

## **SHEA BORREGO / BAKER RANCH**



### **Project Overview**

The Shea/Baker Ranch project, also known as Shea Borrego, is located within the City of Lake Forest in Orange County between Commercentre Drive, Towne Centre Drive, Borrego Canyon Wash, and Bake Parkway. The Project site includes a portion of the Borrego Canyon Wash that is unimproved through the project area and is highly impacted by run-off from upstream development. The wash lies within the San Diego Creek watershed (Santa Ana Regional Board) and serves as a wildlife movement corridor, flowing along the southeast boundary of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) and ultimately discharging to San Diego Creek.

VCS Environmental (VCS) was instrumental in project design and obtaining project approvals from the Corps and the City. Also, VCS has been working with the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) this year to transact Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) approvals to remove coastal sage scrub from the Shea Borrego project. This required coordination with NROC board members including USFWS and the CDFW, and preparation of requests with graphics and vegetation mapping. VCS also assisted Shea Homes with strategy related to a request to NROC to amend their boundary to incorporate an area of preserved coastal sage scrub on the Shea Borrego project that is located immediately adjacent to the NCCP/HCP preserve.

### **Cultural Resources**

VCS Director of Cultural Services, Patrick Maxon is Cultural Resources Manager for the Baker Ranch Development Project. Beginning in late 2012, Mr. Maxon assisted in the implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted as a part of the EIR for Phase I of the Baker Ranch Development Project. After completing a Phase I reconnaissance study and Phase II testing of two archaeological sites on the project site, Patrick managed the implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted for the project. It includes archaeological, Native American, and paleontological monitoring programs to be instituted during grading of the project site. Much of the site is underlain by the late Miocene to early Pliocene Epoch Oso Sand Member of the Capistrano Formation, which is one of the most prolific fossil-bearing units in Orange County. Hundreds of fossil localities (including various bones associated with whales, a seal, sharks, and fishes, as well as plant remains and invertebrates) were found, as well as several burnt rock features interpreted as hearths.