buildings and irrigation piping distribution system. The only other improvement in this area attributed to the Merigans was a 1966-built 15’x20’ cabin behind the stone foreman’s cabin. Besides housing ranch hands, one of the cabins was used as a rental unit for visitors.
During the 1970's, the rising electrical fees associated with the operation of the ranch's water irrigation pumps caused the Merigans to cease their cattle operations. They continued to grow oat hay in fields irrigated by seasonal rains and leased the former large red barn to the McClintock Saddle Works.

As part of their scaling back, the Merigans negotiated with the State of California to accept and convert 1,748 acres of their ranch adjacent to Cuyamaca Ranch State Park for park purposes. The Merigans hoped that the area would act as a buffer between future residential developments, preserve open space, and provide the public direct access to the State Park from Descanso. The Merigans also wished that the parcel would have an Equestrian Facility, as envisioned in the park unit’s General Plan. During negotiations, the State insisted that it be allowed to acquire an additional 75 acres that contained the Hawley and Oliver-built improvements. The State acquired both parcels on January 6, 1977, and proceeded to demolish every structure except the stone cabin and a small 1941-built wooden storage shed. Without the need for access to non-existing structures, the dirt loop road around the knoll became two separate “dead-end” branch roads.

California State Parks rehabilitated the former Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Cabin for use as staff housing. Alterations included the post-1977 removal and replacement of original 1x1 double-hung wood-frame windows with louvered aluminum-frame windows along the rear elevation. Additional alterations include the 1999 replacement and reinforcement of the original poured-in-place concrete porch deck and southeast corner perimeter walk in order to prevent the exterior stone-veneer walls to slip out away from their bases. In addition, the original concrete front porch and southeast perimeter walk were replaced. In doing so, however, an original cast-iron boot scrape at the front porch’s extreme northeast corner was removed and never reinstalled. Its whereabouts are unknown at this time.

Conclusion

Prior to 1977, the ranch-related buildings, structures, natural and improved landscape features associated with the former Hawley, Oliver and Merigan ranching activities north of Viejas Boulevard would have been potentially eligible for consideration as a historic district. However, California State Parks’ post-1977 demolition and removal of at least nine of the ranch complex's buildings and structures, including their stone and concrete foundation walls, pads, fencing and other landscape improvements, have severely impacted the site’s ability to convey its historic feeling, setting, and association with early-to-mid-20th century independent ranching activities in the Descanso area.

Taken in hindsight, the ranch complex would have been considered as ineligible in 1977 because it would not have met the minimum 50-year age requirement. This is unfortunate, because in two years, the property would have been eligible for consideration as a potential historic district due to its association with several notable “gentlemen ranchers” involved in independent cattle and other livestock ranching activities in the Descanso area from 1929 to 1960. California State Park evaluators also failed to consider the special consideration the property held with its association with regionally-significant historic individuals like Hawley and Oliver. Incongruously, it
chose to preserve the unique stone foreman’s cabin, but not its garage; and demolished the large all-redwood-built barn, but left the smaller storage shed. The resulting loss of a significant number of contributing character-defining historic elements has reduced the resource's ability to convey its historical significance as a historic district. However, because the location's documented association with a historic activity and individuals, the site would qualify as a potential historic site, where, according to National and California Register standards, surviving historic-era structures are either still standing or vanished. Therefore, the site's surviving stone foreman's cabin, redwood storage shed, dirt road segments, grazing fields, and a row of mature elm trees near the Viejas Boulevard road entrance should be considered for individual preservation management treatments.

**Historic Resources Summary**

**Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin**

Also known as the Allen T. Hawley Ranch Cabin, this stone-veneer wall and wood-roof cabin is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register for its architectural significance and association with early 20th century agricultural development in the Descanso Valley. Constructed in 1929, the cabin's simple plan and the use of local stone and wood building materials are rustic vernacular design features associated with a 128-year-old regional building tradition. It is one of at least twenty extant stone cabins scattered throughout the Descanso/Guatay area, which may be collective contributors to a potentially historical discontiguous vernacular architectural thematic historic district. The cabin is also historically significant for its 48-year association with one of San Diego County's “Gentleman's Ranches”, a rustic retreat as well as an actual working cattle ranch. Two of the ranch's successive owners, Allen T. Hawley and Lawrence Oliver, were noted historical figures involved in San Diego's early-to-mid-20th century economic and cultural development. Evidence suggests that the cabin may have served as Hawley’s ranch house from 1929-1941, and as the foreman’s residence in the expanded Oliver Ranch’s residential and operational complex from 1941 to 1958. The ranch’s subsequent owner, Dr. Haig Merigan, continued the cabin’s historic use as his ranch’s foreman’s cabin until he donated the property to California State Parks in 1977.

**Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Historic Site**

Located on an oak-shaded rocky knoll north of Viejas Boulevard, the site is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register as the location of a ranching complex associated with a one of San Diego County's noted "Gentleman's Ranches", an early-to-mid-20th century Western American phenomenon where affluent urbanites could recreate on a seasonal or permanent basis amid an actual working cattle ranch. Between 1929 and 1941, the site was the center of the Allen T. Hawley cattle ranch. A financier and real estate broker, Hawley had made a significant contribution to San Diego County's suburban and rural real estate development prior to his purchasing of the ranch. The site reached its zenith between 1941 and 1958, when its second owner, Lawrence Oliver, expanded it into the ranch’s residential and operational center. During this time, the site contained at least twelve (12) residential, storage and work-related structures built on or
immediate to an oak-shaded rocky knoll behind Hawley’s original stone cabin, which he converted into a foreman’s cabin. An innovative entrepreneur, businessman, community leader, and philanthropist, Oliver had also contributed to San Diego’s economic and social history before semi-retiring at his Descanso ranch. While the ranch’s main cattle grazing, feeding, and processing center was across Viejas Boulevard to the south, the meadow area west of the complex were utilized to grow alfalfa hay and graze some of Oliver’s prize-winning Herford cattle. The ranch’s subsequent owners, Dr. and Mrs. Haig C. Merigan, continued the ranch complex’ historic use as part of a Gentleman’s Ranch raising horses and Black Angus cattle until selling the ranch to California State Parks in 1977.

While the site still contains several structures dating from its 1929 to 1960 period of historical significance, at least ten structures, including their stone and concrete foundation walls, pads, fencing and other landscape improvements, are no longer extant. As a result, the surviving historic-period resources—a stone cabin, redwood-built storage shed, dirt road segments, grazing fields, and a row of mature elm trees—no longer convey the feeling and connectivity associated with what may have been a potentially eligible historic district. However, despite the cumulative loss of historic fabric, the location still possesses historic value based on its association with historic ranching activities and individuals. Therefore, the former Oliver/Merigan Ranch may qualify as a potential historic site, where the location itself possesses historic value.

**Descanso Elementary School Complex**

While not on, but adjacent to the project site, the Descanso Elementary School Building may be a potentially eligible historic resource. Completed in 1935 and dedicated in 1936, it replaced an earlier schoolhouse located near Old Highway 80 (the present intersection of Wildwood Glenn Lane and Los Terrentos Road) from 1898 to 1935. The present schoolhouse is one of three known Works Progress Administration (WPA)-funded elementary and secondary schools designed by William Percy Lodge during the Great Depression. Originally known as the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the WPA was created by Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 1933. The first national peacetime effort to combat widespread unemployment, this New Deal program spent over $6 billion on projects to improve the nation’s infrastructure. Lodge had designed the other two WPA-funded schools, Julian Elementary School and the Fallbrook Union High School three years earlier in 1933. A licensed architect for many years before coming to San Diego in 1923, Lodge continued to practice architecture in San Diego until 1955. His body of work has not been scrutinized in depth to determine if he was an architect of note. His design of the Descanso Elementary School reflects elements of California Ranch Modern in its roofline, main entry, and fenestration.

Originally built with only two classrooms, a kitchen, and an auditorium, the original Descanso Elementary School building appears to have retained its historic integrity. The site, however, has undergone changes that, arguably, have impacted its historic setting.
For example, a second wing of rooms was added during the 1940s. During the 1980s, modular buildings were added to accommodate a marked increase in student enrollment. While the 1940s wing’s design and rear siting complement the 1935 school building, the modular buildings do not. Mature trees also obscure the school building from the main roadway.

In 1979, San Diego County Central Mountain Community Plan stated that the Community of Descanso regarded the Descanso Elementary School as having “historical interest.” However, it did not state why it is significant; nor is the building listed on any County or State landmark registers. During the course of researching and writing this report, there was not enough contextual information to compare the Descanso Elementary School Complex to other buildings of its kind in San Diego’s backcountry to determine its significance. However, due to its age and relative integrity (when viewed from the south), the 1935 and 1940s school buildings may qualify for potentially eligible historic resources at the local level.

**Green Valley Loop A Campground**

The second proposed equestrian facility improvement project area is located within Loop A of the Green Valley Campground. Also known as the "Sweetwater Loop", it is an improved 3-acre campground located approximately halfway between the Descanso Area Development site and Paso Picacho Staging Area to the north. Existing campground improvements include 22-campsites with tent pads, camp stoves or fire rings, and concrete/wood picnic tables. Existing amenities include a combination building attached to a nearby leach field, and scattered hose bibs. Each campsite also features a pull-in or drive through automobile parking spur or turnout. At least half feature rustic stone retaining walls ranging in height from one to four feet. Built on surrounding slopes, they provide level surfaces for campsites or small RV camping.

The proposed Green Valley Loop equestrian improvements would provide an equestrian campground and associated amenities, as well as parking and connections to nearby existing trail systems. Proposed changes to the existing campground include eliminating campsites #1 and #19, and converted them to trailhead access. In addition, a future bridge may be constructed from the campground's northwest side across the Sweetwater River to allow direct trail access.

The camp host site will remain at its current location (Campsite #11), and will be the only site to have electrical power. The remainder of the existing campsites will be combined in groups of 2-3 to create the larger areas required for up to 15 equestrian sites. Construction work to convert the campsites include moderate grading, reconfiguring campsites, demolishing and reconstructing the stone retaining walls, installing asphalt, installing DG surfacing, and constructing pipe corrals and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mounting ramp.
Two campsites are proposed to be made ADA accessible with a firm surface and compliant furnishings. A route of travel will be constructed from these campsites to the comfort station. The comfort station may be remodeled to meet compliance under a separate ADA project.

Green Valley Campground: Early History

The Loop A Campground's historical period of development begins on January 10, 1933, when the California State Department of Beaches and Parks acquired and created Rancho Cuyamaca State Park. The Park's headquarters was located in the home of the acquisition's former owner, Los Angeles businessman Ralph D. Dyar. Dyar’s home is near the confluence of the Sweetwater River and Cold Stream Creek in Green Valley, northeast of the campground. Due in part to the failure of his proposed El Rancho Cuyamaca development and the onset of the Great Depression, Dyar was forced to divest his San Diego holdings.

Created by the successful passage of California State Proposition 4 on November 4, 1928, the California State Park System had acquired a number of parks in addition to Rancho Cuyamaca. However, the ensuing Depression left the system land rich, but money poor. To offset this, it utilized the services of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to improve parkland. Initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the CCC was a work program that employed thousands of young men and veterans through useful public work. Coordinated by the National Park Service, the CCC’s work consisted primarily of conservation activities that included park development and improvements. A large part of the public and staff facilities at the Park, along with road and trail improvements, are due to the CCC’s work. Camps to house the CCC crews were established at the Green Valley Falls area west of SR-79 and in the meadow immediately east of the Dyar House (at the present site of the San Diego City/County School Camp) where Dyar had built a barn and corral. Known as SP-4, and later as DSP-2, the latter was used to direct improvements and for fire protection in the Park’s northern area. No doubt the former Dyar House’s rustic stone and hand-hewn wood beam construction was the model for a number of CCC-built structures throughout the Park. These "Park Rustic" 1933 to 1942-built Park residences and structures at Paso Picacho and Green Valley, as well as the facilities at the Boy and Girl Scout group camps at Hual-Cu-Cuish and Tapawingo featured mortared native stone and rough-hewn beam construction.

CCC improvements at the entrance to the Green Valley Falls area included a Custodian's Residence and Entry Kiosk on SR-79’s western shoulder. The CCC crews cut out and graded an oiled decomposed granite dirt road from the entrance area in a northwesterly direction to the Sweetwater River. At this point they built a native stone masonry river crossing. They extended the road from the crossing to a junction that split northwesterly along the Arroyo Seco Trail, and southwesterly across the Arroyo Seco to the new Green
Valley Falls Campground and Picnic Area. Completed around 1940, the campground consisted of several dirt lanes that twisted along the eastern flanks of 4,600-foot Pine Ridge. Situated between 3,925 and 4,000 feet, the campground's main attraction, besides affording space for at least 40 campsites, was access to the Green Valley Falls area along the Sweetwater River a few hundred yards to the south. Other Green Valley Falls campground improvements included parking spurs, camp stoves, level tent pads, and two Combination Buildings.

**Green Valley Campground: Loop A**

Except for a dirt road leading up an unnamed, tree-covered rocky knoll, which contains a 50,000 gallon concrete reservoir, there were no other CCC-built improvements in the Study Area. Loop A's development occurred after World War II, when, responding for a need for more public camping throughout the Park, DPR chose to add 21 new improved campsites in a grassy meadow between the Sweetwater River and the northeast slope of the knoll where the CCC-built reservoir stands. Between 1948 and 1950, 21 campsites were constructed around both sides of a D-shaped dirt road that followed the campground’s perimeter. Originally known as the "Sweetwater Loop" campground, all of the new campsites featured a graded parking spur, concrete and wood picnic table, and cement-mortared stone rubble masonry camp stoves. Near the middle of the meadow was a small, rectangular, gable-roofed, wood-frame Combination Building.

According to an uncorroborated 1987 statement by John E. Walstrom, former manger of California State Parks’ Southern Region's Technical Services Center in San Diego, he, along with local stone mason Charley Sour and another individual named George Foot, built "the existing Diablo style stoves . . . at Cuyamaca . . . from 1958 and 1960". There are only three of these stoves remaining. They can be found at campsites 1, 2, and 5. A rubble pile southeast of campsite #10 near SR-79 appears to contain the broken remains of some of the original camp stoves. An additional fragment, containing a matrix of stone, cement mortar, and brick fragments, may have been utilized as one of the rock bollards running along the circulation road south of the entrance to the Camp Host campsite (the original Campsite #11).

The Combination Building at Loop A was one of many new staff and public-use buildings erected at Green Valley Falls, as well as other campgrounds and day use facilities within the park unit. They are associated with a comprehensive expansion of California State Parks’ infrastructure after World War II. In addition to the existing CCC-built improvements, DPR added numerous landscape improvements during the 1948 to 1960 postwar period. These included staff residences and garages; comfort stations and combo buildings; and hardscape improvements such as stone camp stoves, concrete and wood plank picnic tables, and wooden food lockers.
Inspired by a design concept that originated as early as 1944, the California State Division of Architecture had produced a series of new standardized building plans for State Parks between 1947 and 1954. While similar to their CCC-built predecessors, these new buildings and structures reflected a simpler, "stripped-down" standardized version of the Park Rustic style.

For example, during the CCC-era, a combination building's design normally reflected a site-specific adaptation with regards to the availability of local building materials and skilled masons assisted by a large, unskilled labor force. A solid, massive-looking structure built of heavy field stones and hand-hewn timbers, it reflected permanence and hope for the future. On the other hand, a late 1940s "Mountain Type" combination building like the one built at Loop A displayed a more austere minimalist approach to cope with post-war material, labor, and funding shortages. Its character-defining features included a rectangular “boxcar-like” shape with a simple asphalt shingle covered gable roof, bands of small wood-frame windows, inexpensive standardized fixtures, and straight-forward design devoid of architectural elaboration. Their simple, box-like utilitarian style, in deference to high construction material and labor costs, mirrors the economic realities of the time. While standardized, there was an effort by Park staff to use building materials and paint schemes that complemented rather than stood out within the surrounding landscape.

Some of the Study Area's most character-defining landscape features—cement-mortared coarse stone rubble masonry retaining walls and steps—were not built during the campground's 1948 to 1960 period of historic significance. John E. Walstrom also stated that "Rock work in the Sweetwater Loop Camps 1 to 22 was installed by La Cima inmates under the direction of Lyle Watson in 1970-71". In addition, he goes on to state that the La Cima inmate construction crew also installed the "rock work at the [Green Valley] Falls comfort station" at the same time. All attempts to contact Walstrom's contemporaries to corroborate his statements have proven fruitless.

Finally, while the campground's "D"-shaped circulation road, as well as the campsites' parking spurs and turnouts are original, the composition asphalt gravel pavement, which dates to the mid-1970s, is not. All of these alterations and post-1960 improvements combine to reduce Loop A's historic significance and eligibility for designation as a thematic post-war Rustic historic district.

**Historic Resources Summary**

**CCC Reservoir and Access Road**

Located along the campground's southeastern perimeter, the single-lane-wide dirt road begins at a gated entrance between campsites 10 and 12 and curves up the southeastern and southern ridgeline of an unnamed rocky knoll to a point overlooking the knoll's western flank. At this location sits a 40-foot by 24-foot poured-in-place above-ground
concrete reservoir. Approximately 6 feet of the reservoir's 10-foot-high side walls are above ground. Constructed by the CCC in 1934, it is one of three concrete water-storage reservoirs that the CCC built throughout the Park during the 1930s. Despite some modifications to a chlorination shed at its base, the structure has maintained its historic integrity in regards to location, setting, materials, workmanship, and design. The dirt road originally looped to the top of the knoll and back down its northeastern flank to the campground. No longer used as a vehicle access road, the northeast loop road has been converted into a hiking trail. The latter still maintains its historic integrity in regards to location, setting, and materials: there are several large stone boulders that form a retaining wall along its upper section's southeast-facing shoulder.

**Loop A Campground Historic Landscape District**

The D-shaped campground dates to the Park's postwar improvement period. Its character-defining features include wood plank-topped concrete picnic tables with graded tent pads and metal fire rings. At least 11 campsites (1-10 and 12) contain cement-mortared coarse stone rubble masonry retaining walls and steps; with three of these (1-2, and 5) containing "Diablo" style cement-mortared coarse stone rubble masonry camp stoves. Rocky outcroppings, terraced campsites, mature trees and shrubs, surrounding an open, grassy meadow, along a flowing stream, are contributors to its historic setting.

While the campground has maintained its original location and setting, there have been cumulative changes to its historic fabric that lessen its historic significance in regards to design, materials, and workmanship. For example, the 1948-built Comfort Station's original exterior horizontal wood clapboard wall cladding and awning-style wood windows have been replaced with non-compliant modern style horizontal wood siding and sliding metal windows, reducing the structure's historic integrity. Other changes to the campground’s postwar Park Rustic landscape are what appears to be the loss of a significant number of “Diablo Stoves”, and the realignment of several parking spurs after 1970.

In addition, the campgrounds' most distinctive landscape features, the stone masonry retaining walls and stairways, are less than 50 years old, are not therefore eligible for consideration as contributors to a potential National or California register-eligible postwar Parks Rustic landscape. While excellent surviving examples of the area’s traditional stone-building practices, they have not reached a level of exceptional importance on their own. A better representational example of an intact pre-to-postwar Park Rustic historic landscape within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park can be found at the Paso Picacho Campground and Administrative Center to the north.

While they will not be eligible for consideration as contributing historic landscape features until 2020, Loop A's 1970-1971 stone masonry landscape features may be eligible for special planning consideration. As mentioned, previously, the stone work
reflects the area's 100+ year building history (including the Park’s) of using indigenous stone to construct rustic buildings, structures, walls, culverts, and other landscape features. Because of this, they should be given special preservation consideration during the project's planning, design, and construction phases.

**Paso Picacho Day Use Area**

The third proposed equestrian improvements project area is east of State Highway 79 across from the west entrance into the Paso Picacho Administration/Campground area. This site would create a day-use staging area that includes space for approximately eight vehicle and equestrian trailer rigs with pull-through parking and amenities. Site improvements include the removal or thinning out of some standing trees within the project area. The project also includes constructing new and/or connections to existing trails, particularly to the California Riding and Hiking Trail. Depending on site conditions, restrooms would be on septic and/or a contained vault system. The project may also involve providing access to gas, water and electricity.

The proposed Paso Picacho Day Use Area’s A.P.E., which is limited to the area being developed east of the SR-79 shoulder, does not contain any recorded historic resources. However, there are two potentially eligible historic resources within the project's A.P.E.: the route of the Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage and the Stonewall Jackson Peak Trail. The first is an important historic transportation corridor dating back to the 1870s. The second is associated with the celebrated CCC work in developing the Park’s infrastructure during its infancy.

There are also several potentially eligible historic resources immediately west of the project area dating to the park's creation. They include the route of SR-79, the entrance to the Paso Picacho Administrative and Campground Complex, and the Cuyamaca Forest Fire Suppression Station. The first is another important transportation route, while the others are associated with the CCC and later post-World War II statewide improvements to State Parks' infrastructure.

**Historic Resources Summary**

**Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage Route**

Located just east of SR-79, the Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage Route is a historic transportation route that extended along the western base of Stonewall Peak through the Stonewall Gap. Native Americans, Spanish, and later Mexican and Anglo-Americans may have used this route connecting Green Valley to what is now Lake Cuyamaca via Paso Picacho. However, its primary historical use began in the early 1870s as a graded dirt freight wagon and passenger coach road linking San Diego with the newly discovered Julian and Cuyamaca gold mines. After the mines played out during the early part of the 20th century, the road continued to carry freight, passenger, and mail coaches.
between San Diego and its mountainous backcountry and desert areas. It was also an important route for local farmers and ranchers moving crops and animal herds to market. After 1910, as gasoline-powered cars and automobiles supplanted horse-drawn wagons and coaches, the road’s importance decreased due to the construction of the present highway. While the road is no longer extant, historic maps suggest that during the 1930s the route was incorporated into an equestrian trail (the Park's current Cold Stream and Minshall trails).

**Stonewall Jackson Peak Trail**

This trail is associated with Park improvements made by the CCC during the Great Depression, and provides a tangible link to a cooperative federal and state park development program that served to improve accessibility to visitors and park personnel in federal and state parks and forests nationwide. More important, the program provided jobs and hope to out-of-work young men and older military veterans during one of the greatest economic crises in the nation’s history. The Park's history is inexorably linked to this program, which played an important role in the Park’s initial development. From the main base camp just east of the Dyar Lodge (a.k.a. Stonewall Lodge), supervised CCC enrollees built roads, trails, campgrounds, buildings, and other structures throughout the Cuyamaca Rancho, as well as at Palomar and Anza-Borrego Desert State Parks. While the trail has experienced some modifications, particularly some rockwork near its junction with the Cold Stream Trail, the route up to the Stonewall Peak lookout is essentially intact.

**Green Valley-Cuyamaca Valley Segment of SR-79**

The scenic SR-79 transportation corridor has served as a key transportation and communication route between the mountain communities of Descanso and Julian, and by extension San Diego to Borrego Springs. Besides providing southern access from San Diego to Lake Cuyamaca and Julian as early as the 1910s, the road contributed to the development of the Park from the 1930s through today. During this time, it provided access to the Park's northern section via Paso Picacho for CCC crews traveling from their camp near the Stonewall Lodge to various construction sites, including the nearby Paso Picacho Campground, and two new Boy and Girl Scout camps near Cuyamaca Lake. It was also the route they took to work camps outside the Park at Palomar Mountain and Anza-Borrego Desert State Parks. After World War II, the road continued to contribute to the Park’s development, as well as turn the Descanso/Julian area into a highly visited mountain vacation destination.

Although the highway's route has not changed appreciably since the 1930s, the current roadbed appears to have been widened and paved over since the 1970s to accommodate modern highway safety standards. While this has reduced its historic integrity, like the Torrey Pines Grade Road at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the route itself may be an eligible historic resource. The Paso Picacho Day Use Area Project would not impact the route's historic integrity.
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
This building is associated with California State Park’s earliest development of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park from the mid-to late 1930s. Built by CCC members, it is an excellent example of the Park Rustic style. Despite alterations in order to adapt it for use as the Park Unit’s Sector Office after the disastrous 2003 Cedar Fire, the building, along with the neighboring Cuyamaca Forest Fire Suppression Station to the south, has maintained its historic integrity.

Cuyamaca Forest Fire Suppression Station
Completed in 1934, it is also a good representation of a CCC-built utilitarian structure in the Park Rustic style. Its historic significance lies in its Park Rustic architecture and its 74-year continuous use as a California Division of Forestry (CDF) fire suppression station.

Paso Picacho Campground Entry Kiosk
One of two public contact points for campers (the other being the identical Green Valley Campground Entry Kiosk), its rustic style represents the trend towards standardization of State Parks’ architecture during post-World War II.

Paso Picacho Campground Gift Shop
The Gift Shop is another postwar design. It also represents the trend towards standardization of State Parks’ architecture. The Gift Shop, along with the rest of the CCC and California State Parks-built Park Rustic Style buildings constructed between 1930 and 1960 are contributors to a potentially eligible discontiguous Park Rustic Thematic Historic District at the Park.

The proposed equestrian trailhead’s built improvements do not appear to pose adverse effects to the potentially eligible historic resources within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project's A.P.E.--the historic resources within the A.P.E. have already been altered or impacted through past activities. Likewise, the trailhead improvements’ compatible design, scale, and use of building materials, in addition to existing trees and shrubs, will reduce any visual impacts.
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Royal, James. Chairperson, San Diego County Historic Site Board. Telephone Interview with Author, October 2007.


______. *Grant Deed. Allen T. Hawley and Annie L. Hawley to Lawrence Oliver*. Official Records Book 1260, 3 October 1941, 142.


Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Equestrian Facilities Project
Historic Land Use Study and Analysis


______. *Notification of Real Property Transfer*. APN 408-010-41 7 42, 20 February 1980.


* Cuyamaca Peak, California*, 1944.
* Cuyamaca Peak, California*, 1960.
* Descanso, California*, 1960; Photorevised 1982.


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**Green Valley Loop A Campground**


California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park*. File No. 1409E, 19 May 1961, 1 Sheet.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Equestrian Facilities Project
Historic Land Use Study and Analysis


Sweetwater River Campground and Combination Building. Drawing No. 6869, 31 August 1948.


Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, California. Development Outline, September 1937; Revised April 1940 and January 1941.


"Cuyamaca State Park Improvements Described". California Conservationist, March 1939, 23.


_____. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle*, 1960.

_____. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle*, 1944.

_____. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle*, 1927.


**Paso Picacho Day Use Area**


______.  *Residence #7 at Paso Picacho.* Recordation Forms, 15 August 2000. On File at California State Parks Southern Service Center.


*Cuyamaca Peak, California,* 1944.
*Cuyamaca Peak, California,* 1960.
*Descanso, California,* 1960; Photorevised 1982.


Wright, William L. “Unique Cabins Drawing Card to Popular Mountain Retreat Unsuspected from Road, 40 Miles from S. D.” *San Diego Union,* 1 August 1934, 1.
Addendum

1. Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin Recordation Forms
2. Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Historic Site Recordation Forms
3. Loop A Campground Historic District Recordation Forms
4. Paso Picacho Administration/Campground Area Recordation Forms
1. Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin Recordation Forms
**Resource Name or #:** Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman's Stone Cabin

**P1. Other Identifier:** Allen T. Hawley Ranch Stone Cabin

**P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

**a. County:** San Diego

**b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Descanso

**c. Address:** 24910 Viejas Boulevard

**d. UTM:** Zone: 11; 536367.90mE/3635853.12mN (G.P.S.)

**e. Other Locational Data:** Elevation: 3,416'; APN 408-050-07; Located in the southwest corner of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, .97 mi. due west of SR79 along Viejas Boulevard to Spargur Lane; then 255' north along a graded dirt road past an unpaved park visitor parking lot to an oak-shaded rocky knoll.

**P3a. Description:**
This single-story, rectangular single-family residence’s distinguishing character-defining architectural features include a medium-pitch composition asphalt-shingled roof, with overhanging gables and horizontal wood clapboard tympanus, over uncoursed fieldstone and stone rubble veneer walls. Fenestration consists of twin 6-light rectangular 1x1 wood-frame double-hung sash windows set in wood muntins along the southwest and southeast corner elevations; a single rectangular 7-light diamond or double-X-pattern sash window set in wood muntins under the west porch overhang; and one fixed-sash picture window under the east porch overhang. A 2-sashed double-hung window is located under the east gable, while a 4-light wood panel “cottage” style door is situated in the stone wall under the north gable. The cabin’s main south-facing entry door consists of two non-original glass and wood panel doors. Aluminum-frame louvered windows are set along the cabin’s north elevation. A half-gabled kitchen addition extends mid-center off the cabin’s northern elevation. Immediately behind this is a stone “summer kitchen” stove, with a metal griddle and warmer, and a concrete-walled terraced garden area.

**P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2-Single-family Property; HP30-Trees/ Vegetation; HP33-Farm/Ranch; HP45-Unreinforced Masonry Building; HP46-Walls

**P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

**P5b. Description of Photo:** Looking NE, 2008May5, 2008Merigan007

**P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Both, ca. 1929, County Records

**P7. Owner and Address:** California State Parks, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

**P8. Recorded by:** Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II, California State Parks, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Ste. #270, San Diego, CA 92108

**P9. Date Recorded:** 2010 May 2010

**P10. Survey Type:** Project Impact Study; Recordation Update

Resource Name or #: Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin

B1. Historic Name: Hawley Ranch Cabin; Lawrence Oliver Ranch Foreman’s Cabin
B2. Common Name: Merigan Ranch House

*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular Ranch Cabin

*B6. Construction History: Built, ca. 1929; front porch overhang, ca. 1941; wood frame, ½ gable kitchen addition, ca. 1941; rear louvered aluminum-frame windows, and perimeter fence around rear yard, ca. 1977; stabilization of southeast and southwest corner wall foundations, 1999; removal and replacement of front porch and southeast sidewalk, 1999; original iron bootscrape located at east end of cement walk missing, 1999.

*B7. Moved? □No □Yes □Unknown Date: Original Location:

*B8. Related Features: Outdoor stone masonry stove, built ca. 1930, outside kitchen addition; fire brick brand in hearth reads "PACIFIC- EXCELSIOR"; concrete retaining wall-terraced rear garden, date—11-1-30 etched in wall’s upper surface; redwood storage shed/barn north of rear fence; mature oaks and granitic rocky outcroppings are located around the cabin; graded dirt road located off the cabin’s southern perimeter.


*B10. Significance: Theme: Vernacular Architecture/Ranching  Area: Descanso Valley Area

Period of Significance: ca. 1929-1960  Property Type: Single-family Residence  Applicable Criteria: 1, 2, 3

Also known as the Allen T. Hawley Ranch Cabin, this stone-veneer wall and wood-roof cabin is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register for its architectural significance and association with early 20th century agricultural development in the Descanso Valley. Constructed in 1929, the cabin's simple plan and the use of local stone and wood building materials are rustic vernacular design features associated with a 128-year-old regional building tradition. It is one of at least twenty extant stone cabins scattered throughout the Descanso/Guatay area, which may be collective contributors to a potentially historical discontiguous vernacular architectural thematic historic district. The cabin is also historically significant for its 48-year association with one of San Diego County's "Gentleman's Ranches", a rustic retreat as well as an actual working cattle ranch. Two of the ranch's successive owners, Allen T. Hawley and Lawrence Oliver, were noted historical figures involved in San Diego's early-to-mid-20th century economic and cultural development. Evidence suggests that the cabin may have served as Hawley's ranch house from 1929-1941, and as the foreman’s residence in the expanded Oliver Ranch's residential and operational complex from 1941 to 1958. The ranch's subsequent owner, Dr. Haig Merigan, continued the cabin's historic use as his ranch's foreman’s cabin until he donated the property to California State Parks in 1977. Despite alterations to its front entry doors, patio deck, and rear windows, the building continues to display its historic association with traditional local vernacular stone building traditions and ranching activities through its location, setting, design, materials, and craftsmanship.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)


B13. Remarks:

California State Parks, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite #270, San Diego, CA 92108
*Date of Evaluation: 13 May 2010

See Sketch Map DPR 523J
*Resource Name or #*: Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin

*Map Name*: Descanso, California

*Scale*: 1:24000m

*Date of Map*: 1960, Updated 1988

*Required information*
Oliver/Merigan Ranch Foreman’s Stone Cabin

*Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil
*Date: 13 May 2010

Note: Plans not to scale

North
P5b. Description of Photo:

Foreman’s Cabin
Looking NE
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
2008 May 5
2008May5, 2008Merigan073

Foreman’s Cabin
Looking NW
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
2008 May 5
2008May5, 2008Merigan072
P5b. Description of Photo:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Image Path</th>
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<td>Foreman’s Cabin Looking Southwest at Kitchen Addition and Dog-eared Fence</td>
<td>Alex D. Bevil</td>
<td>1999 15 January</td>
<td>1999Jan15Merigan003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrawled in Cement Retaining Wall Cap</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreman’s Cabin Looking North at “11-1-30”</td>
<td>Alex D. Bevil</td>
<td>1999 15 January</td>
<td>1999Jan15Merigan004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrawled in Cement Retaining Wall Cap</td>
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</table>
P5b. Description of Photo:

Foreman’s Cabin
Looking Northwest at “Summer Kitchen”
Stove/Oven in Backyard
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
1999 15 January
1999Jan15Merigan005

Foreman’s Cabin
Firebrick in “Summer Kitchen”
Firebox/Hearth
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
1999 15 January
1999Jan15Merigan005
P5b. Description of Photo:

Foreman’s Cabin
Looking Northwest at “Summer Kitchen”
Stove/Oven Firebox Door
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
1999 15 January
1999Jan15Merigan007

Redwood Storage Shed/Barn
Looking Northwest
Taken by: Alex D. Bevil
1999 15 January
1999Jan15Merigan008
2. Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Historic Site Recordation Forms
State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings
NRHP Status Code 3CS

Review Code  
Reviewer  
Date

Page 1 of 20

*Resource Name or #: Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Site

P1. Other Identifier: Hawley Ranch Site

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication  ☐ Unrestricted  
   *a. County: San Diego
   and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
   *b. USGS 7.5’ Quad: Descanso Date: 1962/1982 T;R; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; B.M.
   c. Address: 24910 Viejas Boulevard City: Descanso  Zip: 91916
   d. UTM: Zone: 11 ; 536390.12mE/3635857.83mN (G.P.S.)
   e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 3,420'; APN 408-050—07; Located in the southwest corner of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, .97 mi. due west of SR79 along Viejas Boulevard to Spargur Lane; then 255' north along a graded dirt road past an unpaved park visitor parking lot to an oak-shaded rocky knoll.

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) The site is a flat, oak-shaded rock-strewn sandy stepped terrace and gradual-sloping hillside covered with low-growing forbs and grasses. Several round to oblong granitic outcroppings and mature oak trees form the site's northeast, southeast, and western perimeters. A stone masonry cabin and small barn-like detached wood-frame storage shed lie at the site's southwest-facing hillside. Two dirt roads approach the site from the southwest and southeast corners. Although archival records intimate a complex consisting of additional cabins, barn, and other ranch-related support structures, the stone cabin, shed, and only a few scattered building debris mark the site. Non-contributing features include a small shed-roofed storage structure, metal-framed gabled green house, electric meter posts, wood utility poles, and concrete water meter vaults.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2-Single-Family Property; HP-30-Trees/Vegitation; HP-32-Rural/Open Space; HP33-Farm/Ranch; HP37-Highways/Trail

*P4. Resources Present: ☐Building ☐Structure ☐Objects ☐Site ☐District ☐Element of District ☐Other (Isolates, etc.)

*P5b. Description of Photo: Looking Southeast; 9 Feb 07; DSC06066-merigan area.JPG

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☐Historic ☐Prehistoric ☐Both 1941-1958; see Cont. Sheet-Bibliography

*P7. Owner and Address: California Department of Parks & Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

*P8. Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II  
   CA State Parks, So. Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Ste. #270, San Diego, CA 92108

*P9. Date Recorded: 11 May 2010

*P10. Survey Type: Project Impact Study; Recordation


*Attachments: ☐NONE ☐Location Map ☐Sketch Map ☐Continuation Sheet ☐Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐Archaeological Record ☐District Record ☐Linear Feature Record ☐Milling Station Record ☐Rock Art Record ☐Artifact Record ☐Photograph Record ☐Other (List):
Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Site

**A1.** Dimensions:  
- a. Length 200'-260' (north/south)  
- b. Width 270' (east/west)

Method of Measurement:  
- Paced  
- Taped  
- Visual estimate

Method of Determination (Check any that apply):  
- Artifacts  
- Features  
- Soil  
- Vegetation  
- Topography

- Cut bank  
- Animal burrow  
- Excavation  
- Property boundary  
- Other (Explain): Historic aerial photography; property records; topographic maps

Reliability of Determination:  
- High  
- Medium  
- Low

Limitations (Check any that apply):  
- Restricted access  
- Paved/built over  
- Disturbances  
- Site limits incompletely defined  
- Vegetation

**A2.** Depth:  
- None  
- Unknown

**A3.** Human Remains:  
- Present  
- Absent  
- Possible  
- Unknown (Explain): No historic record of human remains

**A4.** Features (Number, briefly describe, indicate size, list associated cultural constituents, and show location of each feature on sketch map.):  
The only observable features are two graded areas within the site's boundaries.

**A5.** Cultural Constituents (Describe and quantify artifacts, ecofacts, cultural residues, etc., not associated with features.):  
Scattered building remains-bricks, cement footings, cement pier footings, galvanized electrical conduit, cement fence post holes, wood fence posts; asphalt pavement sections, and wire nails

**A6.** Were Specimens Collected?  
- No  
- Yes (If yes, attach Artifact Record or catalog and identify where specimens are curated.)

**A7.** Site Condition:  
- Good  
- Fair  
- Poor (Describe disturbances.): Scattered low-growing forbs and grasses cover most of area making it difficult to discern small artifacts.

**A8.** Nearest Water (Type, distance, and direction.):  
- Sweetwater River (seasonal stream), 1,200' west; Descanso Creek (seasonal stream), 800' south

**A9.** Elevation:  
3,400 feet

**A10.** Environmental Setting (Describe culturally relevant variables such as: vegetation, fauna, soils, geology, landform, slope, aspect, exposure, etc.):  
The site is a flat, rock-strewn sandy stepped terrace covered with low-growing forbs and grasses. Several round to oblong granitic outcroppings and mature oak trees form the site's northeast, southeast, and western perimeters. A stone masonry duplex cabin and barn-like detached wood-frame storage shed lie at the site's southern boundary. Two dirt roads approach the site from the southwest and southeast corners. Although archival records intimate a complex consisting of a primary residence, auxiliary cabins, barn, and other ranch-related support structures were on-site, a 1929-built stone cabin, 1941-built barn-like shed, and a few scattered building debris mark the site's approximate location. Non-contributing features include a small shed-roofed storage structure, metal-framed gabled lath house, electric meter posts, wood utility poles, and concrete water meter vaults.

**A11.** Historical Information:  
This is the site of three ranch complexes that occupied the site from 1929 to 1977. See Continuation Sheet for more details.

**A12.** Age:  
- Prehistoric  
- Protohistoric  
- 1542-1769  
- 1769-1848  
- 1848-1880  
- 1880-1914  
- 1914-1945  
- Post 1945

- Undetermined (Describe position in regional prehistoric chronology or factual historical dates if known): Site's period of historic significance dates from 1941 to 1958

**A13.** Interpretations (Discuss data potential function[s], ethnic affiliation, and other interpretations):  
The site marks the location of the historic Lawrence Oliver Ranch Complex. Subsequent archaeological excavation may reveal the spatial relationship between the various buildings and structures and mid-20th Century ranching practices.

**A14.** Remarks:

**A15.** References:  
See Continuation Sheet

**A16.** Photographs (List subjects, direction of view, and accession numbers or attach a Photograph Record.):  
See Continuation Sheets

- Original Media/Negatives Kept at: California Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center

**A17.** Form Prepared by:  
- Alexander D. Bevil  
Date:  
11 May 2010

- Affiliation and Address: State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92108

DPR 523C (1/95) *Required information
A11.

The site is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register as the location of three successive "Gentleman's Ranches" in San Diego's mountainous backcountry from 1929 to 1977. An early-to-mid-20th century Western American phenomenon, a "Gentleman's Ranch" was a rural property where affluent urbanites could recreate on a seasonal or permanent basis amid an actual working cattle ranch. The ranch's first owner, Allen T. Hawley, was a local financier and real estate broker who had made a significant contribution to San Diego County's suburban and rural real estate development prior to his purchasing the ranch in 1929. The site reached its zenith between 1941 and 1958, when its second owner, Lawrence Oliver, expanded it into his larger Circle R Ranch's residential and support center. During this time, the site contained at least eleven (11) residential, storage and work-related structures built on or immediate to an oak-shaded rocky knoll behind Hawley's original stone cabin and garage, which Hawley later converted into a foreman's cabin. An innovative entrepreneur, businessman, community leader, and philanthropist, Oliver had also contributed to San Diego's economic and social history before semi-retiring at his Descanso ranch. While the ranch’s main cattle grazing, feeding, and processing center was across Viejas Boulevard to the south, the meadow area west of the complex were utilized to grow alfalfa hay and graze some of Oliver's prize-winning Herford cattle. The ranch's subsequent owners, Dr. and Mrs. Haig C. Merigan, continued the ranch complex’ historic use raising horses and Black Angus cattle from 1958 until donating part of the ranch to California State Parks in 1977.

While the site originally contained at least twelve (12) structures and associated landscape improvements dating from its 1929 to 1960 period of historical significance, at least ten residential and storage structures, including their stone and concrete foundation walls, pads, and fencing, are no longer extant. However, the ranch complex' location and setting still retain their historic value as a historic site. Indeed, the surviving historic-period resources—the foreman’s stone cabin, a redwood-built storage shed, dirt road segments, grazing fields, and a row of mature elm trees—are still able to convey the site’s historic association with local ranching activities and significant individuals.

A15. References:


_____. Merrigan Ranch House. California Department of Parks and Recreation Recordation Forms, 30 September 1999. On File at California State Parks Southern Service Center.
Note: All Site Locations Are Approximate Based on 1976 San Diego County Residential Building Records

DPR 523K (1/95)

*Required information
**MERIGAN RANCH PLOT PLAN**

Circa 1975

Updated by
California Department of Parks and Recreation
April 26, 2010

Legend

1. Hawley Stone Cabin
2. Duplex Cabin
3a. Dwelling
3b. Cabin
4. Unidentified Structure
5. Barn
6a. Shed
6b. Chicken Coops
7a. Work Shop & Storage Shed
7b. Implement Shed
7c. Above-ground Fuel Storage Tank
8. Hawley Ranch Cabin Stone Garage

--

DPR 523K (1/95)  
*Required information*
Resource Name or Number: Oliver/Merigan Ranch Complex Site
Map Name: Oliver Ranch Complex Archaeological Feature Locations
Scale: Not to Scale
Date of Map: 9 May 2008
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<td>1 Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Oliver Ranch Complex Site</td>
<td>Approximate Site of Workshop &amp; Storage Shed, Implement Shed, &amp; Gas Tank (East to North Section of Dirt Parking Area; Dotted Line)</td>
<td>Looking South</td>
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<td>Approximate Site of Workshop &amp; Storage Shed (North Section of Dirt Parking Area; Dotted Line) &amp; Above-ground Fuel Tank Location (Cross)</td>
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<td>Approximate Site of Duplex Cabin (Cross)</td>
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<td>Barn-like Storage Shed (Stone Cabin to Left, Rear); Approximate Site of Chicken Coop (Cross)</td>
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<td>Possible Site of Barn's NW Corner (X), Meadow and Dirt Road (Arrow); Descanso Public Library in Distance (Dashed Arrow)</td>
<td>Looking West</td>
<td>2008_June_5_OliverRanchSite_viewWest_039.jpg</td>
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<td>Possible Site of Barn's North Wall (X) and Dirt Road (Arrow); Meadow and Well Shed (Dashed Arrow)</td>
<td>Looking North at Well Shed</td>
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<td>Non-contributing Shed &amp; Greenhouse, NE of Chicken Coop Site</td>
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<td>Asphalt Road Pavement Fragment (Arrow)</td>
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<td>Dirt Road and Approximate Sites of 1929 Stone Garage (Cross), 1941/53 Ranch Cabin (Arrow), 1966 Cabin (Dashed Arrow)</td>
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<td>Approximate Location of Barn's NW Corner; Concrete Footing (Arrow) Near Boulders North of Utility Pole</td>
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<td>Approximate Location of Barn's NW Corner; Concrete Footing w/Imbedded Iron Nails (Arrow) Concrete &amp; Iron Fragment w/Imbedded Iron Hardware (Dashed Arrow)</td>
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<td>Concrete Footing Fragment (Dashed Arrow) S of Utility Pole</td>
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<td>Square Concrete Pad (Arrow) w/Embedded Iron D Anchor Ring</td>
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<td>Concrete/Stone Wall Fragments (Arrows) Used As Retaining walls, South of 1929-built Stone Cabin</td>
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A16. Photographs

Photograph 1

Photograph 2
A16. Photographs

Photograph 3

Photograph 4
A16. Photographs

Photograph 5

Photograph 6
A16. Photographs

Photograph 7

Photograph 8
A16. Photographs

Photograph 9

Photograph 10
A16. Photographs

Photograph 11

Photograph 12
A16. Photographs

Photograph 13

Photograph 14
A16. Photographs

Photograph 15

Photograph 16
A16. Photographs

Photograph 17

Photograph 18
A16. Photographs

Photograph 19

Photograph 20
A16. Photographs

Photograph 21
3. Loop A Campground Historic District Recordation Forms
State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings
Review Code
Reviewer
Date

Page 1 of 19

*Resource Name or #: Sweetwater Loop Campground Historic Landscape District

P1. Other Identifier: Sweetwater River Campground; Loop A, Green Valley Campground, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication  ☑ Unrestricted  ☑ a. County: San Diego

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle Date: 1960; photo-updated 1988 T; R; ¼ of ¼ of Sec; B.M.

c. Address: City: Zip: 91916

d. UTM: Zone: 11; mE/ mN (G.P.S.) See Continuation Sheet for Multiple UTM Points

e. Other Locational Data: Approximately 40 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, north of the town of Descanso, west of State Highway 79, and southeast of the Sweetwater River in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's Green Valley Campground; at an elevation of between 3,935 to 4,043' in the Cuyamaca Mountain Range

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
The Sweetwater Loop Historic Landscape District is a 3.7-acre improved campground located in a ridge-lined hollow in the northeast section of the Green Valley Campground.

See Continuation Sheet D3—Detailed Description.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP9—Public Utility Building; HP29—Landscape Architecture; HP35—CCC/WPA Property; HP46—Walls/Gates/Fences

*P4. Resources Present: ☑ Building ☑ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☑ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

*P5b. Description of Photo:
Looking East at Campsite #5; 13Oct09; Loop A_21OCT09_ADB 48.jpg


☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
See Continuation Sheet for References

*P7. Owner and Address:
California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

*P8. Recorded by:
Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270 San Diego, CA 92108

*P9. Date Recorded: 30 Dec 09

*P10. Survey Type: District Survey,

Recordation and Evaluation

*P11. Report Citation: None

*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☑ Location Maps ☑ Sketch Maps ☑ Continuation Sheets ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record

☐ Archaeological Record ☑ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record

☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):
D1. Historic Name: Sweetwater Loop Campground  
D2. Common Name: Loop A, Green Valley Campground  
*D3. Detailed Description (Discuss overall coherence of the district, its setting, visual characteristics, and minor features. List all elements of district.):  
The Sweetwater Loop Historic Landscape District is a 3.7-acre improved campground located in a ridge-lined hollow in the northeast section of the Green Valley Campground.

See Continuation Sheet

*D4. Boundary Description (Describe limits of district and attach map showing boundary and district elements.):  
The campground's western perimeter runs approximately 587 feet in a southwest to northeast direction along the willow, alder, and oak-lined southeastern banks of the Sweetwater River. At its northeastern corner, it turns in a roughly southeasterly direction and travels some 59 feet along a rocky ridgeline to a point where it meets campsite #15. From here it continues in a southerly direction for 197 feet along the rocky ridgeline to a rocky outcropping at the rear of campsite #12. At this point, the boundary veers in a southwesterly direction down the ridge's slope some 169 feet to the southeast shoulder of a dirt maintenance road. The boundary crosses the road and continues in a northeastly to southeasterly direction for 135 feet to a point where it reaches as stone-lined parking spur associated with Campsite #9. The district's boundary continues from this point approximately 135 feet in a southeasterly to northwesterly direction along a series of terraced hillside campsites until it reaches the rear of Campsite #1. At this point it travels in a northwesterly direction across the campground's circulation road to its point of origin.

See Continuation Sheet

*D5. Boundary Justification: The district's boundary extends along a series of natural landscape features that contain the campground's landscape improvements. These natural landscape features played an important role in the campground's overall location, design, and setting. Historic and contemporary maps assist in determining and confirming the campground's historic layout and boundaries from 1948 until the present day.

*D6. Significance: Theme: Recreation and Landscape Architecture  
Area: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park--San Diego County  
Period of Significance: 1948-1960  
Applicable Criteria: California Register 1 and 3  
(Discuss district's importance in terms of its historical context as defined by theme, period of significance, and geographic scope. Also address the integrity of the district as a whole.)  
The district is ineligible for listing on either the California or National registers; but may warrant special consideration in local planning.

See Continuation Sheet

*D7. References: See Continuation Sheet

*D8. Evaluator: Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II  
Affiliation and Address: State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92108  
Date: 30 December 2009
Source: California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Green Valley Area. Drawing No. 3071-5, July 1950,
Sweetwater Loop Campground Location
Source: California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. File No. 1409E [Based on Late-1930s U.S. National Park Service Map], 19 May 1961, 1 Sheet.
Page 7 of 19

*Resource Name or #* Sweetwater Loop Campground Historic Landscape District

*Drawn By:* California State Parks

*Date:* 10 January 1949

Campground Location
Resource Name or #: Sweetwater Loop Campground Historic Landscape District

Drawn By: Michel Bonk, Research Analyst (GIS)

Date: 3 December 2009
*Resource Name or #* Sweetwater Loop Campground Historic Landscape District

*Recorded by:* Alexander D. Bevil  
*Date:* 30 December 09

Continuation of P2 Location: d. UTM; and D3 (List all elements of district)

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D3. Detailed Description (con't):

The Sweetwater Loop Historic Landscape District is a discontiguous satellite campground within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's Green Valley Campground area. Located at the end of a 511.5 foot long asphalt-covered spur road, the 3.7-acre campground is situated in a natural hollow. The improved campground is arranged around a roughly "D" or deltoid-shaped .3-mile-long asphalt-covered automobile circulation road. The banks of the Sweetwater River run along the campground's northwestern perimeter. A line of steep ridges surrounds the campground's northeastern and southwestern perimeters. Scattered among the hillsides leading up to the ridgelines are granitic rocky outcroppings, oaks, conifers, scrub, and grasses. Along the campground's southeaster perimeter is a single-lane graded dirt service road that provides access to the top of a 4,043-foot rocky peak. The site of a 50,000 gallon above-ground rectangular concrete reservoir, the knoll offers spectacular views of Green Valley campground to the southwest, as well as Airplane and Pine ridges to the north and northwest, respectively. Scattered oak and small conifers lead down the peak's northwestern slope to a point where it meets the campground's western corner. At this point is a small triangular tree and brush-covered island surrounded on three sides by an asphalt-covered roadway. The latter acts as a natural divider diverting traffic into and out of the campground loop road. Access to the campground is by a southwest to northeast-aligned single-lane blacktop road connected to a road providing access between the entrance kiosk off Highway 79 to the south and the Sweetwater River crossing. The latter provides automobile access to the Arroyo Seco Picnic area and main Green Valley Campground to the northwest and southwest, respectively. Along the Sweetwater Loop's loop road's inner and outer shoulders are twenty-two (22) improved campsites. Arranged numerically counterclockwise from the campground's western entrance/exit, each campsite has a blacktop-covered parking spur or turnout large enough to accommodate two end-to-end-parked regular-sized automobiles or a single medium-sized self-contained camper truck or van. At least eleven of the parking spurs (1-10 and 12) have cement-mortared stone masonry retaining walls that delineate the latter's outer perimeters, nearby terraced campsites. Some walls have stone steps incorporated into their construction that provide access to adjacent parking spurs. Most improved campsites feature a relatively level tent pad, concrete or wood picnic table (or a combination of both), and a metal fire ring. Three campsites (1-2 and 5) have surviving 1958-1960-built "Diablo-style" cement-mortared camp stoves. Within the middle of the campground is an open meadow that slopes down from the upper southwest and southeast campsites down to the roadway along the river. A recently built poured-in-place concrete ADA-compliant pedestrian path leads from the campground's northeast section southwest to a small, rectangular standardized 1948-era combination building. Despite damage due to heavy use, vandalism, and altercations for ADA-compliance, the campground's hardscape improvements—parking spurs, cement-mortared stone masonry retaining walls and steps, and the concrete and wood picnic tables have maintained their integrity. However, recent alterations to the combination building have reduced its historic integrity. Other altercations to the landscape include free-standing solar water heating panels in the open meadow northeast of the combination building; and a wide, poured-in-place concrete ADA-compliant pathway from a point across from Campsite #15 to the combination building.
Non-contributing landscape elements within the district include a historic dirt roadway that begins at a point where it meets the campground's circulation road at a gated entrance between campsites 10 and 12. The single-lane-wide road curves up the southeastern and southern ridgeline of an unnamed rocky knoll to a point overlooking the knoll's western flank. At this location sits a 40-foot by 24-foot poured-in-place above-ground concrete reservoir. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934, approximately 6 feet of the reservoir's 10-foot-high side walls are above ground. Despite some modifications to a chlorination shed at the base of its northern wall, this structure has maintained its historic integrity in regards to location, setting, materials, workmanship, and design. The dirt road originally looped to the top of the knoll and back down its northeastern flank to the campground. No longer used as a vehicle access road, the northeast loop road has been converted into a hiking trail. The latter still maintains its historic integrity in regards to location, setting, and materials: there are several large stone boulders that form a retaining wall along its upper section's southeast-facing shoulder.

Finally, while the campground's "D"-shaped circulation road, as well as the campsites' parking spurs and turnouts are original, the composition asphalt gravel pavement laid over them is not. It was added during the mid-1970s.

D6. Significance (con't):

**Historic Context**

The Sweetwater Loop Campground's historical period of development began on January 10, 1933, when California State Department of Beaches and Parks acquired and created Rancho Cuyamaca State Park. The park's headquarters was located in the home of the acquisition's former owner, Los Angeles businessman Ralph D. Dyar, near the confluence of the Sweetwater River and Cold Stream Creek in Green Valley to the northeast. Due in part to the failure of his proposed El Rancho Cuyamaca development south of Cuyamaca Lake, and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929/30, Dyar was forced to divest his San Diego holdings.

Created by the successful passage of California State Proposition 4 on November 4, 1928, the California State Park System had acquired a number of parks in addition to Rancho Cuyamaca. However, the ensuing Depression left the system land rich, but money poor. To offset this, it utilized the services of the United States Federal government to improve its parks and beaches. Initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, was a federal make work program that employed thousands of young men and World War I veterans through useful public work. Coordinated by the National Park Service, the CCC’s work consisted primarily of conservation activities that included park development and improvements. A large part of the public and staff facilities at Rancho Cuyamaca State Park, along with road and trail improvements, are due to the CCC’s work. Camps to house the CCC crews were established at the Green Valley Falls area west of State Highway 79 and in the meadow immediately east of the Dyar House (at
the present site of the San Diego City/County School Camp) where Dyar had built a barn and corral. Known as SP-4, and later as DSP-2, the latter was used to direct improvements and for fire protection in the park’s northern area. No doubt the former Dyar House’s rustic stone and hand-hewn wood beam construction was the model for a number of CCC-built structures throughout the park. These "Park Rustic" 1933 to 1942-built park residences and structures at Paso Picacho and Green Valley, as well as the facilities at the Boy and Girl Scout group camps at Hual-Cu-Cuish and Tapawingo featured mortared native stone and rough-hewn beam construction.

CCC improvements at the entrance to the Green Valley Falls area included a Custodian's Residence and Entry Kiosk on the State Highway's western shoulder. The CCC crews cut out and graded an oiled decomposed granite dirt road from the entrance area in a northwesterly direction to the Sweetwater River. At this point they built a native stone masonry crossing across the river. They then extended the road from the crossing to a junction that split northwesterly along the Arroyo Seco Trail, and southwesterly across the Arroyo Seco creek bed to the new Green Valley Falls Camp Ground and Picnic Area. Completed around 1940, the campground consisted of several dirt lanes that twisted along the eastern flanks of 4,600-foot Pine Ridge. Situated between 3,925 and 4,000 feet, the campground's main attraction, besides affording space for at least 40 campsites, was access to the Green Valley Falls area along the Sweetwater River a few hundred yards to the south. Other Green Valley Falls campground improvements included parking spurs, campstoves, level tent pads, and two Combination Buildings.

Except for a dirt road leading up an unnamed, tree-covered rocky knoll to a 50,000 gallon CCC-built concrete reservoir, there were no other campground improvements in the Study Area. Loop A's development occurred after World War II, when, responding for a need for more public camping throughout Cuyamaca Rancho State park, California State Parks chose to add twenty-one new improved campsites in a meadow between the Sweetwater River and the northeast slope of the un-named knoll of which the CCC-built reservoir stands. Between 1948 and 1950, twenty-one campsites were constructed around both sides of a D-shaped dirt road that around the meadow's perimeter. Originally known as the "Sweetwater River Campground", and later as the "Sweetwater Loop Campground", all of the new campsites featured a graded parking spur, concrete and wood picnic table, and cement-mortared stone rubble masonry camp stoves. Near the middle of the meadow was a small, rectangular, gable-roofed, wood-frame Combination Building.

According to an uncorroborated 1987 statement by John E. Walstrom, manger of the Southern Region's Technical Services Center in San Diego, he, along with local stone mason Charley Sout and another individual named George Foot, built "the existing Diablo style stoves . . . at Cuyamaca . . . from 1958 and 1960". There are now only three remaining at campsites 1, 2, and 5. A rubble pile southeast of campsite #10 near Highway 79 may contain the broken remains of some of the original campstoves. An additional fragment may have been
utilized as one of the rock bollards running along the circulation road south of the entrance to the Camp Host campsite (the original Campsite #11).

The Combination Building at Loop A was one of a number of new staff and public-use buildings erected at Green Valley Falls, as well as other campgrounds and day use facilities within the park, that are associated with a comprehensive expansion of California State Parks after World War II. In addition to the existing CCC-built improvements, California State Parks added numerous landscape improvements during the 1948 to 1960 postwar period. These included staff residences and garages; comfort stations and combo buildings; and such hardscape improvements as stone campstoves, concrete and wood plank picnic tables, and wooden food lockers. Inspired by a design concept originated as early as 1944, the California State Division of Architecture had produced a series of new standardized building plans for State Parks between 1947 and 1954. While similar to their CCC-built predecessors, these new buildings and structures reflected a simpler, "stripped-down" standardized version of the Park Rustic style.

For example, during the CCC-era, a combination building's design normally reflected a site-specific adaptation with regards to the availability of local building materials, and skilled masons assisted by a large, unskilled labor force. A solid, massive-looking structure built of heavy field stones and hand-hewn timbers, it reflected permanence and hope for the future. On the other hand, a late 1940s "Mountain Type" combination building like the one built at Loop A displayed a more austere minimalist approach to cope with post-war material, labor, and funding shortages. Its character-defining features included a rectangular “boxcar-like” shape with a simple asphalt shingle covered gable roof, bands of small wood-frame windows, inexpensive standardized fixtures, and straight-forward design devoid of architectural elaboration. Their simple, box-like utilitarian style, in deference to high construction material and labor costs, mirrors the economic realities of the time. While standardized, there was an effort by parks staff to use building materials and paint schemes that complemented rather than stood out within the surrounding landscape.

**Historic Evaluation**

The Sweetwater Loop Campground Historic Landscape District is eligible for consideration for placement on the California Register under Criteria 1 and 3. It is associated with the expansion of older, pre-World War II-built California State Parks to meet the demands of the postwar era. One of two new adjunct campgrounds built between 1948 and 1960 at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, it served as a satellite campground to the nearby Green Valley Falls Campground. Located in a small, secluded meadow surrounded by steep hills, knolls, and peaks, it has provided for the recreational needs of the Park's visitors for 61 years. The campground's simple, repetitive arrangement of short parking spurs around a narrow circulation road, standardized "cookie cutter" and the placement of a simple, unadorned, rectangular "Mountain Type" combination building are design features representative of a more austere minimalist approach to cope with post-war material, labor, and funding shortages. Its character-defining features included a rectangular “boxcar-like” shape with a simple asphalt
shingle covered gable roof, bands of small wood-frame windows, inexpensive standardized fixtures, and straight-forward design devoid of architectural elaboration. Their simple, box-like utilitarian style, in deference to high construction material and labor costs, mirrors the economic realities of the time. While standardized, there was an effort by Park staff to use building materials and paint schemes that complemented rather than stood out within the surrounding landscape.

**Historic Integrity**
While the district has maintained its original location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, there have been cumulative changes to its historic fabric that lessen its historic significance. They are discussed further below:

**Location:** The district's general location within the larger Green Valley Campground has not changed during its 1948 to 1960 period of historic significance. Neither has the location of its 22 campsites, landscape furniture, stone-walled hardscape, circulation road, and comfort station changed.

**Setting:** The brush and tree-covered banks of the Sweetwater River, rocky hillsides, knoll, and peak surrounding the district's grassy meadow reinforce its historic setting. The hillside contours on which the campsites are located are relatively the same according to historic maps. In addition, because recent near-disastrous wildfires have not ravaged the area as they had the rest of the Park, leaving clusters of trees and shrubs throughout the district. One large oak (?) tree in the middle of Campsite #1 has apparently died, leaving a huge trunk in its place. Most campsites have retained their original wood plank-covered concrete picnic tables. Most have experienced some damage, particularly to their wood plank table tops, due to heavy use, weathering, and vandalism. Only three of the original 1958-built cement-mortared coarse stone rubble Diablo-style campstoves remain. Despite damage due to ground heaving, erosion, vandalism, and ground squirrel tunneling, all of the cement-mortared coarse stone rubble masonry retaining walls and stairways are intact. Although they were built after the district's 1948 to 1960 period of historic significance, they contribute and enhance the district's Park Rustic setting.

**Materials:**
Despite heavy use, the concrete and wood picnic tables, Diablo-style campstoves, and cement-mortared stone rubble masonry retaining walls and stairs have maintained their historic integrity. They convey the combination of the use of standardized as well as indigenous building materials. The 1948-built Combination Building, however, has not maintained its material integrity: Original exterior horizontal wood clapboard wall cladding and awning-style wood windows have been replaced with non-compliant modern style horizontal wood siding and sliding metal windows. Finally, while the campground's "D"-shaped circulation road, as well as the campsites' parking spurs and turnouts are original, the composition asphalt gravel pavement laid over them is not. It was
added during the mid-1970s, and has an impact on the district's historic setting. However, it is reversible.

**Workmanship:**
Only three features found within the district convey physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period in history: the concrete and wood picnic tables; Diable-style campstoves; and stone retaining walls. Although utilitarian, the picnic tables' "cookie-cutter"-style size, shape, and form illustrate the technology of the craft of mass-producing standardized park furniture during the postwar period. The selection, laying, and setting of the stone masonry campstoves, retaining walls, and steps convey evidence of local artisans' skillful labor utilizing technological practices and aesthetic vernacular design principles that have been regional building traditions since the late 1800s.

**Feeling/Association:**
Some of the Study Area's most character-defining landscape features, cement-mortared stone rubble masonry retaining walls and steps, convey a false feeling and historical association with the district's 1948 to 1960 period of historical significance. John E. Walstrom also stated that the "Rock work in the Sweetwater Loop Camps 1 to 22 was installed by La Cima inmates under the direction of Lyle Watson in 1970-71". He goes on to state that the La Cima inmate construction crew also installed the "rock work at the [Green Valley] Falls comfort station" at the same time. All attempts to contact Walstrom's contemporaries to corroborate his statements have proven fruitless. Likewise, alterations to the 1948-built Combination Building have also reduced its feeling and association with the district's historic period. Because the campground is located away from the larger Green Valley Falls Campground to the southwest, it does convey the feeling and association with the evolution of a California State Parks Park Rustic style campground from the 1930s to 1960s. Indeed, it appears that the larger campground has also undergone changes that have reduced its historic integrity.

**Conclusion:**
Despite its continued use and association with California State Park's mission to create and provide opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation for over 60 years, the Sweetwater Loop Historic District has not maintained its historic integrity. Alterations and additions have subtly reduced its feeling and association with a modern postwar Park Rustic style California State Parks campground. A more representational example of the type can be found within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park at the Paso Picacho Campground and Administration Complex, which contains Park Rustic buildings and landscape features dating from 1933 to 1960.

While they will not be eligible for consideration as contributing historic landscape features until 2020, the campground's 1970-1971 stone masonry landscape features may be eligible for special consideration. The stone work reflects the area's 100+ year building history [including Cuyamaca Rancho State Park] of using indigenous stone to construct rustic buildings, structures, walls, culverts, and other landscape features. Because
**D7. References (Con't):**


California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park*. File No. 1409E, 19 May 1961, 1 Sheet.


______. *Sweetwater River Campground and Combination Building. Drawing No. 6869, 31 August 1948.*


______. *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Green Valley Area [Map], July 1950; Revised December 1987.*


______. *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Green Valley Area [Map], July 1950.*

*Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, California. Development Outline*, September 1937; Revised April 1940 and January 1941.

*Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park [Brochure], May 1994; Revised April 2000.*

"Cuyamaca State Park Improvements Described". *California Conservationist*, March 1939, 23.


______. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle, 1960.*

______. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle, 1944.*

______. *Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle, 1927.*


4. Paso Picacho Administration/Campground Area Recordation Forms
Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Entry Kiosk

Location: Not for Publication

USGS 7.5' Quad: Cuyamaca Peak Date: 1985; T14S R4E; % of % of Sec. (Unsectoned); San Bernardino B.M.

Address: N.A.

City: N.A.

UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone: 11; 539408 mE/3646680 mN

Other Locational Data (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., when appropriate): The kiosk is located at the entry to Paso Picacho Campground. It is on the west side of State Highway 79 (Cuyamaca Highway) approximately 5.2 miles south of its intersection with County Highway S1 (Sunrise Highway), at an elevation of 4,875 feet above mean sea level.

Description (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):
The kiosk is rectangular in plan, measuring 14 feet (east-west) by 8 feet (north-south). It stands on a poured concrete foundation, and has a frame made of eight 12 x 12 posts and two 6 x 6 beams, all of which are hand-hewn, possibly from locally procured timbers. The beams extend beyond the walls 1 foot 6 inches on the gable ends, and are supported by 6 x 6 triangular braces. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and has eaves that extend 1 foot 6 inches beyond the walls on all four sides of the building. The lower portions of the walls, as well as the gable ends, are covered with board-and-batten siding. The upper portions of the north, south, and east walls consist of fixed wood-framed windows. The window on the east end has 12 lights, while the north and south sides of the kiosk each have two 6-light windows, separated by a "Dutch" door with a window in its upper half. The window on the west end is a 12-light, wood-framed slider with a 10-inch-wide wooden sill/counter on the outside. The walls of the kiosk are painted brown, and the doors, as well as the window and door trim, are painted green. The kiosk is surrounded by the asphalt campground entry road. Both the east and west ends are bordered by a low, semicircular concrete traffic island. This building, which is identical to the Green Valley Campground kiosk located 5 miles to the south on Highway 79, does not appear to have undergone any significant alterations.

Resource Attributes (List Attributes and Codes): HP14 (Government Building); HP39 (Other: Kiosk)

Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

Description of Photo Drawing (View, date, accession#): East and north elevations of kiosk; view toward southwest; 7/17/01; digital photograph no. 97.

Date Constructed/Age and Sources Prehistoric Historic Both: According to State Park records, the kiosk was constructed in 1950.

Owner and Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

Recorded by (Name, affiliation, address):
Cary D. Cotterman
Chambers Group, Inc.
302 Brookside Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373

Date Recorded Updated: 7/17 & 18/01

Type of Study (Describe): Multiple Property Assessment

Report Citation (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none."): Allen, Rebecca and R. Scott Baxter 2001 Architectural Inventory of Buildings and Structures Constructed between 1942 and 1965 by California State Parks and Beaches.

Attachments: Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Linear Feature Record Archaeological Record District Record Bedrock Gridding Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

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BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyama Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Kiosk

B1. Historic Name: Cuyama Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Kiosk
B2. Common Name: Same
B3. Original Use: Entry Kiosk
B4. Present Use: Entry Kiosk

*B5. Architectural Style: DPR Standard Style

*B6. Construction History (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):
Building constructed: 1950. It follows the standard plan for a kiosk (attached).

*B7. Moved? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: N.A.

Original Location: N.A.

*B8. Related Features: The kiosk is surrounded by the asphalt campground entry/exit road. Both the east and west ends are bordered by a low, semicircular concrete traffic island.

B9a. Architect: Edwin Kelton

B9b. Builder: Department of Parks and Recreation

*B10. Significance: Theme: State Park Development

Period of Significance: 1942-1965
Property Type: Visitor Service Building
Area: California
Applicable Criteria: 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Past Forward, Inc. undertook a statewide inventory of structures in State Parks built between 1942-1965. Structures were evaluated using criterion 3, determining whether the buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of design and method of construction of State Parks architecture from that period. Considerations were DPR history and background, architectural design, building and structure types, and integrity. The Cuyama Rancho State Park Paso Picacho campground contains residential, visitor service, and maintenance buildings ranging in age and style from Civilian Conservation Corps construction, initiated under the Emergency Conservation Act of 1933, to post-World War II development that continued into the 1960s. The buildings associated with this campground have retained a high level of integrity of architectural intent and setting. As a group, they effectively represent a continuum of development from rustic CCC design through the large construction program implemented after World War II based on standard plans. The Paso Picacho Campground kiosk, built in 1950, is transitional in style, having the general configuration of a standard plan facility, but materials and construction techniques of earlier Rustic design. It retains a high level of integrity of design, setting, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and association. It is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Places under Criteria 3 as a contributing element to a potential historic district composed of Paso Picacho campground buildings, for its strong association with the development of the state park campgrounds from the 1930s through the 1960s, and for its representation of the evolving aesthetic values of its period.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (List attributes and codes): HP14 (Government Building); HP39 (Other: Office Building)

*B12. References:

Allen, Rebecca, Roman Beck, and R. Scott Baxter

Allen, Rebecca and James D. Newland

Department of Parks and Recreation
n.d. Overall Facility Database of State Parks Buildings

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluators: Cary D. Coterman, Chambers Group, Inc., 302 Brookside Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373 and Rebecca Allen, Past Forward, Inc., 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond CA 94803

*Date of Evaluation: 11/30/01

(This space reserved official comments.)

DPR 523

*Required Information

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)
B6. Construction History. DPR Standard Plan, Kiosk
State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PRIMARY RECORD  

☐ Update or Supplement  

Review Code:  
Reviewer:  

Page 1 of 3  

*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Gift Shop  
P1. Other Identifiers: State Parks Facility Number 618-A-5-06-0-003  

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted  
   a. County: San Diego  
   b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Cuyamaca Peak  
   c. Address: N.A.  
   d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone: 11; 539414 mE/ 3646615 mN  

P3a. Description (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):  
This single-story building, which is currently used for storage, is rectangular in plan, measuring 20 feet 1.5 inches (north-south) by 22 feet 1 inch (east-west). It has a concrete perimeter footing wall foundation and a wood floor over a crawl space. The wood-framed walls are covered with drop siding. The medium-pitched, side-gabled roof is covered with wood shingles and has its ridge oriented north-south. The eaves extend approximately 1 foot 6 inches beyond the walls on the front (east) and rear (west) elevations, with exposed 2 x 4 rafter. The front (east) elevation has a porch recessed into its right (north) half, with a railing made of 2 x 4s, and a 6 x 6 post supporting the corner of the roof. Inside the porch are a wood hollow-core entry door and a one-over-one wood-framed sash window. To the left (south) of the porch is a pair of one-over-one wood sashes. The north elevation has a pair of the same type of windows in the center, and a wood-louvered gable-end vent. The south elevation has a single window on the left (west) and a pair of windows on the right (east), of the same type as on the other elevations. A wood-louvered vent is in the gable end. The rear (west) elevation has a small one-over-one wood sash window on the left (north), and a pair of windows on the right (south). The pair of windows is of the same type as observed in the other elevations. The gift shop is painted brown, with a green entry door, window and door trim, and porch railing. All of the window glass is covered with brown paint. The building has a concrete sidewalk leading to the front entry porch from an asphalt parking area to the east. The walkway is bordered by a wood rail fence. A stone retaining wall and a wood rail fence extend to the north and south from the front of the building.  

P3b. Resource Attributes (List Attributes and Codes): HP6 (1-3 Story Commercial Bldg); HP14 (Government Bldg); HP39 (Other: Gift Shop)  
P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure  
☐ Object ☑ Site ☑ District ☐ Element of District  
☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)  
P5b. Description of ☒ Photo ☐ Drawing (View, date, accession#): East and north elevations of gift shop; view toward southwest; 7/18/01; digital photo no. 100.  
P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources ☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic  
☐ Both: According to State Park records, the gift shop was constructed in 1948.  
P7. Owner and Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296  
P8. Recorded by (Name, affiliation, address):  
Cary D. Cotterman  
Chambers Group, Inc.  
302 Brookside Avenue  
Redlands, CA 92373  

P9. Date ☐ Recorded ☑ Updated: 7/17 & 18/01  

P10. Type of Study (Describe): Multiple Property Assessment  
P11. Report Citation (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none."):  
Allen, Rebecca and R. Scott Baxter  
2001 Architectural Inventory of Buildings and Structures Constructed between 1942 and 1965 by California State Parks and Beaches.  

*Required Information  

DPR 523A (1/95)
State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 3

*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Gift Shop

B1. Historic Name: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho Campground Gift Shop
B2. Common Name: Same
B3. Original Use: Gift Shop or Interpretive Museum
B4. Present Use: Storage

*B5. Architectural Style: DPR Standard Style
*B6. Construction History (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):
Building constructed: 1948. A standard plan for this building type has not yet been located; identical structures appear in many state parks.
*B7. Moved? ☐ No ☑ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: N.A.
Original Location: N.A.
*B8. Related Features: The building has a concrete walkway leading to the front entry porch from an asphalt parking area to the east. The walkway is bordered by a wood rail fence. A stone retaining wall and a wood rail fence extend to the north and south from the front of the building.

B9a. Architect: Edwin Kelton
B9b. Builder: Department of Parks and Recreation

*B10. Significance: Theme: State Park Development
Area: California
Period of Significance: 1942-1965
Property Type: Visitor Service Building
Applicable Criteria: 3
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Past Forward, Inc. undertook a statewide inventory of structures in State Parks built between 1942-1965. Structures were evaluated using criterion 3, determining whether the buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of design and method of construction of State Parks architecture from that period. Considerations were DPR history and background, architectural design, building and structure types, and integrity. The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho campground contains residential, visitor service, and maintenance buildings ranging in age and style from Civilian Conservation Corps construction, initiated under the Emergency Conservation Act of 1933, to post-World War II development that continued into the 1960s. The buildings associated with this campground have retained a high level of integrity of architectural intent and setting. As a group, they effectively represent a continuum of development from rustic CCC design through the large construction program implemented after World War II based on standard plans. Although it is currently used only for storage, the Paso Picacho Campground gift shop retains a high level of integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Places under Criteria 3 as a contributing element to a potential historic district composed of Paso Picacho campground buildings, for its strong association with the development of the state park campgrounds from the 1930s through the 1960s, and for its representation of the evolving aesthetic values of its period.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (List attributes and codes): HP14 (Government Building); HP39 (Other: Office Building)

*B12. References:
Allen, Rebecca, Roman Beck, and R. Scott Baxter

Allen, Rebecca and James D. Newland

Department of Parks and Recreation
n.d. Overall Facility Database of State Parks Buildings

Roland, Carol
1991 CCC Resources in the State Park System. California Department of Parks and Recreation.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluators: Cary D. Cotterman, Chambers Group, Inc., 302 Brookside Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373 and Rebecca Allen, Past Forward, Inc., 5248 Carrige Drive, Richmond CA 94803

*Date of Evaluation: 11/30/01

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

(This space reserved official comments.)

DPR 523

*Required Information
State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PRIMARY RECORD

☐ Update or Supplement  
Date: 

*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyamaca Rancho State Park California Department of Forestry Fire Station  
*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☑ Unrestricted  
*a. County: San Diego  
*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Cuyamaca Peak Date: 1985; T14S R4E; W of S of Sec. (Unselected); San Bernardino B.M.  
c. Address: N.A.  
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone: 11; 539379 mE/ 3645675 mN  
e. Other Locational Data (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., when appropriate): The fire station is located south of the entry to Paso Picacho Campground, on the west side of State Highway 79, at an elevation of 4,875 feet above mean sea level. From the intersection of State Highway 79 (Cuyamaca Highway) and County Highway S1 (Sunrise Highway), drive southward on Highway 79 approximately 5.2 miles to the Paso Picacho Campground entrance. Continue approximately 0.05 mile past the campground entry road to the fire station entrance, on the right (west) side of the highway. The fire station is on the west side of the asphalt parking area.

*P3a. Description (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):  
This one-and-one-half-story stone building is roughly L-shaped in plan, with overall measurements of 50 feet 6 inches (east-west) by 49 feet (north-south). The southern approximately 60 percent of the building houses office and on-duty firefighters’ quarters, and the part of the “L” extending to the north, comprising approximately 40 percent of the building, contains a large garage. The stone masonry of the office/quarters portion does not match that of the garage portion, suggesting that the two areas represent separate episodes of construction. The fire station has a poured concrete foundation/floor, and walls made of unsecured locally procured fieldstones with their flattest sides facing out, and vertical split logs. The garage section and the rear (west) portion of the office/quarters section have a higher roof, containing attic space. The medium-pitched, gabled roof, which is covered by wood shingles, is supported by log rafters resting on 12 x 12 hand-hewn beams lying on top of the stone walls. The eaves extend approximately 1 foot 6 inches beyond the walls, and have exposed log rafters. Two of the gable ends are formed by continuation of the stone walls, and two are covered with vertical split logs. The front (east) elevation of the fire station has a main entry porch on its left (south) end, recessed into the southeast corner of the building. The porch is sheltered by the main roof, which is supported at the corner by a 2-foot-square stone column. The porch floor is paved with stones, and is reached by three stone steps. Inside the porch, the main entry door, which faces east, is a solid-core wood unit with a fixed six-light window in the upper half. To the left (south) of the door is a large, wood-framed, sixteen-light fixed window. Another solid-core wood door is in the south-facing angle of the porch. The right (north) half of the front elevation is dominated by an aluminum roll-up two-car garage door. A third personnel entrance door is located in the center of the elevation, between the porch and the garage door. The rear (west) elevation has a pair of six-over-six wood-framed sash windows on the left (north) side, a recessed rear entry with a shed roof near the center, and a one-over-one wood-framed sash window on the right (south) side, in the back of the garage section. The north elevation has a solid-core wood door with six fixed lights in its upper half, flanked by two four-over-four wood-framed sash windows, on the right (west) side, and a one-over-one wood-framed sash window on the left (east), in the side of the garage section.

The front entry porch is visible on the far right (east) side of the south elevation. To the left (west) on the south elevation, there are a single and two pairs of six-over-six wood-framed sash windows. All of the window frames in the building have log lintels. The stone walls of the fire station are unpainted. The wood portions and the aluminum garage door are painted brown.

*P3b. Resource Attributes (List Attributes and Codes): HP14 (Government Bldg.); HP39 (Other: Fire Station)  
*P4. Resources Present: ☑ Building ☐ Structure  
❑ Object ☑ Site ☑ District ☑ Element of District  
❑ Other (Isolates, etc.)  
P5b. Description of: ☑ Photo ☐ Drawing (View, date, accession): East elevation of fire station; view toward west; 7/18/01; digital photograph no. 99.  
P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☑ Prehistoric  
❑ Historic ☑ Both: According to State Park records, the fire station was constructed in 1950.  
P7. Owner and Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296  
P8. Recorded by (Name, affiliation, address): Cary D. Cotterman  
Chambers Group, Inc.  
302 Brookside Avenue  
Redlands, CA 92373  
P9. Date Recorded: 7/17 & 18/01  
P10. Type of Study (Describe): Multiple Property Assessment

*P11. Report Citation (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none."):  
Allen, Rebecca and R. Scott Baxter  
2001 Architectural Inventory of Buildings and Structures Constructed between 1942 and 1965 by California State Parks and Beaches.

*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☑ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☑ Continuation Sheet ☑ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Bedrock Gridding Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

DPR 523A (1/95)  

*Required Information
State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Cuyamaca Rancho State Park California Department of Forestry Fire Station

B1. Historic Name: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Department of Forestry Fire Station
B2. Common Name: Same
B3. Original Use: Fire Station
B4. Present Use: Fire Station
*B5. Architectural Style: Rustic
*B6. Construction History (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations):
Original Location: N.A.

*B8. Related Features: The fire station is bordered by a low, rock-paved extension of the front entry porch, and an asphalt parking area on the east; a concrete walkway and a small asphalt parking area on the west; a rock-paved walkway on the north; and a rock-lined planter and an asphalt driveway on the south. The driveway, as well as the parking lot on the east side, are bordered by a rock wall that matches the walls of the building.

B9a. Architect: Unknown
B9b. Builder: California Conservation Corps

*B10. Significance: Theme: State Park Development
Period of Significance: 1942-1965
Property Type: Rustic
Area: California
Applicable Criteria: 3
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Paso Picacho campground contains residential, visitor service, and maintenance buildings ranging in age and style from Civilian Conservation Corps construction, initiated under the Emergency Conservation Act of 1933, to post-World War II development that continued into the 1960s. The buildings associated with the campground have retained a high level of integrity of architectural intent and setting. As a group, they effectively represent a continuum of development from rustic CCC design through the large construction program implemented after World War II based on standard plans. The Department of Forestry fire station, located at Paso Picacho Campground, is an excellent representative of the Rustic style established during the 1930s. It retains a high level of integrity of design, setting, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and association. The building is recommended eligible for the California Register under Criteria 3 as a contributing element to a potential historic district composed of Paso Picacho campground buildings, for its strong association with the development of the state park campgrounds from the 1930s through the 1960s, and for its representation of the style of its period.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (List attributes and codes): HP14 (Government Building); HP39 (Other: Office Building)

*B12. References:
Allen, Rebecca, Roman Beck, and R. Scott Baxter

Allen, Rebecca and James D. Newland

Department of Parks and Recreation
n.d. Overall Facility Database of State Parks Buildings

Roland, Carol
1991 CCC Resources in the State Park System. Department of Parks and Recreation.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Cary D. Cotterman, Chambers Group, Inc., 302 Brookside Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373 and Rebecca Allen, Past Forward, Inc., 5248 Carriage Drive, Richmond CA 94803

*Date of Evaluation: 11/30/01

(This space reserved official comments.)

DPR 523

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

*Required Information
Resource Name or Number (Assigned by Recorder): Residence #7 at Paso Picacho

P1. Other Identifier: Custodian’s Lodge/Ranger Residence

P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted
   *a. County: San Diego
   *b. USGS 7.5’ Quad: Descanso Date: 1960/82 ; T ; R ; ¼ of ¼ of Section: ; SB B.M.
   c. Address: 12551 Hwy 79 City: San Diego Zip: 932254
   d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone: 11 ; POINT A: 539450 mE/ 3646500mN
      POINT B: mE/ mN POINT C: mE/ mN POINT D: mE/ mN
      ☐ UTM Coordinates determined with Global Positioning System

e. Other Locational Data (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., when appropriate): Facility #618-A-3-05-3-001

P3a. Description (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries):
This rectangular 1½-story former park custodian/ranger residence measures approximately 40’ x 46’ and is set back from the west boundary of Hwy 79 near the entrance to the Paso Picacho. Except for the installation of screened metal storm windows, and a new wood shake roof, the building has retained its character-defining historic fabric, which includes cement-mortared fieldstone rubble exterior walls, knotty white pine-covered interior wood frame walls, and wood shake-covered side gable roof. Behind the building is a smaller stone and wood-constructed combination shop, automobile garage, and electric generator building [Facility #618-A-3-04-2-002]. It, along with several other CCC-built buildings and structures, also reflect the Residence #7’s historic character-defining design and construction features.

See attached 750 form for more details.

P3b. Resource Attributes (List Attributes and Codes): HP9—Public Utility Building; HP35—CCC/WPA Property

P4. Resources Present: ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of ☐ Photo
   ☐ Drawing (View, date, accession #):

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources
   ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Historic

P7. Owner and Address:
   California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

P8. Recorded by (Name, affiliation, address): Alexander D. Bevil Historian I
   California Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
   San Diego, CA 92108

P9. Date Recorded ☐ Updated ☐: 15 August 2000

P10. Type of Study (Describe): Building Recordation
Residence #7 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of state and local history and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of regional architecture and method or construction. Completed in 1935, its design and construction were the result of a collaborative effort by California State Parks, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to establish a public campground and fire suppression station at Stonewall Pass [later renamed Paso Picacho] in Cuyamaca Rancho SP. Designed by NPS and built by the CCC two years after the park’s creation, it was one of numerous Depression-era New Deal-funded recreation facilities in San Diego County, including Cuyamaca Rancho, Palomar, and Anza-Borrego State Parks. One of several 1930-40’s CCC-built buildings and structures at the Paso Picacho campground and fire suppression station, the residence, garage, and associate landscape features contribute to a potential historic district that embodies the traditional rustic natural stone, concrete and wood construction associated with the CCC’s Park Rustic style. Adapted from local building traditions, examples of the style were built throughout San Diego's mountainous backcountry as early as the late 1880s. Residence #7 played a key role in the camp's operation, serving as a park custodian and later ranger’s residence until recent times. Its garage was also used as a generator shed, apparently providing electricity for the entire complex. Scheduled to be adapted for use as an adjunct park administrative center, it new use continues a 65-year tradition of park use. Despite alterations and remodeling to the kitchen, bathroom, and attic, the building has retained the majority of its historic fabric. Its stone work wall construction is in good condition, as are most of the wood-frame windows, rusticated woodwork, and large central interior stone fireplace and metal stove. However, several of the stones in the east porch’s stairway are in need of repointing. Nevertheless, despite these alterations, the building is eligible for placement on the California and National Registers as a contributor to a potential historic CCC historic district.


B12. References:

B13. Remarks: Threats, Remodeling for ADA compliance


*Date of Evaluation: 15/August/2000

(Draft Map with north arrow required.) See attached form DPR 523K

(This space reserved for official comments.)
*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7 at Paso Picacho Campground

*Map Name: Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle

*Scale: 1:24,000

*Date of Map: 1960, photorevised 1988

Residence #7

HWY 79

Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle
Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7 at Paso Picacho Campground

Map Name: Residence # 7 Site Location

Scale: Not to scale

Date of Map: 15/ August/ 2K
State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

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*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7

*Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil

Primary #: 

HRI#/Trinomial:

Date: 15 August 2K

Continuation

Update

Photograph # 1
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #0
Roll #9197
View: SE Elevation, Looking Northwest
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Photograph # 2
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #0
Roll #9197
View: East Elev., Looking West
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
Photograph #3
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #21
Roll #9197
View: NW Corner Elevation, Looking SE
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Photograph #4
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #22
Roll #9197
View: North Elevation, Looking East
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
*Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7

*Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil  Date: 15 August 2K

Photograph #5
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #23
Roll #9197
View: Stone wall and damaged drinking fountain, Looking Northwest
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Photograph #6
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #15
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Living Room, Looking South at Fireplace
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
**Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder):** Residence #7

**Recorded by:** Alexander D. Bevil  
**Date:** 15 August 2K

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**Photograph #7**  
*Residence #7 at Paso Picacho, San Diego County, CA*  
*Negative #16*  
*Roll #9197*  
*View: Interior, Living Room, Looking East at Dutch Door*  
*Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil*  
*Date: 21 March 2K*  
*Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA*

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**Photograph #8**  
*Residence #7 at Paso Picacho, San Diego County, CA*  
*Negative #4*  
*Roll #9197*  
*View: Interior, Living Room, Looking North at Kitchen and Stairway*  
*Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil*  
*Date: 21 March 2K*  
*Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA*
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #19
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Kitchen, Looking SW
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #20
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Kitchen, Looking NW
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
Photograph #11
Residence #7
San Diego County, CA
Negative #20
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Laundry Room,
Looking Southeast
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San
Diego, CA

Photograph #12
Residence #7
San Diego County, CA
Negative #6
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Central Hallway,
Looking South
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San
Diego, CA
Photograph #13
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #10
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Bathroom, Looking Southwest at Lavatory Counter
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2006
Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Photograph #14
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #9
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Bathroom, Looking North at Tub
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2006
Original Negative at DPR Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

Page 17 of 18 *Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7
*Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil Date: 15 August 2K

• Continuation
• Update

Left
Photograph #15
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #8
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Bathroom, Looking Northeast at Tub and W.C.
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Lower Left
Photograph #16
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #10
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Bathroom, Looking Southwest at Lavatory Counter
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

Page 18 of 18  *Resource Name or Number (Assigned by recorder): Residence #7
*Recorded by: Alexander D. Bevil          Date: 15 August 2K  ☒ Continuation  ☒ Update

Photograph #17
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #5
Roll #9197
View: Interior, SW Bedroom,
Looking South
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA

Photograph #18
Residence #7 at Paso Picacho
San Diego County, CA
Negative #12
Roll #9197
View: Interior, Attic, Looking Southeast
Photographer: Alexander D. Bevil
Date: 21 March 2K
Original Negative at DPR
Southern Service Center, San Diego, CA
**P1. Other Identifier:** Paso Picacho Campground and Picnic Area, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

**P2. Location:**
- **Not for Publication**
- **Unrestricted**
- **a. County:** San Diego
- **b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Cuyamaca Peak Quadrangle
- **Date:** 1960; photo-updated 1988
- **T; R; ¼ of ¼ of Sec; B.M.**
- **c. Address:** City: Zip: 91916
- **d. UTM:** Zone: 11; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)
- **e. Other Locational Data:** Approximately 45 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, 20 miles north of the town of Descanso, west of State Highway 79 and Stonewall Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park’s Stonewall Pass area, at an elevation of between 4,800 to 5,130’ in the Cuyamaca Mountain Range

**P3a. Description:** The District is an approximately 1,440-acre improved campground and park administration area located in a wooded meadow and hillside west of Stonewall Peak.

See Continuation Sheet D3—Detailed Description.

**P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP9—Public Utility Building; HP29-Landscape Architecture; HP30-Trees/Vegetation; HP35-CCC/WPA Property; HP45-Unreinforced Masonry Buildings; HP46-Walls/Gates/Fences

**P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

**P5b. Description of Photo:**
Looking West at Campsite #1 Parking Spur;
2009Oct09_001.jpg;
Photographer: Alex D. Bevil
13Oct09

**P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic 1934-1960; 1970-1971, est.

**P7. Owner and Address:**
California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

**P8. Recorded by:**
Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II
State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108

**P9. Date Recorded:** 4 Mar 2010

**P10. Survey Type:** District Survey, Recordation and Evaluation

**P11. Report Citation:** None

**Attachments:**
- NONE
- Location Maps
- Sketch Maps
- Continuation Sheets
- Building, Structure, and Object Record
- Archaeological Record
- District Record
- Linear Feature Record
- Milling Station Record
- Rock Art Record
- Artifact Record
- Photograph Record
- Other (List):
The Paso Picacho Campground Historic District is an approximately 1,440-acre improved campground and park administration area located in a wooded meadow and hillside west of Stonewall Peak.

See Continuation Sheet

The district’s eastern boundary begins a point some 350’ where the Paso Nature Trail meets the northern apex of the Day Use Picnic Area’s north loop road. From this point in the district’s northeastern corner, the boundary extends approximately 900’ in a southerly direction along SR-79’s western shoulder to a point where it meets a public entry road/Contact Station. The boundary continues in a southerly direction south of the entry road an additional 350’ along the highway’s west shoulder to a point where it meets a restricted-access service road south of a CalFire Fire Suppression Station. The district’s boundary extends in a northeast to southwest direction for approximately 3,600’ along the northern shoulder of the Lookout Fire Road to a point where it meets the district’s southwestern corner. At this point, the district’s western boundary extends some 500’ in a northwesterly direction southwest of campsites 37-43 to a point where it meets the district’s western-most point at the Azalea Glen Trail / South Loop Trail junction. The boundary then extends in a northeasterly direction approximately 1,200’ along Azalea Glen Trail, past the North Loop Trail junction to the district’s northeastern corner at a Group Camp area. From this point, the district’s northern boundary extends in a northwest to southeasterly direction 600’ along the northeastern shoulder of an improved Group Camp access road to a locked swinging metal gate. The boundary then jogs in a semi-circular arc some 370’ northeast of the locked gate where the northern apex of the Day Use Picnic Area’s north loop road meets the Paso Nature Trail. From here, the boundary extends some 350’ to its point of origin at SR-79.

The district is potentially eligible for listing on either the California or National registers.

See Continuation Sheet
Source: California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Green Valley Area. Drawing No. 3071-5, July 1950,*

Paso Picacho Historic District Location
*Resource Name or #: Paso Picacho Campground Historic District
*Map Name: Cuyamaca Peak, California
*Scale: 1:24000
*Date of Map: 1960; Photo-revised, 1988
**Resource Name or #**: Paso Picacho Campground Historic District

**Drawn By**: Attributed to U.S. National Park Service

**Date**: 2 May 1935

*Resource Name or #* Paso Picacho Campground Historic District

*Drawn By:* Attributed to U.S. National Park Service

*Date:* 19 May 1961

Source: California Department of Natural Resources. Division of Beaches and Parks. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. File No. 1409E [Based on Late-1930s U.S. National Park Service Map], 19 May 1961, 1 Sheet.
Resource Name or #: Paso Picacho Campground Historic District

Map Name: Cuyamaca Peak, California

Scale: Not to Scale

Date of Map: 1960; Photo-revised, 1988

District Location
Detail of Paso Picacho Campground

*Resource Name or #*: Paso Picacho Campground Historic District

*Drawn By*: David K. Stanley; Modified by Alexander D. Bevil

*Date*: 2000

*Required Information*

- **Restrooms**
- **Restrooms with showers**

SCALE IN FEET

0 200 400 600
D6. Significance (con't):

The Paso Picacho Campground constitutes a thematic designed Park Rustic landscape associated with two key developmental phases of California State Parks’ history: the 1934-1942 Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC] Era; and the 1950 to 1965 Postwar Era. The first is associated with a nation-wide cooperation between state and federal governments to improve forest and wilderness areas during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The second is associated with State Parks’ expansion after World War II. The district’s 1930’s-era landscape features represent California State Parks concerted efforts with the National Park Service and CCC’s concerted efforts to convert a former 20,753-acre privately owned ranch into a new publicly owned California State Park. One of numerous New Deal public works projects initiated during this period, the CCC program trained and utilized thousands of unemployed young men throughout the Depression years. Working collaboratively with California State Parks, the NPS and CCC-crews conceived, designed, and constructed numerous rustic-inspired park structures throughout California, many of which continue to serve park staff and the public. These improvements are also significant as examples of a recognized architectural style—Park Rustic. Built along traditional National and State Park design guidelines, it emphasized the use of local stone, wood, brick, and concrete building materials and semi-skilled labor to create singularly unique buildings, structures, and other landscape improvements that complemented the surrounding environment. The second phase of the campground’s development is associated with the overall expansion of California State Parks during the 1946 to 1960 postwar period. During this time, California State Parks sought to continue the Park Rustic Style’s philosophy of designing buildings and landscape improvements with a style and materials that were sympathetic to the surrounding natural environment. However, unlike the previous era, the postwar era’s increased costs for labor and materials necessitated a more standardized approach to the Park Rustic style. As a result, most park-related buildings and landscape improvements from this time reflected simpler, stripped-down utilitarian forms, with utilitarian styling, and the use of standardized building materials. Paso Picacho Campground historic landscape district contains the largest concentration of pre-and postwar buildings and landscape improvements in the park. Those located in other campgrounds like Green Valley, Hual Cu Cuish, and Tapawingo were either replaced or destroyed by recent wildfires.