CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS OF THE WW WHITE ROAD PROJECT SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT CODE: 03-652F8-176CIPI WBS ELEMENT: 40-00008

Prepared for
ADAMS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
12018 Las Nubes
San Antonio, Texas 78233

Prepared by

Abigail Peyton

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd.
Building 1, Suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749
www.swca.com

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INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants conducted a cultural resource constraints analysis for Adams Environmental, Inc., on the City of San Antonio (COSA) WW White Road study area located in southeastern San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The purpose of this constraints analysis is to gather available information on previously recorded archaeological surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources within the study area and to assess the potential for the presence of significant cultural resources. The goal is to provide information for project planning and development, as well as estimates on possible future work that may be required for regulatory compliance.

This report documents the results of the cultural resources background review and assessment of possible historic property and archaeological site locations for the study area. An archaeological survey of the study area was not conducted as an element of this research. This constraints analysis does not constitute any form of archaeological clearance for the study area, but may be used to coordinate future cultural resource compliance with city and/or state agencies.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The study area is located along WW White Road on either side of the Rosillo Creek (Figure 2). The project will involve improvements to WW White Road within the existing right-of-way (ROW) extending approximately 300 feet northwest of the creek and 225 feet southeast of the creek for a total project length of 525 feet. The study area can be found on the Southton, Texas United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Development or improvement projects in Texas can come under the purview of two primary cultural resource regulations, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and the Antiquities Code of Texas. Both are administered by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) located in Austin, the State Historic Preservation Officer of Texas. If an undertaking is federally permitted, licensed, funded, or partially funded, the project must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended. Section 106 requires that every federal agency consider the undertaking's effects on historic properties. The process begins with a historic properties inventory and evaluation. Under Section 106, any property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is considered significant. The NRHP is a historic resources inventory maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This list includes buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and archaeological resources. These regulations are defined in "Protection of Historic Properties," 36 CFR 800 of the NHPA. Examples of projects in Texas requiring compliance with the NHPA include those conducted on federal lands or ones acquiring a federal permit such as a Section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Cultural resource sites, historic and prehistoric, located on lands owned or controlled by the State of Texas or one of its political subdivisions are protected by the Antiquities Code of Texas (Code). The Code requires state agencies and political subdivisions of the state, including cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts and school districts to notify the THC of any action on public land involving five or more acres of ground

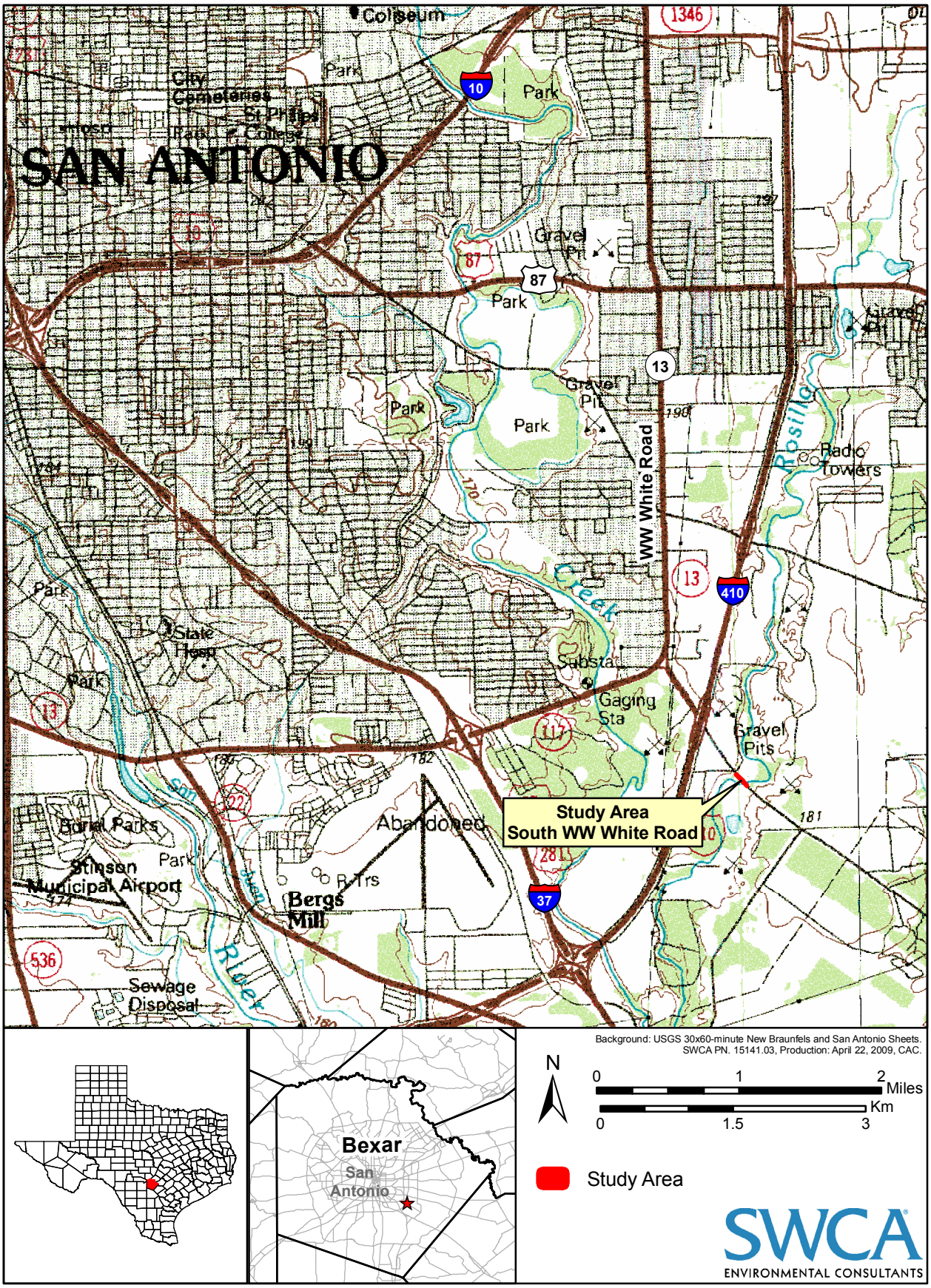

Figure 1. Vicinity Map.

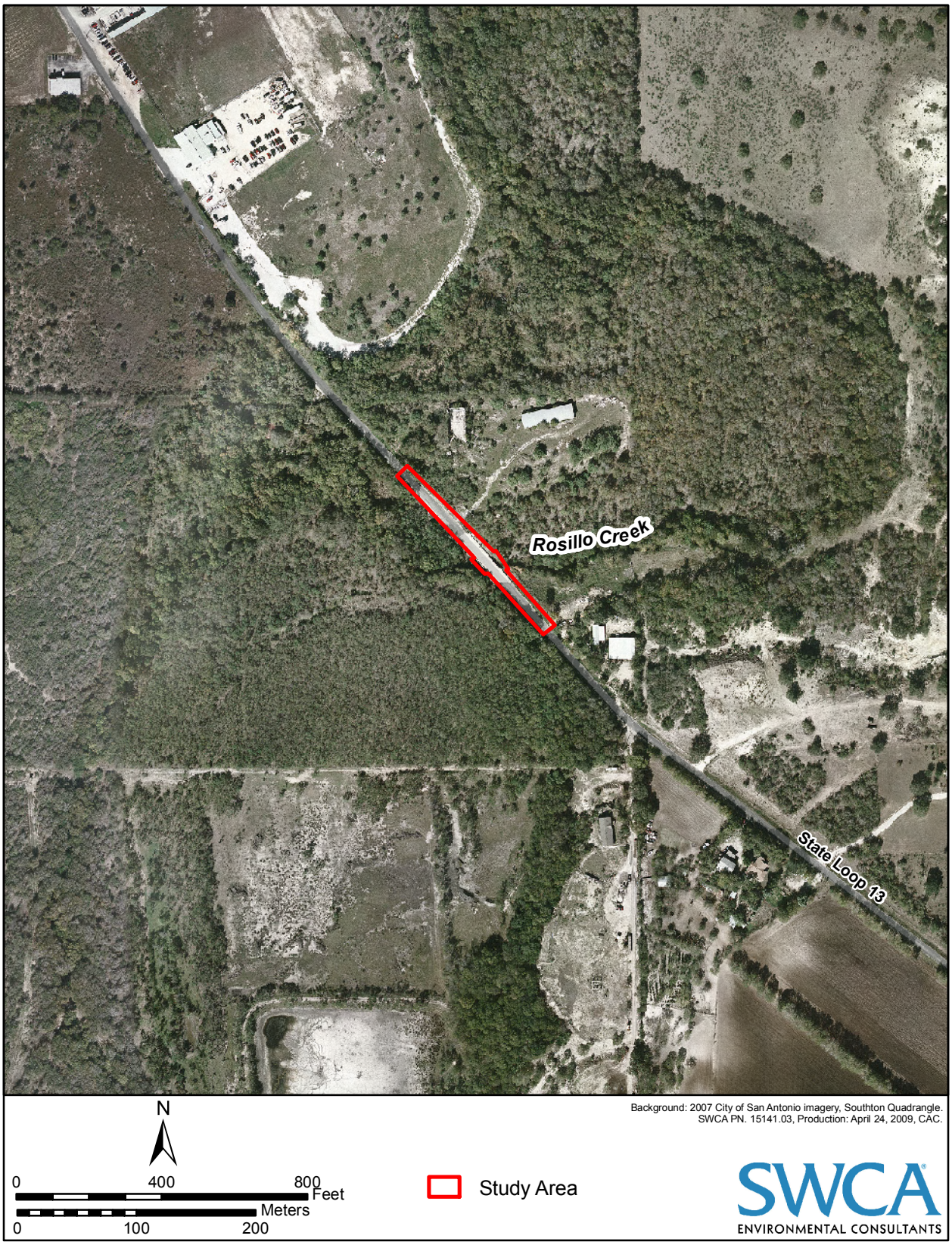

Figure 2. Project Location Map.

disturbance; 5,000 or more cubic yards of earth moving; or those that have the potential to disturb recorded archeological sites. The THC's Archeology Division manages compliance with the Code, including the issuance of formal Antiquities Permits, which stipulate the conditions under which scientific investigations will occur. Under the Code, any historic or prehistoric property located on state land may be determined eligible as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL). Projects in Texas that typically necessitate compliance with the Code include entities such as the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), cities such as San Antonio, counties, and others such as the San Antonio Water System (SAWS).

Finally, in Bexar County and the City of San Antonio, the Historic Preservation and Design Section of the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634) mandates various levels of historic preservation applicable to many development projects. This regulation allows for the review of projects by the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) to assess a project's potential effects to known cultural resources.

METHODS

The cultural resources constraints analysis consisted of a background cultural resource and environmental literature search of the study area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Southton, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and searched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas online database for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the study area. Previous cultural resource investigations listed on the Atlas are limited to projects under purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas or the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Also, projects under these regulations may not be posted on Atlas due to a delay in the completion of field work and the completion of the report. In addition to identifying recorded archaeological sites, the review included information on the following types of cultural resources: NRHP properties, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers, Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the following sources: the *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas* (Taylor et al. 1991) and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas-San Antonio Sheet* (Fisher 1983).

Utilizing this information, the study area was assessed for the potential to contain archaeological and/or historical materials. The study area was then divided into high, medium, and low-probability areas, based on the potential to contain archaeological and historical resources. High-probability areas are defined as locales that possess or have a high likelihood of containing significant cultural resources. These areas are generally identified by distinct landforms and deposits that have been shown in other regional surveys to contain archaeological sites. In the case of historic resources, high-probability areas are identified by the presence of historic-age properties within study area. Moderate or low-probability areas are defined as locales where archaeological and/or historical resources are likely absent or have limited potential to be preserved or significant (e.g., upland settings or areas with intensive development).

RESULTS

GEOLOGY/ SOILS

The geology of the study area is mapped as Fluviatile terrace deposits and consists of gravel, sand, silt, and clay (Fisher 1983).

The soils of the study area are mapped as Frio clay loam (Taylor et al. 1991). These soils are of the Venus-Frio-Trinity association and consist of deep, calcareous soils on bottom lands and terraces (Taylor et al. 1991).

BACKGROUND REVIEW

The results of the background review determined that the study area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Additionally, no archeological sites are located within or directly adjacent to the study area.

A total of four previous investigations, three archeological sites, and one historical marker are located within one mile of the study area.

The previous investigations consist of two linear surveys that run parallel to the western shoulder of SE Loop 410. These surveys were conducted on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 1986 and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1983. The two area surveys are also located west of SE Loop 410 and were conducted on behalf of the EPA in 1977 and SAWS in 1999. Three archeological sites were recorded as a result of the area surveys within one mile of the study area. These sites consist of a prehistoric open campsite with possible human burials (41BX176), a prehistoric open campsite (41BX360), and a prehistoric lithic scatter (41BX596). Site 41BX176 was recommended for further testing.

A historical marker is located approximately 0.4 miles southeast of the study area. This marker denotes the location of the Battle of Roasalis, which was fought in 1813.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The project will consist of improvements along WW White Road on either side of Rosillo Creek. The study area is located within a relatively undeveloped area and is bordered on virtually all sides by thick riparian vegetation. Only moderate clearing has taken place beyond the study area to accommodate several residential complexes that are off-set from the road. Though the road ROW has undoubtedly been disturbed from construction, portions may contain archaeological sites due to the proximity to the creek.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA Environmental Consultants conducted a cultural resource constraints analysis for Adams Environmental, Inc., on the COSA WW White Road study area in southeastern San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The purpose of the constraints analysis was to gather available information on previously recorded archaeological surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources within the property and to assess the potential for the presence of significant cultural resources.

The background review determined that the study area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and no archeological sites are located within or directly adjacent to the study area. The study area is situated within the Rosillo Creek floodplain with little disturbances noted aside from the construction of the roadway itself. Based on analysis of aerial photography, areas directly adjacent to the study area appear relatively intact with thick riparian vegetation present along Rosillo Creek. With this in mind, there is a moderate potential for intact archeological sites within the study area. As such, an archeological survey of the WW White Road study area is recommended.

Should compliance with cultural resource regulations such as the National Historic Preservation Act or the Antiquities Code of Texas be required for any future development of the property, an exact scope of any requisite cul-

tural resource investigations would need to be developed in coordination with the involved regulatory agency, likely the THC or HPO.

REFERENCES CITED

Fisher, W.L.
1983 *Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.

Taylor, F. B., R. B. Hailey, and D. L. Richmond
1991 *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas*. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.