



## Newport Road Extension Project

A road extension to serve the expanding housing areas near Menifee in Riverside County. Monitoring required in sensitive areas. Isolated prehistoric artifacts and a historic trash pit were discovered. The regulatory environment was CEQA and local. We won this project based on our qualifications and provided services to the Riverside County Land and Transportation Management Agency as both client and lead agency.



**Services Provided:** Paleontological and Archaeological Monitoring, Evaluation of Bone, Testing, Historic Trashpit Recovery, Prehistoric Artifact Analysis, Historic Artifact Analysis and Interpretive Report.

**Challenges:** (1) The Pechanga and Soboba Tribes expressed concern when surface bone and artifacts were observed in an area of a known prehistoric habitation although previous archaeological excavations had occurred and (2) The Tribes were very concerned about procedures for handling artifacts and potential human bone during the project.



**Solution:** (1) Upon request of the County, we developed a plan to augment the previous work with mechanical testing. The Pechanga and Soboba Tribes supported this plan and provided volunteer screeners for 100% screening. Minimal artifacts were recovered but concerns were satisfied.

(2) We worked with Pechanga and Soboba representatives to establish a protocol for recovery of artifacts and special protocol for discovery of bone to meet their spiritual concerns regarding their ancestors and their ancestors' belongings. In-house expertise enabled us to determine whether the bone was human or animal prior to bone being removed. All bone recovered, fortunately, was animal.