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A Place Called *Sa'aqtik'oy*

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The historic occupation at Sa'aqtik'oy *(Saticoy) in Ventura County, Alta California, represented an important settlement for local Chumash people after they departed from Mission San Buenaventura. Most of the land associated with* Sa'aqtik'oy *has been developed, and the majority of the cultural resources and sediments have been destroyed. We incorporate data from site reports, interviews, and collections to reconstruct the history of human occupation at this culturally and historically important location. The four sites recorded for this locality (CA-VEN-31 [56-000031], CA-VEN-32 [56-000032], CA-VEN-33 [56-000033] and CA-VEN-34 [56-000034]) had significant occupations from the early Holocene to the present.* Sa'aqtik'oy*, therefore, represents one of the oldest settlements recorded for the region. Our work highlights the importance of working with curated collections and site records to glean further information and better interpret the historic and prehistoric settlements in California.*

Saticoy, an unincorporated community located in Ventura County, California, is located near freshwater springs on a river terrace above the Santa Clara River, approximately 13 kilometers upriver from the coast (Fig. 1). Just west of South Mountain, this locality was ideal for subsistence purposes as well as interregional contact. Both inland and coastal areas were accessible via travel along the Santa Clara River, and travel to the southeast provided access to additional interior regions (e.g., Conejo Valley, Simi Valley) via the Oxnard Plain and the Little Simi Valley. The historic site of *Sa'atiqk'oy*, from which modern Saticoy derives its name, was situated approximately 600 m. from the Santa Clara River.

After the secularization of the missions in 1834, local Chumash people resettled in Saticoy. The use of a local Chumash placename suggests that the Chumash resided at this location before secularization. The importance of the *Sa'aqtik'oy* settlement grew over time; in 1869 it was the location of the last known major Ventureño Chumash fiesta held by Pomposa, a female chief, elected due to her connections to the village of *Muwu* (Hudson et al. 1977:31). Although several large Oxnard Plain villages are mentioned in Mission San Buenaventura baptismal records (see Perry and Delaney-Rivera 2011 for a discussion), *Sa'aqtik'oy* is not one of them. This discrepancy suggests that the settlement was a secondary one when—during the Mission Period—the Spanish noted the Chumash occupation of the area. Although the Chumash use of the settlement is well documented historically, our work demonstrates that the occupation was one of great antiquity.

In the research reported here, we first outline the known settlement and activities in the *Sa'aqtik'oy* area from the nineteenth century to the present. We then summarize the artifact-related documentation, archaeological fieldwork, and analyses undertaken during the last 50 years, and present our preliminary results of the further analyses of the unique artifacts and curated collections that were undertaken as a part of this project. We conclude that the available evidence suggests that the site was occupied from the early Holocene to the present.

SA'AQTIK'OY TO SATICOY

By 1782, *Sa'aqtik'oy* and the surrounding area in Ventura County had experienced contact with individuals from the Spanish empire. Mission San Buenaventura, located ca. 13 kilometers from Saticoy, was the ninth and final mission founded personally by Padre Junipero Serra; it was officially dedicated on Easter Sunday 1782, although the church building was not completed until 1809. Mission records from this time do not list *Sa'aqtik'oy* as a "village of origin" for mission neophytes. This lack of written notation in the baptismal records suggests that either *Sa'aqtik'oy* was not occupied in the 1780's, or that the settlement may have been a small, secondary village, used during food-gathering cycles. Chumash seasonal settlement shifts were both noted by Spanish explorers

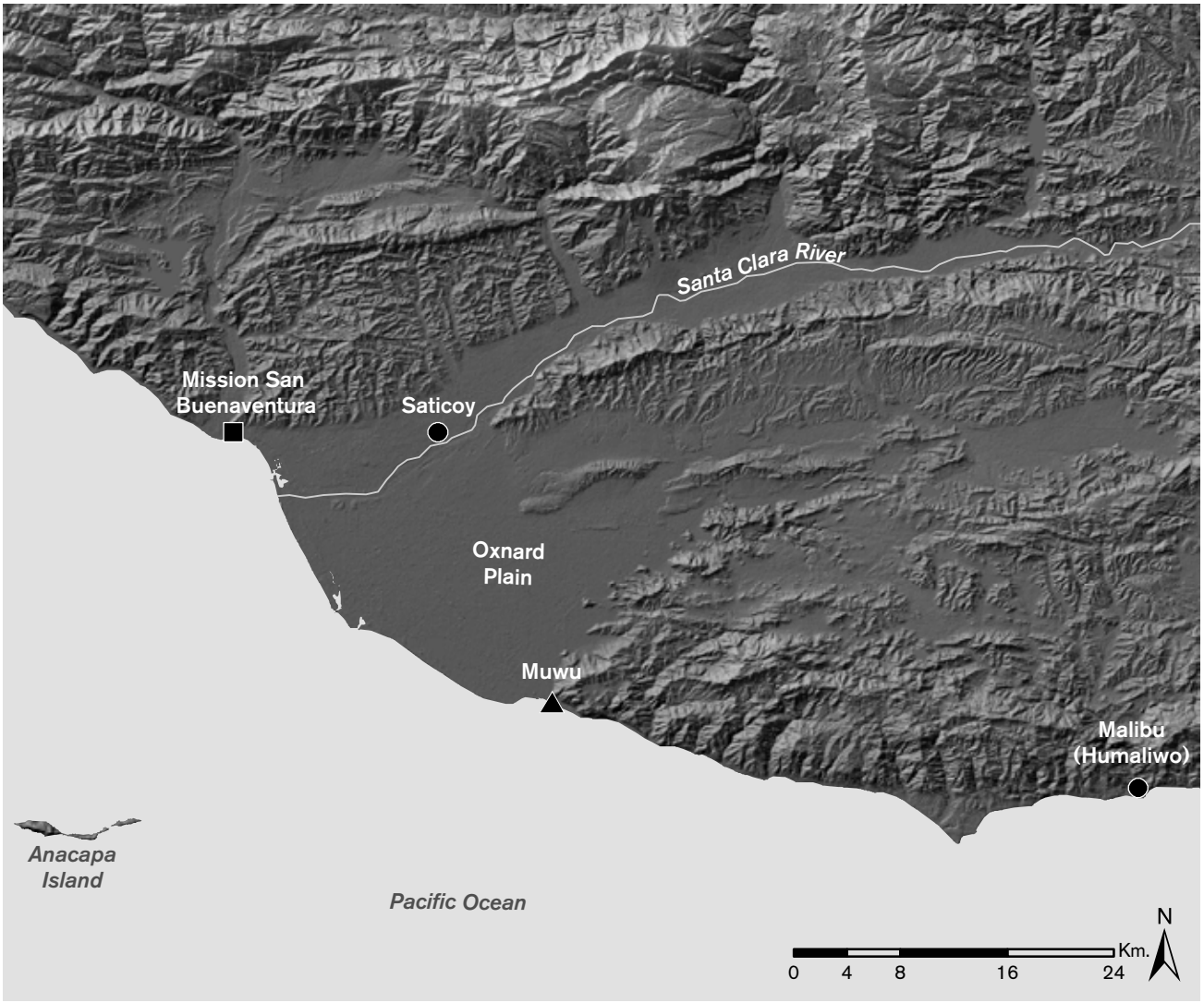

Figure 1. Detailed map of the region indicating archaeological sites and cities discussed in the text.

who passed through the area and recorded in the notes of early missionaries (Kennett 2005; Lopez 1995; Maki and Carbone 1998).

The Acts of Secularization of 1834 released the mission lands from the control of the Catholic Church and ended church control of the Chumash population. Following secularization, a group of Chumash people, led by Luis Francisco, relocated to the general area of the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* (Lopez 1995). Evidence of this historic period of occupation comes in the form of burials with historic artifacts reportedly found within the prehistoric cemetery, as well as from the ethnographic notes of John P. Harrington (Lopez 1995). This location may have been an important one to the historic-era Chumash, as they returned to this location after secularization, and they also held the last known Ventureño fiesta at this location in 1869 (see below).

The mid-1800s were turbulent years in California history, and land tenure and property claims over the *Sa'aqtik'oy* area both shifted and overlapped substantially. In 1840, Governor Juan B. Alvarado granted Miguel Jimero Casarin the 17,733.33-acre *Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy*. The rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* was located within the land grant. Inhabitants of California also experienced an influx of immigrants from Europe and China, the California Gold Rush, and the Mexican American War. The 1860 Census indicates that 43 individuals identified as "Indians" were then living

in Saticoy in close proximity to the prehistoric site of *Sa'aqtik'oy*. Also in 1860, "Moses Wells purchased from the Chumash, the springs which were contained within a 150-acre parcel made up mostly of boggy cienaga" (Lopez 1995:7). This 150-acre parcel included the physical location of the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy*, as well as its satellite elements.

In 1869, illustrating the importance of *Sa'aqtik'oy*, Pomposa held the last known Ventureño Chumash fiesta in Saticoy, at or near the location of the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy*. This fiesta was recorded by John P. Harrington and recalled by Fernando Librado *Kitsepawit*, who attended the fiesta (Hudson et al. 1977:91–93). All in attendance knew that this was to be the last large gathering, "…the last celebration that would ever take place..." (Hudson et al. 1977:93). A sacred enclosure or *siyilik* was erected that was reported to be approximately 7.6 m. in length and had walls at least 1.8 m. in height. The ceremonies lasted for five days, and included dancing, singing, whistle playing, speeches, and banquets (Gamble 2008; Hudson et al. 1977). By 1880, most of the *Sa'aqtik'oy* population was either deceased, or had moved to "Indian Town," a Chumash enclave within the city of San Buenaventura (Lopez 1985). The land continued to be occupied, but the rancheria of S*a'aqtik'oy* had ceased to be a Chumash village; the area was now farmland (Lopez 1985; Maki and Carbone 1998).

Attilio Vanoni became the single largest landowner in the Saticoy area in 1916 when he purchased 117 acres of land from the Pacific Improvement Company. Rancho Attilio, as Vanoni called his ranch, included the prehistoric settlement of *Sa'aqtik'oy*. The story of the prehistory of this area remained unknown from an archaeological perspective until 1933, when the Vanoni family shifted their agricultural activities from row-crop farming to orchard (Lopez 1995; 2004). The grading associated with these agricultural pursuits disturbed archaeological materials and brought them to the surface.

Although access to the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* was limited and many families moved to "Indian Town," several Chumash families remained in Saticoy, the unincorporated settlement that grew up adjacent to the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy*. The present Saticoy remains one of the few places in Ventura County with a continued Chumash presence. Today several Chumash families continue to reside there and interact with each other as a cultural community.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT *SA'AQTIK'OY*

The Vanoni family unearthed a large cache of millingstones while laying pipelines in 1933. Most of these artifacts were donated to the Ventura County Pioneer Museum, although the family retained a number to display at their ranch. Many of the donated millingstones were eventually lost (Lopez 1985). In the mid-1950's, the Vanoni family again changed their agricultural pursuits, converting the walnut orchards to citrus and avocado trees. The process of re-contouring the land for the orchards revealed additional artifacts. The archaeological investigation of this location began at this time, and continued for the next fifty years.

While grading the property, the Vanoni family leveled a mound that was approximately 91 m. by 91 m. in size (roughly the size of a football field) and approximately 90 cm. high. Charles Rozaire, at the time a graduate student studying archaeology at UCLA, was notified that work at Rancho Attilio was unearthing large numbers of Native American artifacts. He was granted permission to examine the artifacts recovered during grading. Rozaire was only able to examine the materials on the weekends, when he reviewed what the Vanoni family reported to have been unearthed during the week. Although no formal excavations took place, Rozaire examined the area, recovered and documented artifacts, interviewed the landowners, and identified four specific archaeological loci on the property on the basis of his own observations and others' reports: CA-VEN-31(56-000031), CA-VEN-32 (56-000032), CA-VEN-33(56-000033), and CA-VEN-34(56-000034) (Lopez 1995). Although given individual trinomials, these loci represent a single multi-component site, and we refer to this entire area as *Sa'aqtik'oy*.

These four sites were recorded with the Archaeological Site Survey in 1955. VEN-31, roughly an acre in size, was the settlement of prehistoric *Sa'aqtik'oy*. Rozaire was unaware of the village name at this time, and he believed that the site had been almost completely destroyed. He documented many artifacts from the site,

including "projectile points, scrapers, blades, drills, manos, metates, mortars, pestles, shell beads and awls" (Maki and Carbone 1998).

Rozaire (Maki and Carbone 1998: B 2-1) concluded that VEN-32 was a cemetery mound, as reported by the Vanoni family. The mound covered approximately 2.5 acres. "[F]our burials and scattered bones, as well as manos, metates, pestles, mortars, bowls, two tubular steatite objects, disk beads and arrowheads" were reportedly disturbed during ranching activities (Maki and Carbone 1998). Rozaire made no additional comments about this site, although he did indicate that most of the soil from the mound was moved to cover the area of VEN-31; the remainder of the soil was spread around the Rancho Attilio property.

VEN-33 and -34 were the locations of the millingstone caches revealed in 1933 and 1955. Rozaire reported that the ground stone artifacts recovered by the Vanoni family in the 1930's included metates (48 whole, 16 fragments), manos (n=6), bowls (n=6), pestles (n=14), and stone balls (n=3). According to Maki and Carbone (1998), the artifacts from VEN-34 noted by Rozaire included sandstone balls, pestles (n=7), manos (n=37), metates (n=158 whole, 67 fragments), and several unmodified pieces of rock of unusual size and shape. During the later grading, another millingstone cache was revealed "...while bulldozing to level the land for a citrus grove" (Maki and Carbone 1998:B 2–11). Confirmation of the two millingstone caches came in a personal interview that Lopez (1987) had with Mr. Ives Vanoni, who stated that VEN-33 and VEN-34 were similar in that they consisted of a small area filled with multiple levels of millingstones.

Development of the land in the immediate vicinity of Rancho Attilio began in the late 1970s, and development continued for the next thirty years. Phase I archaeological surveys undertaken in the area adjacent to Rancho Attilio by Robert Lopez in 1978 resulted in a "negative declaration" for archaeology. An additional nine Phase I archaeological surveys undertaken within a one-mile radius of Rancho Attilio also reported "negative declarations" for archaeology for these adjacent areas (see Lopez 1995 for a list of specific reports). Altogether, this body of work suggests that the archaeological resources in this area were most likely confined to the Vanoni property (Lopez 1995:1).

The Vanoni ranch (Rancho Attilio) and the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* can therefore be considered spatially conterminous. Robert Lopez interviewed Charles Rozaire in 1985 to better assess the archaeological components at the Vanoni property. That interview indicated that the stratigraphy at the rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* was severely disturbed and that artifact provenience was unclear. Rozaire's information about the metate caches was intriguing, as it suggested that the occupation of the site might extend earlier in time than previously believed (see below).

Robert Lopez, among others, continued archaeological investigations at Rancho Attilio as part of the environmental impact report process for the land associated with the prehistoric and historic rancheria of *Sa'aqtik'oy* (e.g., Lopez 1985, 1986, 1987). In 1985, Lopez undertook a surface survey of VEN-33 and 34. There were no visible surface signs of archaeological resources at VEN-33, but VEN-34 did show visible indications of archaeological resources in the form of broken artifacts and subsistence refuse (Lopez 1985).

Lopez conducted a Phase II archaeological testing of the same area in 1986. That work included the excavation of six 1x1 m. units. Prehistoric materials were recovered at varying depths from five of the six units, including shell, bone, various flakes, a drill, projectile points, cores, beads, an otolith, and ochre (Lopez 1986). Finally, in 1987, Lopez conducted an overall archaeological assessment of Rancho Attilio for Wittenberg-Livingston, the new owners, an assessment that included personal interviews with Charles Rozaire and Ives Vanoni.

In 1998, additional Phase I archaeological work was undertaken by Maki and Carbonne at VEN-31, -32, -33, and -34 in preparation for land development. The highest density of cultural material was found on top of and in the levee and terrace slopes. The materials observed included shell, bone (both bird and small mammal), and chipped lithic material, including quartzite, basalt, steatite, and fused shale (Maki and Carbonne 1998).

In 1999, Maki and Romani undertook extended Phase I and limited Phase II excavations to determine if intact stratigraphy was present below the surface. They conducted surface collections of VEN-31 and -32, and carried out a subsurface testing program at VEN-33 and -34. In total, 16 trenches averaging 60 cm. wide and 2 m. long were excavated. The artifacts recovered comprise

a part of Catalog C (discussed below). Trench 15A contained the *in situ* remains of a small adult female under 35 years of age (Maki and Romani 1999).

Lopez and students from Moorpark College undertook a data and salvage recovery program in two areas of VEN-31 and -32 (Lopez 1999). The archaeological materials retrieved are included in Catalog D (discussed below); they consisted of beads, projectile points, ground stone, shell, and bone (Lopez 1999). Finally, in 2003 Lopez and his colleagues, including a Native American monitor, undertook salvage collections and excavations while monitoring the land grading of the 67-acre property (Lopez 2004). During the monitoring they followed the movement of thirteen Catepillar 637C graders, recovering artifacts as they were exposed. In one instance, three stone effigies (discussed below) were excavated *in situ*. The list of materials collected comprise Catalog E; they include beads, projectile points, metates, manos, mortars, pestles, cores, flakes, bone, shell, and several unusual artifacts (discussed below). (Additional information on the archaeological investigations at Rancho Attilio can be found in Clericuzio 2010.)

Today, the entire area associated with *Sa'aqtik'oy* (VEN-31, -32, -33, -34) has been developed, with the archaeological components built on, removed, or covered with fill. To summarize, the area known most recently as Rancho Attilio currently includes a housing development with approximately 400 residences (VEN-34), a veterans' home (VEN-33), a Native American Veterans' memorial (VEN-31 and -32), and the Chumash Preservation site (VEN-31 and -32). The land associated with the Chumash Preservation site has not been developed, as this represents remnant occupational and mortuary materials associated with VEN-31 and -32, the village and cemetery of *Sa'aqtik'oy*. The materials are now safely buried under six meters of fill, and the approximately six-acre parcel has been donated to the Ventureño-Barbareño Band of Mission Indians. Finally, the Vanoni family has retained 2.7 acres of the property that contains the family homestead and that continues to be used by the family.

Although the site of *Sa'aqtik'oy* is no longer accessible for archaeological research, the work undertaken by Charles Rozaire and Robert Lopez (among others), in addition to studies of the curated artifact collections, can still contribute valuable information about these archaeological loci and permit an assessment of the timing and activities associated with the Chumash occupation at *Sa'aqtik'oy*.

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

The archaeological evidence examined for this project is found in five data sets, dubbed catalogs, that were created over five decades of artifact collection, documentation, and examination at VEN-31, -32, -33 and -34 (Table 1). Catalogs A and B are, in essence, lists compiled from statements made by the Vanoni family to Charles Rozaire. The artifacts listed could not be analyzed because they have been lost, but the data supplement our interpretations of the *Sa'aqtik'oy* site. The artifacts in Catalog C were recovered during salvage excavations that were carried out to determine if the site was intact at a greater depth. The artifacts in Catalog D represent a surface salvage

Table 1

REPORTS AND ARTIFACT COLLECTIONS UTILIZED IN THIS STUDY

Data Set	Materials and Information
Catalog A	1930s artifact lists, reported to Charles Rozaire; based on Vanoni family reports to him; information limited to CA-VEN-33. Artifacts have not been formally analyzed and remain in private collections or lost.
Catalog B	1955 artifact lists, reported to Charles Rozaire, based on his fieldwork and Vanoni reports. Artifacts have not been formally analyzed and remain in private collections or lost.
Catalog C	Artifacts collected by Maki and Romani (1999). Curated at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum and with the Ventura County Archaeological Society collections.
Catalog D	Artifacts collected during Moorpark College Data Recovery Program (Lopez 1999). Curated with the Ventura County Archaeological Society collections.
Catalog E	Artifacts collected during Lopez' archaeological monitoring in 2003. Curated with the Ventura County Archaeological Society collections.

collection, while Catalog E artifacts were collected during the monitoring that occurred in conjunction with the initial grading of the area prior to development.

The goal of this analysis is to determine the chronology of occupation at the village of *Sa'aqtik'oy* using the artifacts recovered at the site. Although our artifact analysis is based on materials from disturbed stratigraphic contexts, an examination of temporally-diagnostic artifacts permits the establishment of a chronology of site occupation. Our study focuses on projectile points, shell and stone beads, and ground stone artifacts (metates, manos, mortars, pestles, and effigies/charmstones). These items frequently lend themselves to chronological sequencing through a comparison with morphologically-similar artifacts from southern California sites of documented age. Other archaeological materials (e.g., botanical remains, tarring pebbles, and bowl fragments) are represented in these data sets, but are not included in our analysis.

A preliminary note on chronology is necessary before we begin our discussion of artifacts and temporal designations. The published analyses of the temporally-diagnostic artifacts we discuss are based upon the local chronological scheme originally defined by King (1990). His chronology involves the following approximate dates: Early Period 5,500–600 B.C., Middle Period 600 B.C.–A.D. 1150, and Late Period A.D. 1150–1804. While a more general Holocene-based chronology might be preferable, since results could be applied to a broader area, radiometric analyses have not been undertaken as a part of this study. For this reason, we use the regional chronological terms in our discussion, but include the approximate Holocene designations as well. In particular, the timing of the Millingstone Horizon has not been well defined for this region. For our purposes, the Millingstone Horizon roughly approximates the Early Period (Ex, Ey, and possibly portions of Ez) as defined by King (1990), although other archaeologists place the end of the Millingstone Horizon at about 5,000 cal B.C. (Glassow et. al 2007), and some suggest that it lies deeper in time (as early as 7,000 B.C; see below).

Beads

Catalogs B-E indicate that 508 shell and stone beads were recovered from *Sa'aqtik'oy*, although Catalog B beads were never formally analyzed (Table 2). This number represents only a very small fraction of the beads thought to have been collected at this location, as it was widely known to and visited by local residents. Clericuzio analyzed a 10% sample of the beads reported in catalogs C, D, and E (see Clericuzio 2010) to assess the bead types assigned by the catalogs' creators. Additionally, six glass 'trade' beads are recorded in catalogs B and D. The bead collections from these four catalogs suggest that the *Sa'aqtik'oy* site was occupied, at least intermittently, from the early Holocene (Millingstone Horizon) to the 1800s.

Table 2

SUMMARY OF BEAD DATA FROM CATALOGS A–E

	Columella	Barrel	Spiral Lopped	Tube	Cup	Disk	Sidewall	Quantity
Olivella	1	3	7	0	129	1	261	**402**
Tivela	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Mytilus	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	**25**
Clam	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	**8**
Haliotis	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	**7**
Steatite	0	4	0	6	0	39	0	**49**
Serpentine	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	**8**
Unknown	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	**8**
Total	**1**	**12**	**9**	**11**	**129**	**85**	**261**	**508**

The bead data suggest a tentative chronology, though it is not conclusive, as many bead styles were in use over multiple time periods. Three *Olivella biplicata* barrel beads and two serpentine tube beads point to an Early Period occupation (primarily Middle Holocene). Seven *Olivella biplicata* spire-lopped beads, at least one of which is an oblique spire-lopped, suggest that the site was in use during the Early to Middle Period transition (ca. 600 B.C.). The majority of the beads (n=261) are classified as *Olivella biplicata* wall (saucer) beads, which were most popular during the Middle Period, while the second largest group of beads (n=129), *Olivella biplicata* cup beads, were first manufactured during the Late Period (late Holocene, after A.D. 1150). Further, one small *Columella* bead was identified, which was in use towards the end of the Late Period (Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987; King 1990).

Projectile Points

The projectile point chronology in the Santa Barbara Channel follows trends similar to those seen in other parts of California; we outline Glassow's summary

(1996:Figure 2.3) below. The earliest points commonly reported for the coastal region are side-notched dart points dating to approximately 5,000 B.P. Contracting-stem dart points were in use from approximately 4,000 to 1,500 B.P., while small foliate, concave- and convex-based (leaf shaped) arrow points appear at varying times after 1,500 B.P. and 700 B. P., respectively.

Catalogs B-E indicate that 232 projectile points were identified during the 50-year retrieval period. Projectile points were not identified in Catalog A, and the Catalog B points (from VEN-31 and -32) were never formally analyzed. The projectile point assemblage listed in catalogs C, D, and E support the conclusion that a wide time span of habitation is represented at *Sa'aqtik'oy,* including the Early, Middle and Late Period (Table 3).

An Early and/or Middle Period (Middle Holocene) occupation is suggested by five shouldered and five stemmed projectile points. Seven notched points are indicative of the Middle Period, while the 32 concave and 29 convex points could be indicative of the late Middle Period or Late Period. The majority of projectile points were manufactured from chert (n=137) and Grimes Canyon fused shale (n=88). Most of the raw materials (chert, Grimes Canyon fused shale, and chalcedony) are available locally. The one exception involves the tip of a flaked tool made from obsidian.

Table 3

PROJECTILE POINT FORMS FROM CATALOGS C, D, AND E

	Raw Material				
Form	Grimes Canyon Fused Shale	Chert	Chalcedony	Obsidian	Quantity
Convex	21	7	1	0	**29**
Concave	4	26	2	0	**32**
Shouldered	1	3	1	0	**5**
Stemmed	1	4	0	0	**5**
Notched	3	3	1	0	**7**
Mid-section	23	46	1	0	**70**
Tip	26	34	0	1	**61**
Fragment	9	14	0	0	**23**
Total	**88**	**137**	**6**	**1**	**232**

Table 4

GROUND STONE INVENTORY FROM CA-VEN-31. -32, -33, AND -34

	Artifact Type				
Form	Metate	Mano	Mortar	Pestle	Quantity
Slab	23	0	0	0	**23**
Basin	14	0	0	0	**14**
Complete	206	43	6	38	**293**
Uniface	0	74	0	0	**74**
Biface	0	132	0	2	**134**
Triface	0	7	0	0	**7**
Cobble	0	0	6	0	**6**
Hopper	0	0	3	0	**3**
Mid	0	0	0	2	**2**
Base	0	0	0	16	**16**
Fragment	88	34	4	21	**147**
Total	**331**	**290**	**19**	**79**	**719**

Ground Stone

Ground stone items frequently lend themselves to chronological sequencing based on established dates of morphologically-similar artifacts from southern California sites of documented age. In the Santa Barbara Channel region in particular, mortar morphology can be used as a chronological marker. The earliest mortars have little exterior shaping (e.g., at CA-SBA-53, the Aerophysics site; Harrison and Harrison 1966). Later in time, the morphology shifts to a shaped globular form, and after approximately 1,000 B.C. archaeologists document the appearance of shaped "flowerpot" mortars (Glassow 1996:Figure 2.3).

The catalogs indicate that 719 pieces of ground stone were recovered from VEN-31-, -32, -33, and -34 (Table 4). Catalog A (VEN-33) listed metates, manos, mortars, and pestles, as well as additional types of ground stone. These items were from the ground stone caches reported during the 1931 shift in agricultural production. The Vanoni family donated the majority of the ground stone artifacts from the caches to the Ventura County Pioneer Museum, although a portion of the collections were retained by the family. Neither set of ground stone artifacts was formally analyzed, and today they have been either lost or remain in private collections.

The caches represent one of the most intriguing aspects of this site. The caches were reported to Rozaire as being organized in layers within a restricted area. A systematic excavation could have noted the association of placement. Unfortunately, the ground stone caches were never systematically documented by professional

archaeologists. The possibility of encountering at least one more of these caches was a motivating factor behind all subsequent archaeological exploration on this property (R. Lopez, personal communication 2010).

Catalog B listed metates, manos, and pestles, in addition to other artifacts (a second millingstone cache was associated with VEN-34). These items were recovered when the Vanoni family converted the agricultural land in the 1950s, and they were never formally analyzed or cataloged. Furthermore, during the monitoring operations associated with Catalog E, only complete or nearly complete ground stone pieces were collected. The remaining fragmentary pieces were redeposited in a deep pit at the Chumash Preservation Site, which includes the remnant sediments and the artifacts associated with VEN-31 and VEN-32. Although some detailed data are missing, these artifacts and notes provide additional support for our archaeological interpretations.

The ground stone collection from catalogs A-E are consistent with the projectile point data and support the interpretation that the occupation at *Sa'aqtik'oy* began at least by the beginning of the Early Period (about 5,500 B.C.), and possibly as early as 7,000 B.C. (see discussion of unusual artifacts below). Occupation continued through the Middle Period and into the Late Period.

The catalogs report 243 metates, which were categorized as complete (n = 206), slab (n = 23), and basin (n=14). Most of the complete metates were noted in catalogs A and B; a formal analysis did not occur, hence the lack of form designation. An additional 88 metate fragments were noted. The 290 manos reported in the catalogs were categorized as uniface (n=74), biface (n=132), or triface (n=7), with 43 simply listed as complete. Sandstone, a locally available material, was the manufacturing material for all but three of the manos and metates. The high number of metates, as well as the caching behavior, is suggestive of an early occupation, possibly as early as 5,000 B.C.

Mortars (n=19) were only reported in catalogs C, D, and E. The three unshaped mortars, three globular mortars, and three "flowerpot" mortars, as well as the various fragments, were all produced from sandstone. Seventy-nine pestles were reported in the five catalogs. The 21 pestles from catalogs A and B were never formally analyzed, and are now lost or in private collections. The pestle information in catalogs C, D, and E is more detailed: complete (n = 38), biface (n = 2), midsections (n=2), base sections (n=16), and fragments (n=21). All of the pestles cataloged were made of sandstone. Mortars and pestles became more common through time as acorn utilization increased, and together these artifacts suggest a Middle and/or Late Period occupation (ca. last 2,500 years).

Special and Unique Artifacts

In addition to the more functional artifacts described above, eleven special and unique artifacts have been identified as a part of this study: one stone pendant, five bone whistle fragments, one charmstone/plummet, and four stone effigies. All of these artifacts are associated with Catalog E, and are from the professional salvage excavations completed in 2003. The most interesting and unique of the artifacts recovered from *Sa'aqtik'oy* are three (probable) turtle effigies (Lopez 2004). Furthermore, most of these artifacts suggest an Early Period occupation at the site.

The turtles (Fig. 2) are made of a dark, rich green serpentine and are three-dimensional pieces of carved art. These turtles were found together on the third and oldest terrace of the Santa Clara River, in what had been the village of *Sa'aqtik'oy*, slightly west of VEN-34. The three effigies range in length from 15.5 cm. to 23 cm. Each has a pattern of carved lumps or bumps on its back. The largest has 36 bumps, the mid-size has 16 bumps, and the smallest has 20 bumps. All three turtles have the same design on the front, with a smooth and polished "underside," although the largest effigy has a fault/fissure on the back. The turtles were excavated *in situ*, with the turtles' carved bumpy side on top. The two larger effigies were sitting over the smaller one, and according to the excavators, the turtle effigies appear to have been intentionally set in place, not randomly tossed onto the terrace (G. Higgins, personal communication, 2010). They may have even been placed in water, as they were located in an area of heavy clay. According to Lopez, water was the preferred place to discard powerful objects in order to control or minimize their power (R. Lopez, personal communication, 2012; also see Blackburn 1975:85–6). The smallest effigy has a highly polished and colored depression where it may have been repeatedly employed as a handheld charm.

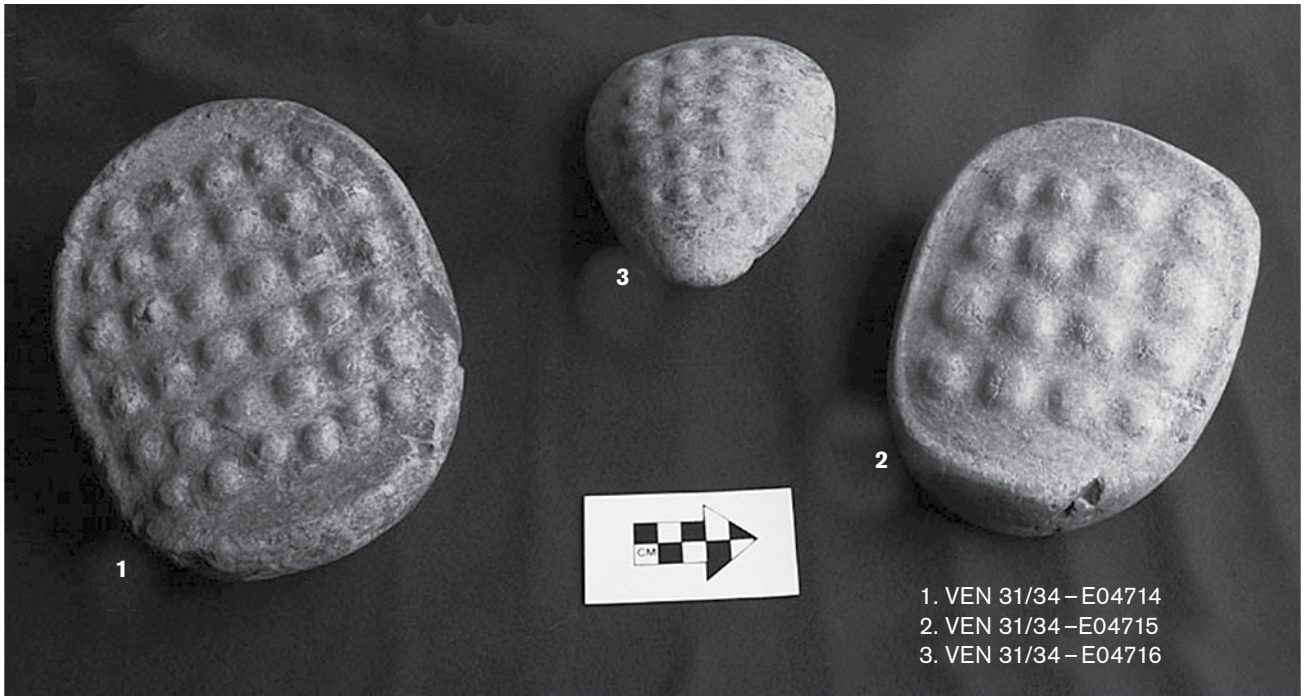

Figure 2. Turtle effigies recovered during the 2003 monitoring excavation.

The fourth stone effigy recovered from *Sa'aqtik'oy* was a three-dimensional, two-headed fish effigy (Fig. 3). The effigy was manufactured from smooth, polished sandstone, and it has an incised mouth visible at both tapered ends. The artifact has a length of 13.2 cm. and a maximum width of 3.2 cm. Also recovered was a quartzite plummet/charmstone which was incised on one end and tapered on the other. The charmstone measures 10 cm. in length and 3.5 cm. in width. The final stone ornament was a highly polished and only slightly damaged steatite disk pendant. Finally, substantial fragments of five individual bone whistles were also identified and recovered, but were not analyzed for this project.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Since the apparent abandonment of the village in the mid-1800s, use of the land associated with the prehistoric village of *Sa'aqtik'oy* (VEN-31, -32, -33 and -34) has included agriculture (row crops and orchards), a housing development, a U.S. Veterans' retirement center and memorial, a Native American veterans' memorial, and the Chumash Preservation site.

These varied activities, especially those involving land grading and earth moving, have greatly altered the integrity of the archaeological materials and their context. As a result, the stratigraphy of the site has been disturbed, and the main locus of habitation (VEN-31) and the mortuary site (VEN-32) have been buried under six meters of soil (Lopez 1995). However, a detailed analysis of the artifact catalogs, personal interviews, and site reports demonstrates that this location has been occupied at least intermittently from the Early Holocene to the present. Utilizing chronologically-diagnostic salvaged artifacts, we can create a timeline of land use by the Chumash.

Historic documents such as census records, glass trade beads, and ethnohistoric interviews together indicate that *Sa'aqtik'oy* was occupied by the Chumash people during the historic period. Furthermore, this evidence suggests the importance of the location to the historic Chumash. *Sa'aqtik'oy*, which probably means "sheltered from the wind" in Ventureño Chumash (Applegate 1974), was resettled after the secularization of Mission San Buenaventura in 1834. It also served as the general location of the last Ventureño Chumash fiesta, sponsored by Pomposa, in 1869 (Hudson et al. 1977:91–93). Our work demonstrates that this location was occupied by the Chumash for thousands of years prior to that historic event.

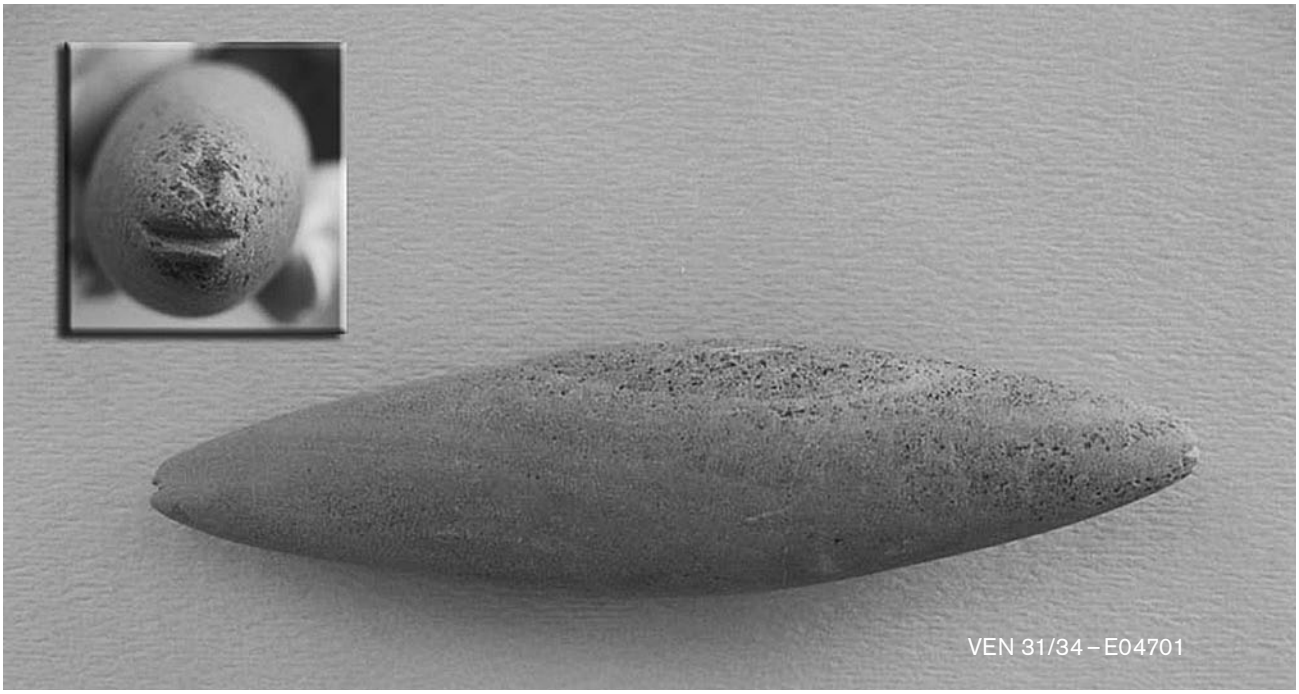

Figure 3. Fish effigy recovered during 2003 monitoring excavation. The effigy is 13.2 cm. long and 3.2 cm. wide.

The artifact assemblage described above provides support for the proposition that *Sa'aqtik'oy* was occupied by the Chumash during the Late Period (Late Holocene). The large number of *Olivella biplicata* cup beads, and the convex and concave projectile points, all support a Late Period habitation at the *Sa'aqtik'oy* site. The mortars and pestles found at the site also give credence to a Late Period site occupation.

The examination of the catalog lists, as well as the detailed analysis of a sample of the artifacts, also suggests a significant Middle Period (Late Holocene) occupation, bolstered primarily by the 261 *Olivella biplicata* wall (saucer) beads and the notched projectile points. Temporal assignments based on the mortar and pestle data are more equivocal, although the shaped "flowerpot" mortars do suggest a Middle and/or Late Period occupation. The steatite disk pendant is similar to those described by Chester King (1990), which he assigns to the Middle Period.

Most interesting, and unexpected, were the variety of artifacts which suggest a relatively early occupation at *Sa'aqtik'oy.* In addition to the few early beads and projectile point styles noted above, the large numbers of cached metates (n=331) and manos (n=290) recovered support this conclusion. These datasets, especially when they involve caches, suggest an Early Period/Millingstone Horizon occupation. A perusal of the literature has not revealed many excavated metate caches from southern California, although Pritchard-Parker does note one for Hemet (1993), and McGuire and Hildebrandt provide a list of Millingstone Horizon sites with significant numbers of milling stones (McGuire and Hildebrandt 1994). Another ground stone item frequently identified in caches from southern California sites are cogged stones, which also appear to date to the Millingstone Horizon/ Early Period (Koerper et al. 2006).

The Browne site, CA-VEN-150, provides an interesting comparison to *Sa'aqtik'oy*. According to Greenwood (1969), this site is dated to the early Millingstone Horizon. Excavators recovered over 200 complete and fragmentary metates. Interestingly, the VEN-150 collections also include two three-dimensional effigies, purported to be frogs. These effigies are made of diorite, and are described as "sculptures in-the-round..." and as "a thoroughly sophisticated work of art..." (Greenwood 1969:46). The two effigies are of different sizes (the larger is a "frog" effigy, and the smaller a "tadpole" effigy), which would tend to suggest an adult-child relationship. Additionally, the tadpole effigy has a polished depression on the back side, suggesting that it might have been a handheld charm.

Although representations of different fauna, this adult-child relationship in three dimensional art is also reflected at *Sa'aqtik'oy* in the stone turtle effigies. The stone turtle effigies also seem to reflect adult and child sizes; in this particular case, the larger ones were placed above,"protecting" the smaller one. Additionally, the smaller stone turtle effigy also has a polished depression on the back side, suggesting use as a handheld charm.

Fitzgerald and Corey have considered the distribution and chronology of the zoomorphic effigies and representational artworks recovered from archaeological contexts in southern California, and suggest that these items were used far earlier than has been previously supposed (2009:192). They acknowledge the difficulty in assigning a temporal range to many of these zoomorphoic artifacts. Given the possible 7,740 cal B.C. date for a fish effigy from the Cross Creek site in San Luis Obispo County (Fitzgerald and Corey 2009:192), and a minimal date of ca. 1,540 cal B.C. for the Browne site "frog and tadpole effigies" (Fitzgerald and Corey 2009:198), they make a compelling argument that three-dimensional art in southern California occurred in the Early Period, and possibly much earlier. Unfortunately, the lack of shellfish and other datable materials from the Browne site, as well as the disturbed stratigraphy at *Sa'aqtik'oy*, do not permit their use as sources of dates from secure contexts. Interpretations of the time depth associated with these three-dimensional zoomorphic figures from coastal south-central California thus remain somewhat speculative.

Two additional Millingstone Horizon sites recorded in coastal Ventura County are CA-VEN-1 (Wallace 1954) and CA-VEN-100 (West 1979). VEN-1 is a multi-component site located on the coast, whereas site VEN-100 is located in an interior valley near the coast that drains to the Pacific Ocean. West (1979:13) indicates that "Area 1 fits the Millingstone Horizon cultural assemblages as defined by Wallace...." Both VEN-150 and VEN-100 are located at higher elevations, and VEN-1 is situated on the coast. *Sa'aqtik'oy* is located on the Oxnard Plain in close proximity to the Santa Clara River, 13 kilometers inland from the coast. This location may make sense, however, if the plants processed using the large numbers of manos and metates grew along this section of the Oxnard Plain. The people of the Millingstone Horizon likely occupied a variety of sites in different locations, but most have been covered by sediments or destroyed in the intervening years. Many Millingstone Horizon sites recognized by archaeologists today are situated at higher elevations with good viewsheds, or in coastal locations. The archaeological sample, therefore, is likely skewed with regard to site location and activities. *Sa'aqtik'oy* may represent another type of site, and thus can also shed light on the people that lived during this difficult-to-define temporal period.

We cannot determine the intensity of occupation at *Sa'aqtik'oy* given the lack of stratigraphic controls, and further research "on the ground" is impossible given the destruction and filling of the site. However, through the analysis of archaeological reports, fieldworker interviews, and artifacts, important details can still be gleaned from these sources. We propose that *Sa'aqtik'oy* was occupied, at least intermittently, from the earliest part of the Early Period (equivalent to the Millingstone Horizon) to the present. The *Sa'aqtik'oy* artifact assemblage, when compared to the artifact collections obtained from verifiable early Holocene sites, supports the proposition that *Sa'aqtik'oy* is one of the oldest settlements on the Oxnard Plain.

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