

this project. The site that is close enough to the project area to be potentially impacted during the placement of the well pad is LA 83680. This site is discussed in the "Cultural Resource Findings" section of this document.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCE FINDINGS**

No new cultural resources were discovered during this survey. No isolated manifestations were located within the relocated 400 feet by 400 feet pad area or the proposed access road. However, one adjacent archaeological site is within the perimeter of the proposed well pad and may be impacted during ground-disturbing activities in the project area. This site was revisited and evaluated by the Geo-Marine, Inc., archaeologist and is discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

LA 83680 is a fairly large lithic-ceramic scatter with thermal features. Based on the artifacts present, the site dates to between AD 200-1100 (Early pithouse-Late pithouse). The western end of the site has been impacted by a well pad (see Sciscenti and Griffiths 1990), while the southern portions have been impacted by Highway 82. The proposed well pad for this project, as placed, will impact a portion of the site (see map). This area is characterized by shinnery oak coppice dunes ranging in height from .5 to 2 meters. Visibility is good in blowout areas, but poor in the shinnery oak covered areas. All encountered artifacts and features

caliche features, chipped stone debris (flakes, angular debris, and tools of chert and chalcedony), ground stone, and a few ceramics (primarily El Paso brownwares with a single sherd of Chupadero B/w and an unknown plain ware sherd also noted. Reconnaissance of the site for updating purposes encountered all of the materials recorded by previous researchers, as well as two more stain features (see map). Both of these stain features contained enough charcoal to secure a c-14 date and may contain other materials that could be utilized for analysis (e.g., macrobotanical and pollen). Site boundaries remain unchanged and the update reflects only the addition of the two stain features.

Site LA 83680 should be considered a BLM Category 2 site based on the presence of at least two potentially dateable stains and is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.