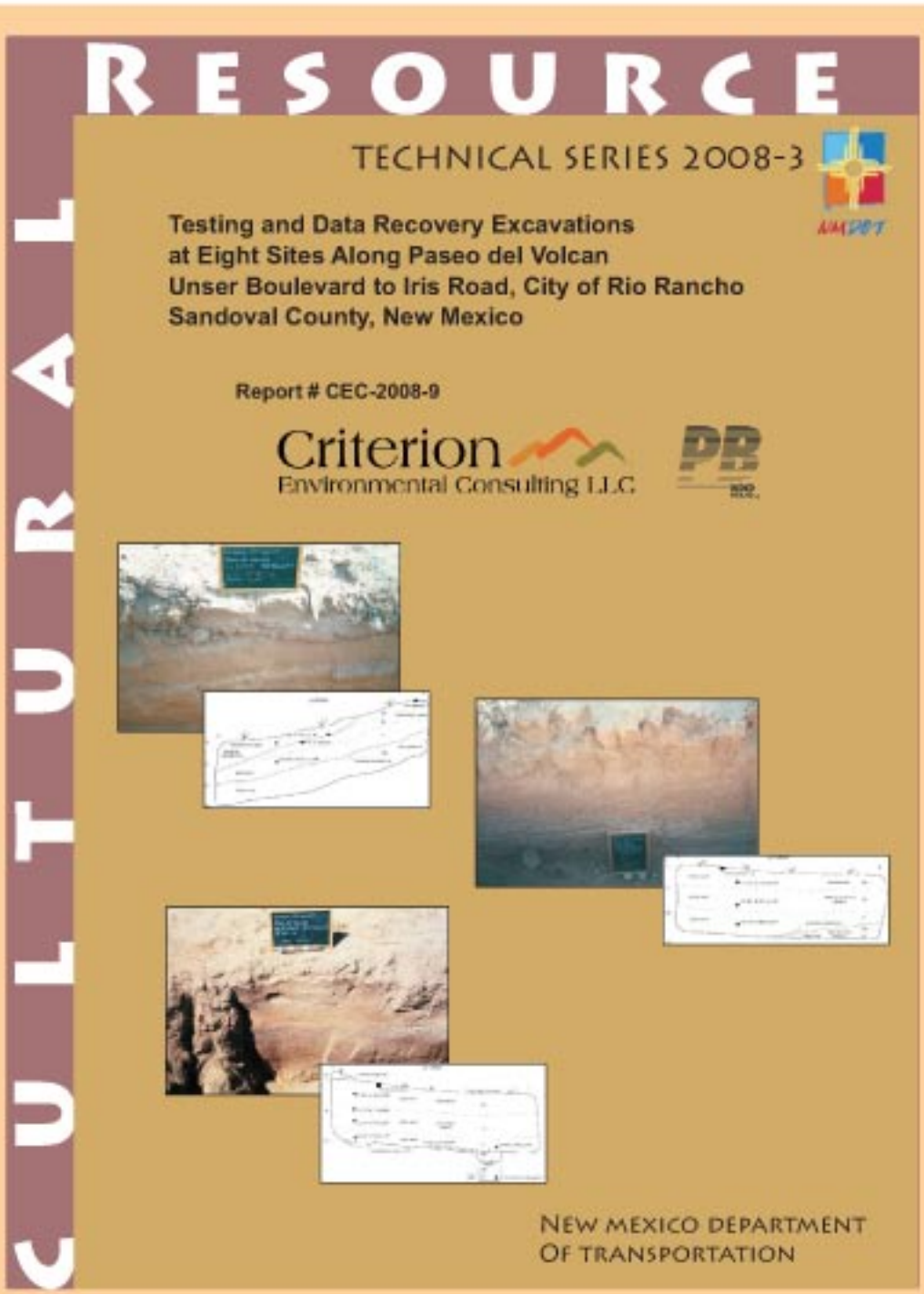

From August 8, 2005 through October 15, 2005, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) completed archaeological testing and/or data recovery at eight sites along a segment of the proposed Paseo del Volcan roadway in the City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The investigations were conducted at the request of the NMDOT and the City of Rio Rancho prior to the initiation of construction of a 6.8-km (4.2- mi) segment of the proposed corridor between Unser Boulevard and Iris Road. The research design prepared for the Paseo del Volcan testing and data recovery project was developed under a cultural ecological approach and focused on four primary research questions: chronology and stratigraphy, site function, subsistence and mobility, and technological organization. Hypotheses were developed based on Phillips' (2000) testing plan for the Paseo del Volcan corridor as well as Binford's (1980) collector-forager model of subsistence. The data collected at the eight sites in the project area contributed differentially to testing these hypotheses. Only four sites produced sufficient data to address research issues at all; one Group 1 site (LA 55507), two Group 2 sites (LA 126406 and LA 126409), and one Group 3 site (LA 55509), and these sites varied in terms of the number of artifacts and features represented. Macrobotanical and faunal information were absent and affected interpretations of subsistence and seasonality at all sites. In addition, geological information indicated that major erosional events in the past had likely removed a portion of most if not all of the sites, also affecting overall interpretations. The geoarchaeological study was productive and explained the site formation processes that limited information obtained from these sites. While most of the research issues were addressed to some degree, many sites produced mixed results and suggest the need to further refine these issues for future projects, especially taking into account the geoarchaeological conditions that exist in the general area.