



City of Colton General Plan Cultural Resources Element Update

PREPARED FOR:

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Community Workshop, December 7, 2022

Appendix B: Summary of Planning Commission Input, Cultural Resources Element
Update, February 2023

Introduction

Project Objective

For any city or community, physical places, spaces, and artifacts are the caretakers of our shared history. To better understand our present, and to effectively plan for the future, it is key to recognize the past. This past heritage is embodied in “cultural resources”—which include historical resources, archaeological resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Such physical resources reflect, embody, and convey the story of a city’s past. They are the physical cues that trigger and preserve the community’s collective memory. In the City of Colton, this is an all-inclusive memory—all who have gone before are participants.

This Cultural Resources Element provides a road map for the future in the City of Colton’s management and preservation of its varied cultural resources. The Goals, Policies, and Action Items presented in this Cultural Resources Element are designed to enhance the appreciation, identification, and protection of the City’s cultural heritage. The update includes public participation/outreach from the local community, interest groups, Native American Tribal community, and by the City’s Planning Commission. Through the recognition of our City’s cultural heritage, we preserve and enhance the quality of life for all of Colton’s citizens, while also honoring and protecting our heritage, for the enjoyment and edification of future generations.

As the physical remnants of the City’s past, cultural resources can include prehistoric sites, artifacts, buildings, collections of buildings, and designed and natural cultural landscapes.

In terms of the differences between “archaeological” and “historical” sites, archaeological sites can be any mound, midden, burial ground, mine, trail, rock art, or other location documenting human activities occurring prior to European contact. A “historic” site can refer to any building, structure, place, or feature created after European contact. Designed campuses, landscapes, hardscaping, and parks can also be historic sites.



Figure CR-1. Agua Mansa Pioneer Cemetery, Historic Landmark #7. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-2. Louisa Pino, a member of Colton's Serrano village, circa 1900. Source: Arcadia Press

To manage and preserve such cultural resources, cities in California have the option of enacting a specialized General Plan chapter focused on cultural resources, called a “Cultural Resources Element.” This element supplements those requirements already included in Colton’s zoning code, as well as best practices and regulations governing the protection of cultural resources codified in state and federal laws.

California Government Code Sections 37361 and 25373 recognize the value of identifying, protecting, and preserving places, buildings, structures, and other objects of historical, aesthetic, and cultural importance, and empower cities to adopt regulations and incentives for the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of these resources.

The California Environmental Quality Act, as codified through the Public Resources Code, further defines the legal basis for the protection and preservation of significant archaeological and historic resources in California. At the federal level, the National Historic Preservation Act (16 United States Code 470f), the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 36 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 800 and 1500–1508, 1978 establish federal precedence in the oversight, study, and protection of cultural resources.

Purpose of the Cultural Resources Element

As an integral part of the General Plan, Colton’s Cultural Resources Element establishes goals and priorities for the identification, management, and protection of cultural resources. The Element also provides a path forward for incorporating such practices into long-term land-use, community development, and economic planning processes.

The Cultural Resources Element provides a strategy for identifying and retaining the cultural resources that reflect Colton’s heritage. Taken together, the Goals, Policies, and Action Items included in this Cultural Resources Element provide a comprehensive program for the protection of cultural resources—one that builds on the work of the past to create a sustainable, realistic road map for the future.



Figure CR-3. Colton Area Museum, Historic Landmark #8. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-4. Anderson Hotel, circa 1950s. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-5. Colton citrus workers. Source: South Colton Oral History Project

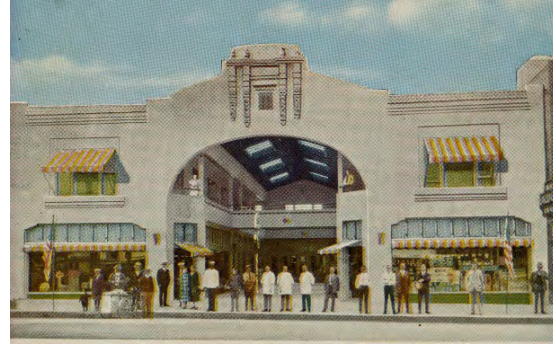


Figure CR-6. Arcade Building, 8th Street, shown in 1924. Source: City of Colton

Authorization and Scope

As codified in 1974, Section 65303(j) of the California Government Code includes cultural resources as an optional element of the general plan. In this section, cities are given the latitude to prepare cultural resource elements to aid in “the identification, establishment and protection of sites and structures of architectural, historical, archeological or cultural significance.” Although Cultural Resource Elements are not mandatory, if they are included, they occupy an equal level of importance as other elements in the general plan.

Relationship to Other Elements

State law requires that the Cultural Resources Element be consistent with the other General Plan elements. While other elements are independent, they also overlap in some ways. The Cultural Resources Element, for example, most directly overlaps and relates to the Housing, Land Use, and Open Space and Conservation Elements.

Fiscal concerns and development priorities, along with planning principles, typically drive land use decisions. And land use decisions ultimately play a role in impacting the City’s cultural resources and built environment.

In addition, the City’s recently adopted Housing Element sets priorities for the expansion of housing in the near- to long-term future. A clear nexus exists, of course, between prioritizing housing and preserving cultural resources, including built environment landmarks, historic districts, and cultural landscapes.

Similarly, the policies of the Open Space and Conservation Element can overlap and affect cultural resources. The presence of cultural resources could also be the determining factor in the designation of open spaces, landmarks, or cultural landscapes.

Given the interplay between elements, the proactive identification of cultural resources and an open discussion of City priorities and alternatives related to preservation are key in ensuring that these separate elements complement (rather than conflict) with each other.

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Existing Conditions

The Cultural Resources Element of the General Plan builds on previous initiatives and actions to recognize and protect cultural resources in Colton. Such initiatives have included adopting an ordinance and cultural resources element, completing historic resource surveys, obtaining status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) with the State Office of Historic Preservation, communicating with local Native American tribal group representatives, and designating landmarks and historic districts, among many other steps. This section describes the current framework for the protection, identification, and management of cultural resources.

Historic Preservation Ordinance

In 1987, the City adopted the “Historic and Scenic Preservation Ordinance of the City of Colton” (Ordinance No. 0-11-87), which established the regulations governing designation and preservation of historic resources and scenic properties. The ordinance described the criteria and process for designating landmarks and districts. A Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission was also established, along with the authority for the commission.

In 1996, the City adopted Ordinance No. 0-11-96, with refinements to the original Historic Preservation Ordinance. In 1999, Ordinance No. 0-02-99 provided additional refinements, include a designation program for historic resources and the appointment of the City Manager as the City’s “Historic Preservation Officer.”

The current Historic Preservation Ordinance was modified in 2018 (Ordinance No. 0-01-18). This iteration of the ordinance further expanded on purpose and intent and disbanded the Historic Preservation Commission, delegating its duties and authority to the Planning Commission. A detailed process for nominating and designating historic resources and districts, as well as amending or rescinding designation, was also included. Steps and requirements for Certificates of Appropriateness and Certificates of Economic Hardship were also included in the updated ordinance, along with a description of the State Historic Building Code and maintenance and upkeep guidance for historic buildings.



Figure CR-7. Fleming Park, Historic Landmark #2.
Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-8. Red & White Grocery Store, Historic Landmark #36. Source: City of Colton

Mills Act Historic Property Contract Program

To incentivize preservation and private investment in the City's cultural heritage, Colton offers the Mills Act Historic Property Contract Program to owners of designated landmarks. As of January 2024, the City has 11 Mills Act Historic Property Contracts in place.

The Mills Act is a highly effective economic incentive program in California for the rehabilitation and preservation of qualified historic buildings. Enacted in 1972, Mills Act legislation gives participating cities and counties the authority to establish contracts with property owners to offset the costs of the rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, and maintenance of their historic properties. Through the Mills Act, property owners often see significant reductions in their property taxes, with those savings then invested in the long-term preservation of historic buildings.

Under this program, property owners design a 10-year preservation, rehabilitation, and repair workplan with all work efforts designed to comply with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Secretary's Standards)*. The estimated costs of those plans, along with operating costs, form the basis for a reassessed value, which generally results in a significant tax savings. In this way, the property tax savings directly offset the ongoing stewardship and care of the historic property, thereby assisting property owners and also helping retain those historical resources with great value for the community.

Citywide Historical Resources Survey

In 1988, the City commissioned a citywide survey of those properties 50 years of age and older. Omitted from the survey was the swath of the City south of the Santa Ana River and Agua Mansa Road, as well as the area west of the Southern Pacific Railroad line.

Among a target list of 1,540 properties, over 800 were found eligible for historic landmark designation at the local, state, and in some cases federal levels. Another 86 of those eligible resources were carried forward for recordation on California Department of Parks and Recreation Historic Resources Inventory forms, with photographs, property-specific research, and descriptions. The survey also identified eight eligible historic districts.



Figure CR-9. Mills Act Property, Maxwell House (1150 N. La Cadena), Historic Landmark #5. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-10. Mills Act Property, Fisher-Hodge House (958 N. La Cadena), Historic Landmark #14. Source: City of Colton

Certified Local Government

Since 1988, Colton has been a CLG with the State Office of Historic Preservation. Administered by the National Park Service, the CLG program encourages the direct participation of local governments in the identification, registration, and preservation of historic properties and promotes the integration of local preservation interests into local planning and decision-making.

To attain CLG status, cities apply to the State Office of Historic Preservation. Requirements include the following: (1) Enforce state and local laws for the designation and protection of historic properties; (2) Establish an historic preservation review commission by local ordinance; (3) Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; and (4) Provide for public participation in the local preservation program. Benefits to CLGs include technical assistance from the State Office of Historic Preservation, access to grant opportunities, and credibility for local programs consistent with federal and state standards.

Cultural Resources Element

Adopted in 2000 (Resolution No. R-82), Colton's current Cultural Resources Preservation Element provides Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures for the management of archaeological and historical resources. For historical resources, the foundation for the Cultural Resources Element was the 1992 Historic Resources Survey. For archaeological resources, a records search was conducted, with results on file with the City, and maps showing areas of known and potential sensitivity were provided. The previous element did not include a specific goals, policies, and strategies for addressing Tribal Cultural Resources.

Landmarks and Historic Districts

Colton has over 50 designated historic landmarks, including buildings, parks, landscape, and hardscape features. In addition, six historic districts have been designated in Colton—9th Street, Agua Mansa, Citrus Park, La Cadena, Terrace, and San Salvador. Figure CR-13 shows all designated landmarks in the City. Figure CR-14 through Figure CR-20 show the location and boundaries of Colton's designated districts.



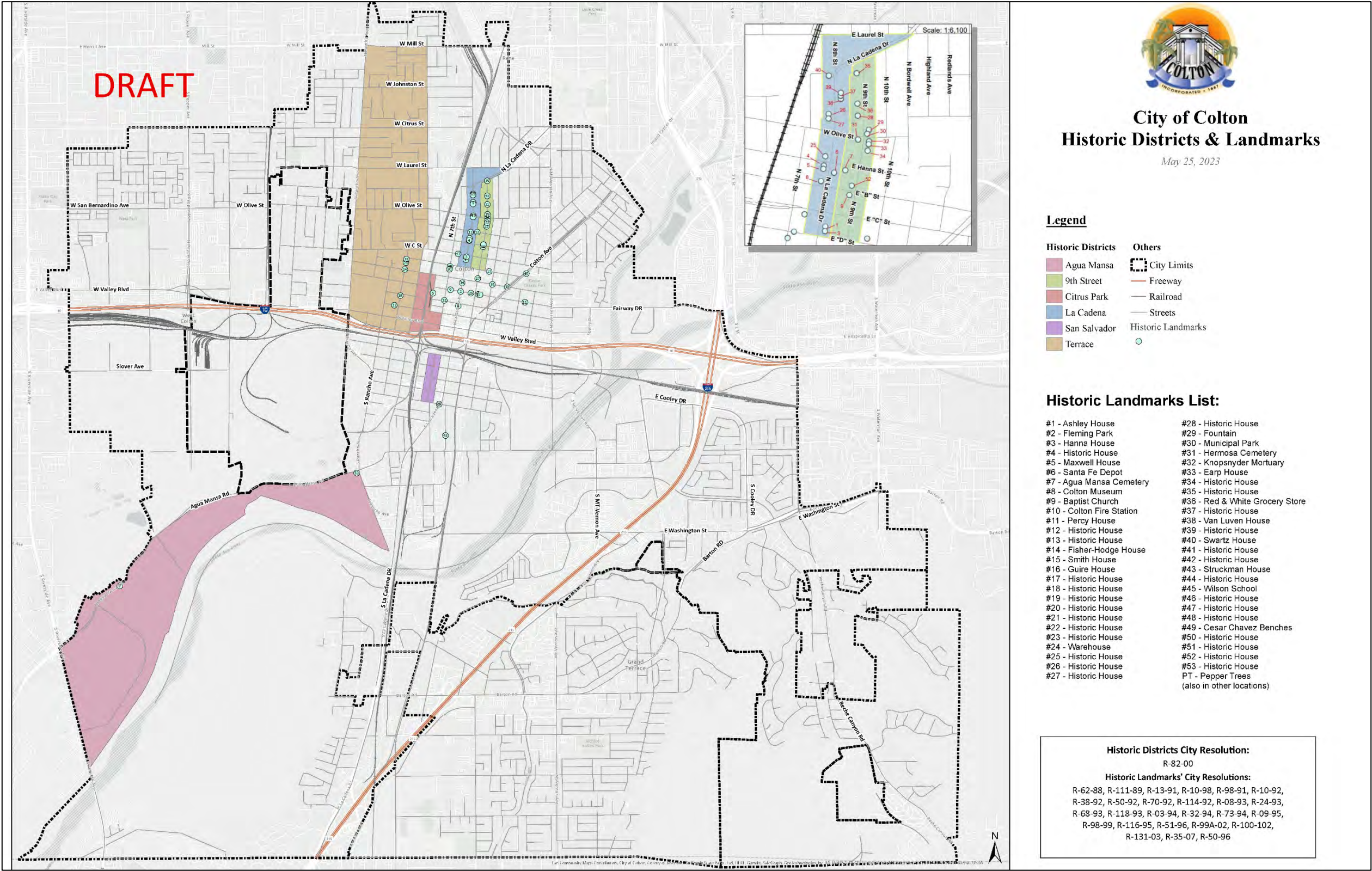
Figure CR-11. Colton Fire Station, Historic Landmark #10.
Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-12. Colton Museum, Historic Landmark #8. Source: City of Colton

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Figure CR-13. City of Colton, Designated Historic Landmarks and Districts as of May 2023



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Figure CR-15. Terrace Historic District

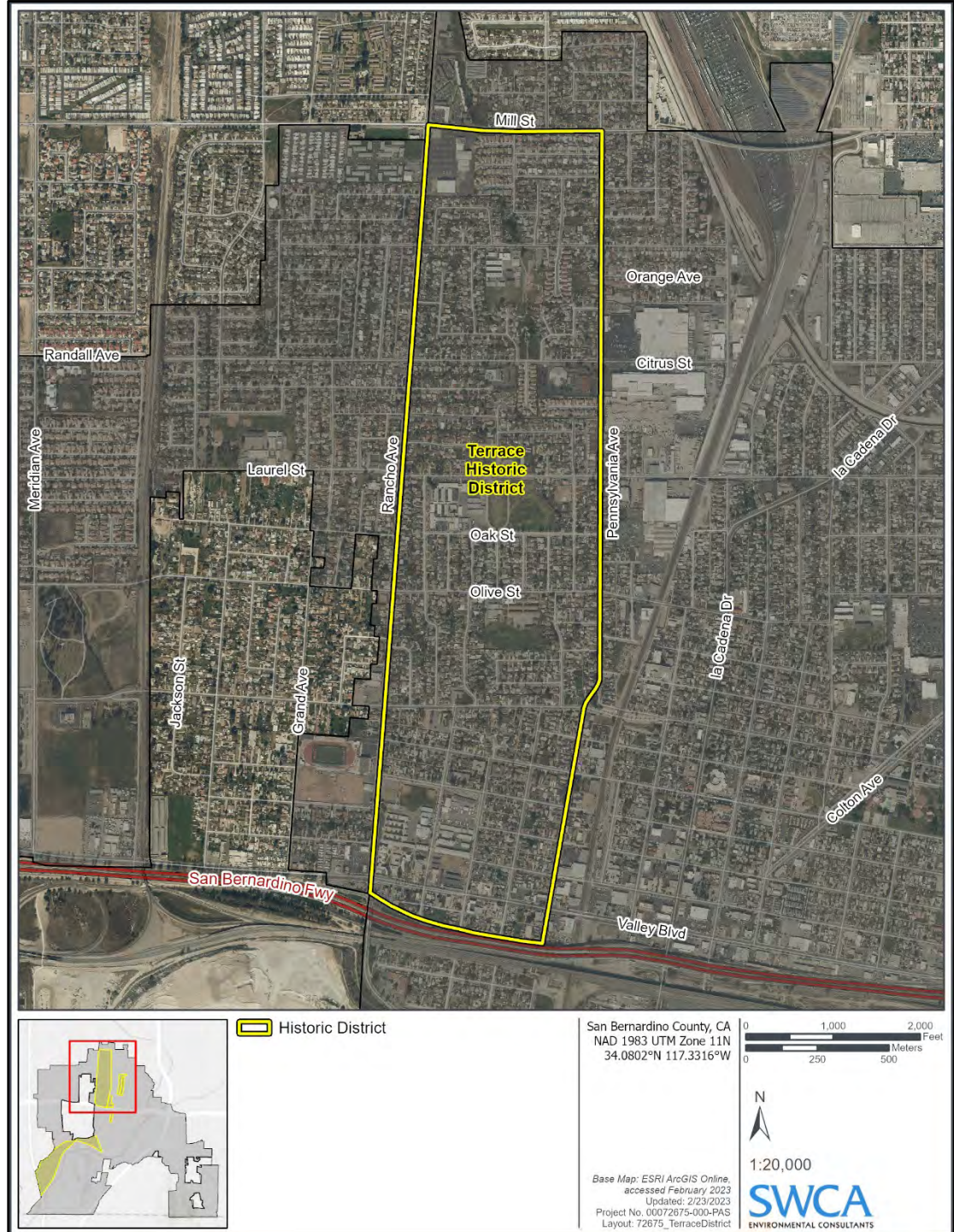


Figure CR-17. 9th Street Historic District

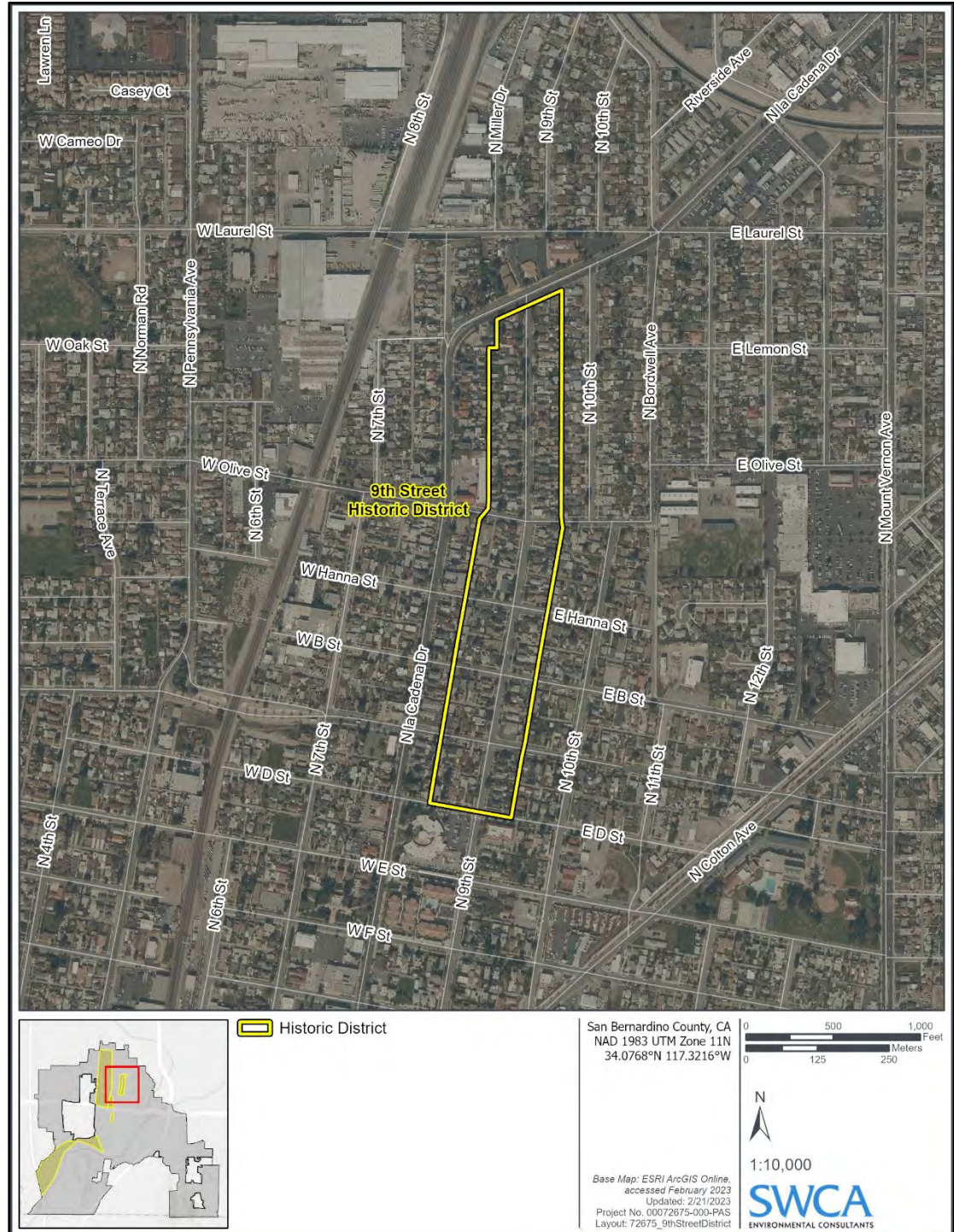
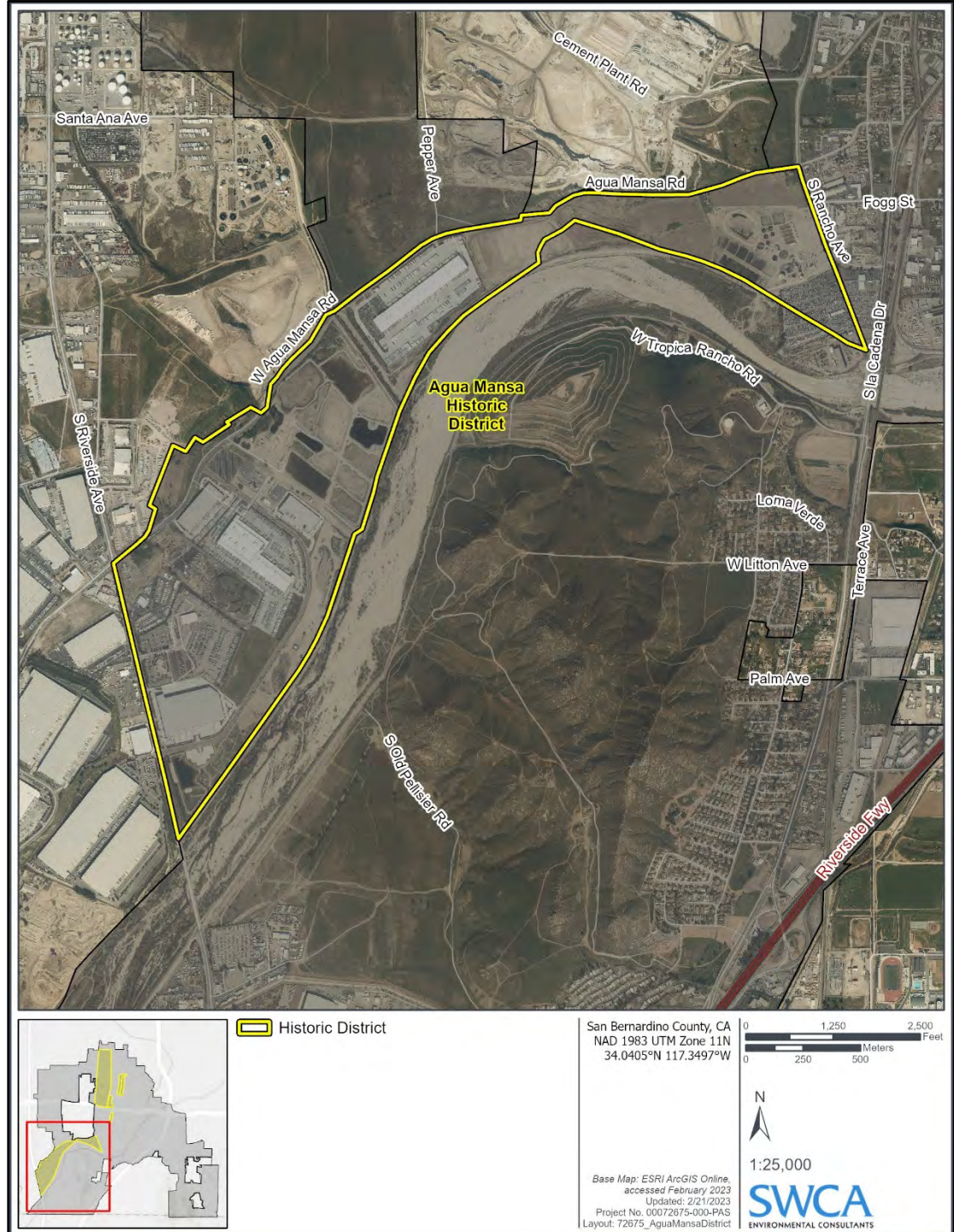


Figure CR-18. Citrus Park Historic District





Figure CR-20. Agua Mansa Historic District



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Historic Setting

Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric and Ethnographic Overview

Southern California has a long history of human occupation. The earliest extant evidence of human occupation dates to the late Pleistocene, circa ("ca.") 11,000 years B.C. (Glassow et al. 2007: 191). Prehistoric material in southern California has been categorized according to periods or patterns that define technological, economic, social, and ideological elements. Within these periods, archaeologists have defined cultural patterns or complexes specific to prehistory within southern California, including San Bernardino County and vicinity. The chronological framework developed for southern California is divided into four major periods as described below.

Paleoindian Period (11,000 - 7000 B.C.) – This period is defined by hunting and gathering near coastal and lake shores, with an emphasis on hunting in the earlier period and greater emphasis on gathering plant foods and hunting small animals as the climate turned warmer and drier during the latter years of this period.

Milling Stone Period (7000 - 3000 B.C.) – This period is characterized by an ecological adaptation to collecting, accompanied by a dependence on tools associated with grinding small seeds, including milling stones (metates, slabs) and hand stones (manos, mullers). People during this period practiced a mixed food-procurement strategy and subsistence patterns became more specialized.

Intermediate Period (3000 B.C. - A.D. 500) – During this period, a pronounced trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources can be observed, including a wider variety of land mammal remains, more diverse assemblage of hunting tools and wider use of plant foods and plant processing technology across the region.

Late Prehistoric Period (A.D. 500 - 1769) – This period demonstrates continued variety and complexity of culture. More diverse classes of artifacts are typically found, including finely made atlatls (a tool used by early Native Americans to propel a spear or dart) and small projectile points suggesting utilization of the bow and arrow for hunting. Larger, more permanent villages with greater numbers of inhabitants also indicate an increase in population (Wallace 1955:223).

Prehistoric resources from these periods have been recorded within the City. Areas of high sensitivity for prehistoric resources have also been identified in past studies in the vicinity of the Santa Ana River, Warm Creek, Lytle Creek, La Loma Hills and Reche Canyon. As comprehensive cultural resources studies have not been conducted for all parts of the City, it is likely that significant prehistoric archaeological resources exist in subsurface contexts throughout the City.

Ethnography

Colton was a well-inhabited area at the time of Spanish colonization and is an ethnographic transition zone between three Native American groups: the Kizh, Serrano, and Cahuilla. All three groups are speakers of Takic languages, which are part of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock. The lifeways of all three groups were deeply affected by the California mission system and subsequent immigration and development of the area. Forced removal, disease, and other factors greatly reduced the Indigenous population in the region after contact with Europeans.

Extensive ethnographic research was not conducted for this Cultural Resources Element; however, it is likely that some ethnohistoric sites exist within the City. For example, according to the memoirs of G. Hazen Shinn and as remembered by the Kizh, the Serrano told Shinn that prior to Spanish contact, the Kizh Village of Homhoa existed between present-day Colton Avenue and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks east of the Santa Ana River on the lands where San Gabriel Mission fathers held mass outside under ramadas ca. 1810–1830 (Johnston 1962:16; Shinn 1941). The Yuhaaviatam clan of Serrano people—known as the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation today—fled into the San Bernardino Valley to escape deadly conflict with a San Bernardino militia. Led by Santos Manuel, the Yuhaaviatam clan ventured through the valley along Warm Creek before settling near the confluence of Warm Creek and the Santa Ana River, near the borders of the Cities of San Bernardino and Colton.

Other areas sensitive for precontact resources, such as the Santa Ana River and La Loma Hills, may also have potential for the presence of ethnographic resources, as well as properties and neighborhoods associated with Native Americans living in the City post-contact. Additional study and consultation with descendant communities would identify those areas with the highest potential for resources associated with the Indigenous and ethnographic groups described in this section.

Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva

The names “Kizh” (also spelled Kisianos or Kij), “Gabrieleño” (also spelled Gabrielino), and “Tongva” are used to designate Indigenous inhabitants and lineal descendants of the Southern Channel Islands, Los Angeles Basin, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Western San Bernardino County, Western Riverside County, and Western Orange County people (Bean and Smith 1978; Johnston 1962; McCawley 1996; Strong 1929). The farthest ancestral territory of the Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva is documented through the oral history of the informants and Tribal elders of the Serrano and the Cahuilla. They clearly state the areas into Redlands, Yucaipa, and Crafton are their ancestral lands (Strong 1929). Once the Spanish colonized the Kizh-Tongva ancestral territory, they began using the term “Gabrieleño” as a reference to the California Native Americans who were associated with Mission San Gabriel, which many times included members of surrounding groups such as the Kitanemuk, Serrano, and Cahuilla.

Some ethnographers have stated that the Gabrieleño people did not have an overall name for their cultural group; however, others indicate they had a clear name for themselves

(Dakin 1978:22; McCawley 1952:10; Strong 1929: 7-8, 112). According to one informant, people living near San Gabriel identified themselves as Kichireños, which is a blend of Indigenous self-identification (Kizh) and Spanish suffix (eño, meaning “belonging to”) (Bean and Smith 1978:548; Johnston 1962:15). In the local tongue, Indigenous people would have identified themselves as belonging to a specific community with locational suffixes, much as someone from New York is called a New Yorker (Johnston 1962:10). Today the Indigenous and lineal descendants in this portion of southern California use the terms Kizh Nation – Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino/Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrielino-Tongva Indian Tribe, Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, and the Gabrieleno (Tongva) San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians to designate their tribal groups.

Prior to Spanish contact, the basis of Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva religious life consisted of the Chinigchinich religious belief system. The Chinigchinich was born in the village of Povuungna, and the religion spread out to the surrounding Tribes. The Chinigchinich was known by three distinct names: Saor, Quaguar, and Tobet, with each one possessing a particular significance, diversity and difference in time. The foundation of the Chinigchinich religion taught the laws, institutions and songs of the “toloache cult” and the annual mourning ceremony. Elaborate mourning ceremonies included a variety of offerings that varied with gender and status, including seeds, stone grinding tools, crystals, otter skins, baskets, wood tools, bone awls, strings of Olivella shell disk beads, ocean pendants and ornaments, projectile points, and knives (Dakin 1978; Johnston 1962:52–54; McCawley 1996:155–165). Many of these goods were luxury items that signaled wealth and prosperity to surrounding inland Tribes and functioned as social and physical currency.

Stretching from the coastal islands to the interior mountains, the Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva inhabited a variety of environmental and biotic zones rich in natural resources that allowed them to support a large territory with numerous villages and inhabitants. They were considered one of the wealthiest Tribal groups in southern California at time of Spanish contact (Bean and Smith 1987). The Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva used a variety of tools and implements in their everyday practices as complex hunter-gatherers, including the bow and arrow, traps, nets, blinds, throwing sticks and slings, spears, harpoons, and hooks. Food was processed with a variety of tools such as mortars and pestles, manos and metates, strainers, leaching baskets, bowls, knives, bone saws. Stone tools such as hammer stones, anvils, and spear points were made of obsidian, chert, quartz and various other cryptocrystalline, while raw materials like juncas, deergrass and asphaltum were used to create cooking baskets, water bottles, burden baskets, and many more ingenious tools. Some materials from Pimungna (Santa Catalina Island) were brought to the mainland and traded extensively throughout the region. The Pimungna steatite was a favorite Kizh-traded good used as cooking bowls and flat comales (griddle-like surfaces).

Serrano

The Serrano occupied an area of the San Bernardino Mountains between approximately 1,500 and 11,000 feet above mean sea level. Their territory extended west into the Cajon Pass, east to Twentynine Palms, north past Victorville, and south to the Yucaipa Valley. Year-round habitation tended to be on the desert floor, the base of the mountains, and in the

foothills; all habitation areas required year-round water sources (Bean and Smith 1978; Kroeber 1908). Most Serrano lived in small villages near water sources (Bean and Smith 1978:571). Many of the villages had a ceremonial house used as a religious center and the residence of the lineage leaders. A village was usually composed of at least two lineages, referred to as a lineage set. Both lineages served important functions during religious ceremonies and in day-to-day activities. The Serrano were loosely patrilineal and associated themselves with one of two moieties or “clans”—the Wahiyam (coyote) or the Tukum (wildcat) moiety.

The subsistence economy of the Serrano was one of hunting and collecting plant goods, supplemented with occasional fishing. Trade was an important aspect of the Serrano economy, and the Tribe’s territory was a trade nexus between inland and coastal Tribes. Those living in the lower elevation, desert floor villages traded foodstuffs with people living in the foothill villages who had access to different resources. In addition to intervillage trade, ritualized communal food procurement events, such as rabbit and deer hunts and nut-gathering events, integrated the economy and helped distribute resources available in different ecozones. Ethnohistory also suggests the Serrano played a role in the trade of horses from the southwest to the California coast.

Today the Serrano people actively maintain their cultural heritage and legacy through different Tribal organizations, including the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians).

Cahuilla

Evidence suggests the Cahuilla migrated to southern California about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, most likely from the southern Sierra Nevada ranges of east-central California. The Cahuilla settled in a territory that extended west to east from the present-day city of Riverside to the central portion of the Salton Sea, and south to north from the San Jacinto Valley to the San Bernardino Mountains. Socio-political organization within the Cahuilla included three primary levels. The highest level was the cultural nationality, encompassing everyone speaking a common language. Next were two patrimoieties called the Wildcats (tuktum) and the Coyotes (‘istam). The third level consisted of units called sibs, or patrilineal clans. Lineages within a clan cooperated in many ways, including defense, communal subsistence activities, and religious ceremonies. Each lineage maintained ownership rights to locations used for hunting and collecting food.

The Cahuilla had less interaction with Europeans because the topography and paucity of water rendered the area unattractive to colonists. By the 1820s, however, the Pass Cahuilla experienced consistent contact with Mission San Gabriel’s ranchos, and the Mountain Cahuilla were recruited to Mission San Luis Rey and employed on private ranchos. Mexican ranchos were near Cahuilla territory along the upper Santa Ana and San Jacinto rivers by the 1830s, providing the opportunity for the Cahuilla to learn new agricultural techniques and earn money. However, diseases introduced by immigrants, such as smallpox, contributed to the decimation of the Cahuilla and other Native American groups.

Historic Overview

Post-Contact history in California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish (or Mission) Period (1769–1822), Mexican (or Rancho) Period (1822–1848), and American Period (1848–present). The Spanish Period in California begins with the 1769 establishment of San Diego’s Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Mexico’s independence from Spain in 1821 marks the beginning of the Mexican Period, and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican-American War, signals the beginning of the American Period when California became a territory of the United States. Given the relevance of each of these periods for Colton and San Bernardino County, the following overview explores how these larger trends played out in both the larger area of San Bernardino County and Colton itself.

Spanish Period (1769 to 1822)

This section describes the Spanish, or Mission, period. In the mid-1500s and mid-1700s, Spanish explorers launched expeditions to sail the coast of California. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo stopped in 1542 at present-day San Diego Bay and explored the shorelines of what is now known as Catalina Island, San Pedro, and Santa Monica Bays. The Spanish crown laid claim to California based on the surveys conducted by Cabrillo and other early explorers.

Spaniard Pedro Fages was the first European to pass through San Bernardino Valley in 1772. Looking for deserters from the San Diego military post, Fages crossed into San Bernardino Valley, crossing the Santa Ana River at what is now called the Pedley or Riverside Narrows. In 1774, the expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza entered the San Bernardino Valley through the Riverside Narrows. Anza’s expedition opened an overland travel route from Sonora in the Mexican interior to Monterey in California. After Anza established a mission and presidio in San Francisco in 1775, another 30 years passed before Spaniards returned to the region.

The Spanish established 21 missions in California that paralleled the coastline between San Diego and Sonoma. Coastal locations were preferred for colonization since they were easier to defend and supply. However, as the chain of missions prospered, their livestock holdings increased and became vulnerable to theft. The Spaniards responded by planning inland missions that could provide additional security and establish a presence beyond the coast.

By 1806, a formal expedition to find potential locations for these inland missions was mounted to the San Bernardino Valley. In May 1810, Fr. Francisco Dumetz established a religious site, or *capilla*, at a Cahuilla *ranchería* called “Kaawchama” (Hispanicized as “Guachama”) (Beattie and Beattie 1939:5). The valley received its name from this site, which Dumetz dedicated to San Bernardino de Siena in honor of the saint’s feast day, celebrated on May 10 (Federal Writers’ Project 1939). From these early beginnings, the valley, the mountains, and eventually the city and county were named. Mission lands, extending from the San Bernardino Valley to the Cajon and San Gorgonio passes, were primarily used for grazing cattle and sheep (Hampson et al. 1988). In 1933, the Guachama Rancheria, southwest of Redlands, was listed as California State Historical Landmark No. 95.



Figure CR-21. "Guachama" Rancheria, CA Historical Landmark #95. Source: Michael Kindig, 2005



Figure CR-22. "Guachama" Rancheria, CA Historical Landmark #95. Source: Michael Kindig, 2005

Mexican Period (1822 to 1848)

This section describes the Mexican, or Rancho, period. In 1821, after more than a decade of intermittent rebellion and warfare, "New Spain," which included Mexico and California, won its independence from the Spanish.

As the new era began, extensive land grants were established in the interior of California, including southern California, in part to increase the inland population. The influence of the California missions waned in the late 1820s and early 1830s. In 1833, this diminishing influence was sealed with the adoption of the Secularization Act. With this, the Mexican government privatized most of the church's land, including the missions. By 1836, this process had reduced most missions to parish churches and released their vast properties.

Earlier secularization plans had called for redistributing lands to Native American neophytes, who had been responsible for building the mission empire. However, following adoption of the Secularization Act, former mission lands and livestock were redistributed by the Mexican government through several hundred land grants to non-Native American ranchers (Langum 1987:15–18). The Mexican citizens who received the ranchos subsequently released their neophyte "workers" to fend for themselves.

In San Bernardino County, the first of these land grants was made in 1838 to Juan Bandini. This was known as the Jurupa Grant, spanning 32,000 acres between Slover Mountain and the Chino Hills. Immediately upon receiving his grant, Bandini began stocking his rancho and built an adobe where he and his family resided (Brown and Boyd 1922; Hampson et al. 1988).

In 1842, a second land grant in San Bernardino County was given to Antonio Maria Lugo of Los Angeles. This grant, known as Rancho San Bernardino, included over 37,000 acres of land in San Bernardino Valley. Its boundary ran west of Colton's present-day city limits. The San Bernardino Rancho was held by the Lugo family until they sold it to the Mormons in 1851 (Brown and Boyd 1922). Colton largely consists of the remnants of these two large-scale grants: Lugo's Rancho San Bernardino and Bandini's Jurupa Grant. During this period, the creation of the Old Spanish Trail in 1829 established a direct link between Colton and other southwestern states (which in turn led to the creation of the Agua Mansa and La Placita settlements, described in more detail below). Colton became an important site along the trail as the location for an annual rendezvous of traders.

American Period (1848 to present)

The Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ushering in the American Period in California. In 1850, California officially became a state. Horticulture and livestock, based primarily on cattle as the currency and staple of the rancho system, continued to dominate the southern California economy through 1850s. As the 1860s began, Native American residents of San Bernardino comprised more than half (3,200 of 5,000) of the total population. However, in 1862, a smallpox epidemic in San Bernardino took a tremendous toll on the Native American population, which experienced devastating losses.

In the 1870s, efforts to establish a southern transcontinental railroad, which had been on hold during the Civil War, were revived. In 1871, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company conducted surveys in support of this initiative. In 1873, however, when construction of the Texas & Pacific line stalled, San Francisco railway investors stepped in to extend their own Southern Pacific Railroad line through Imperial Valley in 1877 (Yenne 1985). This same year, in 1873, American-era settlement in Colton gained momentum with the formation of the Slover Mountain Colony Association. Led by president William H. Mintzer, the association obtained approximately 2,000 acres of land on the plains of the Santa Ana River, which the association in turn platted and offered for sale. One of the first settlers was Pennsylvania-native Dr. W.R. Fox, who purchased 40 acres (for \$1,430) and became the fledgling town's first residents. Dr. Fox's home was on Citrus Street. During these early years, Colton saw its first school district and newspaper established.

One of the most consequential days in Colton's history during these founding years was August 11, 1875. On this day, the first train of the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in town (Maltsberger 1974:7). Seven years later, in August 1882, Colton's status as a "hub city" took a significant step forward with the opening of the Santa Fe Railroad line in Colton.

In Colton (as throughout California), the advent of the transcontinental railroad was a powerful catalyst for development and new settlement. Even in this broader story, though, Colton's status as home to the overlapping lines of the region's most important connectors was exceptional. Against this backdrop, in the 1870s and 1880s, the presence of the multiple railroad lines not only brought new growth but also served to put Colton on the map.



Figure CR-23. The City's bustling Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. Source: City of Colton

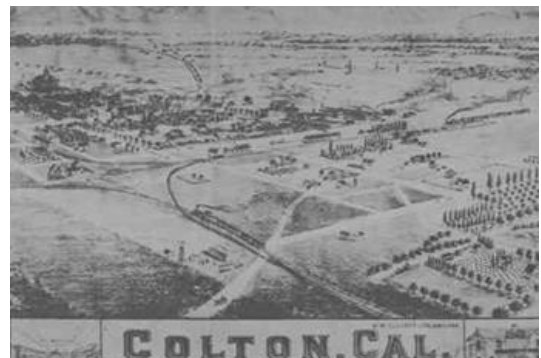


Figure CR-24. Early view of Colton, railroad and orchards. Source: City of San Bernardino



Figure CR-25. 1973 view of the Earp House (528 W. “H” St.), Historical Landmark No. 33. Source: Maltsberger



Figure CR-26. The landmark Earp House as of 2022. Source: Google Maps

In July 1887, Colton incorporated as a city, spanning about one square mile. In a reflection of the primacy of the railroads, the town was named for David Douilty Colton, Southern Pacific Railroad Vice President (and former Civil War general). The City’s first marshal was Virgil Earp, of the famous Earp family; the Earp House (528 West “H” Street) is Colton Historical Landmark #33. In 1884, Earp’s father, Nicholas Earp, was elected justice of the peace in Colton. In 1886, Virgil Earp opened a private detective agency, and by July, he was elected village constable. The Earp family has had a long presence in Colton, extending into the 21st century, when W. Don Earp (1944-2020) served on the Historic Preservation Commission.

With this interconnecting hub of lines, the City was, and still is, a major rail hub for the region. This position at the intersection of important rail lines contributed to the City’s rise as a major shipping and transportation hub. Colton became the only place in California where two transcontinental railroads met. As such, it played a vital role in regional agricultural development and settlement. With the railway providing access, new settlers arrived, primarily from Tennessee, Alabama, Massachusetts, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Kansas.

The 1870s brought another milestone event to the region: the first citrus trees and groves were planted, and Colton quickly became a major producer of citrus products. In Colton, the first groves were planted in 1875 by William Fox and Reverend James Cameron, who selected land in the “Terrace,” in present-day north-central Colton, for their farms and homesteads. This elevated area, with its favorable temperatures, soon became Colton’s principal fruit growing section. (The Terrace is the location of one of the City’s designated historic districts.)

As the City grew, other areas were also planted with fruit and nut trees. New groves in turn attracted more workers, drawn to Colton’s emerging employment centers in agriculture, railway lines, lumber, and shipping, and cement works. During this time, following the devastating floods of the 1860s, some residents of La Placita and Agua Mansa (both of which are described in detail below) relocated to South Colton. Stores and hotels were constructed for the fledgling community, but in general, the town developed gradually in its early years.

According to San Bernardino Tax Assessor data, Colton retains at least 50 properties, mostly residential, from the 19th century. The highest concentrations of 19th century buildings are in clusters east and west of North La Cadena Drive and in South Colton. Historical archaeological remains associated with the eras described above and below may also be present throughout the City, especially within the City’s historical center. A series of ArcGIS maps illustrating construction dates in Colton appear at the conclusion of this section.

Boom of the 1880s

As of 1880, Colton had a population of approximately 300. By decade's end, the population had expanded nearly fivefold, to over 1,300. As with other communities throughout southern California, the establishment of the transcontinental railway brought new settlement. When a railway rate war began in the 1880s, passage to southern California was aggressively marketed throughout the United States, with prices for a transcontinental trip dipping to a single dollar. With this, the ongoing influx of settlers turned into a flood, with an accompanying round of speculative real estate development and new townsites and tracts.

During the boom of the 1880s, Colton—as an emerging transportation hub—saw particularly dramatic growth. The second important railroad line arrived in Colton at this time, in 1882, with the establishment of the California Southern Railroad (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe line). This line extended into Colton from San Diego, and Colton's new status as a crossroads of two major railroads further stimulated its growth and increased its connections to other cities. During this time, residential, commercial, and infrastructure development expanded rapidly to serve the growing population.

Formally incorporated in 1887, Colton had already become one of California's leading citrus-producing, processing, and shipping communities by the late 1880s. Additional transportation links established during this period included a road and streetcar line into San Bernardino in 1887 and 1902, respectively. The streetcar line became part of the Pacific Electric Company in 1913, further establishing Colton as a transportation hub for the region.

In these founding years, early local commerce was largely based on the railroad, citrus growing, processing and shipping, cement manufacturing, and limestone and marble quarries. The citrus industry, however, quickly became Colton's principal employer; as in neighboring communities, the citrus industry was the economic engine for growth.

As the 1880s boom turned to an 1890s bust throughout southern California, Colton largely maintained its expanded population, losing only 30 residents between 1890 and 1900 (1,315 to 1,285). And, in a reflection of Colton's regional and national profile, the 19th century ended with a visit from US President William McKinley in 1898, setting the stage for the 20th century.



Figure CR-27. Orange crate label for Colton Orange Growers Association. Source: Colton Area Museum



Figure CR-28. Colton citrus packing house, 10th Street between H and I streets. Source: Maltsberger



Figure CR-29. Ashley House (736 N. La Cadena Dr.), Historic Landmark #1. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-30. Van Luven House (611 N. 4th St.), Historic Landmark #38. Source: City of Colton

Turn of the Century through the Roaring 1920s

The opening decades of the 20th century were eventful for Colton. With the population growing more than sixfold between 1900 and 1930 (from 1,285 to over 8,000), Colton took its place among the region's emerging cities. New construction expanded in all directions, with the largest concentration from 1900 to 1929 east and west of North La Cadena Drive, south of Laurel Street, and throughout South Colton. Among parcels with dates of construction, Colton retains more than 1,100 buildings from 1900 through 1929. The maps in Figure CR-60 through Figure CR-63 provide an overview of these dates of construction.

A variety of new institutional and social organizations were established during this time, to serve new residents and continue attracting settlers and businesses. Industrial ventures included Globe Flour Mills, which opened in 1902 as one of the largest mills in California, and the Pacific Fruit Express, in 1908. Other enterprises that continued to serve as employment centers included the California Portland Cement Works. Social, community, and commercial organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Colton Woman's Club were founded in the 1900s. And by 1909, Colton was home to four elementary schools and a high school, serving 120 students.

The year 1908 brought a Carnegie-funded library to Colton. Through the efforts of the Colton Woman's Club and City Council, and partial funding from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, the new Classical-Revival style library opened to the public in November 1908. The building currently houses the Colton Area Museum and is Historic Landmark #8.

Apart from introducing Prohibition to Colton, the 1910s saw the establishment of Colton Hardware, the *Colton Courier*, and new churches and schools, including Lincoln School, Jewel Methodist Church, and the Mexican Baptist Mission. Among those parcels with associated construction dates, nearly 1,200 of the extant properties in Colton were constructed between 1900 and 1929, with the 1920s representing more than half of those. The 1920s capped this expansion, with the opening of churches, schools (including San Bernardino Valley College), clubs (Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club chapters), a remodeled City Hall, and recreational centers such as the Caldera Plunge, Municipal Park Plunge, and Fleming Park, the latter of which was donated by Colton Portland Cement Company and remains in active use. Colton's first airport was also constructed during the Roaring 1920s, in 1927.



Figure CR-31. Fleming Park, shown in circa 2021, Historic Landmark #2. Source: City of Colton

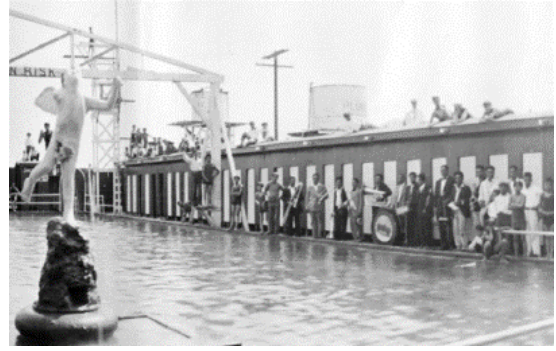


Figure CR-32. Caldera Plunge, shown in circa 1926. Source: South Colton Oral History Project

Behind this economic growth, of course, was the labor force that made it possible. On the whole, the workers driving Colton's early growth were immigrant and migrant workers. Leading up to the early 1880s, for example, Chinese immigrants in Colton were essential laborers working on the railroad, in agricultural fields, canneries, and laundries. Passage of racially exclusionary immigration laws in the early 1880s, however, led to a decrease in Chinese (and Japanese) immigration. To fill the gap, employers, including citrus farmers and railway lines, actively recruited Mexican workers (Howell-Ardila, 2018).

The continuing need for a readily available, ever-growing labor pool, coupled with events in Mexico, set the stage for a significant influx of Mexican immigrants to Colton and the region in general. The boom in the level of Mexican immigration to the United States in the 1910s rested on two central events. The first event was the Mexican Revolution, from 1910 to 1920, which triggered waves of immigration to the US. The second event was the US entry into World War I, which created a national labor shortage.

These two events provided the backdrop for a large influx into the United States, with Latino communities in southern California growing significantly. Many people and families came to communities that were already well established, to join friends or relatives. New immigration laws passed in 1917 also sought to end the pattern of circular migration for migrant workers by making it preferable to settle permanently. This lent itself to the formation of cohesive ethnic enclaves, where cultural and religious traditions survived and flourished.

Through the 1910s, the political turmoil in Mexico, then, along with the ongoing demand for workers, shifted the balance in favor of laborers from Mexico. This trend was shared in the growing industries of Colton, San Bernardino County, and the region in general, including in mining and agriculture. The Southern Pacific Railroad also employed Mexican and Mexican-American laborers for construction and maintenance of the rail lines. Railroad labor camps built adjacent to the tracks contributed to the establishment of South Colton's Mexican American community (National Park Service, 2004).

In addition, South Colton's location near the railroad and cement plant, along with existing Spanish-speaking settlers, drew new Mexican immigrants to the community. South Colton residents also interacted with Agua Mansa residents who shared their Hispanic roots – one indicator of close cultural ties is seen in the relocation of the San Salvador Church to South Colton in 1912. The area became almost exclusively Hispanic by about 1910.



Figure CR-33. Early map of Colton, n.d. Shows the intersecting railway lines, adjacent small lots for residential and commercial settlement, and larger-scale parcels for small farms to the north. Note the cement and marble works in the lower-left hand portion of the map. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-34. Spanish Revival style home at 1167 North 9th Street. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-35. Row of Craftsman bungalow homes. Source: City of Colton

In terms of residential expansion through the first quarter of the 20th century, many new homes were constructed on “F,” “G,” and “H” Streets, between 9th and La Cadena Drive (formerly San Bernardino Street). An extended swath of North La Cadena Drive retains a notable concentration of historic properties and is one of the City’s designated historic districts. These were primarily large-scale homes exhibiting Craftsman and period-revival architectural styles. Most faced south, towards the commercial center of town.

In 1902, La Cadena Drive became a major thoroughfare and the location for a streetcar line, further facilitating access and increasing its attractiveness as a corridor for residential and commercial development. (That line later became part of the Pacific Electric Company’s streetcar system.)

Colton’s status as a key transportation hub in the Inland Empire continued to fuel growth. Additional land was subdivided and annexed, including the Raynor Addition on 9th Street between E and H Streets. Homes in this neighborhood constructed between the early 1900s and 1930s display a range of period revival styles and the Craftsman style.

Through this time, in terms of the agricultural industry, Colton’s original citrus processing center shifted from the east to the west side of town, following the establishment of the California Southern Railroad. This line ran parallel to Sixth Street along the eastern edge of the Terrace. The area became a hub of activity with numerous packing and canning plants. The two major local citrus associations were the Colton Fruit Growers Association and the Colton Fruit Exchange.



Figure CR-36. Streetcar line through downtown Colton, circa 1910. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-37. “I” Street commercial corridor in 1920s, after rise of the automobile. Source: Olson, 1989



Figure CR-38. Garfield School (1927). Source: South Colton Oral History Project



Figure CR-39. First Baptist Church, 1920s. Source: Olson, 1989

Great Depression & World War II (1930 to 1945)

In Colton, the onset of the Great Depression slowed but did not stop new development. The population expanded through the decade, from just over 8,000 to nearly 9,700. Among those parcels with dates of construction, over 400 extant buildings in Colton were constructed during the 1930s. The maps in Figure CR-60 through Figure CR-63 provide an overview of these dates of construction.

Through the Great Depression, the local citrus industry experienced a decline, as land began to shift from agricultural to residential uses. Following a peak in productivity for the citrus industry, by 1936, the Colton Fruit Exchange, with its business dwindling, closed its packinghouse. Orchard land in the southern portion of the “Terrace” area began being subdivided and developed for residential use. Residential construction in the area included neighborhoods of Minimal Traditional style homes, as well as other period-revival styles.

While Colton’s overall rate of growth slowed during the Great Depression, new infrastructure projects funded by the New Deal and Works Progress Administration arrived. Two of these are prominent designated landmarks in Colton: Fire Station No. 211, constructed in 1936, and Woodrow Wilson School, constructed in 1938.

Featuring a Spanish Revival architectural style, Fire Station No. 211 is at 303 East “E” Street. The building, which is Colton’s Historic Landmark #10, was designated in 1991. Woodrow Wilson School, which exhibits a WPA/Streamline Moderne architectural style, was constructed at 750 South 8th Street in South Colton in 1938. The school is Colton’s Historic Landmark #45 and was designated in 1995.



Figure CR-40. Woodrow Wilson School (1938), Historic Landmark #45. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-41. Colton Fire Station built in 1936 with WPA assistance. Source: Dennis Bickers, 2009

Another notable change in the City during this period was the end of streetcar service due to a decrease in ridership stemming from the popularity of the automobile. The Pacific Electric made its final trip in 1940, and the tracks were later removed. By the eve of the Great Depression, Colton's commercial amenities and corridors were well established. In South Colton, for example, the community could rely on nearly 20 grocery stores, multiple churches, barbershops, shoe repair, appliance and hardware stores, and restaurants (South Colton Oral History Project, 2017).

At the same time, the onset of the Great Depression saw the rise of nativist, anti-immigrant sentiment; by 1932, the federal government began a repatriation program that resulted in the expulsion and deportations of an estimated 500,000 Mexican-Americans in the United States through the course of the 1930s (California Office of Historic Preservation, 2015). This disproportionately affected those cities with large Mexican and Mexican-American communities, including Colton and other neighboring communities.

In 1937, the *Colton Courier* observed that, in spite of the Great Depression, the City recorded "prosperous and progressive years, local building and industry are high" (Olson, 1989:583). The next year, in 1938, however, a devastating flood wreaked havoc in Colton and neighboring communities. By the early 1940s, however, the region's economy received a significant boost with federal, war-related investment and infrastructure, including a significant military buildup in preparation for and upon entering World War II. Nearby Riverside was home to several major military installations, including March Field and Camp Haan, where tens of thousands of troops completed their training. Camp Anza also served as a staging center for soldiers entering or returning from the Pacific Theatre of war (City of Riverside, 2015; United States Air Force, n.d.).

Colton's expansion during World War II is still reflected in the built environment. In addition to the annexing of east Colton in 1940, Colton saw robust new construction during the war years, with over 500 extant buildings dating to 1940 and 1944.

Post-World War II Boom (1945 to 1969)

Colton experienced a rapid growth in postwar years, with expansion of the population and the City itself, through annexations. With this heightened demand for housing—and the national housing shortage reaching crisis levels in the immediate postwar period—the loss of agricultural land accelerated. Colton saw a residential building boom as well as commercial, office, and institutional development.



Figure CR-42. Colton Civic Center.
Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-43. Howard Johnson Restaurant.
Source: City of Colton

Between 1940 and 1960, the population of Colton expanded 50 percent, rising to over 14,300 by 1950, and up to 18,600 by 1960. This boom is reflected in the extant City—among parcels with dates of construction, nearly 10 percent were built between 1940 and 1969. This construction boom lives on in highest concentrations north of the I-10, to the west and east of the La Cadena Drive north-south corridor.

Colton continued to serve as an important rail hub in the region, a status reflected in a 1948 visit by President Harry S. Truman, who selected Colton for a campaign speech (Harry S. Truman Library and Museum 2008). After 1950, as industrial and urban development increased, agricultural uses decreased. To support its growing population, Colton gained new shopping centers and a new civic center constructed in the early 1960s.

In addition, redevelopment projects resulted in a considerable number of buildings being demolished, including a portion of the central commercial district that was lost to the construction of I-10 (San Bernardino Freeway) along a portion of what was once J Street. Many businesses in the older commercial district relocated to other areas of the City.

The postwar years also brought initiatives for honoring veterans. For example, the Fidel Hernandez American Legion Post (No. 754) was established in South Colton, named after one of Colton's first World War II casualties. Colton also established a chapter of the American G.I. Forum, a national organization founded in 1948 for Latino servicemen and women.



Figure CR-44. Fidel Hernandez American Legion Post (No. 754) and American G.I. Forum Members, circa 1969. Source: South Colton Oral History Project



Figure CR-45. Downtown commercial corridor in the 1940s, with Helman Department Store on left. Source: City of Colton

With the postwar years, modernist architectural styles arrived in Colton—with buildings influenced and inspired by the International Style, Mid-Century Modernism, and later styles such as New Formalism. Modernist-inspired styles are most often seen in the City's institutional, office, and commercial architecture. Overall, these styles sought a break with the ornamental, period-eclecticism of the 1920s and 1930s. Common ideas included moving away from Classical forms of architecture and basing design on the function of the building, and honestly expressing materials and structure.

In southern California, a middle path for modernist architecture also emerged. Called "Mid-Century Modernism" or Regional Modernism, this style brings together the formal, machine-age aesthetic of the International Style with regional identity, local precedent, materials, and topography. More of a vocabulary than a style, the various strains of Mid-Century Modernism became common throughout the United States in the postwar period, in particular in residential design, with southern California becoming a world-famous center for modernist design and culture.

Circa 1970 to Present

As agricultural property was transformed into industrial property and the Ontario airport expanded, agricultural enterprises in the Colton area decreased. In the 1970s, the Colton area experienced rapid population growth as people working in Los Angeles and Orange Counties sought more affordable housing in suburban areas.

This growth is reflected in the City's present-day built environment. Among parcels with associated construction dates, at least 1,000 extant properties in Colton were constructed in the 1970s. As shown in Figure CR-60 through Figure CR-63, the largest swaths of post-1970s construction are in the northwest and southeast quadrants, and South Colton.

Colton, as well as the larger Inland Empire region, experienced another building boom in the 1980s, as people in surrounding areas such as Los Angeles and Orange counties sought housing in outlying suburban areas. Numerous new neighborhoods emerged at this time, including in the areas of Cooley Ranch and Reche Canyon on the east side of the City. According to San Bernardino County parcel data, over 22 percent of the City's buildings were constructed in the 1980s.

This expansion was also reflected in the City's population, which nearly doubled from approximately 21,000 to 40,000 residents. Expanded commercial and institutional development arrived along with this increase, to support the growing demand for goods and services. The Colton post office, for example, became overcrowded with such dramatic growth; thus, a new post office was built in 1970.

Around the same time, the Colton I-10/I-215 freeway interchange was modernized and rebuilt, and construction began on a new San Salvador Church (Maltsberger 1974). In the 2000s, the Agua Mansa area saw increased industrial development and a new sewage treatment plant, the Colton/San Bernardino Rapid Infiltration and Extraction Facility (Sheffield 2004). At present, Colton encompasses nearly 16 square miles, with a population of over 50,000.



Figure CR-46. Colton's new US Post Office. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-47. Better Business Bureau (315 N. La Cadena Dr.). Source: City of Colton

Agua Mansa and La Placita

In 1842 and 1843, a dozen families from New Mexico relocated to southern California. Leading the group was Lorenzo Trujillo and several other men of Mexican and Native American descent. The men had served for years as trade-caravan guides along the Old Spanish Trail, from Santa Fe to Los Angeles.

These pioneering settlers represent the first colonizing expedition from northern New Mexico to southern California. The community they founded was the first post-Mission era settlement, not to mention the first Catholic parish, east of San Gabriel (Harley 1991). Although short-lived, these pioneering communities paved the way for the founding of the Inland Empire's two largest cities: San Bernardino (founded 1851) to the northeast, Riverside (founded 1870) to the southwest, along with Colton to the northeast (founded 1873).

The two communities, Agua Mansa and La Placita (known collectively as "San Salvador") were founded on opposite sides of the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino Valley. Known as the "Bandini Donation," the land was given to the settlers in 1843 by Juan Bandini. Bandini gave over 2,200 acres of his Jurupa grant to the settlers; in exchange, they worked as vaqueros and provided security for Bandini's livestock and holdings (Waitman 1991:41).

From the Bandini Donation, Trujillo and his fellow pioneers established the new towns of Agua Mansa and La Placita de los Trujillos in 1844 and 1845, respectively. Agua Mansa, meaning "gentle water" in Spanish, was on the north bank of the river, and La Placita de los Trujillos, referring to a plaza that connected the founding Trujillo family's homes, was on the south bank (Harley 1996:30; Waitman 1991). These small agricultural communities prospered in the fertile Santa Ana flood plain, growing grapes and grain; raising sheep, goats, cattle, and horses; and selling surplus in both the San Bernardino and Los Angeles markets. Fruits and vegetables thrived with little irrigation in the productive, low-lying farmland.

Agua Mansa and La Placita differed from other Californio settlements in two important ways. In contrast to the quasi-feudal system of contemporary ranchos, Agua Mansans (as they were collectively called) owned their own land and were economically independent. Each family owned a narrow lot that included river frontage, farm fields, and grazing lands. Although they worked as vaqueros and a security force for Bandini, each family sustained itself with the fruits of the land (Harley 1996).



Figure CR-48. Trujillo Adobe, Riverside County Historic Landmark. Source: City of Riverside



Figure CR-49. Agua Mansa Pioneer Cemetery, Historic Landmark #7. Source: City of Colton



Figure CR-50. San Salvador Church, n.d. Source: Frank Acosta

The Catholic residents of Agua Mansa and La Placita built an adobe church in La Placita in 1852, but it collapsed prior to its completion. The replacement church, named San Salvador and on high ground in Agua Mansa, served the valley from 1853 through 1878. The associated cemetery at Agua Mansa remains the county's oldest cemetery and is designated as Colton Historical Landmark No. 7 and California State Historical Landmark No. 121. The cemetery is estimated to contain 6,000 to 6,500 graves (Maltsberger 1974:27).

In early 1862, fifteen days of rain triggered a devastating flood on January 22, destroying both Agua Mansa and La Placita. Adobe buildings melted and collapsed. Trees, crops, and fertile soils washed away; and coarse sand covered what remained. Involving approximately 320,000 cubic feet per second, this was the largest flood event in the recorded history of the Upper Santa Ana River Basin. Only the church, graveyard, and Cornelius Jensen's home in Agua Mansa survived the deluge; La Placita was entirely destroyed (Sidler 1991). The *Los Angeles Star* gave the following account:

The flood in the Santa Ana river [sic] was so great as to pour into the town, washing away the houses, leaving the people without shelter. The church, fortunately, withstood the flood, and thither the people flocked. Everything, of provisions and clothing, has been destroyed, and the people are left absolutely in a state of starvation. There are now fully 500 persons in the church, without the means of subsistence... (Cleland 2005:129)

Agua Mansa was rebuilt in place, and La Placita was rebuilt on higher ground, on a plateau on the western side of the La Loma Hills. The communities never regained their former prominence, however (Harley 1996:7, 24). With the move to higher and less fertile ground, irrigation became a priority for the communities. Post-flood rebuilding efforts included construction of two earthen canals, drawing water from the Santa Ana River. The Agua Mansa Ditch ran south and west from the river to water its namesake community, whereas the Trujillo Ditch ran due south to water La Placita (Harley 1996:20; Scott 1977:70, 81).

Because local residents referred to the rebuilt La Placita as “Spanish-town” (Harley 1996:15), an alternate name for the Trujillo Ditch was the Spanishtown Flume (Scott 1977:73, 81).

The establishment of Riverside County in 1893 divided La Placita in two. Along with the creation of new churches and schools to serve the north and south portions of the community, the balance of power among the resident families shifted. Long dominated by the Trujillo family, north La Placita was now led by the large Garcia family. David Santiago Garcia, Sr., who was born in Agua Mansa in 1866, acquired the lands of several settlers who had moved away by the 1890s. Anton Pellissier moved into northern La Placita around the same time (Harley 1996:19–20), built a house on the former site of another Garcia family home (Loehr 1993:11), and operated a dairy and winery. Pellissier emigrated from France in 1888 and by 1920 lived with his second wife and two children on North Orange Street. Northern La Placita continued to be used for agriculture through the 1980s.

South Colton

One of the oldest areas of the City, South Colton was also the traditional home for a long-time Mexican-American communities in the region. In 2004, South Colton’s Mexican-American community was recognized in the National Park Service’s landmark study, *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California* (National Park Service, 2004).

Spanning approximately 1.4 square miles, the area developed as a predominantly Latino quarter, with four main *barrios*, or neighborhoods: La Reserva in the northwest, La Calle Cinco along 5th Street, La Calle Siete along 7th Street, and La Paloma east of La Cadena Avenue. South Colton is generally south of the Southern Pacific Railroad and I-10, between the Santa Ana River to the east and Slover Mountain to the west.

As of 2004, among a population of 3,350, 85 percent of the South Colton residents were of Mexican descent. With this cultural cohesiveness, over time South Colton developed an independent identity and culture. Some of the earliest residents in South Colton came from the settlements of Agua Mansa and La Placita. In addition, immigrants employed by the railroad and citrus industries, and the local cement factory settled in South Colton in the early 1900s. During the Mexican Revolution in 1910 to 1920, a large outmigration took place, with many people arriving in Colton and the surrounding areas, which offered proximity to the Southern Pacific Railway and other transportation lines and emerging employment centers.



Figure CR-51. Early Latino settlers of South Colton, from left to right: Mejia Family, Victoria and Sixto Rivera, Juana and Tomás Luna. Source: South Colton Oral History Project



Figure CR-52. South Colton citrus workers. Source: Lee Muratalla, South Colton Oral History Project



Figure CR-53. Asociacion de Trabajadores Unidos, founded in 1917. Source: South Colton Oral History Project

With this, South Colton's proximity to a robust and expanding industrial base made the area a good option for workers. With the area's more industrial nature—and periodic traffic stops impeding access, as long trains passed by—the principal commercial and residential zones emerged north of the railroad line. While South Colton was initially home to a multicultural mix of Anglo and Latino residents, the area became the nucleus of the City's long-time Latino community over time. As noted in "Five Views," "These communities were founded next to the tracks because that was often marginal land, affordable and close to work, and because de facto segregation existed" (National Park Service 2004).

Railroad section housing was established for employees of the railroads adjacent to the tracks. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from the 1910s and 1920s depicted tenements near the tracks, including those labeled as "Mexican Tenements" adjacent to the ATSF line between M and N Streets. Another link between the railroad and community expressed in the built environment was the construction of homes by area residents using recycled wood from railway cars.

Residents found work in citrus, the local cement and ice plants, and traveling for seasonal harvests. Pioneering entrepreneurs in the community also established their own businesses, such as grocery stores, auto repair garages, social halls, barber and shoe repair shops, bars, restaurants, and furniture and hardware stores. Juan Caldera, a resident and entrepreneur, developed a sports complex with a swimming pool and baseball park for use by the predominantly Mexican-American community members; at the time, due to segregation, equivalent facilities in predominantly Anglo-American areas of town would have been off-limits. Recreational facilities, which also included a bullring and boxing arena, were west of Fifth Street between Agua Mansa Road and Fogg Street.



Figure CR-54. Cervantes Market. Source: South Colton Oral History Project



Figure CR-55. Caldera Plunge, shown in ca. 1926. Source: South Colton Oral History Project

From the earliest days, South Colton's predominantly Mexican-American residents experienced discrimination and exclusion on a variety of fronts. Community members interviewed for the South Colton Oral History Project recalled segregated schools and theaters, and exclusionary practices at local hospitals, restaurants, schools, and recreational facilities, including the public pool in North Colton. In Latino neighborhoods and communities in these early years, however, exclusion from the outside often meant active community building on the inside. In this climate, "Barrios and colonias developed and survived through a combination of force and choice...the village was home, neighborhood, playground, and social center;" the barrio came to include "churches, sports teams, entertainment groups, and *mutualistas*—mutual aid societies—which took care of the community members" (Gonzalez, 1991).

This pattern fit for South Colton's community. Mutual aid societies and union groups that emerged in Colton the early 20th century included *Trabajadores Unidos* (Workers United), formed in 1917 as cement plant workers protested a reduction in wages and *Sociedad Progresista Mexicana* (Progressive Mexican Society), an organization that with dozens of chapters through the United States. Other organizations active in Colton included the *Alianza Hispano-Americana* (Hispanic-American Alliance), which was founded in the United States in 1894 and had many active chapters through the region.

In this way, cultural identity was retained and expressed through language, religion, food, social events, festivals and sports. Local churches were of primary importance to the community and included San Salvador Church, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Iglesia Bautista, Iglesia Pentecostal, and Iglesia Apostolica. Community members celebrated religious traditions and holidays, and annual festivals such as las Fiestas Patrias in honor of Mexican Independence Day. Parades, concerts and dances were held. Local residents also formed bands and athletic teams such as the well-known baseball team, the Colton Mercurys.

In Colton, as in California, World War II represented a positive turning point for Latinos. With the US entry into World War II, thousands of Latinos enlisted and fought in the conflict. An estimated half million Mexican-Americans served in World War II, earning a total of 17 Congressional Medals of Honor (California Office of Historic Preservation, 2015). In this way, World War II helped empower this generation to fight for change. Returning veterans asserted their right to equal treatment and access, and the improvements they helped achieve lifted the community in all areas of life.



Figure CR-56. "Bienvenidos a Colton" (Welcome to Colton), La Cadena Dr. and "O" St., 1967. Colton Historical Landmark No. 29. Source: South Colton Oral History Project



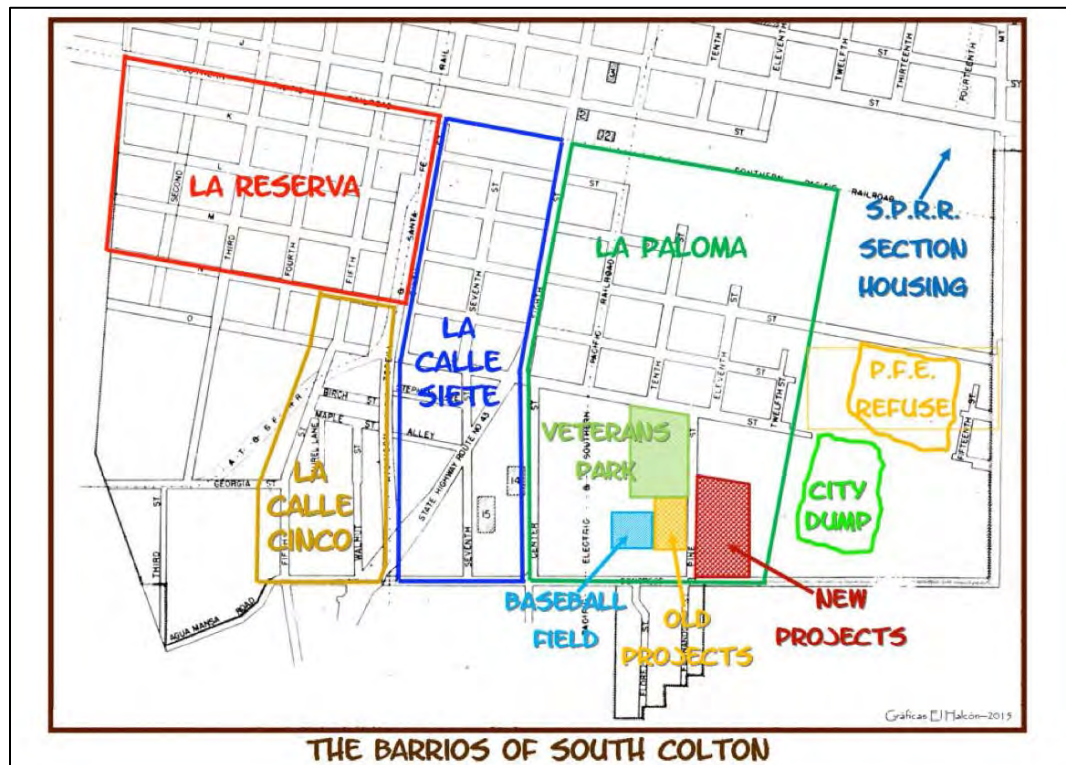
Figure CR-57. South Colton's Mercurys baseball team, circa 1950. Source: South Colton Oral History Project

Figure CR-58. *Fiestas patrias* (patriotic celebrations), South Colton, circa 1920



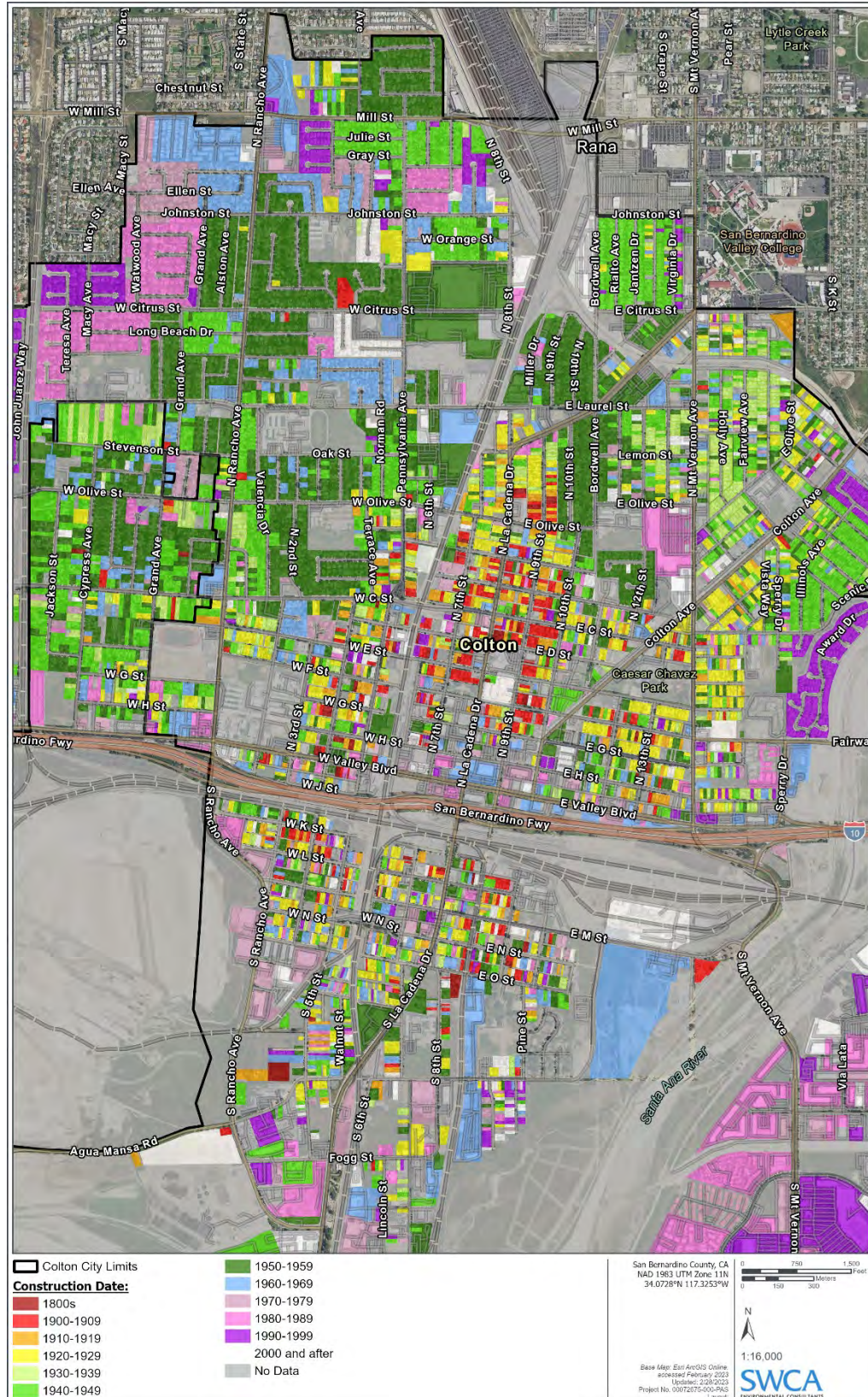
Source: California State University, San Bernardino, Special Collections

Figure CR-59. The *barrios* (neighborhoods) of South Colton



Source: California State University, San Bernardino, Special Collections

Figure CR-61. Dates of Construction, Inset Map B-1 (Central Colton)



CITY OF COLTON CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT UPDATE: A ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE

Figure CR-62. Dates of Construction, Inset Map B-2 (Southeast Colton)

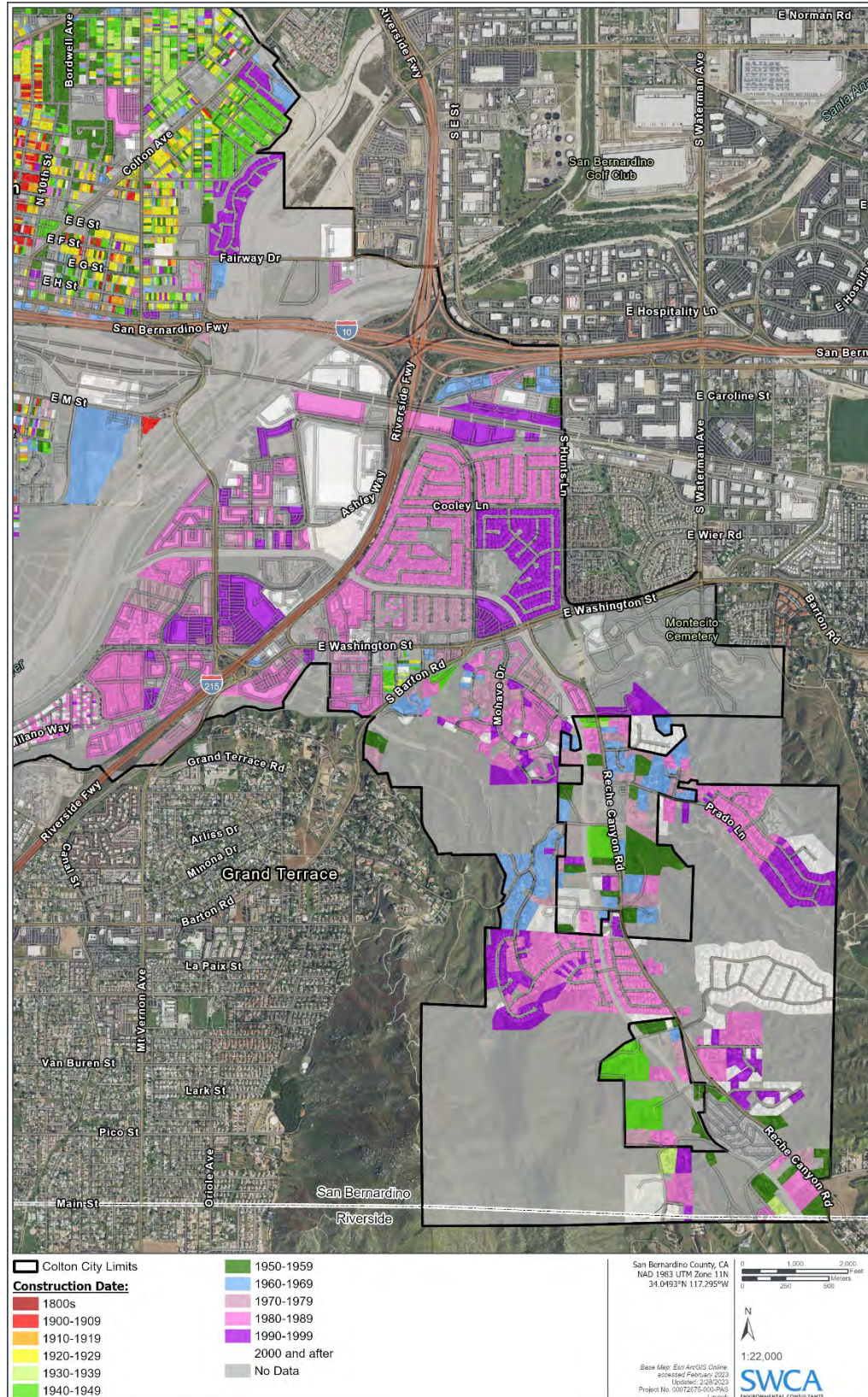
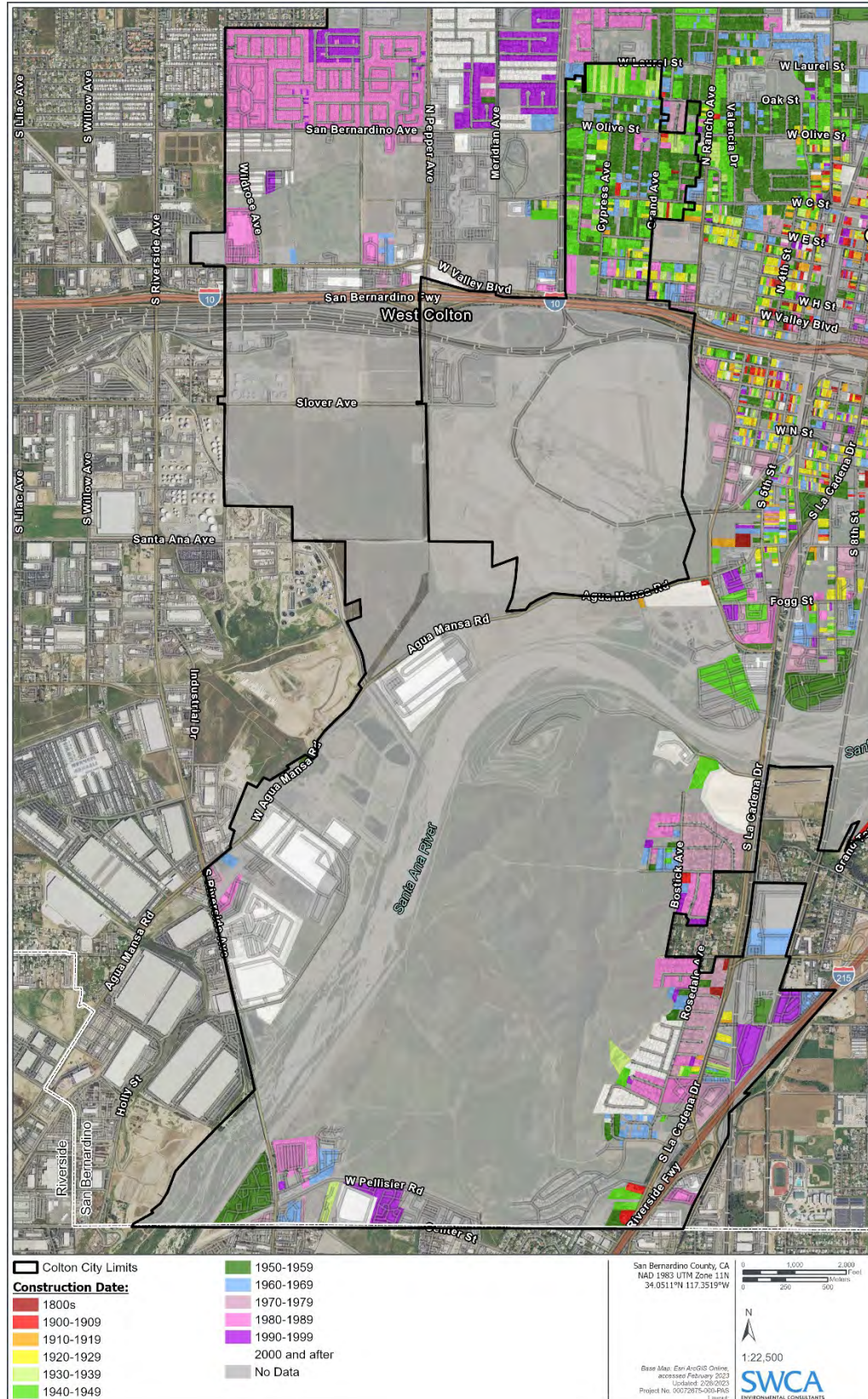


Figure CR-63. Dates of Construction, Inset Map B-3 (Southwest Colton)



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Challenges, Issues, and Priorities

Given its extensive and rich history, Colton is home to countless significant cultural resources. This richness represents both an opportunity—to build awareness and appreciation of this heritage—and a challenge, to encourage and balance new growth while also managing and preserving significant cultural resources. Other challenges include gradual changes in the character of historic neighborhoods and a need for education on best practices in historic preservation and the stewardship of significant cultural resources. This section describes how community input helped shape this Cultural Resources Element’s five key Goals: Identify, Document, Preserve, Educate, and Celebrate.

For this Cultural Resources Element, community and decision-maker input was vital in identifying challenges, issues, and priorities. These issues in turn helped shape actionable, feasible solutions, through Goals, Policies, and Action Items, which will allow the City to address these concerns and issues.

During community and commission workshops, input gathered from residents, stakeholders, City staff, and decision-makers broadly fell into three categories:

1. Concerns about **development pressures** and the resulting loss of cultural resources;
2. Issues (in terms of access and awareness) regarding **how to provide timely comment** on projects to the City;
3. Information-sharing on the many **archival resources and community advocacy** on Colton’s cultural heritage and history.

In terms of the first item, topics included concerns over new development leading to the loss of significant cultural resources. Community members cited the gradual changes to areas such as the Agua Mansa settlement and South Colton, as the long-time home of Mexican-American settlers. In terms of the second item, concerns were expressed about the public’s level of awareness on how to participate in providing input to the City on projects of interest to the community. Similarly, concerns were expressed about physical access to meetings, as well as the length of time members of the public are given to comment on projects at public hearings. In terms of the third item, members of the public belonging to organizations that are dedicated to collecting, recording, curating, and preserving Colton’s history provided information on their efforts. These groups included the Colton Area Museum, the Native American Community Council for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, Old Spanish Trail Association, and the South Colton Oral History Project.

Table CR-1 through Table CR-3 below summarize community input on Challenges and Issues facing Colton, along with the relevant Goals and Policies designed to proactively address those issues for Historical, Archaeological, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Table CR-1 Challenges and Issues for Historical Resources

CHALLENGES & ISSUES HISTORICAL RESOURCES	
Challenges & Issues	Related Goals
Colton might lose historical resources unless we update our historical resources survey and establish an Inventory of historically significant (but not yet designated) properties	#1: IDENTIFY
- Without a thematic historic context statement, our historical resource evaluations might not be consistent, comparative, and considerate of sociocultural significance - Colton's previous historical resources survey evaluated properties built through 1941, so World War II- and Modernist-era properties have not yet been documented	#2: DOCUMENT
- Our ordinance does not have mandatory review for demolition permits for of-age properties, so we could lose historical resources without knowing it - Without design guidelines, it is hard to know how to update or change your historic property - Development and growth pressures can cause the loss of cultural resources - Agua Mansa has been the site of heavy new development, which could impact cultural resources	#3: PRESERVE & PROTECT
- Colton offers the Mills Act, but without an adopted Mills Act program or educational materials, people might not know about how they might benefit from it - Members of the public have concerns about designation and historic preservation that are sometimes based on misconceptions - Members of the public might lack information on how to comment on proposed development projects that could affect historical resources - City staff and decision makers could benefit from ongoing, specialized training for historical resources management	#4: EDUCATE

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Challenges & Issues	Related Goals
▪ Raising awareness of Colton’s rich cultural heritage could both be a benefit to the public and encourage preservation ▪ It could incentivize preservation and build pride in our City to celebrate and honor historic preservation success stories	#5: CELEBRATE

Table CR-2 Challenges and Issues for Archaeological Resources

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Challenges & Issues	Related Goals
▪ No comprehensive survey of archaeological resources exists	#1: IDENTIFY
▪ No comprehensive database or archaeological sensitivity map exists ▪ Confidentiality for some resources must be maintained	#2: DOCUMENT
▪ Without identification of specific resources or sensitive areas, the City cannot adequately preserve and protect resources ▪ Clarity regarding mitigation measures and protection options is needed ▪ Members of the public have expressed concern about development in Agua Mansa, in particular, and the potential to impact archaeological resources	#3: PRESERVE & PROTECT
▪ Public needs to have clarity/understanding regarding cultural resources policies and codes ▪ No specific materials for public education regarding archaeology have been prepared and distributed to the public	#4: EDUCATE

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Challenges & Issues	Related Goals
No specific agenda for celebrating archaeology has been created	#5: CELEBRATE

Table CR-3 Challenges and Issues for Tribal Cultural Resources

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Challenge & Issues	Related Goals
- Tribal Cultural Resources and related consultation are not included or discussed in the current Cultural Resources Element - Identifying specific tribal groups and existing local Native American populations with relationship to Colton will make preservation and treatment of Tribal Cultural Resources meaningful - Up-to-date contact information for tribal representatives should be maintained for consultation efforts	#1: IDENTIFY
- More consultation with local Native Americans regarding places of interest to them is needed - Tribal Cultural Resources are not typically mapped or shared with non-Native Americans; City will need to identify an appropriate way to inventory and document Tribal Cultural Resources in consultation with tribal groups while maintaining appropriate confidentiality	#2: DOCUMENT
Without identification of specific Tribal Cultural Resources or other Native American concerns, City cannot adequately preserve and protect resources	#3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Challenge & Issues	Related Goals
City does not currently have specific materials for public education regarding local Native American culture or Tribal Cultural Resources	#4: EDUCATE
City does not currently have specific agenda for celebrating local Native American culture or Tribal Cultural Resources	#5: CELEBRATE

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Goals, Policies, & Action Items

Based on City and community feedback, this Cultural Resources Element is built on five consistent, achievable Goals: (1) Identify, (2) Document, (3) Preserve and Protect, (4) Educate, and (5) Celebrate. For clarity, each Goal—along with accompanying Policies and Action Items—is presented in matrix form. Separate tables are provided for Historical Resources, Archaeological Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Each Action Item is accompanied with a timeline—either short-term (1 to 2 years), medium-term (3 to 4 years), long-term (5 to 6 years), or ongoing (for tasks that can start anytime and continue into the future). For purposes of establishing priorities, Action Items related to the **direct, time-sensitive** identification, documentation, and preservation of cultural resources have a short-term window. Policy development and ordinance updates have a medium-term window. Action Items with a longer timeframe are those involving the development of community partnerships and of new or expanded administrative policies at the City level.

Assigned to each Action Item is one of the following “tracks” for implementation:

1. Planning/Preservation Track
 - Initiated by City Planning Staff and historic preservation professional meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards in history or architectural history;
2. Planning/Archaeology Track
 - Initiated by City Planning Staff and a cultural resources professional meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards in archaeology;
3. Planning/Tribal Cultural Resources Track
 - Initiated by City Planning Staff, Tribal representative, and/or a cultural resources professional meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards in archaeology;
4. Policy Updates
 - Initiated by City Planning Staff and implemented through an update to the City’s administrative policies or Historic Preservation Ordinance;
5. Community Partnerships
 - Implemented by City Planning Staff through partnerships with the community, universities, libraries, historical societies, tribal representatives, among others.

For many Action Items, City staff, agencies, and decision-makers would be involved in project implementation, including developing requests for proposals, identifying and approving funding, and reviewing and adopting results.

Historical Resources

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.A Proactively identify Colton's significant historical resources, including buildings, structures, sites, historic districts, and cultural landscapes	1.1. Prepare a thematic, Citywide Historic Context Statement, which provides a consistent framework for surveys 1.2. Identify data gaps in Historic Resources Survey (e.g., World War II era, postwar Modernism) and address in Historic Context Statement 1.3. Update 1992 Citywide Historic Resources Survey 1.4. Add to ordinance provisions requiring Historic Resource Evaluations for of-age properties slated for demolition 1.5. Create Inventory of Historical Resources and integrate in planning process 1.6. Identify historical resources by keeping survey up to date 1.7. Assist and inform members of the public on how to conduct research on historic properties and to prepare landmark applications	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Long-term (5 to 6 years) Long-term (5 to 6 years)	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Policy Updates Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.B Recognize resources reflecting all of Colton's historic eras	1.8. Encourage public awareness of Colton's post-World War II neighborhoods and architectural growth 1.9. Tap community knowledge to identify and document 19 th century and early 20 th century historical resources	Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 1.C Ensure that historical resources survey and evaluations consider potential social-cultural importance as well as architectural style	1.10. Commission Citywide Historic Context Statement with themes of significance related to social/cultural history, to provide a consistent framework for evaluations and survey 1.11. Prepare thematic context statements exploring the history of Colton's long-time ethnic communities 1.12. Engage the public and community stakeholders to build a Register of Landmarks that reflects the diversity of City 1.13. Encourage designation of historical resources reflecting the places and events significant in Colton's formation	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Long-term (5 to 6 years)	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.D Expand understanding of under-represented resources on Register of Landmarks	1.14. Create partnerships with community, museums, universities, and historical societies to identify threatened or unprotected historical resources associated with City’s ethnic history and heritage	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
	1.15. Partner with the South Colton Oral History Project to collect, transcribe, and index interviews and to proactively identify significant people, places, and events	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 1.E Encourage an innovative, inclusive preservation program	1.16. Create a legacy business program in ordinance to recognize and offer designation to important legacy businesses with 25+ years serving communities	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	1.17. Create “Planning Districts” in Historic Preservation Ordinance to recognize cohesive areas of the City with a shared development history that do not qualify as historic districts	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 2.A Encourage community and inter-agency partnerships to foster appreciation of Colton's history	2.1. Encourage the establishment of a central archive for materials on Colton's history, including books, newspaper articles, yearbooks, ephemera, community photographs, to serve as a research repository	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
	2.2. Encourage the preparation of grant applications with City agencies and community partners for the compilation of a central archive of research materials on Colton's history	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 2.B Create opportunities for research partnerships with schools, scholars, and media	2.3. Create "Spotlight On" series, with short, illustrated articles on landmarks and districts in the City, for publication on City website and in local media	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
	2.4. Create an annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources on Colton's history	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 2.C Explore ways to honor and document the history of Colton's diverse communities	2.5. Commission thematic historic context statements focused on traditionally under-represented communities to document significant people, places, and events	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	2.6. Address the loss of related resources associated with Colton's Latino community through research partnerships, with CSU San Bernardino, UC Riverside, South Colton Oral History Project, and other organizations	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 2.D Ensure that the City's Inventory and Register of Historical Resources are readily accessible and transparent to the public	2.7. Create with City ArcGIS staff an interactive map of Inventory and Register-listed properties and historic districts 2.8. Maintain Register and Inventory up to date and accessible to the public in a variety of formats, including in a prominent position on the City's website	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.A Encourage retention of historical resources	3.1. Offer permit fee waivers for designation and Mills Act applications 3.2. Develop a user-friendly template for completion of Mills Act applications by homeowners	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
	3.3. Amend ordinance to require Historic Resources Evaluation for of-age properties slated for demolition under certain circumstances	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.4. Add compliance with design standards and guidelines to Certificate of Appropriateness findings	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.5. Clarify relationship between local code/planning process and CEQA in Historic Preservation Ordinance	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.6. Strengthen, clarify, and enforce “duty to maintain” provisions for historic landmarks in Historic Preservation Ordinance	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.7. Add three-month waiting period for demolition permits involving historical resources and require an exploration of alternatives to demolition, such as relocation	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.8. Clarify in Historic Preservation Ordinance the role and use of State Historic Building Code for qualifying properties	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.9. Promote adaptive reuse of historic buildings as an alternative to demolition where feasible	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.B Expand and enhance incentives to encourage preservation of historical resources	3.10. Amend Historic Preservation Ordinance and zoning code to include zoning code streamlining (combining preservation and design review duties, parking space allowances) for historic landmarks 3.11. Encourage use of preservation easements and State Historic Building Code’s performance-based standards for qualifying properties 3.12. Raise awareness of available federal and state tax credits for the rehabilitation, preservation, and adaptive reuse of qualifying historic buildings	Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Ongoing Ongoing	Policy Update Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 3.C Provide guidance on how to upgrade and change historic properties in a way that retains their significance and important features	3.13. Develop user-friendly, illustrated design guidelines, with recommendations for how to plan changes to historic properties based on Colton’s common architectural styles, as well as building features, materials, and project types, for use by the public, architects, contractors, commissions, City staff, and decision-makers 3.14. Integrate objective design standards in residential entitlements process for use by City staff and reviewers	Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.D Promote designation of historic districts and landmarks	3.15. Create and distribute materials at Planning Counter to explain designation process, eligibility, and benefits 3.16. Establish training modules in historic preservation and City's policies and Historic Preservation Ordinance for planning staff and commissioners 3.17. Develop and distribute materials explaining the designation process and benefits (i.e., incentives such as the Mills Act Historic Property Contract Program) (See also Action Items 3.2 and 3.2)	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation
POLICY 3.E As a City, set a standard for stewardship by retaining and protecting City-owned historical resources	3.18. Ensure that changes to City-owned historical resources comply with City regulations, design guidelines, and <i>Secretary's Standards</i> 3.19. Commission a survey of City-owned properties to identify historical resources (See also Action Item 1.3) 3.20. Seek input and guidance from qualified Historic Preservation professional on alterations or changes in use to City-owned historical resources 3.21. For major alterations involving City-owned historical resources, seek input from qualified Historic Preservation professional early in the process	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.F Protect neighborhood character	3.22. Create district-specific design guidelines to manage change and promote retention of character-defining features	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation
	3.23. Using Historic Resources Survey update as foundation, establish Inventory of Historical Resources in Historic Preservation Ordinance and integrate in planning and commission review process	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Preservation
	3.24. Utilize Register and Inventory when considering in-fill projects within eligible and designated historic districts	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation
POLICY 3.G Encourage use of City's code enforcement process to ensure compliance with municipal codes, including Historic Preservation Ordinance	3.25. Design training modules for staff and Planning Commission on Historic Preservation Ordinance, triggers for evaluation and project review, and CEQA's provisions for historical resources	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	3.26. Encourage broad understanding by City staff and decisionmakers of historic preservation laws, best practices, <i>Secretary's Standards</i> , and State Historic Building Code	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.H Explore funding options to support and expand City's preservation goals	3.27. Work with City staff and Planning Commission to plan priorities for next five-years of grant applications to State Office of Historic Preservation, Certified Local Government Program	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	3.28. Explore local funding opportunities for historic contexts, designation, and adaptive reuse opportunities	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation
POLICY 3.I Leverage Colton's status as a Certified Local Government to strengthen Colton's historic preservation program and policies	3.29. Seek advice and recommendations from the State Office of Historic Preservation on the City's historic preservation program and policies	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation
	3.30. Plan for and apply for State Office of Historic Preservation grants for Colton's preservation planning priorities, such as preparation of Historic Context Statements, thematic and citywide, surveys, designation of threatened properties, and design guidelines	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation

GOAL #4: EDUCATE

PUBLIC RE: HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 4.A Build public understanding and support of Colton's historic preservation program, policies, and zoning code	4.1. Create brief, topic-specific "brown bag" training modules on historic preservation best practices and <i>Secretary's Standards</i> for City staff and Planning Commission	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	4.2. Create and distribute FAQ at planning counter, City Website, and social media channels to describe Colton's preservation policies and to address misconceptions about historic preservation and designation, to inform and educate the public and to build awareness	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	4.2. Plan and hold public workshops, online and in-person, on the City's historic preservation program and best practices in changing historic properties	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
	4.3. Create task force with City staff, Planning Commission, and community stakeholders to strategize on initiatives for raising public awareness of historic preservation and CEQA environmental review process	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships

GOAL #4: EDUCATE

PUBLIC RE: HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 4.B Build public awareness of and appreciation for Colton's rich history and heritage, sociocultural as well as architectural	4.4. Raise awareness of historic preservation through annual participation in "Historic Preservation Month," through posts on City Website and social media channels	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	4.5. Commission Historic Context Statements to illuminate the contributions of Colton's diverse ethnic communities and to provide a framework for evaluations	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation
	4.6. Create "Spotlight On" history series, with short, illustrated articles on historic landmarks and districts, for publication on City Website, local paper, and social media channels	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
	4.7. Establish "Neighborhood Ambassador" program within designated historic districts, to encourage tours and sharing information on the history of Colton's districts	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 4.C Leverage Colton's status as a Certified Local Government to strengthen and expand awareness of historic preservation program	4.8. Coordinate with State Office of Historic Preservation on effective public awareness campaigns and strategies to raise awareness of historic preservation	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation
	4.9. Upon preparation of the annual Certified Local Government report to the State Office of Historic Preservation, share with the public some of the accomplishments for the year to raise awareness of the City's status as a Certified Local Government	Ongoing	Planning/Preservation

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEM	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 5.D Raise awareness of Colton's rich history and heritage, both social as well as architectural	5.1. Partner with local groups to design tours and exhibits of Colton's designated landmarks and historic districts 5.2. Develop City Website and social media channel content to celebrate "Preservation Month" each May 5.3. Highlight and publicize new designations of landmarks and historic districts, to raise awareness of Colton's history and benefits of designation 5.4. Establish partnerships with local historical societies, library, and other stakeholders to develop tours of local historic sites of interest	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships Planning/Preservation Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships
POLICY 5.E Take the time to honor preservation success stories in Colton	5.5. Develop program with local partners for presenting annual awards and other public commendations for outstanding historic preservation projects or community members forwarding the goals of historic preservation 5.6. Establish partnerships with local historical societies, library, and other stakeholders to develop tours of local historic sites of interest	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships Planning/Preservation Community Partnerships

Archaeological Resources

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.A Identify Colton's significant archaeological sites, districts and landscapes	1.1. Commission an inventory of cultural resources within the City of Colton 1.2. Commission the preparation of archaeological sensitivity maps (prehistoric and historic) indicating the likelihood for the discovery of archaeological resources 1.3. Survey City-owned, undeveloped public space and/or sensitive locations identified in the literature for the presence/absence of archaeological resources 1.4. Strengthen Historic Preservation Ordinance to include clear, enforceable provisions for the identification of significant archaeological resources	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology Policy Update Planning/Archaeology

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.B Periodically update inventory of archaeological resources	1.5. Establish administrative procedures for incorporating newly identified archaeological resources and updating archaeological sensitivity maps as the result of development activities into the City's inventory	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Update Planning/Archaeology

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 2.A Ensure best-practice-based documentation of significant archaeological resources in Colton	2.1. Amend Historic Preservation Ordinance to establish consistent standards and triggers for archaeological resource documentation 2.2. Take steps to ensure confidentiality of sensitive cultural resource information through restricted access, where appropriate 2.3. Create a database to store the results of cultural resources identification efforts and archaeological sensitivity maps	Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Ongoing	Policy Update Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology
POLICY 2.B Create opportunities for research partnerships with schools, scholars, and community organizations	2.4. Maintain a list of local/regional repositories where scholars and the general public can access information about Colton's archaeological resources 2.5. Engage local/regional high schools, community colleges, universities, libraries, museums and other community organizations in research projects and information sharing where appropriate	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology Community Partnerships

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.A Develop policy for the proactive protection of Colton's archeological resources	3.1. Develop administrative procedures to help guide the identification and protection of cultural and archaeological resources as part of the entitlements process and to facilitate compliance with applicable zoning codes and other regulations. This may be facilitated by preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan or other supporting documentation.	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Policy Updates Planning/Archaeology
	3.2. Include clear, enforceable provisions in the Historic Preservation Ordinance for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts to significant archaeological resources for certain development and construction activities	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Updates Planning/Archaeology
	3.3. Develop standard mitigation measures for projects in archaeologically sensitive areas as part of the administrative procedures and/or Historic Preservation Ordinance.	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Policy Updates Planning/Archaeology

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.B Ensure the conservation of significant archaeological sites, districts, and landscapes	3.4. Require that a qualified archaeologist is retained in the earliest stages of project planning to review development plans involving identified archaeological resources and/or within areas identified as having high sensitivity for archaeological resources	Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Policy Updates Planning/Archaeology
	3.5. Encourage and facilitate the creation of easements or deed restrictions for owners of properties containing archaeological resources	Ongoing	Policy Updates Planning/Archaeology
	3.6. Establish training modules in the City's cultural resources management practices and policies for planning staff and commissioners	Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Archaeology

GOAL #4: EDUCATE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 4.A Build public understanding and support for Colton’s cultural resource policies and zoning code requirements	4.1. Provide clear direction and information regarding how cultural resources fit into the planning and environmental review process via the City Website and through written materials and public workshops 4.2. Provide clear direction and information regarding what to do upon the discovery of archaeological resources as well as the treatment, preservation, and repatriation of such resources via the City Website and through written materials and public workshops	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years)	Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology
POLICY 4.B Raise public awareness of Colton’s cultural heritage	4.3. Encourage the curation, exhibition, and interpretation of cultural resources recovered in the City for public education and awareness. Consult with tribal communities regarding the disposition of archaeological resources with tribal affiliation. 4.4. Partner with local schools, colleges, historical societies, libraries, Tribal communities, and other stakeholders to develop educational materials about Colton’s cultural heritage and archaeological resources	Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Archaeology Community Partnerships Planning/Archaeology Community Partnerships

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 5.A Build public appreciation for Colton’s cultural heritage	5.1. Develop a plan for celebrating Archaeology Month each October, with content published on the City Website and social media channels 5.2. Celebrate Colton’s cultural heritage through design features and interpretive elements of public projects and facilities, including community parks, facilities, and public spaces	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Archaeology Planning/Archaeology

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Tribal Cultural Resources

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 1.A Engage in meaningful consultation with local Native American groups	1.1. Supplement and strengthen AB52 and SB18 consultation by proactively maintaining up-to-date contact information for tribal representatives for consultation, including for non-federally recognized tribal entities and individuals 1.2. Amend the Historic Preservation Ordinance to include procedures for tribal consultation for certain development and construction activities	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural
POLICY 1.B Identify and conserve Colton's Tribal Cultural Resources	1.3. Conduct meaningful consultation with tribes to identify structures, sites, landscapes, artifacts, and documents within Colton and its public institutions associated with the local Native American people 1.4. Amend Historic Preservation Ordinance to include Tribal Cultural Resources and associated provisions for identification	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 2.A Document significant Tribal Cultural Resources in a culturally sensitive manner	2.1. In consultation with tribes, prepare a confidential (for internal use only) and culturally sensitive GIS database of culturally sensitive areas for use in planning and consultation 2.2. Establish policies and protocols for maintaining confidentiality of Tribal Cultural Resources 2.3. Amend Historic Preservation Ordinance to include Tribal Cultural Resources and associated provisions for documentation 2.4. Use oral history to capture the experiences of the local Native American community	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Policy Update Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships
POLICY 2.B Maintain an archive of local Native American connections to the City and its environs	2.5. Create a bibliography of primary and secondary books, reports and other archives concerning the local Native American community 2.6. Encourage the establishment of an archive in association with local historical societies, library, and community groups to preserve photographic, written, oral and iconographic material related to the local Native American people	Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.A Develop public policy for the proactive protection of Colton’s Tribal Cultural Resources	3.1. Amend the Historic Preservation Ordinance to include Tribal Cultural Resources and associated provisions for preservation and protection 3.2. Develop administrative procedures to help guide the identification and protection of tribal cultural resources as part of the entitlements process and to facilitate compliance with applicable zoning codes and other regulations. This may be facilitated by preparation of a Tribal Cultural Resources Management Plan or other supporting documentation.	Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Tribal Cultural Policy Update Planning/Tribal Cultural Policy Update

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 3.B Ensure the conservation of significant archaeological sites, districts, landscapes, sacred places, gathering sites and other places significant to local Native American tribes	3.3. Engage local Native American tribes interested in consultation early in the project planning process to review development plans within areas identified as having high sensitivity for Tribal Cultural Resources 3.4. Encourage and facilitate the creation of easements or deed restrictions for owners of properties containing Tribal Cultural Resources 3.5. Train City staff and decision-makers in City's Tribal Cultural Resources management program and policies	Ongoing Medium-term (3 to 4 years) Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural
POLICY 3.C Coordinate with local Native American tribes to provide stewardship, access and protection to Tribal Cultural Resources	3.6. Engage Native American tribes in establishing stewardship and resource protection activities in locations with identified Tribal Cultural Resources 3.7. Establish procedures to provide access to specific identified Tribal Cultural Resources within the City for local Native American groups	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural

GOAL #4: EDUCATE

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 4.A Build public understanding of and support for Colton's Tribal Cultural Resource policies and code requirements	4.1. Develop and share with the public clear direction and information on how Tribal Cultural Resources fit into the planning and environmental review process on the City Website and through written materials and public workshops 4.2. Develop and share with the public clear direction and information on timelines and requirements for consultation with local Native American tribes 4.3. Create and share with the public documentation and management protocols for discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources and the treatment, preservation, and repatriation of such resources	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Short-term (1 to 2 years) Medium-term (3 to 4 years)	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural
POLICY 4.B Raise public awareness of and appreciation for Colton's Native American heritage	4.4. Encourage the interpretation of Tribal Cultural Resources in City venues for public education and awareness 4.5. Encourage and promote tribal activities, events, and educational experiences within the City 4.6. Work with tribal representatives to incorporate Native American language in interpretive materials	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	ACTION ITEMS	TIMELINE	TRACK
POLICY 5.A Acknowledge the contributions of Native Americans to the community, past and present	5.1. Publish stories about local Native American history and current Native American affairs within the City on the City Website and social media channels 5.2. Become willing and active partners in preserving and sharing tribal culture in the City through ongoing consultation and communication with Native American groups	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships
POLICY 5.B Celebrate Colton's connection to the culture of local Native American people	5.3. Develop a plan for celebrating Native American Heritage Month each November, with content published on the City Website and social media channels 5.4. Celebrate Colton's Native American heritage through design features and interpretive elements of public projects and facilities, including community parks, facilities, and public spaces	Short-term (1 to 2 years) Ongoing	Planning/Tribal Cultural Planning/Tribal Cultural Community Partnerships

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Appendix A:

Summary of Community Input, Cultural
Resources Element Update Community
Workshop, December 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Mario Suarez, AICP, Planning Manager
Mark Tomich, AICP, Development Services Director
City of Colton, Development Services Department, Planning Division

From: Debi Howell-Ardila, MHP, Senior Team Lead, Architectural History
Susan Zamudio-Gurrola, MHP, Architectural Historian
Stephanie Cimino, MS, Director, Cultural Resources

Date: February 1, 2023

Re: **Summary of Community Input, Cultural Resources Element Update Community Workshop, December 7, 2022**

This memo summarizes the Community Workshop for City of Colton Cultural Resources Element Update, which took place in Colton on December 7, 2022. Following a description of the meeting format, this memo provides a summary of community input, ideas, and questions posed during the workshop.

Following this memo as an appendix are all the tables presented to the public at the Community Workshop. The tables list the preliminary goals and policies for historical resources, archaeological resources, and Tribal Cultural resources for the Cultural Resources Element. Participants ranked the relative importance of each policy by affixing stickers to print-outs and by writing in comments and suggestions. Three stickers indicated a high priority, two a medium priority, and 1 a low priority.

OVERVIEW OF MEETING, FORMAT AND AGENDA

Held at Colton's Hutton Center, the meeting was led by Mario Suarez, AICP, Planning Manager. The SWCA consultant team was represented by Debi Howell-Ardila, MHP, Senior Team Lead, Architectural History; Susan Zamudio-Gurrola, MHP, Architectural Historian; and Stephanie Cimino, MS, Director, Cultural Resources.

A total of 11 guests attended the Community Workshop:

1. Robert Perez, Resident (South Colton Area)
2. Pam Lemos (La Lomas Area)
3. Josh Candelaria, Union Pacific Railroad
4. Dr. G, Council District 3
5. Frank Acosta, Colton Area Museum and South Colton Oral History Project
6. Richard Prieto, Planning Commission Chair
7. Jolene Saldivar

8. Gem Montes (Reche Canyon Area)
9. Henry Vasquez (Former Colton Area Museum Board Member, Native American Community Council San Bernardino and Riverside Counties)
10. Amy Vasquez
11. Christina Perris (Colton Area Museum)
12. Jimmy Villegas (Colton Area Museum)
13. Darby Osnaya (South Colton Area)

Mr. Suarez provided an introduction and overview of the evening. He briefly discussed the purpose of the meeting and the City's Cultural Resources Element update, resources and materials on hand for the public to peruse (including the current Cultural Resources Element, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, and materials on the history of Colton).

Mr. Suarez also noted individuals in the audience from a variety of professions and stakeholder interest areas (including the City Council and Planning Commission, Colton Area Museum and Museum Board, South Colton and the South Colton Oral History Project, Union Pacific Railroad, Native American Community Council San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, Reche Canyon Area, and La Lomas Area).

Following the introduction by Mr. Suarez, Ms. Cimino provided additional information on the format for the presentation/meeting, and the variety of ways for members of the public to provide comment. Ms. Howell-Ardila kicked off the PowerPoint presentation, with overviews on the role of Cultural Resource Elements in General Plans, the specific goals of the Colton Cultural Resources Element Update, and the main components of the Cultural Resources Element.

An overview of the five identified Goals for the Colton Cultural Resources Element—Identify, Document, Preserve & Protect, Educate, and Celebrate—along with associated Policies, were presented by SWCA. Ms. Howell-Ardila covered Goals and Policies related to historical resources, and Ms. Cimino discussed archaeological and Tribal Cultural resources.

After the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Suarez and SWCA opened up the floor for questions and comments. Following the question-and-answer session, participants viewed easels with the draft Goals and Policies listed, in order to assign priorities to each and to note suggestions, comments, and additional areas to consider or add. Participants used stickers to rank policies, with three stickers indicating a high priority, two indicating a medium priority, and one indicating a low priority. The tables provided in Appendix A list all written feedback and provide a tally for the ranking of priorities.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS

During the open question and answer session, feedback from the public broadly fell into three categories:

1. Concerns about **development pressures** and the resulting **loss of cultural resources**;
2. Issues (in terms of **access and awareness**) regarding **how to provide timely comment on projects** to the City;
3. Information-sharing on the many archival resources and community advocacy on **Colton's cultural heritage and history**.

In terms of the first category (development pressures and the loss of cultural resources), public comments included the following:

- Several members of the public expressed concern that Colton has a significant amount of new development and construction, and this new construction can result in the loss of cultural resources;
- Concern was also expressed about the loss of significant cultural resources in Colton due to development or changes over time (including the pioneering Agua Mansa settlement and corridor, the barrios of South Colton as the long-time, cohesive home to the City's Mexican-American community, and Tribal Cultural resources, among others);
- In terms of specific comments, one speaker shared an observation that the area of the Agua Mansa settlement and corridor is "drowning in development." She stated that environmental reports often conclude no significant impacts; Mr. Suarez addressed the concern and described the mitigation measures and construction monitors utilized for many projects to avoid impacts to cultural resources;
- One speaker asked if the City has the power to halt a project that is already underway (assuming if there are cultural resource concerns, such as an unanticipated discovery of resources; Mr. Suarez responded yes, this is possible and within the City's power to temporarily halt projects in the event of an unanticipated find;
- A speaker expressed concern about new Conditional Use Permits being approved and revisions to the General Plan; she also expressed a concern that the current Native American notification and consultation process is deficient (e.g., no replies; inaccurate contact information); Mr. Suarez shared with the speaker that the city is on the same page in this regard and these items are being updated; Ms. Howell-Ardila suggested holding training sessions to educate members of the public in how to monitor and comment on projects.

In terms of the second category (issues regarding how to provide timely comment on projects), public comments included the following:

- Some expressed concern about what they perceived as an overall lack of public awareness on how, where, and when to get involved in providing input on projects that are of interest to the community or might affect cultural resources;
- Similarly, concerns were expressed about access to meetings (since some members of the community have mobility issues and can't attend in person) as well as the length of time members of the public are given to comment on projects at public hearings; it was suggested that public meetings be offered or livestreamed on YouTube;
- One member of the public expressed concern that speakers' time at public hearings is limited to one minute, but she felt that developers and project applicants have more time to rebut comments; she acknowledged that Mr. Suarez is an accessible and responsive Planning Manager, but that the average lay person doesn't know what to ask or how to comment on projects; Mr. Suarez offered to hold a training for members of the public related to the City's entitlements process, CEQA, and proposed projects.

In terms of the third category, archival resources and community advocacy for cultural resources, the following points were brought forward:

- Mr. Robert Perez, a long-time resident of South Colton (born in 1937 in the "La Reserva" barrio) spoke about the history of South Colton and the original barrios, how much the neighborhoods

have changed over time, and what they still retain that reflects Mexican-American heritage and history in Colton; in terms of South Colton, 7th St. (La Calle 7) was an important and active neighborhood in South Colton, but it has changed significantly; La Paloma and Calle Cinco barrios may have more integrity because they are residential areas that have not changed as much as commercial corridors;

- Mr. Frank Acosta, Colton Area Museum Board Member and co-founder of the South Colton Oral History Project, spoke about the range of oral histories collected, transcribed, and digitized through the project and their availability at the museum and CSU San Bernardino for researchers and community members;
- Mr. Henry Vasquez, chair of the Native American Community Council for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (and a member of the Old Spanish Trail Association) offered comment on the Agua Mansa corridor; the Old Spanish Trail Association has been trying to keep the Agua Mansa corridor from being covered up, but Mr. Vasquez observed that it has been largely lost. The Old Spanish Trail Association is also interested in preserving the Agua Mansa cemetery, as well as the Estancia in Redlands.
- Representatives from the Colton Area Museum spoke about the latest initiatives at the Museum and the collections available to researchers and community members;
- A speaker (museum representative) invited the audience to give input on the museum's rehabilitation; stated their exhibits were being updated; will reopen in 2023. Mentioned discoveries in archives.
- Mr. Suarez also shared information on the local history collection of the Colton Public Library;
- A speaker asked about the recent *City of Riverside Latino Historic Context Statement*, authored by Ms. Howell-Ardila in 2018; the study draw on extensive oral histories of long-time residents of Casa Blanca in Riverside, which is a cohesive, significant Mexican-American neighborhood; Ms. Howell-Ardila responded that the *City of Riverside Latino Historic Context Statement* provides a helpful template for cities like Colton in recuperating and documenting the stories of the community, both for posterity and to serve as a framework for identifying significant cultural resources;
- The speaker also asked about long-time Casa Blanca resident Ms. Simona Valero; Ms. Howell-Ardila responded that she had interviewed Ms. Valero for the project and that the pioneering generation of community leaders like Ms. Valero (who sadly passed away in late December 2022) have a wealth of information to offer researchers interested in the history of the Mexican-American community throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and surrounding areas;
- Mr. Josh Candelaria, a Union Pacific Railroad representative, spoke briefly and shared that the railroad has a partnership with the City and is interested in following the progress of the Cultural Resources Element update and providing comment and input along the way.

Additional questions regarded the function of the Cultural Resources Element, whether it is a required element of the General Plan (it is not), whether it has regulatory teeth (Mr. Suarez answered yes), and why it is being updated at this time (Ms. Howell-Ardila mentioned that the element is out of date and needed to be updated to better reflect current best practices and to address Tribal Cultural Resources). Dr. G., former City Council member, asked if the updated Cultural Resources Element would help the City

obtain preservation and cultural resource-related grants and funding, and Mr. Suarez answered in the affirmative.

It was also shared with members of the public that the City of Colton has a special status with the State Office of Historic Preservation as a “Certified Local Government,” which is an honor currently held by approximately 70 cities in the State of California. In order to obtain this status, cities must meet minimum requirements in terms of their historic preservation zoning code, their program for the protection of cultural resources, and their demonstrated compliance with local and state laws pertaining the cultural resources, among other requirements. The question came up of what a Certified Local Government is, and whether that might help the City secure funding for preservation-related activities and studies; Mr. Suarez and Ms. Howell-Ardila answered yes, and explained the process for applying for those grant opportunities.

Ms. Howell-Ardila also mentioned that one of the Action Items in the updated Cultural Resources Element will be developing a five-year strategic plan for Certified Local Government grants, to make sure those grant applications are competitive and focused on a holistic plan and program for historic preservation in Colton.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The next public hearing for the Colton Cultural Resources Element Update will take place on February 14, 2023, with a Planning Commission workshop on the Cultural Resources Element Update. The draft Cultural Resources Element Update will be reviewed by the City in late February/early March, with a draft available for public review by early April.

The City continues to accept input and feedback from the public.



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APPENDIX A:

Community Input, City of Colton Cultural
Resources Element Update
Historical Resources, Archaeological
Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources
Community Workshop, Dec. 7, 2022

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY HISTORICAL RESOURCES	
POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 1.1 Proactively identify Colton’s significant historical resources, including buildings, structures, sites, historic districts, and cultural landscapes	High priority (for 1 person)
POLICY 1.2 Recognize resources reflecting all of Colton’s historic eras	
POLICY 1.3 Ensure that historical resources survey and evaluations consider potential social-cultural importance as well as architectural style	
POLICY 1.4 Expand designation for under-represented resources on Landmark Register	
POLICY 1.5 Encourage an innovative, inclusive preservation program	

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT HISTORICAL RESOURCES	
POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 2.1 Foster appreciation and knowledge of Colton’s history and cultural resources program among other City agencies and departments	“South Colton Oral History Project; other similar efforts?”
POLICY 2.2 Create opportunities for research partnerships w/schools, scholars & media	“Partner w/local museum; strengthen ties”
POLICY 2.3 Explore ways to honor & document history of Colton’s diverse communities	
POLICY 2.4 Ensure that the City’s Inventory and Register of Historical Resources are readily accessible and transparent to the public	High priority (for 3 people)

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 3.1 Encourage retention of historical resources	"Preserve South Colton from BNSF"
POLICY 3.2 Expand and enhance preservation incentives	High priority (for 2 people))
POLICY 3.3 Provide guidance to public on how to sensitively upgrade and change historic properties	
POLICY 3.4 Promote designation of historic districts and landmarks	High priority (for 1 person)
POLICY 3.5 As a City, set an example for sound stewardship by retaining and protecting City-owned historical resources	

GOAL #4: EDUCATE PUBLIC RE: HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 4.1 Build public understanding and support of Colton's historic preservation program, policies, and zoning code	"Community workshops on CEQA, other laws, preservation ordinance for how to engage"
POLICY 4.2 Build public awareness of and appreciation for Colton's rich history and heritage, both sociocultural as well as architectural	Medium priority (1 person) "Provide better feedback loops for the community" Use platforms such as YouTube for meetings/hearings to expand access "Provide more time at public meetings/hearings" "Find ways to expand public understanding" "Training for City staff and public on what questions/subjects should be considered"
POLICY 4.3 Leverage Colton's status as a Certified Local Government to strengthen and expand awareness of Colton's historic preservation program and policies	High priority (1 person) Medium priority (2 people)

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 5.1 Raise awareness of Colton's rich history and heritage, both social as well as architectural	High priority (1 person)
POLICY 5.2 Take the time to honor preservation success stories in Colton	Medium priority (1 person)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 1.1 Proactively identify and conserve Colton's significant archaeological resources	High priority (for 2 people) "Save the Donkeys, Safe Passages" "Landback funding"
POLICY 1.2 Update Citywide inventory of archaeological resources on a regular basis	

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 2.1 Ensure best-practice based documentation of significant archaeological resources	High priority (for 1 person) "We need to protect our remaining native plant ecosystems which also house petroglyphs and plants/animals of significant cultural meaning (e.g., Chia sage, road runners, coyotes, and more)"
POLICY 2.2 Create opportunities for research partnerships w/schools, scholars & media	High priority (for 2 people); medium priority (for 1 person)

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 3.1 Enhance public policy for the proactive protection of Colton's archaeological resources	High priority (for 2 people)

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 3.2 Ensure the conservation of significant archaeological resources	

GOAL #4: EDUCATE RE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 4.1 Build public understanding of and support for Colton's cultural resource policies and code requirements	High priority (for 2 people)
POLICY 4.2 Raise public awareness of and appreciation for Colton's archaeological heritage	High priority (for 2 people)

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 5.1 Raise awareness of Colton's rich cultural heritage	High priority (for 1 person) Medium priority (for 2 people)
POLICY 5.2 Identify ways to honor and reward successful preservation projects and stakeholder partnerships in Colton	"In Policy #2, I think we should be cautious with the word 'Reward' – what does that entail? There should be limits on rewards to developers."

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL #1: IDENTIFY TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 1.1 Proactively identify and conserve Colton's Tribal Cultural Resources	High priority (for 1 person)
POLICY 1.2 Engage in meaningful consultation with local Native American groups regarding Tribal Cultural Resources	

GOAL #2: DOCUMENT TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 2.1 Document significant Tribal Cultural Resources in a culturally sensitive manner	High priority (for 1 person)
POLICY 2.2 Create and maintain an archive of local Native American connections to the City and its environs	

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 3.1 Develop public policy for the proactive protection of Colton's Tribal Cultural Resources	High priority (for 1 person)
POLICY 3.2 Ensure the conservation of significant Tribal Cultural Resources and other places significant to local Native American tribes	"Keep in mind that not all indigenous people are recognized by government; we can't let those people slip between the cracks; their history is important."

GOAL #3: PRESERVE & PROTECT TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
	"I agree [with comment above]; many of Colton's residents are of indigenous descent but are not federally recognized." "With the genocide of Native peoples, it is important to remember that those people may no longer exist, so there is no representation for them, no one to send letters/email to. They are important even if they were passing through."
POLICY 3.3 Coordinate with local Native American tribes to provide stewardship, access and protection to Tribal Cultural Resources in the City	

GOAL #4: EDUCATE RE: TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 4.1 Build public understanding of and support for Colton's Tribal Cultural Resource policies and code requirements	"Expand existing tribal consultation process"
POLICY 4.2 Raise public awareness of and appreciation for Colton's Native American heritage	High priority (for 2 people)

GOAL #5: CELEBRATE TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

POLICY	PUBLIC FEEDBACK
POLICY 5.1 Acknowledge and celebrate contributions of Native Americans to the community, past and present	High priority (for 2 people)

Appendix B:

Summary of Planning Commission Input,
Cultural Resources Element Update,
February 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Mario Suarez, AICP, Planning Manager
Mark Tomich, AICP, Development Services Director
City of Colton, Development Services Department, Planning Division

From: Debi Howell-Ardila, MHP, Senior Team Lead, Architectural History
Susan Zamudio-Gurrola, MHP, Architectural Historian
Stephanie Cimino, MS, Director, Cultural Resources

Date: February 24, 2023

Re: **Summary of Planning Commission Workshop, Cultural Resources Element Update, February 14, 2023**

This memo summarizes the Planning Commission Workshop for City of Colton Cultural Resources Element Update, which took place at Colton City Hall on February 14, 2023.

The Planning Commissioners present were Gary Grossich; Pamela Lemos; Richard Prieto; Letitia Baden; Dr. Eric Peters. Representing the City were Mario Suarez, AICP, Planning Manager; and Mark Tomich, AICP, Development Services Director, Planning Division. The SWCA consultant team was represented by Debi Howell-Ardila, MHP, Senior Team Lead, Architectural History; Susan Zamudio-Gurrola, MHP, Architectural Historian; and Stephanie Cimino, MS, Director, Cultural Resources.

OVERVIEW OF MEETING

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order. Planning Manager Mario Suarez introduced SWCA Environmental Consultants, to begin the presentation on the Cultural Resources Element Update.

Debi Howell-Ardila, SWCA Senior Team Lead and principal historic preservation specialist for the Cultural Resources Element update, began the Powerpoint presentation, speaking on historical/built environment resources goals and policies. Stephanie Cimino, lead archaeologist and Cultural Resources Director, presented the archaeological and tribal cultural resources goals and policies. The Powerpoint presentation concluded with the opening of a feedback/question and answer session for the commissioners.

Questions and comments received from the commissioners included the following:

1. Commissioner Lemos asked if, once the CR Element is approved, how would the policies be applied to projects
 - o Staff responded that, if an application were already in the process of being deemed complete, the current policies would be applied

2. Commissioner Baden asked if the City currently has a Cultural Resources Element, and would these policies apply to each application that is submitted
 - o Staff responded yes, the City has a Cultural Resources Element, but it is outdated; the policies would apply to each application that is reviewed
 - o Mr. Suarez spoke about tribal consultation practices, and how the existing code is not as useful as it could be
3. Commissioner Prieto asked if the Cultural Resources Element policies will clash with housing mandates and which element takes precedent
 - o Mr. Tomich stated housing policies could override local zoning. Noted that in recent years there has been an erosion of local authority. Mentioned a bill involving lot splits, and how things are not allowed in historic districts that are allowed in other areas. Also noted new laws that will be going into effect and keeping the commissioners updated.
4. Commissioner Peters asked what steps will be taken to improve access to the public workshops on the Cultural Resources Element
 - o Mr. Suarez described the outreach methods and announcements that the City made with respect to access and visibility, including to Native American tribes
 - o Ms. Howell-Ardila clarified that the comment about improving access was made (in the prior public workshop) in reference to the city hearings involving project approvals
5. Commissioner Prieto spoke about a group that had met in 2014 regarding improvements in South Colton; he noted that nothing has been done since that time, and asked why
 - o Mr. Suarez replied that their recent focus has been on the Housing Element, and staff does use the Livable Corridors plan when discussing projects with developers
6. Commissioner Grossich asked about the Cultural Resources Element and its nexus with state law
 - o Mr. Suarez explained that several General Plan elements are required in California, but the Cultural Resources Element is optional, not required
7. Commissioner Grossich asked if the Cultural Resources Element could be used in approvals/denials of projects, and he noted that the Tribal Cultural Resources section of EIRs seems to be one of the longest. He also noted that the City has designated properties that are not promoted in any way; recommended plaques
 - o Staff stated the City has a historic preservation code for designation of historic properties, but have not had one in a while
 - o Mr. Suarez replied that there had been a recent one – the Peters House in Agua Mansa
8. Commissioner Grossich asked if property owners had to initiate designation
 - o Mr. Suarez stated that staff can initiate designations, if the City had staff available to work on such projects; also discussed Mills Act properties in the City

9. Commissioner Lemos stated interest in using the City website to promote historic designation
 - o Staff replied yes, that could be done, and it could fit under a Cultural Resources Element policy/action
 - o Ms. Howell-Ardila spoke about significance criteria, potential historic districts, and neighborhoods with cohesive historic character
 - o To a question regarding eligibility for designation, Ms. Howell-Ardila spoke about the age threshold used per best practices - 45 to 50 years of age signals the need for evaluation; also discussed properties' social and cultural significance, which is not obvious without doing research
10. Commissioner Grossich brought up the applicability of the Mills Act when a home is being remodeled
 - o Ms. Howell-Ardila spoke about the Mills Act being a state law that cities can design and tailor to their needs; the City can decide what to prioritize and which properties should qualify, what level of investment should be expected
 - o Mr. Tomich stated that different cities have embraced the Mills Act at different levels, and cities experience a reduction in taxes
11. Commissioner Prieto opened the public comment period
12. Nancy Melendez from the Spanish Town Heritage Foundation spoke about the Agua Mansa cemetery; its rich history; how historic resources could be economic drivers; students could learn about their community's history; spoke about New Mexicans and indigenous people buried at cemetery; stated the cemetery is important to history of region and southwestern U.S.
13. Gem Montes from Reche Canyon spoke; discussed how public access to meetings has been an issue for years; believes there needs to be a more robust effort to reach people, and there needs to be meaningful engagement with tribes, not just the minimum under the guidelines. Noted that if the City does just minimum outreach, they will get the minimum back. Also mentioned a recent discussion about warehouses in Colton; noted old businesses that are closing and how they should receive better support as they are part of the community/culture.

The Public comment period was closed and the Planning Commission moved on to next agenda item.