

César Chávez Foundation
The National Chávez Center
and César E. Chávez National Monument

Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz

Keene, California

Cultural Landscape Overview

CREDITS

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Ruben Andrade, Superintendent
César Chávez National Monument

Vida Germano, Cultural Landscapes, Inventory Coordinator
NPS Pacific West Region

Hank Florence, Historical Architect
NPS Pacific West Region

National Chávez Center
Monica Parra, Director of Operations
Erin Castillo, Executive Assistant
Bernadette Farinas, Site Administrator
Fernando Chavez, Security

César Chávez Foundation
Paul Chávez, President

Executive Board of
The United Farm Workers:
Arturo S. Rodríguez, President
Erik Nicholson, National Vice President
Diana Tellefson, National Vice President
Irv Hershenbaum, 1st Vice-President

United Farm Workers of America
Mary Mecartney, Attorney
Mario Vargas, Former Organizer

Fall 2013 Design Studio LA 4/589
Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Oregon

Graduate Students:
Olivia Burry-Trice
Noah Guadagni
Matthew Jorgensen
Veronica Malinay
Ana Orozco
Virginia W. Piercy
Susan Trexler

Undergraduate Students:
Christian Amaral
Paula Barreto
Judith Chinn
David Richards

Robert Z. Melnick, FASLA
Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Oregon

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Prepared by

Landscape Achitecture Department
University of Oregon
Design Studio 4/589
2013



LOOKING EAST FROM ROCK OUTCROP TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE SITE





NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ LOOKING SOUTHWEST, 1993, (MARY MECARTNEY, UFW)

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **9**
Preface 9
Feeling La Paz 13

CULTURAL CONTEXT **17**
Site Timeline 19
Site History 21
Native Peoples - Kern County 21
Railroad - Quarry 23
Sanatorium - César Chávez 25
Chávez Era Timeline 27
Chávez Era 29
Starts UFW - Moves to La Paz 29
Memories of La Paz - National Monument 31

NATURAL SYSTEMS 33
Climate - Soils & Geology 35
Plants 37

DOCUMENTATION **39**
Field Process - Zone Map 41
Site Elements 43

Zone 1: Entrance 45
CLI Characteristics 47
Zone 2: Core 55
CLI Characteristics 57
Zone 3: Villa La Paz 65
CLI Characteristics 67
Zone 4: Open Space 75
CLI Characteristics 77

APPENDIX **85**
Interview with Mario Vargas 85
Interview with Mario Vargas - Photos 93
Selected Plant List 95

BIBLIOGRAPHY **97**

WALKING NORTH THROUGH THE BLUE OAK SAVANNA

César E. Chávez (1927 – 1993), American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) and is widely recognized as the most important Latino leader in the United States during the twentieth century. Chávez' leadership brought sustained international attention to the conditions of U.S. farm workers, and secured for them higher wages and a safer working environment.

The Cultural Landscape Overview (CLO) of Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz (La Paz), Chávez' home and the UFW's refuge in Keene, CA, is a record of this landscape as it exists today. It is a documentation and analysis of the site's character-defining cultural landscape features, and a tool to be used in future site planning and landscape protection.

Jointly sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) and the César Chávez Foundation, the CLO process at LA Paz provided students the opportunity to learn the importance of cultural landscape analysis and evaluation, while gaining deeper respect for the significance in American history of this great leader, friend, visionary, husband, father, and grandfather.

From the week spent in the field, to the detailed recording and understanding of this cultural landscape, students learned not only how to complete a CLO, but – equally importantly – why it is of such value to them and to our nation to highlight, document, and honor the landscape in which César Chávez spent so much of his life. La Paz is a place where he and many others in the farm worker movement lived, planned strategies, ate, sang, talked, worried, smiled, cried and celebrated. It is a national monument and landscape that reminds us daily of the joys and struggles of so many, so that our country could be just that much better, that much more humane, and that much more democratic.

This project was made possible with the support and efforts of many colleagues and friends in NPS and the César Chávez Foundation, for which I, and the students, are especially grateful. We are reminded that the spirit and values for which César Chávez worked and struggled his entire life are alive and healthy today.

Robert Z. Melnick, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture

CHÁVEZ GRAVESITE IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

From Movement to Monument: The National Historic Landmark and National Monument Designation

Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz was designated a National Monument and a National Historic Landmark on October 8, 2012, through a presidential proclamation, which recognized the national significance of La Paz based on its association with César Chávez and the farm worker movement that he led. As the proclamation indicates “La Paz marks the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farm worker movement that he led with great vision and fortitude. La Paz reflects his conviction that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.” The authorized lands of the monument are coterminous with the Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz National Historic Landmark District.

The César E. Chávez National Monument includes 107 acres; however, only 1.9 of these acres are federal land; another 8.6 acres are federal interest through an easement for the protection of and access to other historically significant buildings, structures, and associated landscapes located adjacent to the fee lands. The remaining 96.5+ acres are privately held lands owned and managed by the National Chávez Center.

The National Chávez Center has donated to the United States certain lands and interests in lands at La Paz (including the Visitor Center that contains the office of César Chávez and legal aid offices, César Chávez’s home, and the Memorial Garden that includes the grave of César Chávez, as well as an easement for the protection of and access to other historically significant buildings, structures, and associated landscapes located adjacent to the federal lands) for administration by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) in accordance with the provisions of the Antiquities Act and other applicable laws.

Through the proclamation, the National Park Service manages the monument and is charged with ensuring that the monument fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations:
(1) to preserve the historic resources;
(2) to commemorate the life and work of César Chávez; and
(3) to interpret the struggles and achievements of the broader farm worker movement throughout the United States.

The proclamation also directs the National Park Service to use applicable authorities to seek to enter into agreements with the National Chávez Center (NCC) to address common interests, including provision of visitor services, interpretation and education, establishment and care of museum collections, and care of historic resources. It is through this partnership that the cultural landscape assessment was prepared.

Feeling La Paz: A Refuge, Home, and Dedicated National Monument

“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.”

-César Chávez
Address to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Nov. 9, 1984

Nestled in the Tehachapi Mountains between California’s Central Valley and the Mojave Desert, the surrounding landscape unfolds to reveal a place rich in culture and history; a place that has seen purposes come and go while some continue to this day. This is a place where summer months run dry and the tan colored hills are dotted with California Blue Oak, Foothill Pines and Sumac; where rock outcrops jut from the hillsides and give way to spectacular views of the encompassing mountain regions. Transitions in time and space are the essence of this scene, where dusty, arid conditions are revitalized into a verdant rolling landscape full of wildflowers and life from the oncoming winter and spring flows of water through the land.

From great distances traveled we stand upon the steps of a historical movement that continues to drive a legacy forward. This is a place of home, of refuge, and a place for contemplation that defines a monument geared toward respect for the land, for the people, and for diversity in all its religious, ethnic, and political realms. In gaining a deeper understanding of the site, it is impossible to ignore the echoes of the past or be blind to the multiple layers that have created this space. Reflections of an active history are mirrored by the energy that is presently felt, and to no end inspires a new vision in every direction observed.

The struggle for survival in times of sickness and the struggle for social change in times of oppression reveal the healing powers of the land that brought so many to its foothills for one cause or another.

Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz embodies many devotions: from subtle signs that Native Americans once walked this land, to healing the sick as a Tuberculosis sanatorium and children's preventorium, then ultimately a retreat in times of duress for a marginalized farm worker population. The César E. Chávez National Monument, now formally dedicated the United Farm Workers movement, brings light to the struggle for social justice in addition to food, health, and educational equity that has spanned the course of six decades. Through this, a partnership transpired between the National Park Service and the National Chávez Center, which will be fundamental in carrying this legacy toward social change forward through the visitors who will in turn take with them the memory of a movement's struggle and who will more strongly connect the ties of food security to those who have and continue to make that a possibility.

A glimpse into the United Farm Workers Movement lies in the César E. Chávez National Monument Visitor's Center, which paints a picture full of radical thought, empowerment, social justice, sacrifice, and survival. This visual encounter explains the life of a man, the birth of a movement, and those who fought in the ranks of non-violent demonstrations nationwide for the betterment of a population. Contrasted against this historical account of struggle lays the body of a leader, an educator, and a peacemaker. The humble yet powerful presence of César Chávez's burial site and its adjacent southwestern inspired garden provides a moment of reflection and observation into his life and death. Upon his passing in 1993, César Chávez had previously wished to be buried in La Paz and it is no wonder why. In the end, this is where his family lived. This was home.

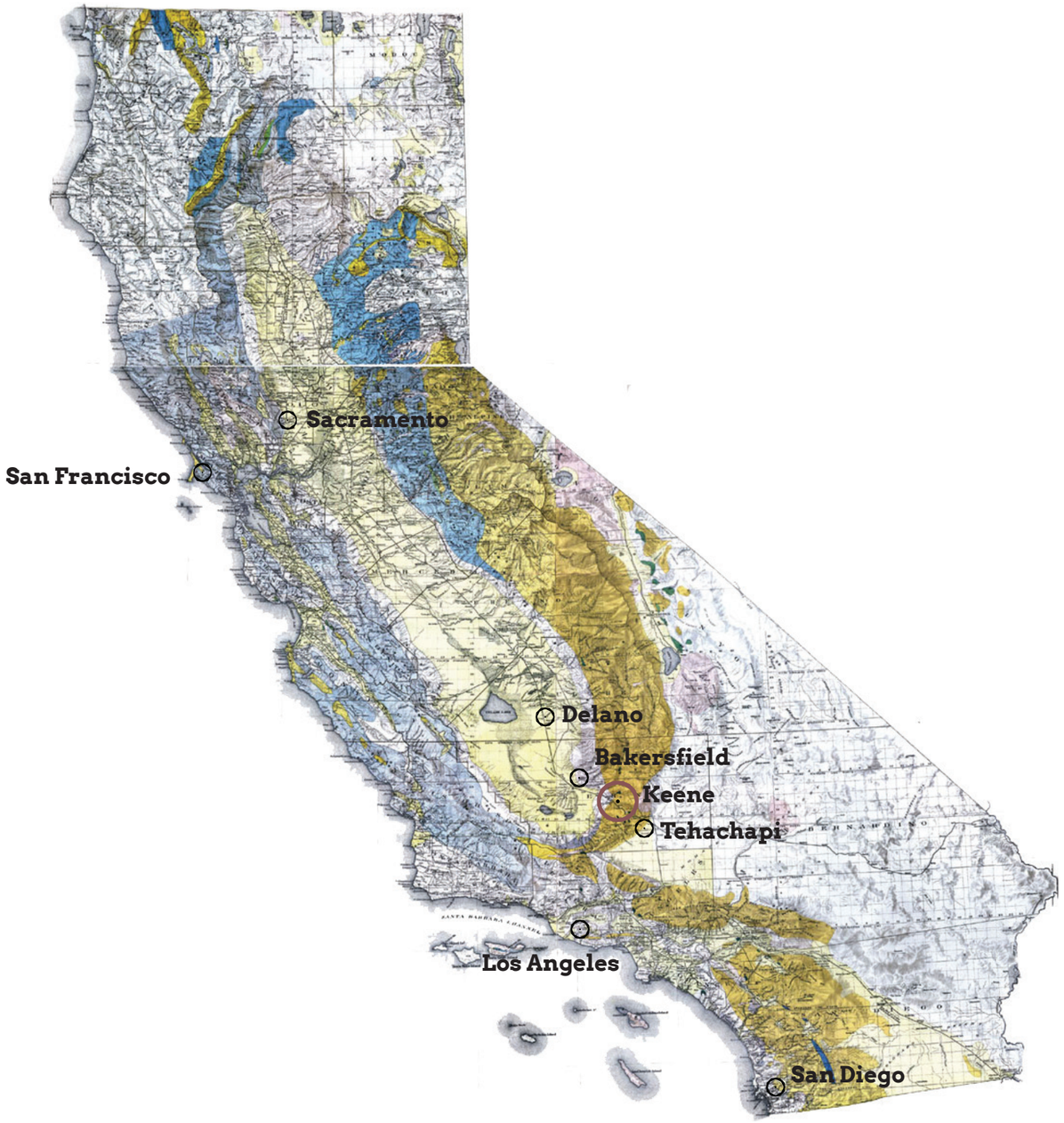
The following is a journey of discovery, an analysis of the elements that will guide each of us in representing this historical site accurately and with compelling interpretation. The various characteristics observed and researched will allow us to dig deeper into the multiple layers that exist and will inevitably provide a more profound understanding of what it really means to feel La Paz.

SITE LOCATION

Keene, CA is located south of Bakersfield, North of Tehachapi, and nestled in the Tehachapi Mountains. The current population is 432, some of which are still affiliated with the UFW.

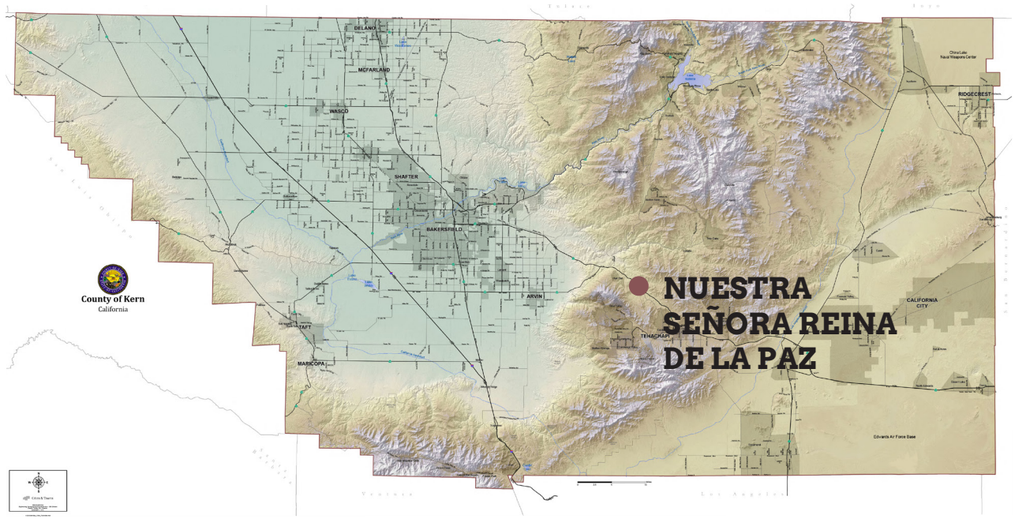
DISTANCES FROM KEENE, CA (MILES)

Tehachapi	**11**
Bakersfield	**30**
Delano	**63**
Los Angeles	**125**
San Diego	**242**
Sacramento	**308**
San Francisco	**312**



• Geological Map of California: Department of Conservation, web. • Distances: Google Maps, web.

KERN COUNTY, CA



NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ PARTNERSHIP (ACRES)

Federal Land	**1.9**
Federal Easements	**8.6**
National Chavez Center	**96.5**
Total	**107**



• Site Photo: Bing Maps. web

We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure.

- César Chávez

CULTURAL CONTEXT

Site Timeline 19
Site History 21
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Railroad - Quarry 23
Sanatorium - César Chávez 25
Chávez Era Timeline 27
Chávez Era 29
Starts UFW - Moves to La Paz 29
Memories of La Paz - National Monument 31

NATIVE PEOPLES
500BP - 1700CE

RAILROAD
1874

QUARRY
1913 - 1917

SANATORIUM
1918 - 1967

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ
1971-1993

UFW
1971-

NATIONAL MONUMENT
2012-

NATIVE PEOPLES

People have inhabited California for the past 12,000 years. Between 12,000-8,000 years the natives lived primarily in the more lush and suitable areas along the Pacific Coast. The major food source came from big game hunting of prehistoric species that do not exist today. As time went on, the natives gradually moved inland to the east, settling in more moderate and drier terrain. Between 8,000-6000 years ago plants became a staple to their diet and smaller game was hunted. Around 5,000 years ago, when the climate was warming, these peoples started to settle in more permanent sites where there was a stable water source.

The tribes that settled in the area of La Paz and Tehachapi Pass, also known as the Antelope Valley, are the Kitanemuk, Serrano, Tataviam, and the Kawaiisu. Tehachapi Pass was a prime location of settlement due to the amount of natural springs in the area, as well as the pass itself being a major connection between California's Central Valley and the rest of Southern California. The native tribes often shared and traded resources along this route which helped aid in the settlements' food supply. La Paz is located at the confluence of two creeks and evidence of native settlement can be seen throughout the site. The most obvious are the bed rock mortars in the Northeast. Mortars started being used about 1,500 years ago to grind the Pinon nuts from the pine trees (Pinus sabiniana) and acorns from the oaks (Quercus douglasii) which became a major staple of the diet. These trees can be seen throughout La Paz.

The settlement of Europeans and the World Wars were major reasons that led to the decline and dispersal of Native Tribes. Many Native people assimilated into european culture and mission life. In 1990 there was an estimated 16,000 native people living in the Antelope Valley. Currently many Native Americans are working to strengthen their cultural base through legislative, business, and educational efforts. Today they are maintaining and reinforcing their heritage through music, dance, oral history, gatherings, and many other traditional cultural expressions



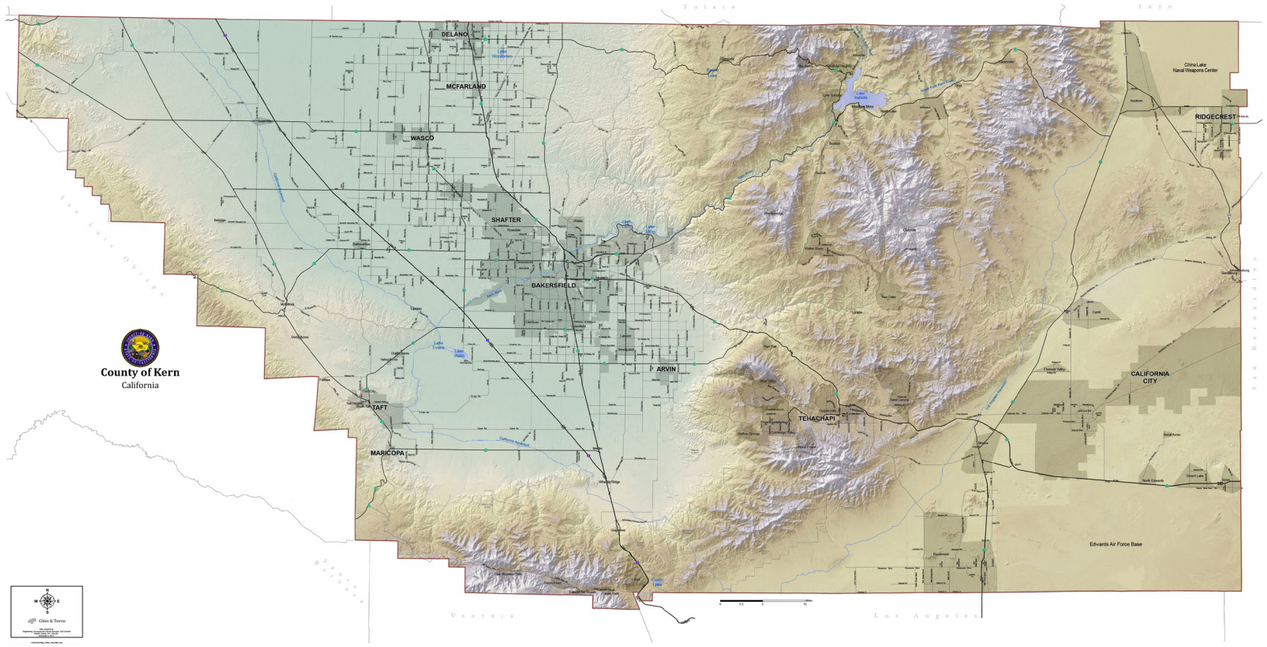
• Native Peoples Information: Haramokngna - American Indian Cultural Center - "Kitanemuk: People of the East", web. • Antelope Valley Indian Museam - "Antelope Valley Indian Peoples" - Kitanemuk, web. • Popular Archeology - "Prehistoric Native American Diversity in California Shaped by Environment, Say Researchers", June 2013, Cover Stories, Daily News, web.

KERN COUNTY

Kern County was established in 1866, comprising approximately 8,161 square miles. The county is rich in agricultural land, oil, water, and mining opportunities for precious metals, coal, quartz and marble. Half of the county is relatively flat and used for agriculture, however the county also includes mountainous areas, in which La Paz is located.

Prior to the establishment of Kern County, the mountains to the east of Bakersfield contained five very large ranches, which remained from original Spanish/Mexican land grants. These ranches, in addition to considerable agricultural land in the valley, were owned by only two entities. One entity nearly monopolized the water supply of the whole valley stemming from the Kern River. The railroad penetrated this mountain pass with the completion of the Tehachapi Loop in 1876, at which time Keene (initially named Wells) was established. Caliente was an important town during construction of the railroad, but quickly declined after completion and has remained small ever since. In 1883, Tehachapi boasted a population of about 300, and contained a flour mill. The population is now close to 14,000. Grazing and farming were carried out in the surrounding areas of Tehachapi, Bear, Brite and Cummings valleys, and as of 1883 all property was owned and predominantly fenced.

Rural electric power service became available in 1911. Soon after, the county began construction of a road through the Tehachapi Pass; now known as Highway 58. The county developed a rock quarry just east of Keene, operating from 1913-1917 to provide road construction materials. With an easier mountain pass in place, the county constructed a sanatorium adjacent to the northeast border of Keene. Stony Brook Retreat Tuberculosis Sanatorium, a county facility, opened in 1918 and remained in operation until 1967. As of 1928, the land was owned by the Tehachapi Cattle Co. The United Farm Workers purchased the site in 1971. Although nearby cities expanded and additional towns developed over time, none encroached on this secluded site, which remains rather remote to this day.



• Kern County Information: California Natural Resources Agency CERES(2004), web. • Elliott, p 105, book.• Kern County Superintendent of Schools (1994), web. • Kern River Valley Historical Society (2006), web. • Perez (1982), p37, book. • Stegeman (1928), pdf. • Map of Kern County, California: Compiled from Official Data, web.

RAILROAD

Railroad tracks circumnavigate the East and North boundaries of the site making the tracks a significant neighboring feature of La Paz. Trains travel in groups in the same direction for periods of time due to one track through the difficult terrain. On average, 40 trains pass by daily with an early morning rush before dawn, followed a 3hr maintenance window after which freight continues.

This route is a principle connector between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert through the Tehachapi Pass. Southern Pacific Railroad reached Bakersfield, in November 1874 and two years later the tracks crossed over the pass to Mojave. When construction finished 18 bridges and tunnels had been created as well as the Tehachapi Loop, considered an epic engineering feat. A train leaving Bakersfield at 408 feet elevation rises to the top of the pass at 4028 feet and back down to Mojave at 2749 feet.

The Union Pacific Railway bought the Souther Pacific Railway in 1996. BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) uses the tracks under an agreement between the two companies.







• Tehachapi Pass Information: SF Examiner - The Associated Press, Nov 14, 2012, web. • Cal Watchdog - Rail series: Surmounting the Tehachapi Barrier, Dec 17, 2012, web. • Randy Murphey - North American Rails, 2009, web.

QUARRY

In 1913, the Kern County highway department was authorized to open a rock quarry to the east and overlapping with La Paz. Due to wartime restrictions and competition, the quarry was forced to close five years later, in 1917. Four wood-frame buildings were constructed: a bunkhouse, an administration building, a single-family house, and a dining hall. An entrance road, water supply system, and septic tank were built. The buildings were built in a Craftsman/bungalow style with vertical board-and-batten exterior siding. This building style, particularly the board-and-batten siding, continues to be part of the historic character of the site. The dining hall has since been demolished, but the other three buildings remain.

The quarry bunkhouse, located near the entrance to the site and where the visitor center is located today, was used as in infirmary during the sanatorium period (about 1918-1967), and was the administrative offices for the United Farm Workers (UFW) from the 1970s until 2003 (NPS, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 10 and 13). At this time, deterioration was enough that the UFW decided to reconstruct the building as a visitor center. The office of César Chávez was the one the one area of the building that was retained; the new building was constructed around it. The visitor center reflects the original architectural style, footprint, and massing: it shows Craftsman influence and has vertical board-and-batten siding.







• Quarry Information: National Park Service, National Historic Landmark Nomination Compiled from Official Data.

SANATORIUM

In 1918, the property opened as a tuberculosis sanatorium under the title “Stony Brook Retreat.” The tuberculosis sanatorium adapted the buildings left over from the quarry period and built many more (most of which are existant, today). The sanatorium expanded in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s. Advances in medicine soon rendered the facility obsolete and in 1967, the sanatorium closed its doors after years of declining admissions.

The buildings built during the sanatorium period include two large hospital buildings: the main sanatorium building, located to the west of what is now the visitor center, and the “preventatorium” which is located at the north end of the site and has been converted into am events space. Administrative and residential buildings were also built. All buildings were designed to harmonize with the other buildings on the property: vertical board-and-batten siding painted white is a common feature. The visitor center, a new construction echoing the administrative building that stood on its site previously reflecting this Craftsman style. The preventatorium was rehabilitated during the UFW period with a pronounced Spanish Colonial style.









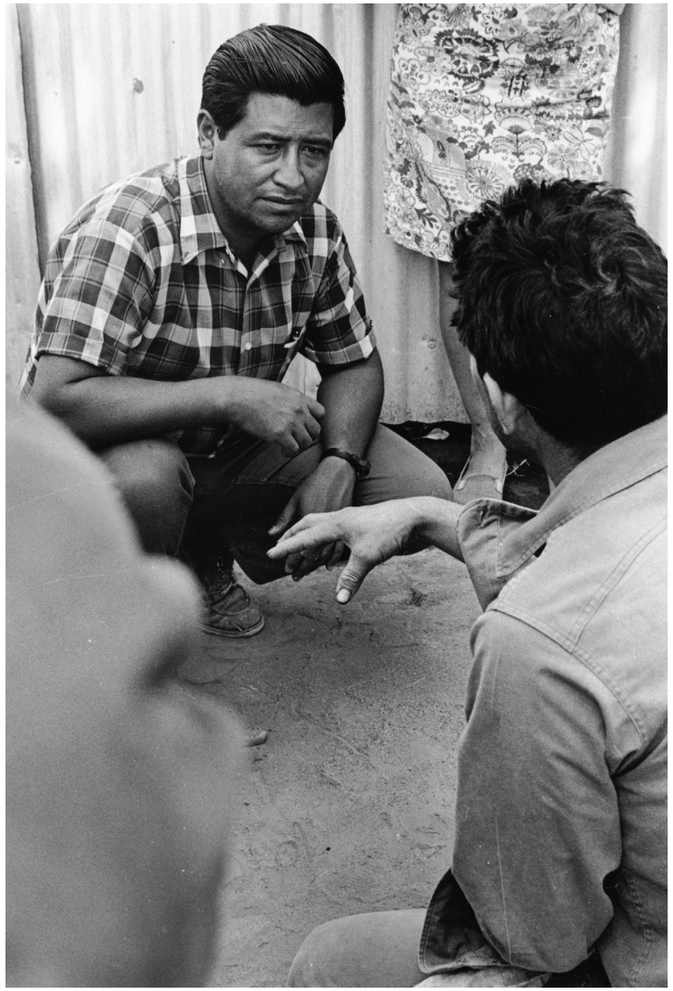
• Sanatorium Information: National Park Service, National Historic Landmark Nomination, pdf.

CESAR CHAVEZ

César Chávez, a civil rights and labor leader, a farmworker, a father, and a crusader for nonviolent social change. He was born on March 31, 1927, near his family's farm in Yuma, Arizona. His family lost their farm in the Great Depression and became farm workers when Chávez was ten. The Chávez family moved seasonally, from field to field across the Southwest during his childhood, laboring in the fields and vineyards, where he was exposed to the hardships and injustices of farmworker life. Even though, his childhood school education was not ideal for him, education became his passion.

At the age of seventeen he joined the U.S. Navy during early 1940s and served in the Pacific in the aftermath of World War II. After serving his country, Chavez and his family settled in Delano. Two years later, Chávez married Helen Fabela, whom he met while working the vineyard fields of San Jose. His life as a community organizer began in 1952 when he joined the Community Service Organization (CSO), a prominent Latino civil rights group. While with the CSO, he coordinated voter registration drives and conducted campaigns against racial and economic discrimination. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Chávez served as CSO's national director.

Workers needed a leader with an authentic style because migrant workers were an underrepresented class. In 1962, Chávez quit the CSO and started the UFW (United Farm Workers).







• César Chávez Information: National Park Service, National Historic Landmark Nomination • UFW, The Story of Cesar Chavez- The Beginning. web • Stavans - César Chávez: An Organizer's Tale, book.

Quits
Community Service Organization
Moves to Delano,

STARTS UFW
MAR ‘62

DELANO GRAPE STRIKES
SEP ‘65

340 mile
MARCH FROM DELANO TO SACRAMENTO
MAR ‘66

1ST FAST: 25 DAYS
Breaks Fast with Robert F. Kennedy
FEB ‘68

TIME MAGAZINE COVER
JUL ‘69

CHÁVEZ ARRESTED IN SALINAS
for refusing to end lettuce boycott
DEC ‘70

MOVES UFW TO LA PAZ
(Nuestra Senora de la Reina de la Paz)
MAY ‘71

1960s
INCEPTION

1970s
NATIONAL IMPACT

2ND FAST: 24 DAYS
against anti-union legistlation fails, but births phrase:
¡SÍ, SE PUEDE!
MAY ‘72

UFW PURGE
of alleged Communists, traitors, and spy volunteers.
APR ‘77

FIRST VEGETABLE CONTRACTS SIGNED
in Salinas
AUG ‘79

FIRST PAID MEETING
of farmworkers at La Paz
MAY ‘80

3RD FAST: 36 DAYS
against pesticides
JUL ‘88

CHÁVEZ PASSES
in his sleep. The funeral is held in Delano
APR ‘93

President Barack Obama declares La Paz a
NATIONAL MONUMENT
OCT ‘12

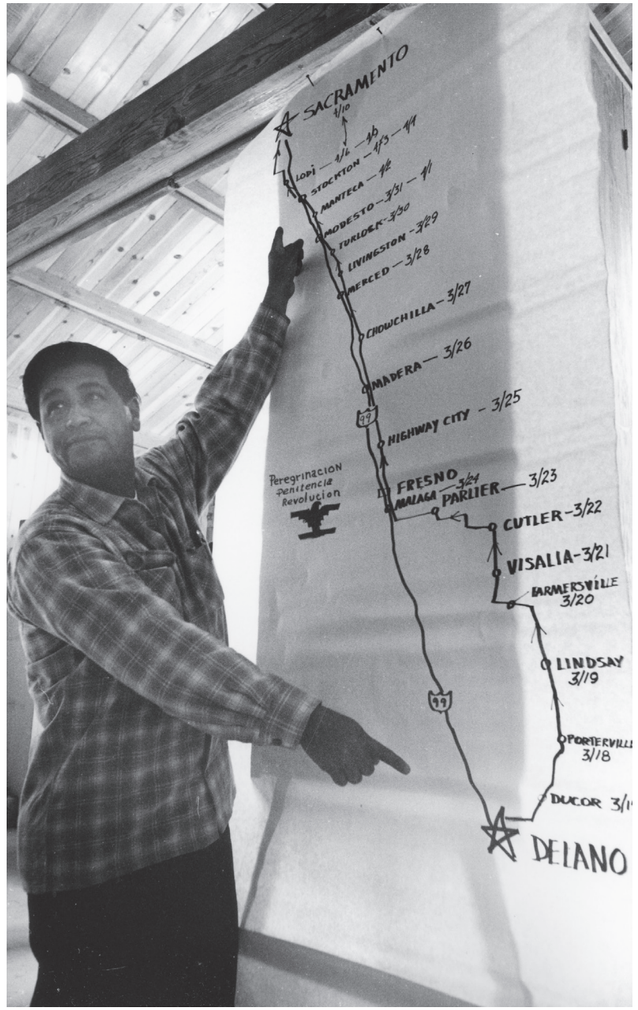
1980-Present
LEGACY

STARTS UFW

The United Farm Workers began as the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). The first convention of the NFWA was in 1962 in Fresno, California. At this first convention, the group's symbol was unveiled as a flag: a black eagle on a white circle with a red background. In 1965, the NFWA joined the Filipino-American Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) in what would be the five-year-long Delano table grape strike, an effort that ended with Delano-area table and wine grape growers signing their first union contracts, agreeing to provide workers with better pay, benefits, and protections. The Delano grape efforts—which included a 340-mile pilgrimage to the state Capitol in Sacramento—were only one set of many that the UFW took on over the years. In 1966, the NFWA and the AWOC merged to form the United Farm Workers and the union affiliates with the AFL-CIO, the national labor federation.







• National Park Service: National Historic Landmark Nomination

MOVES TO LA PAZ

Following the closure of the Stony Brook Retreat Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1967 and the ensuing disuse, Kern County offered the 187 acre property for public auction in 1970. Attempts made by the UFW to buy the property were refused by the county, however, unbeknownst to officials, an affluent supporter of the movement was able to procure the property, and later passed it on to the UFW.

This new location for the UFW headquarters was viewed by Chavez as a retreat and conference center, somewhere from which they could expand their efforts beyond Delano and California. However, some viewed the move as an issue regarding the distancing of union officials from workers. By 1972 the move was complete, and the site was renamed 'Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz'.

They adopted the site partly for its seclusion and partly for its infrastructure due to the site's previous use as a tuberculosis sanatorium. The UFW was not in the position to make immediate alterations to the site. The first additions they made were a fence around the Chávez home (threats had been made on Chávez's life), and a gate and security shed at the entrance road. In 1927, the UFW razed two buildings, both near the site entrance. Most of the other buildings they remodeled to fit their needs. There was only one building built on the property in the 1970s, a smell, metal-frame building used as a graphics shop. The building has since been added to and is now the administrative headquarters. The union also moved around 20 manufactured homes onto the property, which were located northwest of the core building area. Also added were a water tower near the core area and a community garden behind the northernmost building.







• National Park Service: National Historic Landmark Nomination • "American Latino Heritage." National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. web. • National Park Service. "Draft: César Chávez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment." National Park Service, October 2011. PDF file

MEMORIES OF LA PAZ

A Personal Account of the Site From Mario Vargas

A personal interview was conducted with Mario Vargas on September 24th and 25th 2013. Vargas served as César Chávez's coworker, colleague, organizer, driver, and beloved friend since the 1970s. César Chávez was like a second father to Vargas and he described César as a very intelligent man who treated everyone equally. Vargas was born in April 1943. As of 2013, he has lived in La Paz for 40 years and has been living a campesino (peasant) life, in several different locations within Keene, California. Vargus was born in Portugal, came to the U.S. in 1967, and worked for several companies because he hoped for a better life. He started living in the building previously serving as a tuberculosis hospital called Stony Brook Sanatorium in Keene, and briefly described tragedies like the San Andreas fire and the San Francisco earthquake that occurred in 1956.

He recalls the fond memories with the families he lived with in Keene, even though some family members had to work in different places outside Keene like Calexico, Fresno, and others. Vargas believes the place should be used for people who want to study the story of César Chávez's life and history. One tragic story he mentioned was the embarassment and discomfort that the women farm workers underwent because they had to finish their toiletry needs behind a group of men in the middle of the fields. In the face of these hardships, Vargas helped with events from the United Farm Workers Union and was even willing to take the responsibility of the maintenance for the historic site named Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. Beyond the admirable positions he undertook, he was fascinated with other events like the Zoot Suit Movement and the true story of the discovery of America, when in reality it was a man named Amerigo Vespucci who was the founder of America after he was captured by natives and was named curandero (witch doctor). Vargas will forever carry his beautiful memories with César Chávez and the community and wishes to share his wisdom and advice for those who are curious to know the historical stories during his lifetime.

See full transcript of the interview in the Appendix, page 93.



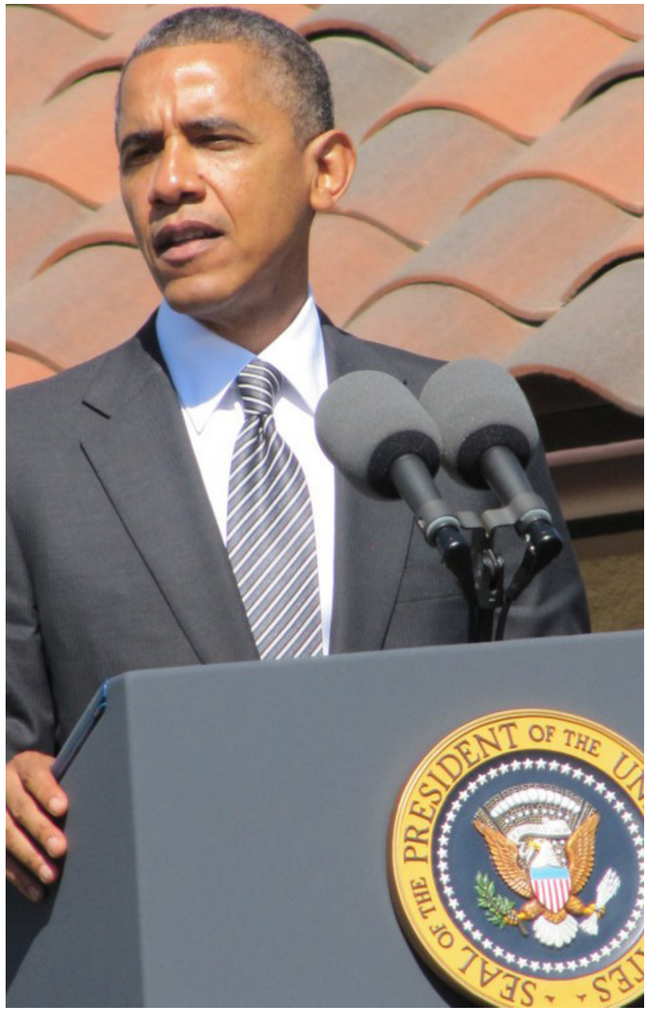




NATIONAL MONUMENT

In 2012, the site was dedicated as César E. Chåvez National Monument by President Obama, under the right granted to the president by the Antiquities Act of 1906. Two acres—an acre around the visitor center and an acre around the Chavez house—are now Federal land and the 8.6 acres connecting these spaces and surrounding the entrance road have been deemed "Federal interest." The remaining of the total acres authorized as the National Monument are held by the National Chavez Center and operated under a cooperative agreement.

The César E. Chávez National Monument was created to honor César Chávez, one of the most important twentieth-century labor and human rights leaders in the United States. Chavez is recognized for his influential leadership of the farmworkers movement, in which he brought farmworker issues to national awareness. This site became a retreat and conference center for the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1970 and was home to Chávez and his family for the rest of Chávez's life. The site is now not just a physical memorial for César Chávez, but a monument to all that Chávez and the UFW have done for farmworkers across the nation.







• National Park Service: National Historic Landmark Nomination • "César E. Chåvez National Monument website; United States Department of the Interior: Land Resources Program Center Map • National Monument Declaration Photos. UFW, web.

When the man who feeds the world by toiling in the field is himself deprived of the basic rights of feeding and caring for his own family, the whole community of man is sick.

- César Chávez

NATURAL SYSTEMS

Climate - Soils & Geology 35
Plants 37

CLIMATE

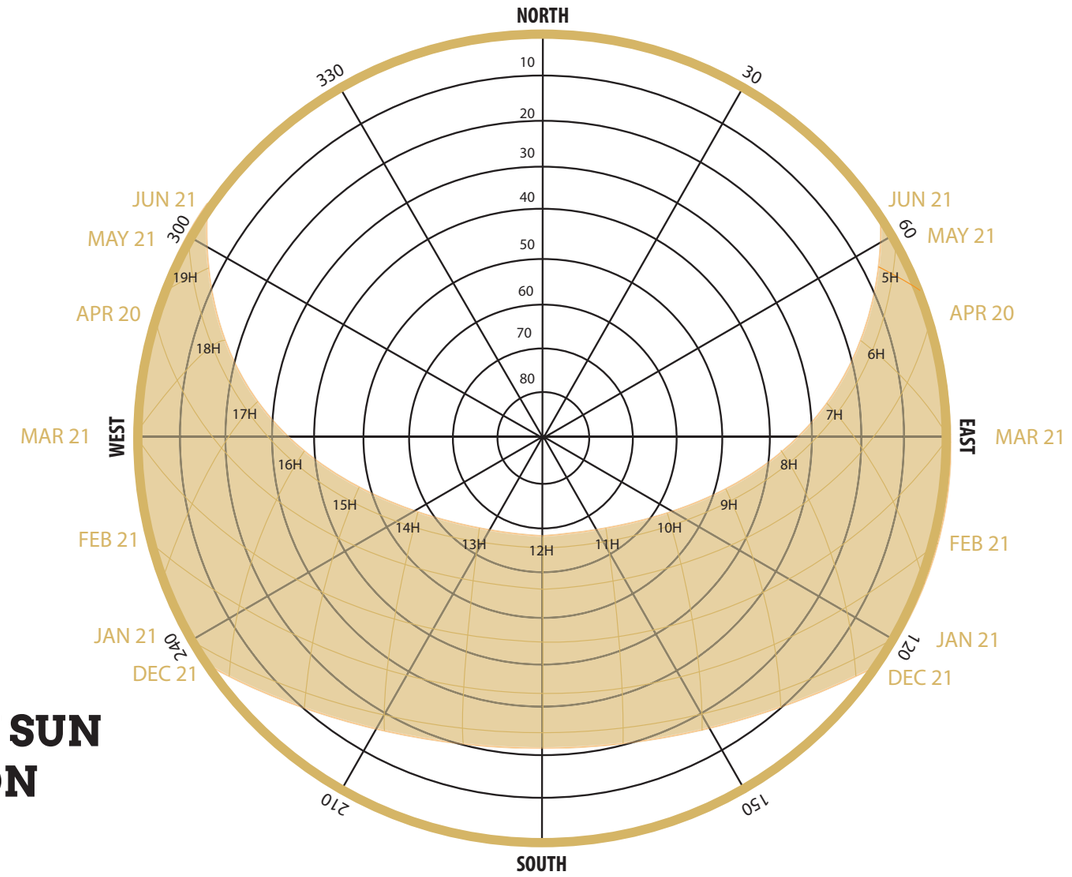
Keene, CA has a temperate climate standard of a desert valley area. In the hottest months (July to September) Keene can reach daily highs between 85 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature cools dramatically after September, with lows reaching 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Regardless of temperature, Keene experiences 75 to 85% sunshine year round. Sunshine does not equal dryness though; humidity is high in the early mornings at about 50% and drops to typical desert heat conditions.

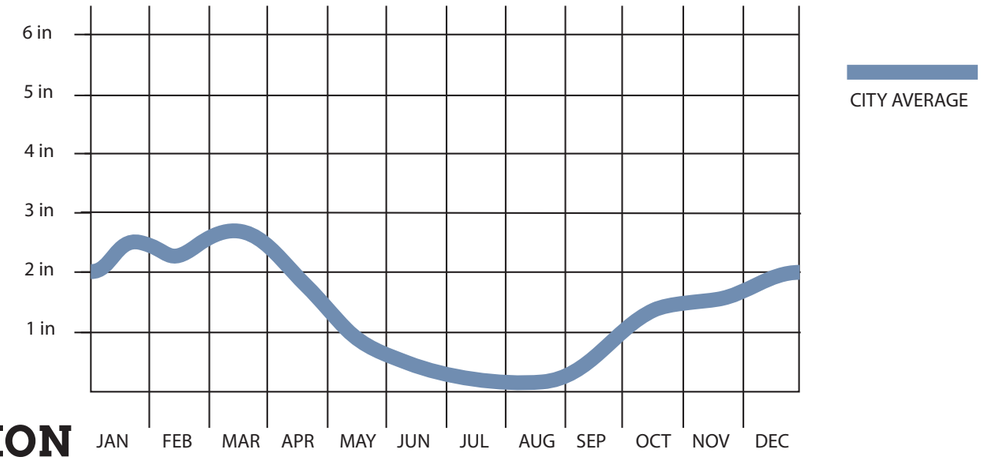
Precipitation occurs from November to the end of March. The highest amount of rainfall seen yearly on the site occurs in March, and barely reaches three inches. Although that does not seem like much, the rain received at this time is enough create stagnant water in the valleys and creeks and give life to intermittent streams.

Months of drought and months of percipitation contribute to two very different experiences in La Paz. In the drier months, the California Blue Oaks color the landscape laden with dead grass. After the cold rainy winter, Spring brings wildflowers and lush green grasses. Rain allows the creeks to be partially filled and the whole site has a livelier persona.

YEARLY SUN POSITION



AVERAGE YEARLY PRECIPITATION

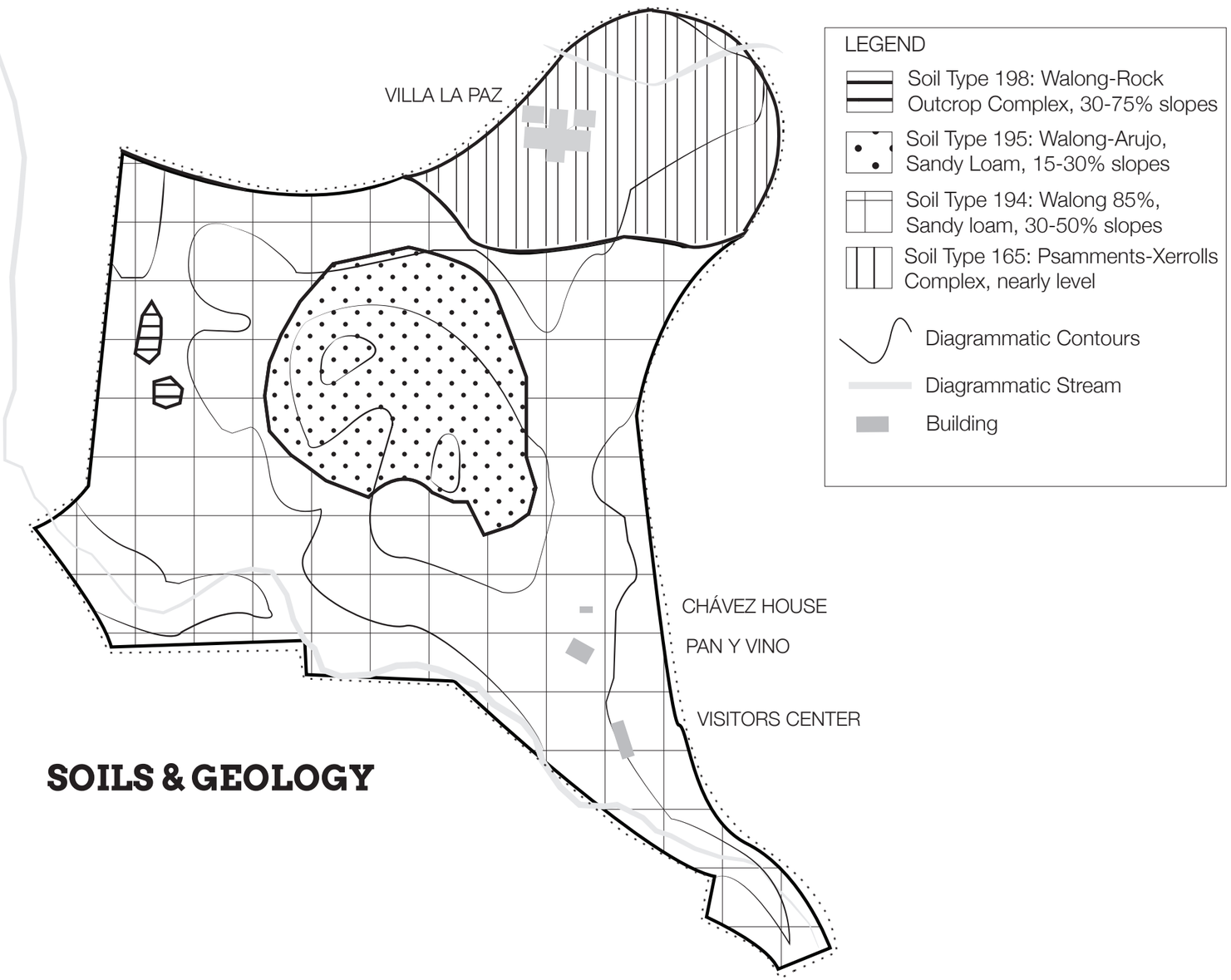


• Survey Report, City Data. web

SOILS & GEOLOGY

SOIL SUMMARY
Farmland Class: Not prime farmland.
Drainage Class: Well-drained
Hydric Conditions: Not hydric.
Available water storage: 6.57cm

GEOLOGIC SUMMARY
Age: Mesozoic (201-66 million years ago)
Primary Rock Type: Granite
Secondary Rock Type: Quartz



SOILS & GEOLOGY

• Geology Information, California Geology. web • Soil Information, UC Davis Soil Survey. web

PLANTS

Overall Site





















Quercus douglasii
California Blue Oak

Facts: Used as medicine, dyes, utensils, games, and toys by California Native Americans

Location: Throughout all zones on site

Pinus sabiniana
Foothill Pine

Facts: California Native Americans used (and still use) seeds for roasting, eating raw, and pounding into flour

Location: Hilltops

Datura wrightii
Moonflower

Facts: Poisonous, but considered a sacred visionary plant amongst cultures that encounter the species

Location:Throughout all zones on site

Quercus garryana
Oregon White Oak

Facts: Lifespan is 500 years

Location: Trails specifically, but also features as a variant to Quercus douglasii all over site

Ailanthus altissima
Tree of Heaven

Facts: Listed as “moderate” on the California Invasive Plant Inventory and Is highly adaptable to disturbance

Location: North facing hillsides

PLANTS

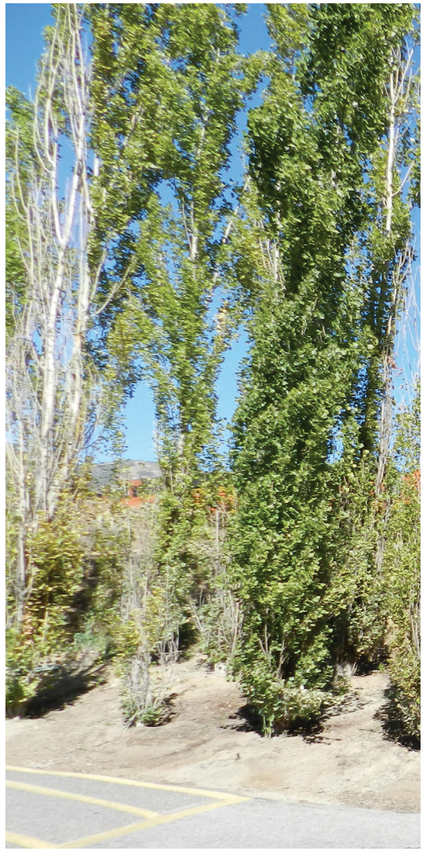
Location Specific



Platanus racemosa
Western Sycamore

Facts: A wetland tree that signifies the presence of a shallow groundwater table

Location: Creek Bed



Populus nigra
Lombardi Poplar

Facts: Short-lived, but serves as an excellent living privacy screen or windbreaker

Location: Desert Garden



Washingtonia filifera
Desert Fan Palm

Facts: Occurs in alluvial edges where groundwater is trapped by bedrock

Location: Residential Zone



Hesperocyparis arizonica
Arizona Cypress

Facts: Very rare species, restricted to the Piute and Greenhorn mountains

Location: Entrance, Residential Zone



Salix geyeriana
Desert Willow

Facts: Indicator of underground water available year round in desert climate

Location: Creek Bed

What is the worth of a man or a woman? What is the worth of a farm worker? How do you measure the value of a life?

- César Chávez

DOCUMENTATION

Field Process - Zone Map 41
Site Elements 43

Zone 1: Entrance 45
CLI Characteristics 47

Zone 2: Core 55
CLI Characteristics 57

Zone 3: Villa La Paz 65
CLI Characteristics 67

Zone 4: Open Space 75
CLI Characteristics 77

FIELD PROCESS

Purpose

To better understand La Paz as a cultural landscape and to record the site's present state as a newly created National Monument.

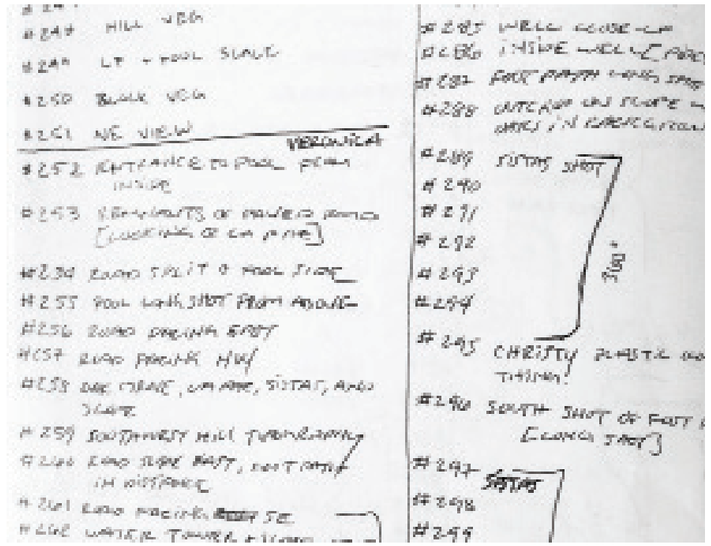
Live and Work on the Property

The National Park Service and César Chávez Foundation provided housing for us on the La Paz property. Being able to stay on the site allowed us to experience the site at all hours of the day and night, and get a glimpse into the feeling of staying on the property as many others did before us.

Lay of the Land

We observed the initial lay of the land by driving and hiking the site in the morning and afternoon. This was important in understanding the different lighting and colors of the site, the fluctuation in temperatures, and identifying factors of the land's cultural history.









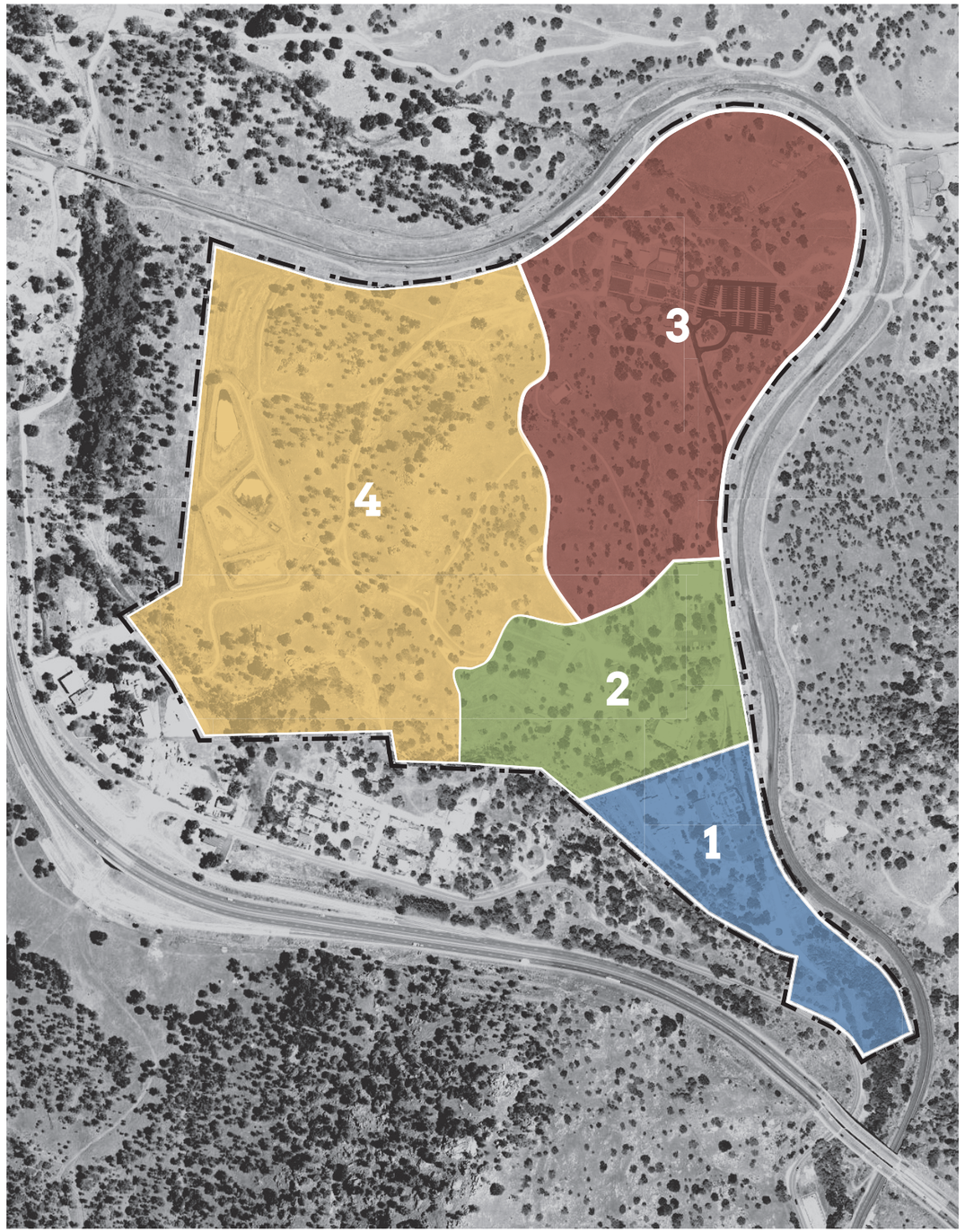
ZONE MAP

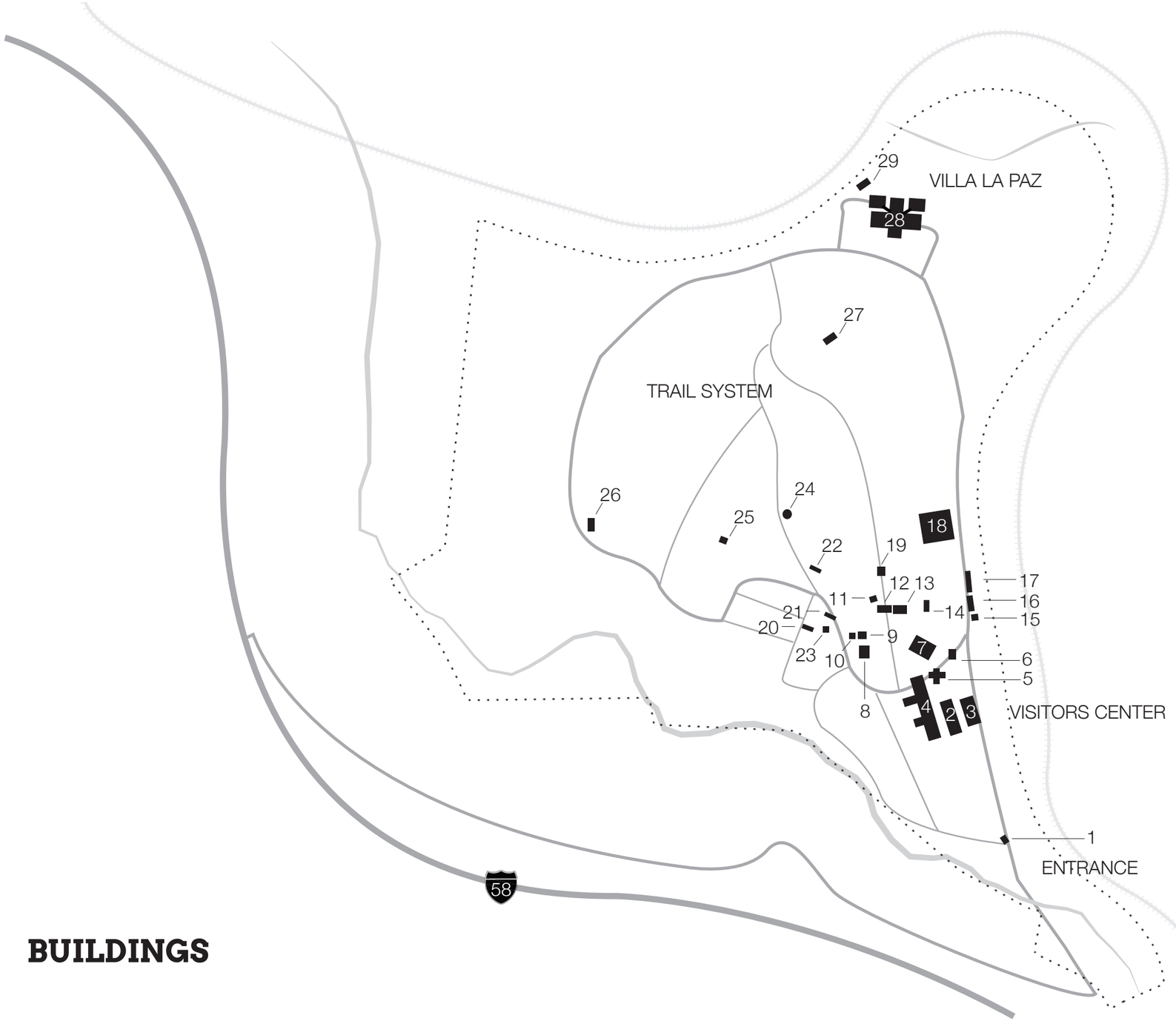
Zone 1, Entrance, is located at the southeast corner of La Paz and is the most publicly accessible of the zones. The Visitor Center and Memorial Garden house the office and gravesite of César Chávez. The Tehachapi Creek borders the south area of this zone.

Zone 2, the Core, is located centrally to the site. Helen Chávez resides northeast of the Visitors Center. Included in this zone are the cafeteria, children's playground, and the majority of the farmworker community's residences. The current headquarters of the United Farm Workers Union is located in the central easternmost border of this zone.

Zone 3, Villa La Paz, is located in the most northeast area of La Paz. West of Villa La Paz is the Peace Garden and Peace Rocks.

Zone 4, Open Space, is located in the west area of the site. It is comprised mainly of large rock outcrops and stands of California Blue Oak savanna.





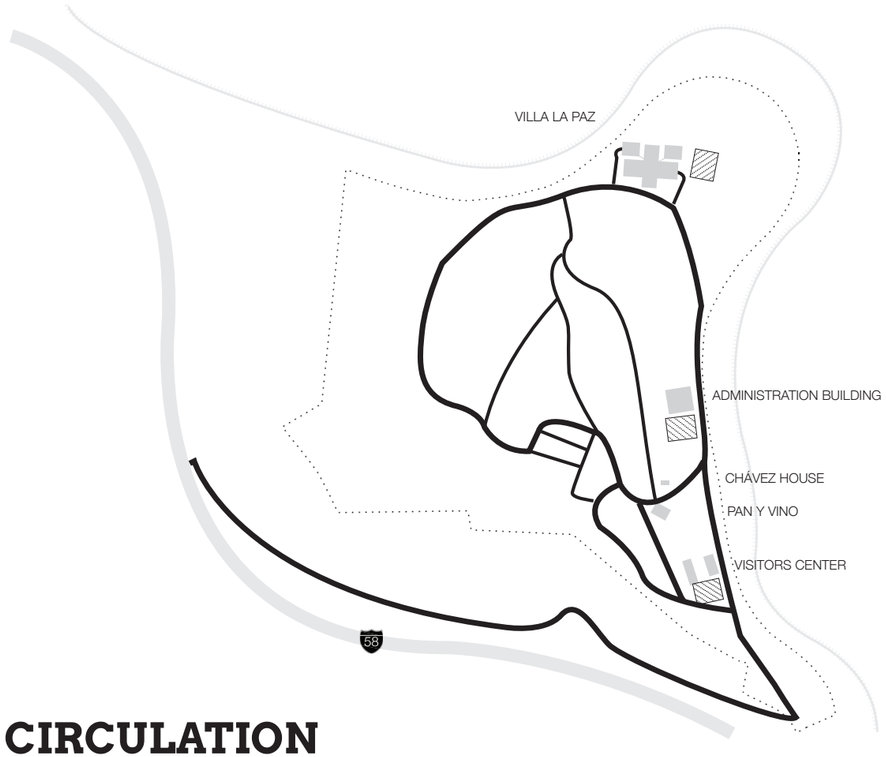
LEGEND

- Buildings
- Road/Path
- Highway
- Rail
- Diagrammatic Contours
- Diagrammatic Stream

LEGEND

1. Quonset Hut
2. Visitor Center
3. Chávez Burial Site
4. Dormitory Building
5. Financial Building
6. Trust Funds Building
7. Pan y Vino
8. House
9. House
10. Storage Unit
11. House
12. House
13. House
14. Chávez House
15. Storage Unit
16. Garage
17. Garage
18. Administration Building
19. Playground
20. House
21. Manufactured Housing
22. Manufactured Housing
23. Manufactured Housing
24. Water Tank
25. Satellite Dishes
26. Telecommunications Building
27. Swimming Pool
28. Villa La Paz
29. Garage

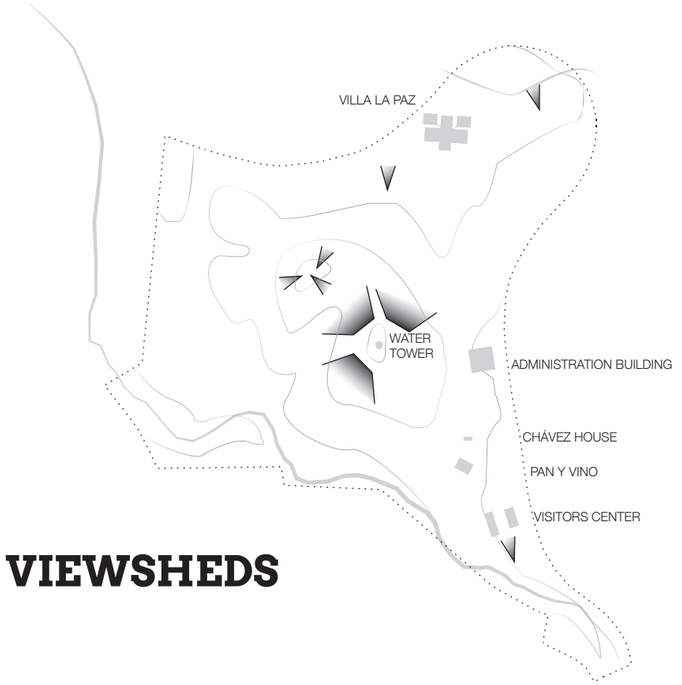
BUILDINGS



CIRCULATION

LEGEND

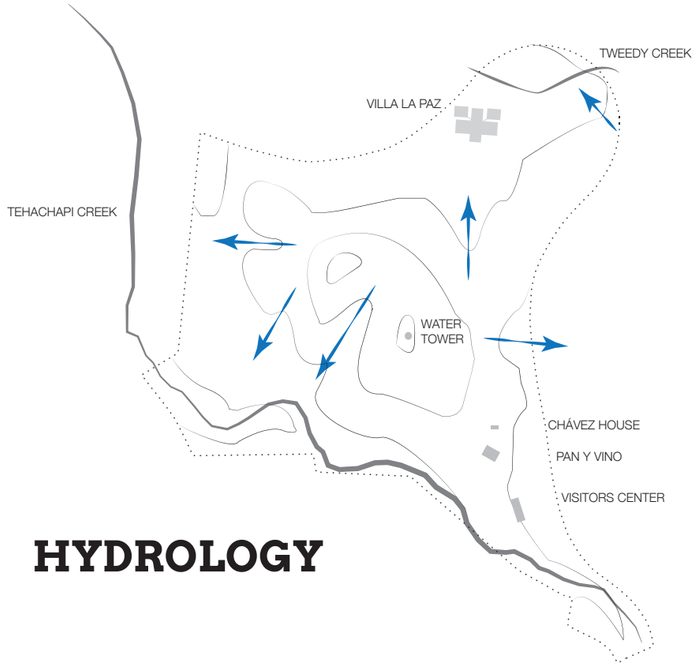
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road/Path
- Parking Lots
- Highway
- Rail



VIEWSHEDS

LEGEND

- Vista Sheds
- Diagrammatic Contours
- Diagrammatic Stream
- Buildings



HYDROLOGY

LEGEND

- Ephemeral Water Flow
- Diagrammatic Contours
- Diagrammatic Stream
- Buildings

Keene California is a tiny town tucked between the Central Valley and the Mojave Desert. In late September it's dry and dusty but they say in the springtime it's lush and green with water and wildflowers. The tan colored hills are dotted with California Blue Oak, Foothill Pine and Sumac. Rock outcroppings jut from the hillsides and tumble downhill. – NG

The drive onto the César property was lined with Western Juniper trees and Grey Pines, and between these there were gorgeous rock outcroppings. – JC



ZONE 1: Entrance

Zone one provides the entry, parking and primary vehicular circulation routes of the Monument and Gardens, and encompasses the following distinguishing features: Visitor Center and Parking; Memorial Garden; Southwest Garden; Sanatorium; Financial Building; Quonset Hut.

César Chávez's office, has been replicated, and located in the Visitor's Center. This was erected in 2004, replacing the first Administration Building for the United Farmworker's Union that had dated to the Quarry period (1913-1917). This building had been modified for use during the Sanatorium period (1918-1967) and used as the infirmary. Other buildings were erected during the sanatorium period, including the large hospital building in 1927, with an addition in 1932. The sanatorium was closed in 1967, and later became a singles' dormitory for the UFW. Currently the hospital building is unused, and is barred from access. Under the ownership of the UFW, the Quonset hut was built in 1971 and is used as a security station. The building, originally used as the children's unit of the sanatorium, became the financial building during the UFW period, and is currently unused. Construction of the Memorial Garden was completed in 2001, within which a variety of exotic vegetation is found. Located directly east of the Visitor Center, the Memorial Garden contains the gravesite of César Chávez, while the newer Southwest Garden lies to the northeast of the Visitor Center. The Southwest Garden is planted similarly to that which César experienced in Yuma, Arizona, in his early childhood.

The site is accessed by an entrance from Woodford-Tehachapi Road, and is located at the southern extremity of the property. This is currently the only access point. Once entering the site, the road branches several times, offering vehicular routes to the Visitor Center and other buildings throughout the site. A picnic area is located west of the main road on the approach to the parking area. Train tracks lie along the entirety of the eastern edge of the zone, on which regular train traffic contributes visible and audible characteristics.

Other notable features include Tehachapi Creek, containing the most diverse native vegetation on the site, This creek forms the southern property boundary; a dam and pump house on the creek are positioned near the Quonset hut. There are also various retaining walls, remnants of pre-existing structure foundations, and a web of run-off channels and footpaths.


STOP
National Chavez Center
Si Se Puede
La Paz
Keene, CA

















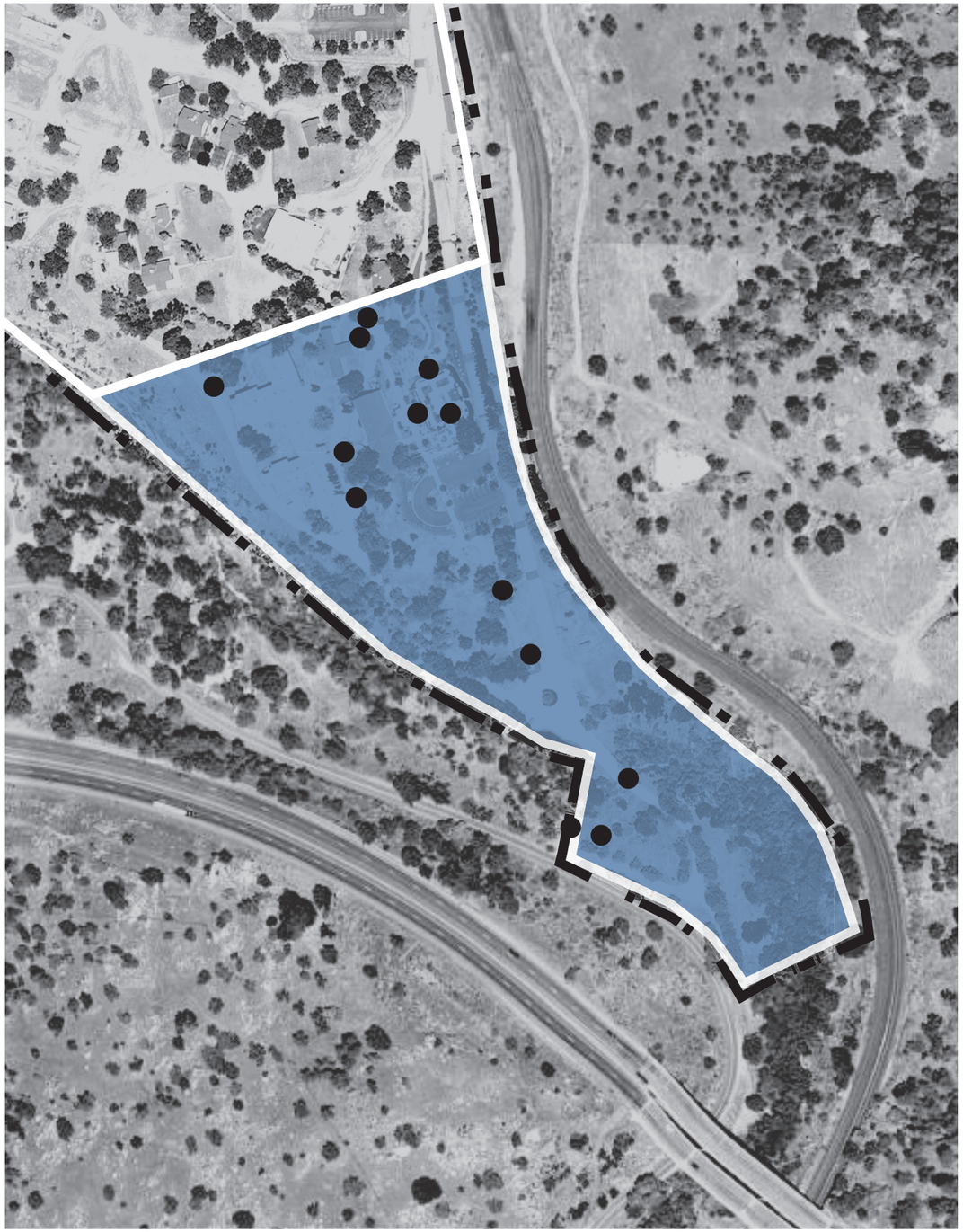












Natural Systems & Features

Spatial Organization

Land Use

Cultural Traditions

Topography

Vegetation

Circulation

Buildings & Structures

Cluster Arrangement

Views & Vistas

Constructed Water Features

Small-Scale Features

Archeological Sites

ZONE 1: Entrance



TOPOGRAPHY

4319
Just north of the primary entrance, the grade of the hillside and driveway are steep and conforms to the topography. Rock outcroppings are prominent from the entrance to the Tehachapi Creek crossing. In the distance the old quarry and concrete pilings can be seen just above the railroad.

4320
The primary entrance slopes downward and meets the eastern entrance driveway at the “Y” intersection. The driveway is winding and steep and provides views and vistas of the surrounding hillsides. The exposed rock outcroppings are prominent as well as the Junipers that line both sides of the driveway.

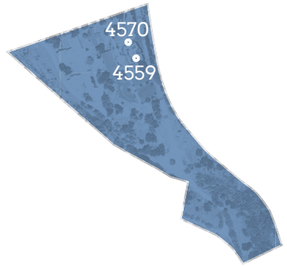
4377
A significant change in topography exists at the north end of Building 4. At the west end of the building is a secondary road running northwest to southeast, with the dry Tehachapi Creek bed to the southwest that runs along the western edge of the site. Rocky and vegetated terrain steeply rises from the road, basement level, to the main level of Building 4.







ZONE 1: Entrance



VEGETATION

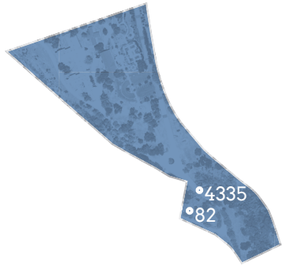
4559
Looking north, the Memorial Garden contains the burial site of César Chávez located on the central axis with Building 2 to the west and the fountain to the east. Planted beds of roses and a screen of Italian Cypress separate the Memorial Garden from the primary road to the east. The Desert Garden is located to the north of Memorial Garden and 'Three Peaks' is in the background.

4570
From the north entrance of the Memorial Garden the Desert Garden extends to the northern border of zone 1. It is encompassed by Buildings 2, 5 and 6 and contains winding paths lined with stones. The garden is planted with species found in Arizona, where César Chávez once lived.





ZONE 1: Entrance



CIRCULATION

82

The primary entrance to the site includes the convergence of the Woodford-Tehachapi Road and the site driveway. The steep driveway conforms to the existing topography and the entrance view includes the railroad and hills north of the site. Forms of transportation other than personal vehicles are not encouraged due to location and site setup.

4335

The primary circulation road comes to a low point as it crosses Tehachapi Creek and reservoir, approaching a roundabout and Building 1. The main road gently climbs to the right as it continues toward the parking lot and Building 2. There is a secondary road to the left that follows along the creek toward Building 4.





ZONE 1: Entrance



CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

4362

Building 5 in the foreground, Building 2 on the left, and Building 4 centered in the background, comprise a cluster arrangement. The spatial arrangement is dense. The space between the buildings consists of a secondary/service road and pedestrian walkway, and the three buildings orientations are on separate axis from one another.

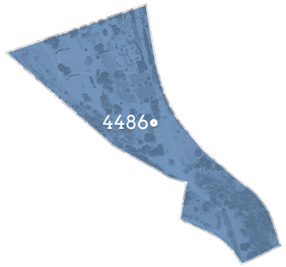
4388

The front façade of Building 4, on the left, is on axis with the rear entrance of Building 2, on the right. The road acts as the division between the two buildings, creating a very intimate arrangement. In the background, the cluster arrangement is completed to the north by Building 5.





ZONE 1: Entrance



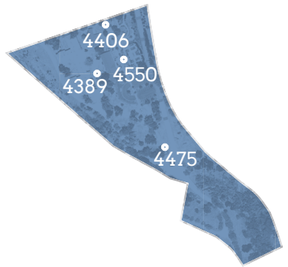
SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

4486

Just south of the parking lot and Building 2 is a picnic area defined by stone retaining walls that control the steep grade of the site, picnic tables located on flattened areas as well as stone-lined drainage ditches that are sculpted into the hillside. A paved pedestrian path, parallel to the entrance road, connects Building 1, the picnic area, and parking lot to the south.


4486

ZONE 1: Entrance



BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

4389
Looking west, the façade of building 4 is located 20 yards west of building 2. The façade, which faces east, is 240 feet long. Building 4 is the largest building on the site, and once functioned as the first hospital on site. It then functioned as a dormitory building for the UFW from 1970 to the 1980's. Currently the building functions as storage.

4406
Looking southwest, approximately 20 yards northeast of building 4, building 5 is a cross-shaped structure with the main entrance located on the east side of the south arm. The building once functioned as a children's hospital, then as a financial building for the UFW. Currently it functions as storage.

4475
Looking southeast, the location and placement of building 1 is evident from the rear of the building. Building 1 is the structure located closest to the site entrance, and is directly next to the primary entrance road. The building's foundation is placed into the side of the existing topography. The railroad is visible in the background, running parallel to the boundary of the site.

4550
Looking southwest, approximately 100 yards from building 1, the façade of building 2 and the courtyard with the centralized fountain welcomes visitors. The stairs in the foreground lead to the Memorial Garden, located just east of building 2. The building previously functioned as a bunkhouse, infirmary and administration offices, including that of César Chávez. Currently it functions as a visitor center.









Coupled with the very small number of full time residents occupying few of the many buildings, and the dry, brown landscape of late summer, I found these factors to add up to a feeling of sadness regarding this once thriving, influential and oasis of a place. (Perhaps this view would be quite different if visiting in the spring, when the landscape is lush, green and alive.) However, my spirits were once again lifted as I learned not only what the site offered and the role it played in the movement, but also the degree to which the site is still utilized for the cause. - MJ

Eerily silent, punctuated frequently with the passing of the train, La Paz felt like an abandoned area that once housed many more people than are there today – VM

La Paz, California is within a Blue Oak Savanna and has beautiful granite boulders, but I think the stories of the residents can inspire visitors to preserve this historical landmark. - AO

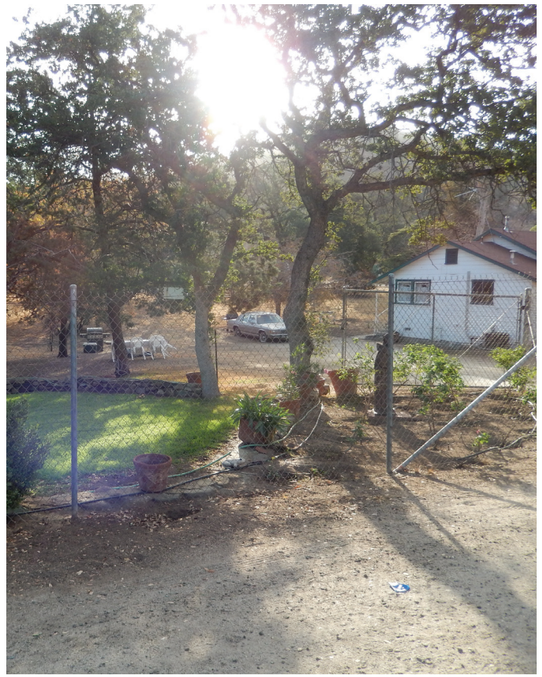


ZONE 2: Core

Zone 2 was the heart of La Paz during the height of UFW activity. This is where residents lived, played, slept, and ate together. Although it feels quiet today, it was once a full and vibrant place; over 200 people lived here. Trailers lined the western side of the residential area on terraces made of rock walls and rope swings were installed in trees for children to play. In the middle of it all was the cafeteria, Pan y Vino, where residents would break bread together and share in lively conversation. Next to this hotspot of social life sits the Chávez house, complete with garden and barbeque ready at a moments notice for friends and family to share.

Today, this area is quieter - most of the trailers are gone, only a few residents remain, and the rest of the buildings are used for hospitality.

After walking by the visitor center and memorial garden, this area seems in need of wayfinding because the network of roads and paths offer too many options and no clear direction. This is important since Zone 2 is the connecting zone between the entrance and the rest of the site- a point of dispersal and connection.





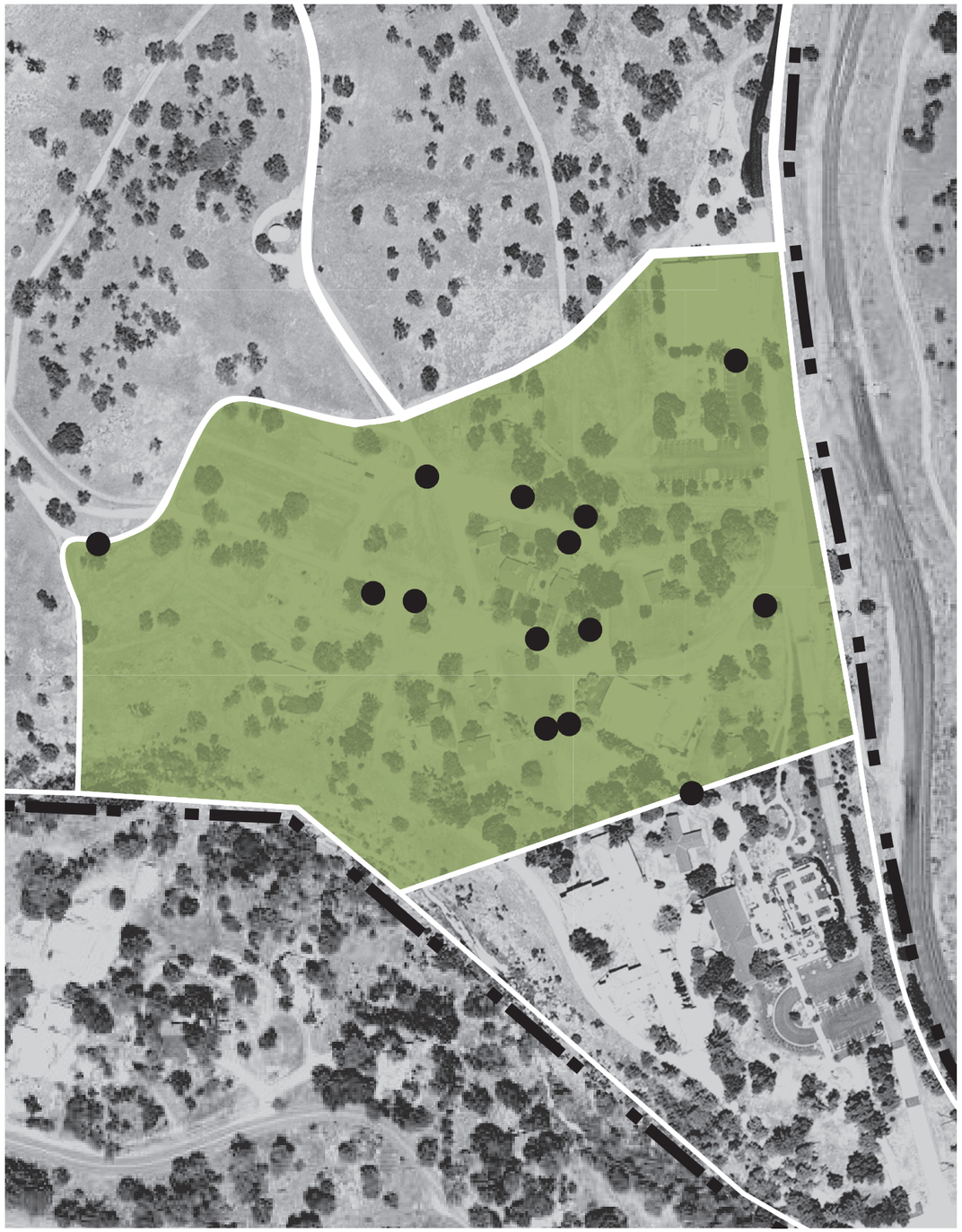












Natural Systems & Features

Spatial Organization

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Cluster Arrangement

Views & Vistas

Constructed Water Features

Small-Scale Features

Archeological Sites

ZONE 2:
Core



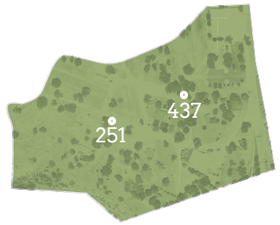
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

428

The expanse of trailer beds is apparent when continuing along the primary circulation route. Small-scale remnants of stone retaining walls exist defining the locations of trailer beds, as well as creating more structured and level beds. Building 12 can be seen in the background.



ZONE 2: Core



VEGETATION

251

A green setting is displayed in front of building 12 by utilizing an irrigated lawn, covering most of the yard, and a few ornamental shrubs. A combination of transplanted plants exists, and the care of existing vegetation is shown with the ring of lawn around the established blue oak.

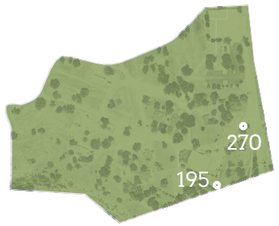
437

The private gardens of the Chávez house include both native and ornamental vegetation. Facing west, the garden includes a statue of St. Francis surrounded by the garden vegetation. The roses and irrigated lawn contrast with the oak savannah grasslands of the site. The chain-link is visible, which runs the perimeter of the Chávez property.





ZONE 2: Core



CIRCULATION

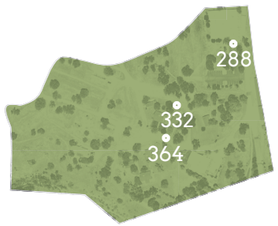
195
The pine and palm-lined road connects Building 2 with Building 7, seen on the right. The road is paved and has curbs on either side. At the low-point on the road there are stone-lined drainage ditches sloped away from the road.

270
Looking north along the primary drive, the parking lot for Building 18 is visible in the background. On the right is the site's eastern boundary, the railroad, which runs parallel to the primary road. Three Peaks is prominent in the background.





ZONE 2: Core



BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

288
The main entrance to Building 18 is located on the south side of the building, and looks towards Building 14, the Chávez house. Constructed in multiple phases from the 1970's to the 1980's, the building has always functioned as an administration building for the UFW.

332
Building 14, one of the few buildings that does not contribute to the cluster arrangement, is in the background, with the gardens in the foreground. The chain-link fence clearly defines the perimeter of the building's property, where Helen Chávez currently lives. This building does illustrate the current, dominant land use type of the zone: residential.

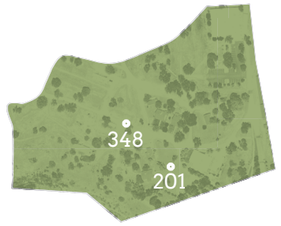
364
Facing southeast, Building 7, Pan y Vino, faces the allée of California Desert Palms. The green lawn is situated adjacent to Building 7 complements the existing outdoor seating area. This building has always functioned as a dining facility.







ZONE 2: Core



CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

201

At the crest of the hill, multiple buildings form a large cluster arrangement. Building 7, on the right, and buildings 12 and 13 in the background encompass the road intersection at the crest of the hill. The tree-lined road can be seen continuing into the foreground and creating a formal entrance for building 7.

348

Buildings 12 and 13 form the northern portion of the large cluster arrangement that includes building 7, to the southwest. This particular area of zone 2 contains the highest quantity of buildings and structures, most of which are of the residential type.





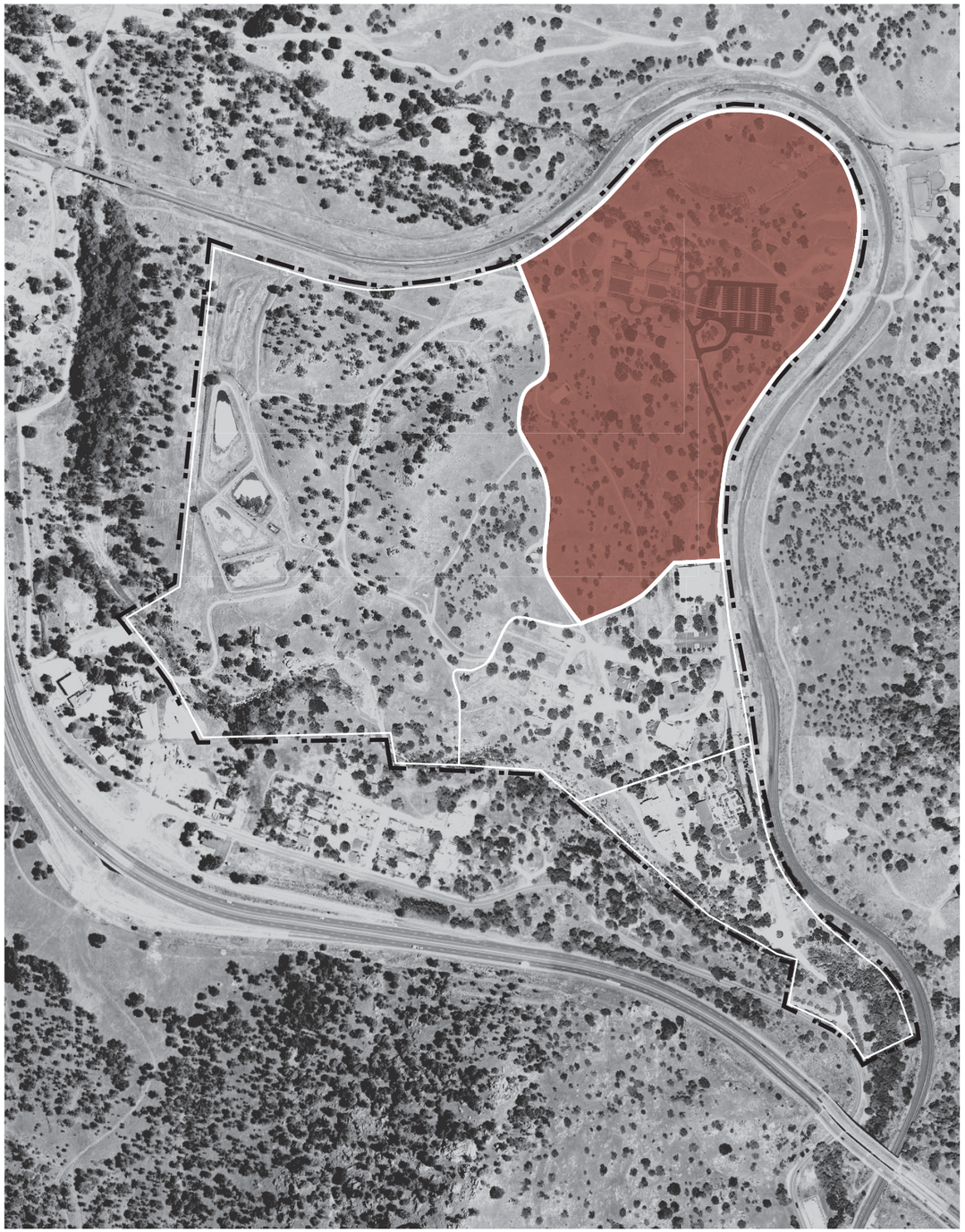
"We must understand that the highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline." - C. Chavez

Once I reached the Peace Garden and Peace Rocks, I was in an area of familiarity. I had driven and walked through the hills the day prior, and upon seeing them again, from a farther lens they were a beacon for me. I felt excited about retracing my steps upon the hill and resting at the apex of the topographical range. Those feelings helped me understand the excitement and familiarity that Villa La Paz, and the entire site must have felt like for people of the movement. – CA

Awaken a crisp morning,

Dirt crunching beneath my boots,
Climbing to the high ground,
As I breathe in the calm.
- DR

The air was dry and the dusty soil was abundant, littered with pieces of quartz that you could hold in your hand, a constant reminder of the local geology. – OBT



ZONE 3: Villa La Paz

Zone three functions as the Villa La Paz grounds where the distinguishable features on this portion of the site are Villa La Paz, the Peace Rocks, and the Peace Garden. Villa La Paz dates back to its construction in 1929, when it was utilized as a children's preventorium. It closed down in 1967 and when the UFW purchased the entire site in 1970 it housed the UFW headquarters. In 2005, the structure was redeveloped and now acts as a conference and events center.

Currently, the main access road from the visitor's center acts as the primary throughway to Villa La Paz and its adjacent parking lot. Paralleling the main vehicle path exist secondary non-paved footpaths. Train tracks encompass a majority of the zone due to the topographical switchback of the rail line. The presence of trains is highly visible and audible throughout the zone.

The Peace Rocks were established by César Chávez to honor the memories of the first three martyrs of the movement, whose religious affiliations are represented by the Star of David, the Crescent Moon, and the Christian Cross.

The Peace Garden is composed of Afghan Pines and was more recently established to honor the joint efforts of the four cultures that started the movement. "May peace prevail on Earth" is inscribed on an obelisk at the center of the garden in four languages: Tagalog, Spanish, English, and Arabic.

Other notable features included in zone three are Tweedy Creek, remnants of pre-existing structures, a rubble pile, and construction materials scattered about the north end of the site. Adjacent to the creek bed lies a flat open meadow located on the northeastern section of zone three, which once housed a short-lived community garden started by Chávez.














Villa La Paz
NATIONAL CHAVEZ CENTER



Natural Systems & Features

Spatial Organization

Land Use

Cultural Traditions

Topography

Vegitation

Circulation

Buildings & Structures

Cluster Arrangement

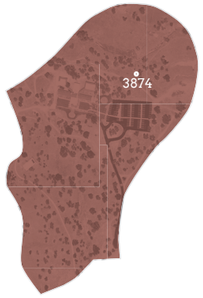
Views & Vistas

Constructed Water Features

Small-Scale Features

Archeological Sites

ZONE 3:
Villa La Paz



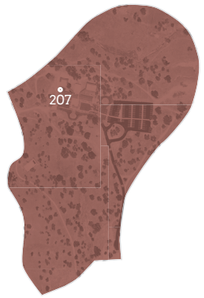
NATURAL SYSTEMS & FEATURES

3874

The second largest creek system on site, Tweedy Creek, flows west and bisects the northern section of zone 3. The creek once provided water for the adjacent community garden. The creek is predominately dry, and only carries water a few days a year during the rainy season. A smaller drainage ditch can be found to the south of Building 27.



ZONE 3:
Villa La Paz



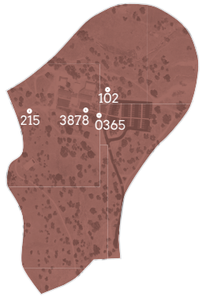
LAND USE

207

The Peace Garden, located west of Villa La Paz, was constructed to commemorate the four cultures that started the United Farm Worker's Movement. Rock-lined paths lead the visitor to the commemorative obelisk that states, "May peace prevail on Earth" in the four cultures' languages.



ZONE 3:
Villa La Paz



BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

102
Looking west toward the east wing of Villa La Paz, a developed courtyard lies adjacent to the parking lot. The remodeled building is comprised of terra cotta shingles and stucco façades. A stone fountain sits at the center of the courtyard, surrounded by large cement pavers, which provide a level gathering area.

215
Approximately 100 feet from the north corner of Villa La Paz, a small-scale culvert exists with a manually operated floodgate used for water flow regulation. The structure is built of metal and concrete, and located on the south side of the existing road. The interior culvert pipe is made of corrugated metal.

365
Traveling north on the main access road to Villa La Paz, a large cement sign marks the entrance to the building. ‘Three Peaks’ is visible in the background.

3878
Villa La Paz, a repurposed building, dominates the northeast section of the site. Originating as a children’s preventorium in 1929, the building was repurposed as the United Farm Worker’s educational and administrative building from the 1970’s to the 1990’s. In 2010, the completion of a restoration project reintroduced the building as Villa La Paz and the building now acts as a full-service conference and retreat center.

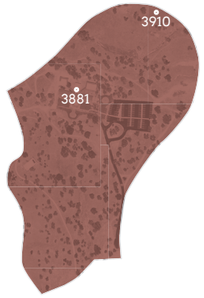








ZONE 3:
Villa La Paz



VIEWS & VISTAS

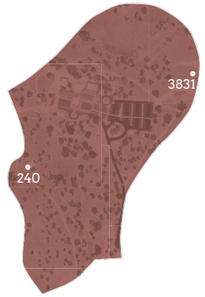
3910
In the northeastern corner of zone 3, a southwestern vista of La Paz is encompassed within the eastern and western boundaries of the site.

3881
A long stretch of the undulating Tehachapi Mountain range combined with clusters of California Blue Oak savanna and rolling hills create a vista from the west balcony of Villa La Paz.





ZONE 3:
Villa La Paz



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

240
At a higher elevation than most structures in zone 3, an open swimming pool exists approximately 400 feet southwest of Villa La Paz, on a crest of a hill, overlooking Villa La Paz. The deteriorated condition, as well as a chain-link fence that forms the perimeter of the pool demonstrates its current lack of use. ‘Three Peaks’ dominates the northern vista from the pool.

3831
Cinderblock and cement remnants from two small buildings exist in the northeast portion of the site. Located north of the community garden site, with a perimeter of trampled barbed wire, the concrete buildings once functioned as utility buildings.





"There is no substitute for hard work, 23 or 24 hours a day. And there is no substitute for patience and acceptance."
- C. Chavez

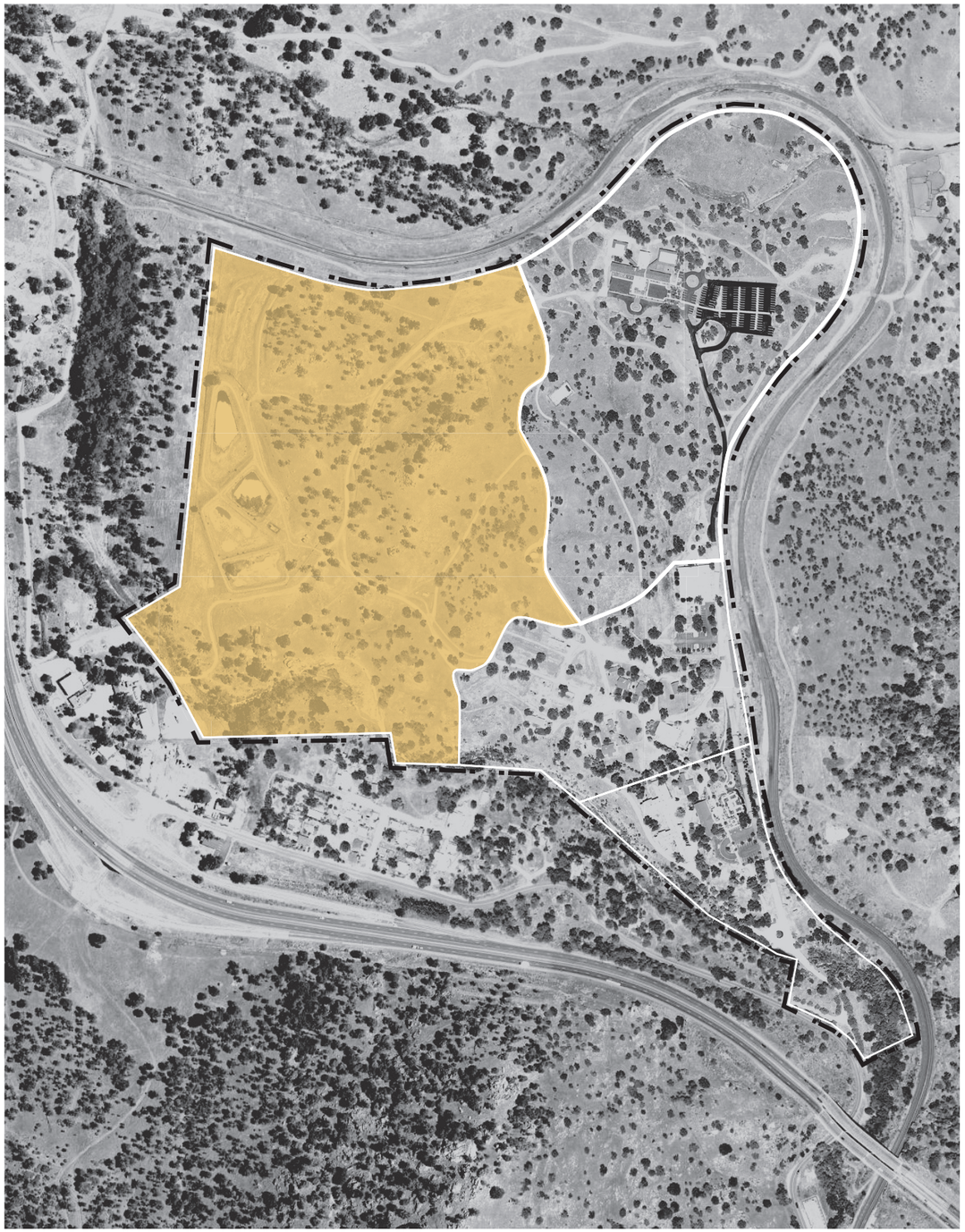
The mountain seems to watch- a protector, standing guard. - VP

This story--and the stories that preceded it (history of the tuberculosis hospital on site, not to mention the Native American habitation long before)--are told by a landscape that is as much about nature as it is about the people that have occupied this space. – ST

A cool fresh morning, welcomes the sun over the horizon.
Its warm fingertips touch the western mountaintops and much like a veil slowly removed, the landscape is born bright again on a late summer day.

As the history inspires the individual, the land with so much opportunity leaves one wondering what the next step may be.

So many avenues to take and considerations to embrace.
Where will the road take us? What will inspire us to move forward? And what will stimulate diverse visitation for years to come?
- PB



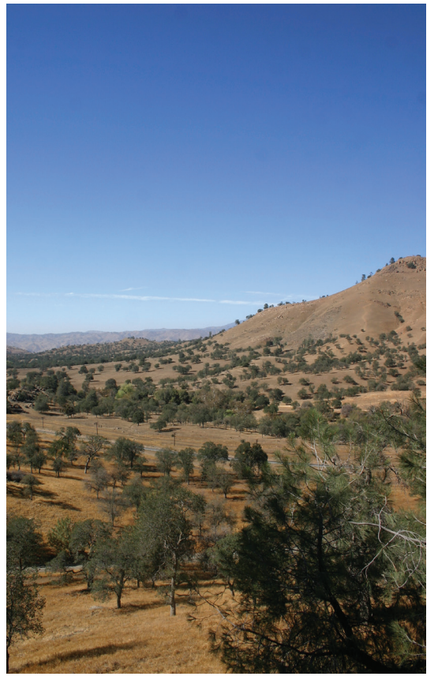
ZONE 4: Trails

Zone 4 is the most open and undeveloped portion of the site and at roughly 65 acres is also the largest. Its rolling hills and rock outcroppings are sparsely vegetated with drought tolerant trees and are crisscrossed with a series of dirt roads and footpaths. The highest elevation points on site are located in this zone, offering panoramic vistas of the landscape and surrounding mountains.

Much of the circulation is minimally engineered dirt or gravel paths which generally follow the existing topography and which meander around and up hills in order to provide access to utilities located on site and to specific views. Along the west edge of this zone there are a series of sewage lagoons that were functioning during the period of historical significance, but which now are primarily dry and in a state of disuse.

Significant features of this zone include the rock outcroppings, path networks, a grinding stone where Native Americans used to grind acorns into flour, a water tower, communications building and the Tahachapi Creek which is situated along the south and west edges of the property. Train tracks are located very close to the northern border of this zone.

This zone offers the most opportunity for open space activities, and provides habitat for the various plant and animal species that live on and around the site. César Chávez was adamant that the scenic nature of this zone be preserved; as a result the zone exists very much the way it would without any human disturbance, with centuries old oak trees and large tracts of undeveloped terrain. Maintaining the wilderness character of this zone is important in maintaining the original character of Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz.



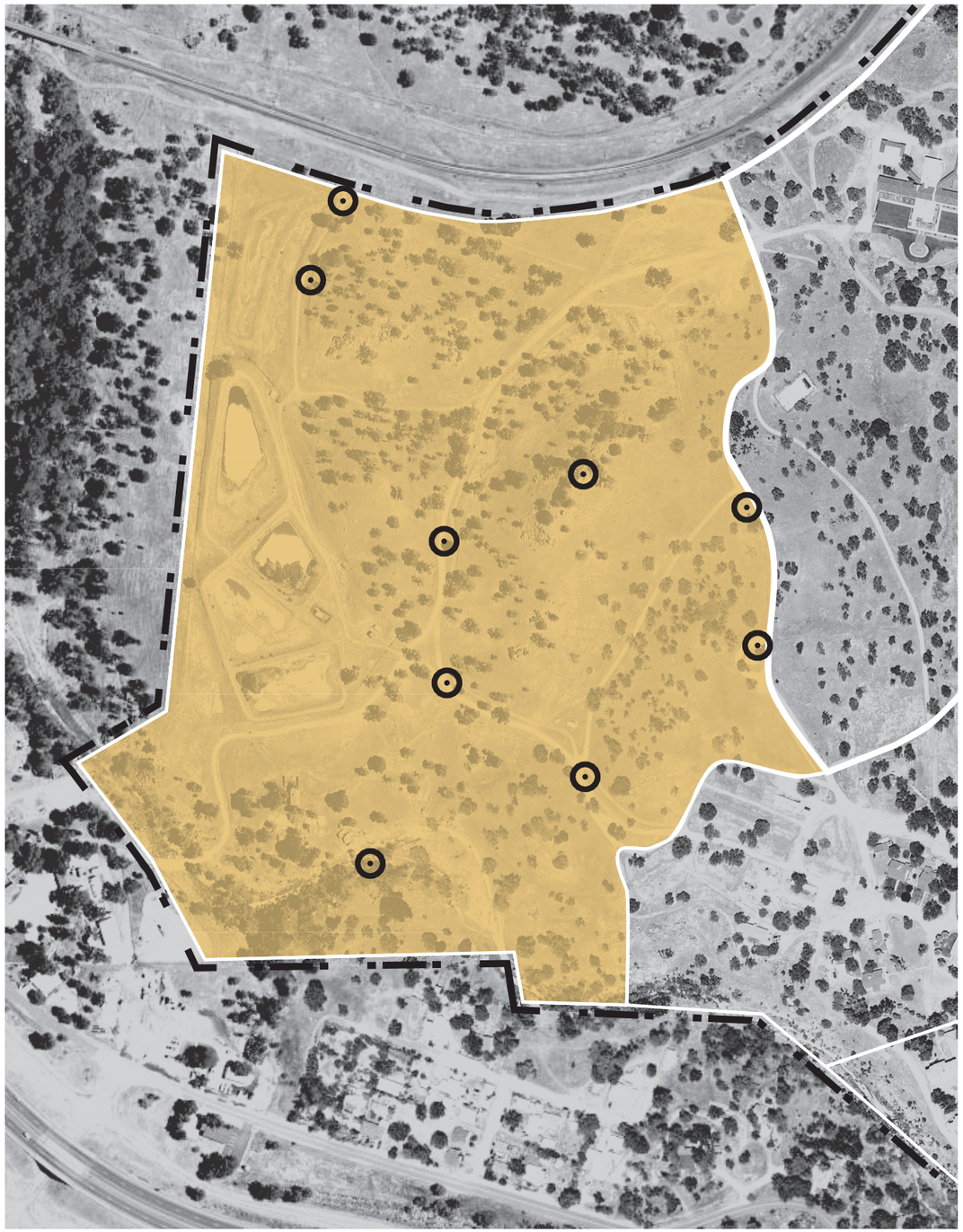










Natural Systems & Features

Spatial Organization

Land Use

Cultural Traditions

Topography

Vegetation

Circulation

Buildings & Structures

Cluster Arrangement

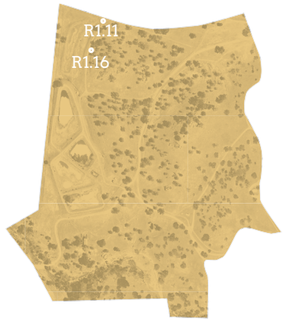
Views & Vistas

Constructed Water Features

Small-Scale Features

Archeological Sites

ZONE 4:
Open Space



NATURAL SYSTEMS & FEATURES

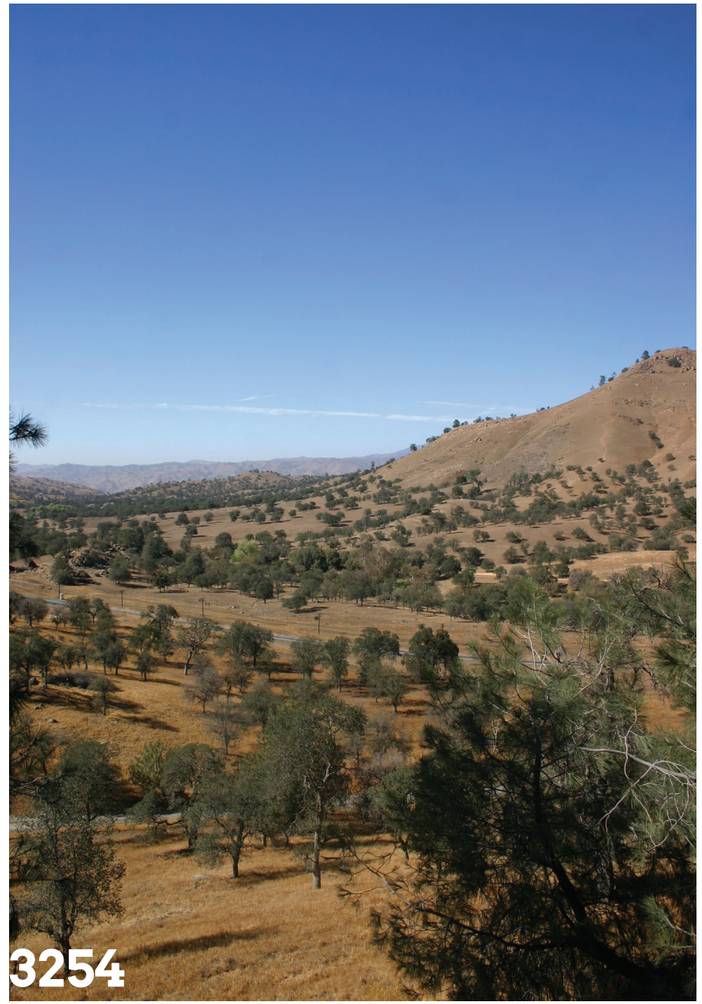
3202
From building 23 the highest point on the site can be seen in the background, consisting of an assemblage of rocks piled upon one another. The rock outcroppings commonly form the summits of the hills with scattered vegetation, providing mostly uninterrupted views.

3254
Looking northwest from the highest point on, the rolling valley is predominately lined with oak trees. The western edge of 'Three Peaks' is visible in the background.

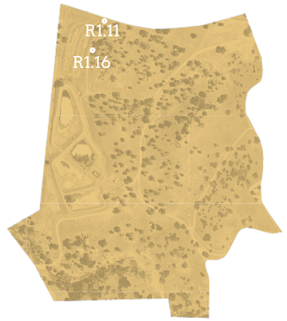
R1.24
Zone 4 contains combinations of rock outcroppings. The Tehachapi Creek follows the southwest boundary of the site, and there is talcum present from the eroded rocks that do not exist anywhere else on the site.


3202


R1.24


3254

ZONE 4:
Open Space



CIRCULATION

R2.14
The minimally engineered road system not only allows for circulation through the meandering peaks and valleys of the site, providing access to specific views, but also allows for maintenance and access to utilities. In the foreground, trails of varying width and function are visible.

R2.17
A significant feature in zone 4 is the extensive road system that generally follows the existing topography. Looking north, this portion of the road system provides views of ‘Three Peaks’.





ZONE 4:
Open Space

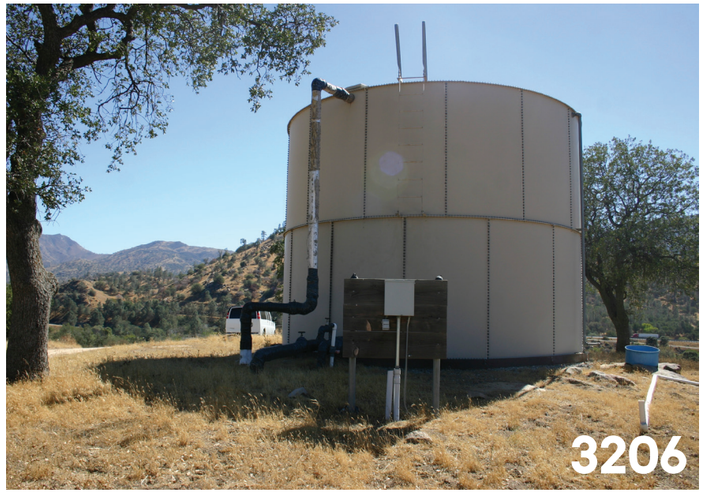


BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

3206
The water tank, Building 23, stands about 20 feet tall and is located on a prominent hill on site, just north of the residential housing. Building 23 served as a measure of the water intake as well as an accurate reading of amount of rainfall.

R2.6
Building 24, the existing satellites, is located between a fork in the trail system on the western side of the site, where the highest hill is present in the background as well as ‘Three Peaks’.

R2.15
Building 26, the telecommunication building that was constructed in the late 1970’s, is located on the western edge of zone 4. The building is currently vacant, and there is a fence to the south of the building entrance.







ZONE 4:
Open Space



VIEWS & VISTAS

3193
The highest point on the site, in the northwest section of zone 4, provides extensive vistas of neighboring highway 58 to the west, as well as ‘Three Peaks’ and building 28 to the north. The surrounding topography can be seen from this viewpoint, and consists of rolling hills and valleys.

3976, 3977
The prominent geological landscape feature is ‘Three Peaks’, which lies just north of the site and located in the background. This exemplar vista is found at a high point in the northeast section of the site. The vista reveals a southwest view of the site and a northern view of ‘Three Peaks’ with Villa la Paz, building 27, in the foreground.





ZONE 4:
Open Space



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

R1.11
Located on the northeastern boundary of the site, holes in the rock reveal the history of the Native Americans on the site. The carved holes were used to grind acorns.

R1.16
Located on the northwest portion of the site, the existing detention ponds are considered an archeological area. Multiple ponds, now filled with grasses, were most likely functional during the time of the Sanatorium, pre-Chávez. The site of the ponds is barren of vegetation and only dry basins endure.





"I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice." - C. Chavez

INTERVIEW WITH MARIO VARGAS

Head Translator: Ana Orozco
September 25, 2013, 7:30am

A: I have the pleasure to introduce Mario Vargas from the César Chávez National Monument and it has almost been a year since it became nationally recognized even though the site has been around for years. Thank God I have the opportunity to interview Mario to ask him about the story of Keene and I am very lucky to have him at my side, here is Mario Vargas.

M: My name is Mario Vargas and I live here in La Paz for 40 years. I have worked sometime in La Paz, I have worked in maintenance, I have worked as a trucker, I have worked as an organizer, and I have worked many other jobs related to a campesino life. I was born the month of April of 1943 and I am 70.

A: And he looks very young and if you would've seen his eyes.

M: I am here with Ana in a corner within the place I have lived for 3 to 4 years in a trailer.

A: Where are you from?

M: I was born on an island of Portugal. I came to the U.S. in 1967. I worked in several companies, I worked at a winery and from there I left for the strike and moved to La Paz.

A: Wow, so you are from Portugal and I bet you have a great story to tell about your parents' origin and it would be great to know because I thought you were from Sonora because you have a heavy Sonorense accent.

M: I am here showing Ana the architecture of La Paz.

A: He is and I truly appreciate it. Please feel free to speak as you tour me around.

M: Here we are at the first place I lived and the first one was in the hospital and the second was La Paz heights and here is the third place I lived in. From here I moved to a trailer, but the trailer is not there anymore, then I went on to the next trailer.

A: So you started at the hospital?

M: Yes I did and I would like to show you my current trailer because I would like to show you the photo of the bobcat that we talked about.

A: The Mountains from the southeast look so beautiful because of how the sunlight hits them at this hour.

M: Up there it is called Bear Mount. (Montana del Oso)

A: Beautiful. Bear Mount?

M: Yes. From here to that peak is about 1 mile or half a mile and there is a fire that passes called San Andres. Have you heard about it?

A: I have not.

M: Well, it comes from a "sierra" of Mexico, which is called the sierra del prieto, crossing all of California to Tehachapi. Tehachapi in 1956 also had an earthquake.

A: in 56?

M: Yes and it destroyed everything in Tehachapi. And sierra San Andres went there and went to Arvin and went crossing in Bakersfield. Then something else happened in 1970 (year the bridge of San Francisco broke) because I remembered that they just finished fixing the bridge.

A: An earthquake here.

M: Here is my house and please come in.

A: Thank you very much. You remind me of my grandfather.

M: This is the book that has several photos (hands out a written inventory) as long as you give it back and this involves photos of La Paz, and here I am.

A: Ah

M: Ricardo Chávez and I, Ricardo was Chávez's brother, so he was an architect and carpenter in La Paz. Here is the bobcat too and take a look at the rock that I told you about. I will lend it to you and please give it back when you are done with it.

A: What an unfortunate circumstance, and who was the person responsible to write the document?

M: It was Dennis.

A: This will help us a lot and I will bring it back. You like the 49ers from San Francisco.

(Skipped recording from 10:33 – 17:10)

M: On this side there were six trailers

A: Yes, I see.

(Skipped 17:30 – 18:20)

A: What about the families that lived here?

M: The families worked in different places; Calexico, Fresno, different places and they started to move out. All of this was full of people and everyone were volunteers at that time and then they had their families and needed to get other jobs to take care of their families.

A: How many people lived here?

M: There was another trailer here and there.

A: There were several.

M: There were more than 6 trailers on the west side of the trailer site, so a total of 8 and even included one in front of Paul's house. The trailer was next to the agave because somebody planted it.

(PHOTOS 7898 - 7899)
A: Is that why there is an agave? Someone must have planted that.

M: Yes, but that was not me.

A: How would you suggest designing the place that reminds visitors about the people who lived here before you did.

M: I think the place should be used for something for several people who want to study the story like lawyers, medical students, architectures, etc. I think they should come here and study and there are several books about La Paz, so I think they should study César's story because everything started here. If you asked your parents they can tell you. Everything happened here from the discrimination and the beginnings of the movement. I was even discriminated against and I was not Latino.

A: Yeah, everyone was involved.

M: I moved here and there was a lot of discrimination that I thought would not exist.

A: This still occurs today.

M: Back then the women had to hide behind the 3 to 4 men so she can finish her toiletries in the center of men that put their backs against each other and they did not turn around.

A: I can't believe it.

M: There was a lot woman that still believed in the traditional system of not doing their business behind men.

A: These are the stories we need to hear so we can tell the stories to people from wherever.

M: Yeah, wherever they come from.

A: What else can you tell us?

M: There was a fence to protect the tank of the gas because the tanks for gas are very difficult to fix and I even have a fence for my gas tank.

A: Oh, I see.

M: There were all ages.

A: All ages.

M: I don't know if they told you about the time of the Pachucos?

A: Yes I have heard of it and I even want to learn the west coast swing.

M: In Los Angeles you would arrive in a corner and you would see a hat and the zoot suit with long bell-bottoms. There is a movie called Zoot suit.

A: I took Mexican American studies instead of learning that Columbus found America.

M: Columbus was not the first in America because there was a man from Texas that was named Amerigo Vespucci and his ship stopped in Texas and the natives captured him as the curandero. (witch doctor). Someone else already discovered America.

A: Middle school textbooks say that Columbus found America.

Mario said: In a couple of years California is going to have more Latin Americans.

Ana said: I am lucky to know Spanish because I love speaking Spanish.

Mario said: Here, let me give you a piece of advice. A language will not be a weight to carry because you can use it whenever you like. A language is never lost even when you get a better job and it never hurts to learn 3 to 4 different languages. There were people that spoke 6 different languages in New York because there are a lot of foreigners that are there and I'm sure a quarter of the population is in New York.

A: You have a point.

M: A lot of deer come here.

A: There must be a reason why the bottom part of the tree is bare.

M: Did you know animals are smarter than what you think? Animals know when people want to kill them or not.

A: I am sure of it.

M: Animals know better because sometimes when I'm outside and I watch them eat from a nearby shrub, they truly study you. For example, the woodpeckers need to eat their winter food.

A: Yes.

Mario said: When I moved here I saw this plaque and noticed that there is an old tree on the property during 1935.

(PHOTOS 7769 & 7770)

A: Can I take a picture of the blue oak next to you?

M: Yes and these trees are know as "Robles" and there is a place in California called Pasa Robles because there are really old oaks there.

A: I will learn the plants in Spanish too.

M: The tree is older than me.

A: I cannot believe how old that tree is.

M: In that small house was father Ken.

(PHOTO 7801)

A: We were curious about this house.

M: How about we start at the first house I lived,

A: How long ago was that?

M: I was already working for the union with César and I worked as an organizer at that time. I served in maintenance and after was an organizer because I was offered it.

A: You adapted wherever you needed to be, right?

Mario said: Yes, I changed the sprinkler system and brought grass from Tehachapi for the house units, for the following people: Dolores, Maria Magana and the home of Arturo Rodriguez. I would like to show you the loop up high in the mountain.

A: I look forward to the trip.

M: The time I was at the hospital, the place was full and there were several volunteers from New York, Boston, Texas and other places. (Pointing at the administration building) These bottom places had people even living in there too.

A: Wow.

M: My second house is gone because it had to be taken down due to the old infrastructure.

M: (Pointing at the bedrock at the desert garden) There were houses up over these rocks and the supervisors of the hospital used to live there.

A: What year was that?

M: They closed the center in 1956 and then they were all gone.

A: Good thing it's a fresh new start.

(PHOTO 7900)

(Skipped recording from 50:30 – 40:00)

M: (Pointing at the bed rock inside the desert garden) On this side there was a veranda and when César would come over on the weekend, he would sit in his office and you can see him through the window. That day César came over to me and offered to help me with the veranda. I had rented a machine that peels paint off wood using sand and air pressure. César walked towards the veranda, and then climbed on top. When César got to the top of the veranda, he started up the machine. The force of the machine shot him out in the air. He fell in between those rocks (pointing at the base of the bedrock). His head landed in between those rocks, but I had stepped aside to move the machine closer. I then found him on the ground; he was out cold. I thought he was dead that day. Since then, I haven't taken out that metal wire because it reminds me of the day of César's accident.

(PHOTOS 7773-7775)

A: Do the firemen always work out around these grounds?

M: Yes, they are usually run around the perimeter of this area. The road, north of the visiting center, use to run straight through the desert garden, but we decided to take it out.

(PHOTO 7900)

A: The road was taken out because you would like to keep visitors inside the garden right?

M: Yes and I remember ants would fill up this blue oak and would use it as their home.

A: Are the squirrels being troublemakers?

M: Yes, they can be a nuisance because the wires of the cars get chewed on.

A: What is this building used for?

M: The administration use to be in this building which is north of the visiting center and they moved to the other building next to the playground.

(PHOTOS 7776- 7777)

A: Can people walk over the rock that acts as an edge of the desert garden?

M: Yes, if you notice there are some remnants of the native people.

A: We didn't notice that before.

M: There is a Tejon Ranch up there and they are negotiating for the ownership right of their land. They seem to lean towards building a new casino and there aren't many casinos in Indio, California, but there are a couple of them close to the border.

A: So do several people visit to head over to the casino?

M: Yes, there is a casino called Eagle Mountain Casino behind those hills and people like to visit.

A: I understand.

M: Here is where the guards would live (pointing at the Trust Funds building).

(PHOTOS 7778 - 7779)

A: Why did you choose these storage rooms?

M: When I arrived to this place the storage units were here and we decided to store dogs inside the storage room during the night. Helen still lives in the house.

A: That small storage unit was the guard dog house?

M: César didn't like that the dogs would go out and they would head out to find their owner, so during the day we would have the German shepherds inside the fenced house.

A: Please feel free to let me know as much as you can.

M: Some people come to volunteer a day or two for a quick break outside of their everyday job schedule.

A: That's great.

M: Where are you from?

A: Tucson, Arizona.

M: Tucson must have been 100% Mexican Americans. Do you know why these trees are planted behind César's grave? Because of the noise of the train.

A: The Italian cypress seems to be useful especially during the night the train can be overwhelming.

M: The surrounding terrain would tremble when the train crosses.

(PHOTOS 7780 - 7783)

A: The south side of the visiting center is where Mario will tell a story.

M: Pete Belasco use to live here and he was the secretary for the board members of the union.

A: I didn't know who he was.

M: This was the gatehouse and had 24-hour security.

A: So the security would rotate with people.

(PHOTOS 7784 - 7785)

M: Yes, and from this road the circulation changed.

A: Oh ok.

M: This place is known as "The Four Seasons."

A: So what happened to this road?

M: A man named Camilo Salinas used to live in the house closer to the visiting center and he was the mechanic of the place. There is a small part in the United States that grows bananas, but most of it is from South America.

A: A lot of people don't know about this.

(PHOTOS 7786 – 7791)

M: Kern County was the condado and this part of the building was the kitchen.

A: Based on Mario's story, I can tell it's a kitchen.

M: Here there are a lot of people that try to sneak into the building because they think its haunted.

A: Yeah, I heard about the haunted building.

M: This was the hospital of tuberculosis and a lot of people would die and put the bodies inside this small house then put the body in the freezer.

A: Children would die from tuberculosis back then.

M: When I arrived the only opening was in the tuberculosis building and I was in the place for 10 years and people started moving out because they followed the boycott.

A: You arrived in this place in 1973 right?

(PHOTO 7792)

M: Yes and this was where the kids would have their school.

A: This seems like a good place for a school and what about the retaining wall inside the tuberculosis building?

M: The retaining wall has lasted for a very long time.

A: It seems to be sturdy.

M: The boycott started in 1973 and when Jerry Brown became governor he signed a new lawsuit and we started to get organized out here.

A: How would you organize the place?

M: While people came into Keene they were placed in the tuberculosis center.

A: Oh ok.

(PHOTO 7793)

M: This was the place where we would hang out and drink some beers. We also noticed that the cones from the pine tree could set on fire and they were also used as a fragrance for the house.

A: What a good idea.

M: I can hang out anywhere because I got along with everyone. I am not married and I would drive César whenever he needed me and it was difficult to have a reliable schedule with a loved one.

A: It's better to have good company next to you.
(Spanish quote: "Es mejor estar solo, que mal acompanado.")

M: You have a point.









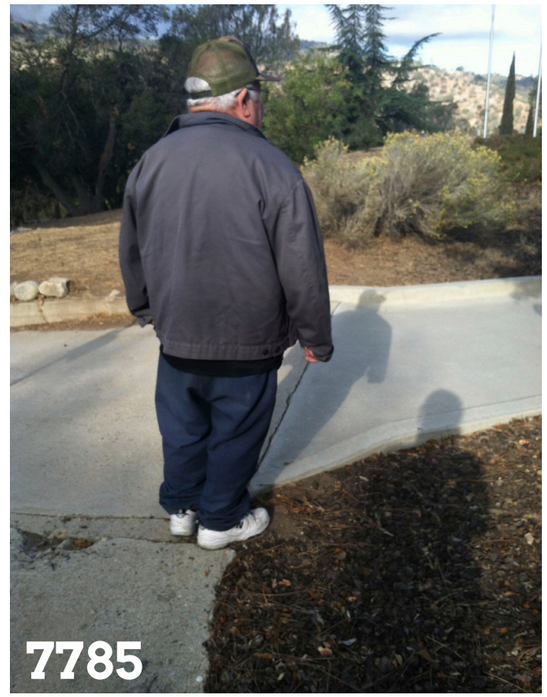



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SELECTED PLANT LIST

Ailanthus altissima	–	Tree of Heaven
Chilopsis linearis	–	Desert Willow
Datura wrightii	–	Moonflower
Hesperocyparis arizonica	–	Arizona Cypress
Pinus sabiniana	–	California Foothill Pine
Platanus racemosa	–	Western Sycamore
Populus fremontii	–	Fremont Cottonwood
Populus nigra	–	Lombardy Poplar
Prosopis velutina	–	Velvet Mesquite
Quercus douglasii	–	Blue Oak
Quercus garryana	–	Oregon White Oak
Quercus turbinella	–	Grey Oak
Quercus wislizeni	–	Interior Live Oak
Salix geyeriana	–	Geyer's Willow
Washingtonia filifera	–	California Fan Palm

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