

**APPENDIX C**  
**HISTORIC PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION REPORT**

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# **Country Acres Solar Project**

## Historic Property Identification Report

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

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## Summary of Findings

This Historic Property Identification Report (HPIR) presents the results of a historical assessment completed by AECOM for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Country Acres Solar Project (the “project”) in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). CEQA requires public agencies to assess the impacts of their projects on historical resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The proposed project would be a federal undertaking for the purposes of Section 106. This HPIR was prepared in partial fulfillment of CEQA and Section 106 requirements.

As part of this HPIR, AECOM conducted archival research and completed surveys to identify cultural resources within the project’s Area of Potential Effects, and conducted initial consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission. AECOM also conducted a cultural resources records search at the North Central Information Center and of the California Historical Resources Information System, housed at California State University, Sacramento; and completed supplemental research with various organizations. SMUD is conducting Native American and interested party outreach.

Background research, Native American and interested parties outreach, literature review, and field survey identified two cultural resources in the study area. These consist of P-31-003280 an electrical transmission line and P-31-006131 a maintained and well-used county road (Base Line Road). Both were recommended not eligible for inclusion the National Register and California Register. Therefore, a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” is recommended for the project.

## Preparers

This HPIR has been prepared and reviewed by the following principal investigators, who meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards (SOIPQS) (62 Federal Register 33708-33723):

- Diana Ewing was principal investigator for archaeology and conducted the field survey. She has a BA degree in Anthropology (Archaeology) from the University of California, Davis; has an MA degree in Anthropology (Archaeology) from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, (earned in California); and has more than 10 years of experience in northern and coastal California, the Alaskan Arctic, Arizona, and Nevada. She meets the SOIPQS for work in archaeology.
- Richard Deis, RPA (Register of Professional Archaeologists) provided senior guidance and input for this study. He has an MA degree in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento and has more than 30 years of professional archaeological experience in California and Nevada. Mr. Deis has evaluated hundreds of archaeological and built environment resources and has drafted and implemented numerous historic property management and treatment plans. He meets the SOIPQS for work in archaeology.

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Appendix C Native American Heritage Commission Consultation

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
AC	alternating current
AFB	Air Force Base
APE	Area of Potential Effects
B.P.	before present
ca.	circa
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
DC	direct current
HPIR	Historic Property Identification Report
KMZ	Keyhole Markup Language (file extension)
kV	kilovolt(s)
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
PRC	Public Resources Code
PV	photovoltaic
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SOIPQS	Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards
SRFCP	Sacramento River Flood Control Project
SSBMI	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
SSFL	Sacramento Suburban Fruit and Land
TCP	tribal cultural property
TCR	tribal cultural resource
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WAPA	Western Area Power Administration
Wilton	Wilton Rancheria

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## Undertaking Description

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) solar power and battery storage renewable energy generation facility (hereinafter the “project”) in southwestern Placer County.

The project would be located on approximately 1,300 acres of property in southwestern Placer County just west of the City of Roseville, north of Baseline Road between Watt Avenue and South Brewer Road on several parcels.

The Country Acres Solar Project includes construction and operation of a PV solar power and battery storage facility and interconnection facilities, including a generation substation, switch station, and interconnection lines, that would provide new power production capacity of up to 344 megawatts delivered at the point of interconnection with the grid managed by SMUD. The total project site encompasses up to 1,300 acres, and would generally be comprised of PV solar modules, foundation piles, racking, direct current (DC) collection, alternating current (AC) collection, fencing, roads, inverters, medium voltage transformers, an interconnection line between the generation substation and switch station, battery storage equipment, and interconnection lines to the existing SMUD transmission system. During construction, a temporary construction trailer/office complex and staging areas would be established. During operation, the proposed project would plan to include an operations facility. At the end of the project’s life (anticipated to be 30 to 35 years or more), the site would be decommissioned.

The project would have an underground network of AC power cables that would connect the array transformers to a medium voltage combining switchgear. This switchgear would connect, via an overhead or underground collection system, to the proposed generation substation. When an overhead line is used, it would be supported by wooden or steel poles approximately 30 to 40 feet tall. These lines will follow existing infrastructure easements or access roads when feasible. The onsite substation would then transform the final voltage to connect the project power to the existing SMUD transmission system.

The project would have an onsite substation with one or more generation step-up transformers, breakers, buswork, protective relaying, meters, Site Control Center building, backup power, associated substation equipment, and a dedicated perimeter fence. The substation would be constructed and operated to step up the voltage of the electricity generated from the PV arrays or stored in the battery energy storage system (BESS). The substation site would be improved with compacted materials and foundations to support electrical equipment and supporting infrastructure.

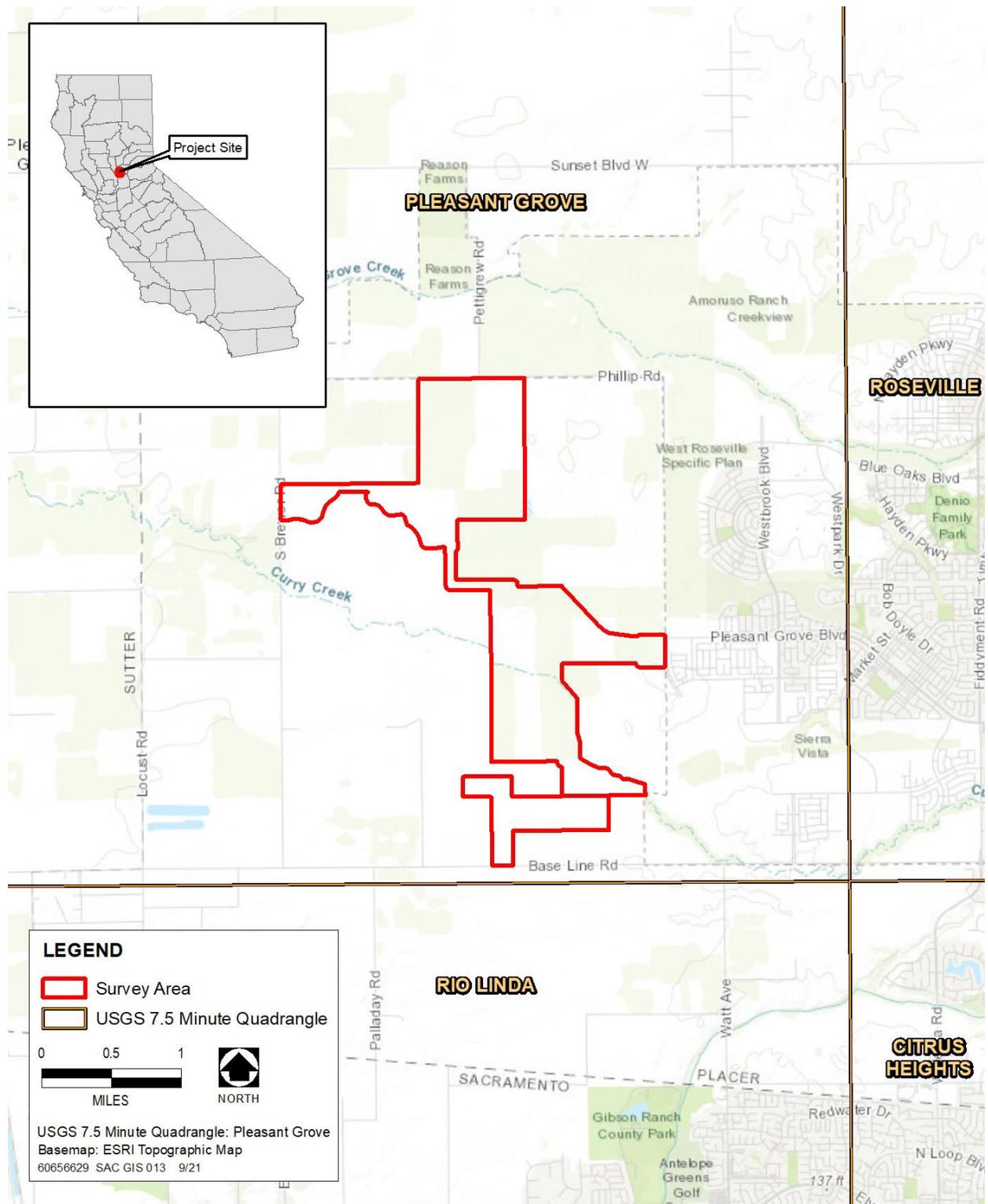
Limited grading and vegetation removal is proposed along the access roads, at the location of the inverters and transformers, at the BESS yard, the generation substation, and switching station. Aside from these areas, vegetation removal would generally not occur where solar panels would be installed in areas currently in grassland. Vegetation removal would occur in areas currently planted in almonds. Other site improvements would consist of the installation of a temporary 12-kilovolt line to provide power at staging yards, removal of current agricultural operations such as irrigation for orchards, and removal or relocation underground of existing 12-kilovolt lines providing power to wells.

## Project Location

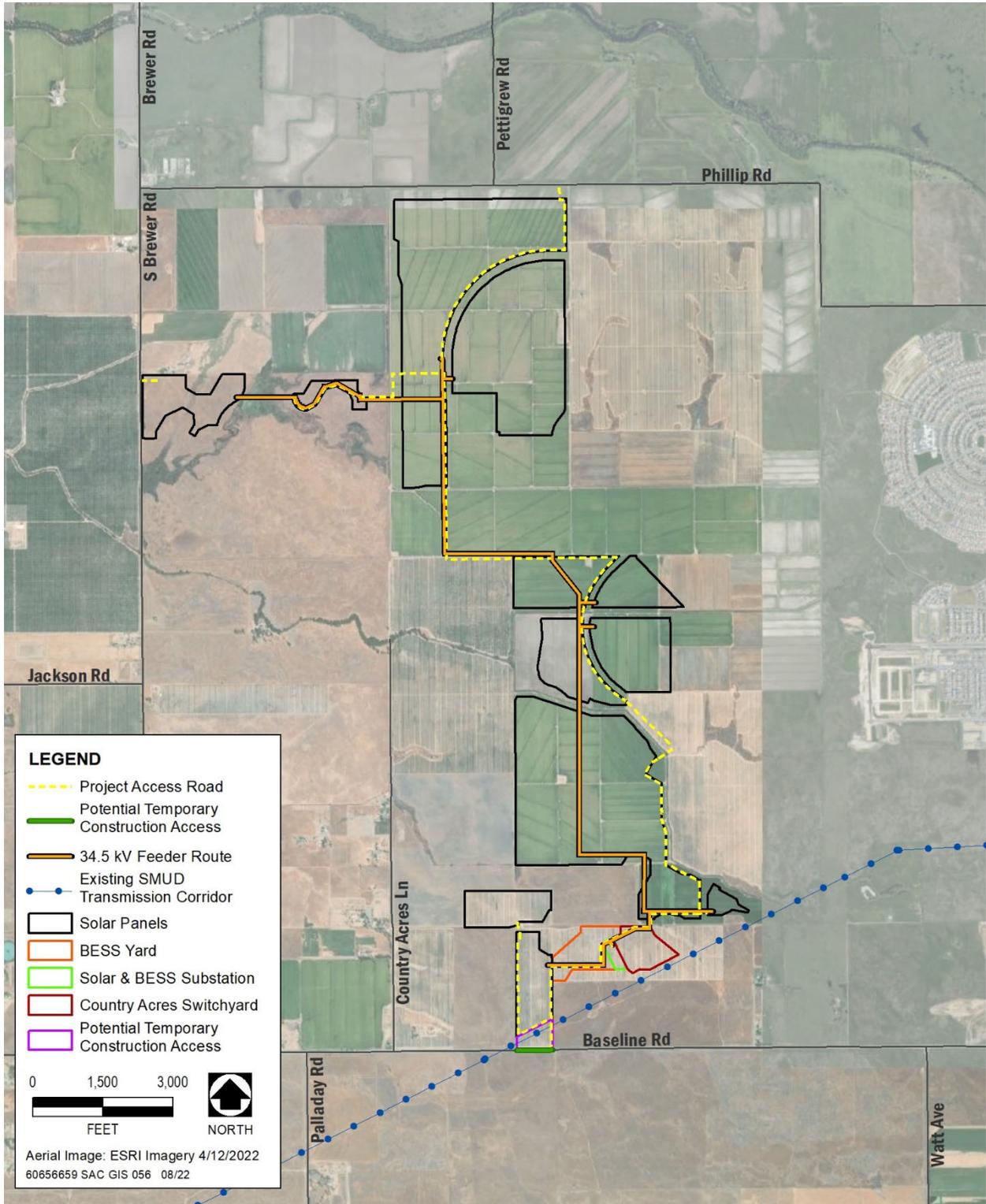
**The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is within Township 11N, Range 05E, Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, and 34 as depicted on the Pleasant Grove U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle. It consists of leased agricultural parcels used for rice and almond production in southwestern Placer County, California. The study area is generally bounded by Baseline Road to the south, S Brewer Street to the west, Phillip Road to the north, and the Westpark neighborhood of Roseville to the east (Figure 1)**

Figure 2. The elevation of the site ranges between approximately 58 and 100 feet above sea level. The majority of the region is privately owned and developed for agricultural, industrial, residential, and transportation uses. Surrounding land uses include rice fields and almond orchards; urban development; and open space areas with seasonal wetland, riparian, and annual grassland vegetation.





**Figure 1. Study Area**



**Figure 2. Project Site – Area of Potential Effects**

## Area of Potential Effects

The APE, as defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 800.16(d), is “the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.”

Elements of the project, depicted in Figure 2, could be subject to permitting and/or approval authority of other agencies. As the lead agency pursuant to CEQA, SMUD is responsible for considering the adequacy of the draft environmental impact report and determining whether the project should be approved. The project would also be subject to compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for discharge of fill to Waters of the U.S. and would require obtaining a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Based upon federal involvement, the project would be subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

## Cultural Context

This chapter describes the prehistoric and historic settings of the study area for the undertaking.

### Prehistoric Context

In an attempt to unify the various hypothesized cultural periods in California, Fredrickson (1993) proposed an all-encompassing scheme for cultural development, while acknowledging that these general trends may manifest themselves differently and some variation may exist between subregions. These general cultural periods (i.e., Paleo-Indian, Early, Middle and Late Archaic, and Emergent periods) are used in this document in connection with the North-Central Sierra Nevada chronology because of their relevancy to the lower foothill region of the project area, in the vicinity of Folsom.

The Late Pleistocene pattern and period (greater than 10,000 years before present [B.P.]) is practically nonexistent in the foothill and eastern Sacramento Valley. Sites CA-SAC-370 and CA-SAC-379, located near Rancho Murieta, produced numerous bifaces, cores, and raw materials from gravel strata estimated to be between 12,000 and 18,000 years in age. Early Holocene pattern and period (circa [ca.] 10,000–7000 B.P.) was first defined by Bedwell (1970) as a human adaptation to lake, marsh, and grassland environments that were prevalent at this time. Appearing after 11,000 years B.P., the tradition slowly disappeared ca. 8000–7000 B.P.

During the Archaic pattern and period (ca. 7000–3200 B.P.), the climate in the valleys and foothills of Central California became warmer and dryer, and millingstones are found in abundance.

The Early and Middle Sierran pattern (ca. 3200–600 B.P.) evidences an expansion in use of obsidian, which is interpreted with reservation to indicate an increase in regional land use, and the regular use of certain locales. During this time, a much heavier reliance on acorns as a staple food was developed, supporting large, dense populations.

During the Late Sierran period (ca. 600–150 B.P.), archaeological village sites generally correspond to those identified in the ethnographic literature. Diagnostic artifacts include small contracting-stem points, clam shell disk beads, and trade beads that were introduced near the end of the period, marking the arrival of European groups (Beardsley 1954:77–79; Elsasser 1978:44; Fredrickson 1993).

### Ethnographic Context

The project area is situated within the traditional territory of the Nisenan. The language of the Nisenan, which includes several dialects, is classified within the Maiduan family of the Penutian linguistic stock. Kroeber (1925) recognized three Nisenan dialects: Northern Hill, Southern Hill, and Valley. The Nisenan territory included the drainages of the Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers, and the lower drainages of the Feather River, extending from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the banks of the Sacramento River. According to Bennyhoff (1961:204–209), the southern boundary with the Miwok was probably a few miles

south of the American River, bordering a shared area used by both Miwok and Nisenan groups that extended to the Cosumnes River. It appears that the foothills Nisenan distrusted the valley peoples but had a mostly friendly relationship with the Washoe to the east. Elders recall intergroup marriage and trade, primarily involving the exchange of acorns for fish procured by the Washoe (Wilson 1972:33). The northern boundary has not been clearly established due to similarities in language with neighboring tribes (Wilson and Towne 1978:387–389).

Nisenan settlement locations depended primarily on elevation, exposure, and proximity to water and other resources. Permanent villages were usually located on low rises along major watercourses. Houses were domed structures measuring 10 to 15 feet in diameter and covered with earth and tule reeds or grass. Brush shelters were used in the summer and at temporary camps during food-gathering rounds. Larger villages often had semi-subterranean dance houses that were covered in earth and tule reeds or brush, with a central hole at the top to allow the escape of smoke, and an east-facing entrance. Another common village structure was the granary, which was used for storing acorns.

Several political divisions in the Nisenan territory, constituting tribelets, had headmen in the larger villages. However, the relative levels of influence in these larger population centers are unknown. All of these larger villages were located in the foothills. More substantial and permanent Nisenan villages generally were not established on the valley plain between the Sacramento River and the foothills, although this area was used as a rich hunting and gathering ground. One tribelet consisted of people occupying the territory between the Bear River and the Middle Fork American River (Wilson and Towne 1978). According to Kroeber (1925:831), the larger villages could have had populations exceeding 500 individuals, although small settlements consisting of 15 to 25 people and extended families were common.

The Nisenan occupied permanent settlements from which specific task groups set out to harvest the seasonal bounty of flora and fauna provided by the rich valley environment. The Valley Nisenan economy involved riparian resources, in contrast to the Hill Nisenan, whose resource base consisted primarily of acorn and game procurement. The only domestic plant was native tobacco (*Nicotiana* sp.), but many wild species were closely husbanded. The acorn crops from the blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and black oak (*Q. kelloggii*) were carefully managed resources. Acorns were stored in granaries in anticipation of winter. Deer, rabbit, and salmon were the chief sources of animal protein in the aboriginal diet, but many insect and other animal species were taken when available (Wilson and Towne 1978:389).

The decimation of the Nisenan culture in the nineteenth century as a result of European colonization, coupled with a reluctance to discuss Nisenan spiritual beliefs and practices, makes it difficult to describe these practices in any detail. However, historic records document a number of observances and dances, some of which are still performed today, that were important ceremonies in early historic times. The Kuksu Cult, the basic religious system noted throughout Central California, appeared among the Nisenan. Cult membership was restricted to those initiated in its spirit and deity-impersonating rites. However, the Kuksu Cult was only one of several levels of religious practice among the Nisenan. Various dances associated with mourning and the change of seasons were also important. One of the last major additions to Nisenan spiritual life occurred sometime shortly after 1872 with a revival of the Kuksu Cult as an adaptation to the Ghost Dance religion (Wilson and Towne 1978). Today, Nisenan descendants are reinvesting in their traditions and represent a growing and thriving community.

Following documentation by the Department of Interior for the existence of a separate, cohesive band of Maidu and Miwok Indians, occupying a village on the outskirts of the City of Auburn in Placer County, the United States acquired land in trust for the Auburn Band in 1917 near the City of Auburn and formally established a reservation, known as the Auburn Rancheria. Tribal members continued to live on the reservation as a community despite great adversity.

However, in 1967, the United States terminated federal recognition of the Auburn Band, and, in 1970, President Nixon declared the policy of termination a failure. In 1976, both the United States Senate and House of Representatives expressly repudiated this policy in favor of a new federal policy entitled Indian Self-Determination.

In 1991, surviving members of the Auburn Band reorganized their tribal government as the United Auburn Indian Community and requested that the United States formally restore their federal recognition. In 1994, Congress passed the Auburn Indian Restoration Act, which restored the Tribe's federal recognition. The Act provided that the Tribe may acquire land in Placer County to establish a new reservation.

Today, Nisenan descendants and other tribes are reinvesting in their traditions and represent a growing and thriving community that is actively involved in defining their role as stewards of their ancestors' sites including the identification of tribal cultural resources (TCRs). TCRs provide the backdrop to religious understanding, traditional stories, knowledge of resources such as varying landscapes, bodies of water, animals and plants, and self-identity. Knowledge of place is central to the continuation and persistence of culture, even if former Nisenan and Miwok occupants live removed from their traditional homeland. Consulting tribes view these interconnected sites and places as living entities; their associations and feeling persist and connect with descendant communities.

Specifically, United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), a federally recognized Tribe comprised of both Miwok and Maidu (Nisenan) Tribal members are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. The Tribe has a deep spiritual, cultural, and physical ties to their ancestral land and are contemporary stewards of their culture and landscapes. The Tribal community represents a continuity and endurance of their ancestors by maintaining their connection to their history and culture. It is the Tribe's goal to ensure the preservation and continuance of their cultural heritage for current and future generations.

## **Historical Context**

The historic era in California began with Spanish colonization and is often divided into three distinctive chronological and historic periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1542–1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). After Mexican independence in 1821, Spain transferred its lands to the newly established country of Mexico. The Mexican Period was also a time when large parcels of land, known as ranchos, were granted to trusted Mexican citizens, many of whom were Americans who had converted to Catholicism and married the children of Mexican nationals, or had otherwise become Mexican citizens to promote settlement in California and encourage agricultural and ranching enterprises.

More than 800 rancho grants were bestowed during the Mexican Period throughout California. The study area was originally part of the 44,374.42-acre Rancho del Paso Mexican land grant. The study area is located in an agricultural area largely undeveloped until the early twentieth century. Rancho del Paso (granted 1844, patented 1858) is in present-day Sacramento on the north side of the American River (Cowan 1956; Kyle et al. 2002:302–303). The United States took control of California after the Mexican-American War in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. California became a state in 1850, and the development patterns in California during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were characterized by agricultural ventures, ranching, mining, and settlement.

The project area is in southwest Placer County near the Sutter County line and northwest of the city of Roseville. The project area was historically part of large tracts of undeveloped land along various creeks in the region that were purchased to create large farms and ranches starting in the mid-1850s. Much of southwest Placer County was eventually comprised of large tracts of land owned by early settlers including the Fiddymont family, Stephen A. Boutwell, William Dunlap, James Kaseberg, and others. Stock raising sheep and cattle, and wheat and grain farming were the primary land use in the mid-to-late nineteenth century in southwestern Placer County. The development of railroads through the Sacramento Valley in the 1860s and 1870s lead to further development of the region and the creation of the railroad-centered communities of Roseville and Lincoln (City of Roseville 2016:3-37; Southern Placer Regional Transportation Authority 2007: 4-2 to 4-3).

Into the twentieth century, agriculture remained as the region's primary economy as the community of Roseville emerged as the shipping and trading center for southern Placer County. The Southern Pacific Railroad relocated its major locomotive terminal from Rocklin to Roseville in 1909, transforming Roseville into one of the largest railroad centers in the country. A year later, Roseville incorporated and by 1910 had a population of 2,600 becoming the largest city in the county. Population growth in Placer County was

relatively slow until World War II and into the post-war period as growth within the greater Sacramento metropolitan spread into surrounding communities. Between 1940 and 1960, Roseville's population more than doubled from 6,600 to 13,400; however, the project area in southwest Placer County remained rural and sparsely populated. Expansion of the state highway system in the post-World War II period, including the completion of State Route 65 in 1971 connecting the communities of Roseville, Rocklin, and Lincoln that were already experiencing rapid growth in the 1960s, impacted the rural character of southern Placer County. Initially suburban housing and commercial developments occurred southeast of the project area around the city of Roseville; however, suburban residential development spread west and northwest from Roseville and toward the project area beginning in the 1990s and continues to the present day abutting the east side of the project area. Today, the project area remains sparsely populated with some rural residential development, but the majority of the land use is devoted to rice, almond trees, and other agricultural uses (City of Roseville 2016: 3-37; Southern Placer Regional Transportation Authority 2007: 4-2 to 4-3; US Census 2011; Historicaerials.com 2021).

## **Literature Review**

A cultural resources records search of the project site and vicinity was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (or CHRIS) on April 6, 2021 (NCIC File No SAC-21-27). The records search was conducted to obtain background information regarding previous resources or studies that have been reported within and in the vicinity of the project site, and to obtain existing information that may contribute to the proposed project's cultural sensitivity assessment. Documentation of the cultural resources records search results is provided in Appendix A.

The search included the project site and a 0.25-mile radius. The results were used to determine whether known cultural resources have been recorded at or adjacent to the project site, and to assess the cultural sensitivity of the area. The records search included reviews of maps listing previously conducted cultural resource studies in the area, and historic General Land Office (or GLO) maps.

Site records and previous studies were accessed for the project APE and a 0.25-mile radius in the Pleasant Grove, California USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. The following references also were reviewed:

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)
- Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Historic Property Data File (April 2012)
- California State Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996)
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976)
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992)

A series of cultural resources investigations have occurred in portions of the APE and within 0.25 miles of the APE over the years,

AECOM requested a records search at the NCIC, search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Files, and archaeological pedestrian survey of the proposed solar fields to comply with both Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA requirements as part of this project.

## **Previous Investigations**

Seventeen cultural resource investigations have been conducted within portions of the current project (Table 1), and an additional six studies have been conducted within 0.25 miles of the project (Table 2). The locations of these studies are presented in Appendix B.

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resources Inventories within the APE**

NCIC Report Number	Year	Author(s)	Report Title	Documented Resources
355	1986	P. Michelsen; Far Western Anthropological Research Group Inc.	An Archeological Reconnaissance of a 14 Mile Long Transmission Line Corridor Between the Elverta Street Substation, Sacramento County, and the Berry Street Substation, Placer County, California.	None
396	1979	Ann Peak; Peak & Associates Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment of Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Project C, Phase I, 230kV Transmission Line, Tower No. 355, Placer County to Elverta Substation, Sacramento County, California	None
2807	2000	Windmiller, Ric, Dan Osanna, and Donald Napoli	Phase I Inventory and Overview of Cultural Resources, Placer Vineyards Specific Plan, Placer County, California	None within 0.25 miles of APE
6571	2005	Windmiller, Ric	Placer Vineyards Specific Plan: Updated Cultural Resources Study Placer County, California (See report 2484 for initial report)	None within 0.25 miles of APE
6898	2005	Sean Jensen; Genesis Society	Archaeological Inventory Survey Proposed Regional University Development Project, c. 2,400 Acres near Roseville, Placer County, CA	None within 0.25 miles of APE
7130	2002	Brian Hatoff and R. Egherma; AECOM formerly URS	Roseville Energy Facility Cultural Resources	P-31-003280 within APE
7607	2004	Peter Jensen	Archaeological Inventory Survey, Proposed De La Salle University Development Project	None
7726	2006	ECORP	Cultural Resources Survey Report, Sierra Vista Specific Plan, Placer County, California, Project 2005-147	None within 0.25 miles of APE
8967	2007	Sharon A. Waechter, Stephen Wee, and Cynthia Toffelmier; Far Western Anthropological Research Group Inc.	Cultural Resources Inventory for the Sacramento River Water Reliability Study, Sacramento and Placer Counties, California	None within 0.25 miles of APE
9138	2007	Marcos Guerrero; ECORP	Cultural Resources Survey Report, Sierra Vista Specific Plan- Chan Property, Placer County, California, Project 2005- 147	None
9188	2002	Wendy J. Nelson and Kimberley Carpenter; Far Western Anthropological Research Group Inc.	Cultural Resources Survey for Right-of-Way Maintenance Along the Western Area Power Administration Transmission Lines Volumes I, II, and III	None within 0.25 miles of APE
9568	2001	Windmiller, Ric	Phase 1 Cultural Resources Inventory Property 12 Placer Vineyards Specific Plan Placer County California	P-31-3504 within 0.25 miles of APE
10319	2008	Wohlgeumth, Eric, Laura Leach-Palm, Sharon A. Waechter, Mary L. Maniery, Cindy Baker, and Stephen Wee; Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.; PAR Environmental Services, Inc.; JRP Historical Consulting	Cultural Resources Survey for the PG&E Line 407 Project, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yolo Counties, California Volume I	P-31-003310 within 0.25 miles of APE
12443	2016	Megan Webb and Stephen Pappas; ECORP Consulting, Inc.	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for 1,040 Acres of the 1,940-acre Placer Vineyards Infrastructure Phase 1A, Placer County, California	P-31-003280 and P-31-006131 within APE; P-31-003504 and P-31-003310 within 0.25 miles of APE
12459	2016	Megan Webb and Stephen Pappas; ECORP Consulting, Inc.	Cultural Resources Evaluation Plan for the Placer Vineyards Infrastructure Phase 1A, Placer County, California	P-31-006131 within APE
12653	2016	Megan Webb and Jeremy Adams; ECORP Consulting, Inc.	Test Program Results and Evaluation for Cultural Resources, Placer Vineyards Infrastructure Phase 1a, Placer County, California	P-31-006131 within APE
12654	2018	Megan Webb; ECORP Consulting, Inc.	Supplemental Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report, Placer Vineyards Infrastructure Phase 1A Permit Area, Placer County, California	None within 0.25 miles of APE

Note: All reports are on file at the North Central Information Center

Source: North Central Information Center 2021, data compiled by AECOM 2021

APE = Area of Potential Effects

NCIC = North Central Information Center

PG&E = Pacific Gas & Electric Company

**Table 2. Previous Cultural Resources Inventories within 0.25 Miles of the APE**

NCIC Report Number	Year	Author(s)	Report Title	Documented Resources
2484	2000	Windmiller, Ric, Dan Osanna, and Donald Napoli	Phase I Inventory and Overview of Cultural Resources, Placer Vineyards Specific Plan, Placer County, California	None within 0.25 miles of APE
7625	2002	Mark Hale; AECOM formerly URS Corporation	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the 1,329-acre Reason Farms, for the City of Roseville, Placer County, California	None within 0.25 miles of APE
10297	2009	Stephen Pappas; ECORP Consulting Inc	Cultural Resources Survey and Evaluation Report Sierra Vista Specific Plan - Conley Property	P-31-3739 within 0.25 miles of APE
11048	2009	Dwight Simons; Tremaine & Associates, Inc	Archaeological Survey Report, Replacement of the Brewer Bridge (19C-0104) at Branch of Curry Creek, Placer County, CA	None within 0.25 miles of APE
11357	2013	Lisa Westwood, Jeremy Adams, and Stephen Pappas; ECORP Consulting Inc	Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report Placer Vineyards 7 Placer County, California ECORP Project No. 2013-088	P-31-3310 within 0.25 miles of APE
11447	2007	Douglas Davy; CH2M Hill	Cultural Resources Inventory for the Sacramento Area Voltage Support Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement	P-31-6193 within 0.25 miles of APE

Note: All reports are on file at the North Central Information Center  
 Source: North Central Information Center 2021, data compiled by AECOM 2021  
 APE = Area of Potential Effects

Two previously recorded resources are located within the project area (Table 3), and another six previously documented cultural resources have been identified within 0.25 miles of the project area (Table 4). The locations of these resources are depicted in Appendix B.

**Table 3. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within APE**

Primary Number	Type	Age	Description	NRHP Eligibility
P-31-3280	Structure	Historic	WAPA Transmission Line	Not eligible
P-31-6131	Roadway	Historic	Baseline Road	Not eligible

APE = Area of Potential Effects  
 NRHP = National Register of Historic Places  
 WAPA = Western Area Power Administration

One of the previously documented resources (P-31-003280) is an electrical transmission line and the other (P-31-006131) is a maintained and well-used county road (Base Line Road).

P-31-003280 is historically identified as a Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) transmission line that extends from the Elverta power station to the Roseville power station and was constructed by the federal government in 1952. Initially, the transmission line was recorded by JRP in 2001 and was recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. In 2006, Mark A. Beason confirmed that the transmission line was not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

P-31-006131 is a two-lane paved historic road alignment that, while having maintained the integrity of its original alignment, lacks integrity and was recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP by ECORP in 2015.

With the exception of an isolated biface fragment (P-31-3310) all of the previously observed resources within 0.25 miles of the APE are from the historic era, and appear to reflect land use associated with agriculture and ranching.

**Table 4. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within 0.25 Miles of APE**

Primary Number	Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility
P-31-1255	Historic	Refuse	Unevaluated
P-31-3310	Prehistoric	Isolated obsidian biface fragment	Not eligible
P-31-3504	Historic	Irrigation pipe	Unevaluated
P-31-3739	Historic	Isolated metal canister	Not eligible
P-31-6193	Historic	Corral and cattle loading feature	Unevaluated

APE = Area of Potential Effects

NRHP = National Register of Historic Places

### **Native American Heritage Commission**

The NAHC was contacted by AECOM via email on February 2, 2021, for a Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request. The NAHC responded via email on February 11, 2021, with negative results and attached a list of Native American tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area.

The NAHC also recommended the following be provided to Native American tribes:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
  - A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
  - Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
  - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
  - If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10.
3. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission, which was negative.
4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

### **Tribal Consultation**

#### **CEQA – AB 52**

Pursuant to Public Resources Code 21090.3.1(b)(1), tribal notifications were sent out to participating tribes (Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Lone Band of Miwok Indians, Wilton Rancheria, & United Auburn Indian Community) on August 25 and 26, 2021. Correspondence included a project description, and supporting graphic depicting the project location. Written correspondence was received from Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (SSBMI) Wilton Rancheria (Wilton) and the UAIC.

SMUD received a letter via email from SSBMI on September 23, 2021 requesting consultation, which was acknowledged on the same day by SMUD, and added the request to the bimonthly meeting on

September 27, 2021. As requested by SSBMI at the AB 52 meeting on September 27, 2021 SMUD provided SSBMI with a KMZ of the project location. On October 13, 2021 SSBMI was notified via email to participate in a site visit during the week of November 8th, 2021. No response was received from SSBMI.

UAIC confirmed receipt of AB 52 notification on August 25, 2021 and requested consultation in an email message on September 14, 2021. On September 21, 2021, SMUD acknowledged receipt of request for consultation, updated UAIC on the status of the cultural studies and provided information for site visit, which was conducted by UAIC on November 8, 2021. Travis Young, UAIC representative conducted the site visit with SMUD personnel and stated that he had no major concerns and would recommend spot monitoring in areas with heavy grading (substation, switch station) to the UAIC Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO).

In addition, UAIC provided language regarding inadvertent/unanticipated discoveries to be included in the mitigation measure for Tribal Cultural Resources. This language is included in Mitigation Measure 3-18-1.

Wilton sent a letter via email on September 23, 2021 requesting consultation. SMUD acknowledged receipt of request at the monthly meeting on September 28, 2021 at which time Wilton requested a site visit. SMUD representatives met with Wilton representative Vanessa Cruz on November 10, 2021. Because of unsafe conditions due to recent rains the visit could not be completed and was rescheduled for some time in the spring. Vanessa had no major concerns and stated that she would recommend to the THPO that UAIC's request for spot monitoring at the location of the substation/switch station areas would be sufficient.

lone did not respond to the AB 52 notification letter.

### **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

In partial fulfillment of Section 106 requirements, the USACE will conduct government to government consultation with Native American Tribes.

### **Interested Party Outreach**

No additional interested parties were identified for further outreach.

### **Regulatory Context**

#### **National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Criteria**

Section 106 requires that effects on historic properties be taken into consideration in any federal undertaking. The process contains five steps: (1) initiating the Section 106 process; (2) identifying historic properties; (3) assessing adverse effects; (4) resolving adverse effects; and (5) implementing stipulations in an agreement document.

Section 106 affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as well as other consulting parties, a reasonable opportunity to comment on any undertaking that would adversely affect historic properties listed in or eligible for NRHP listing. SHPOs administer the national historic preservation program at the state level, review NRHP nominations, maintain data on historic properties that have been identified but not yet nominated, and consult with federal agencies during Section 106 review.

The NRHP uses the following eligibility criteria (36 CFR Section 60.4) to evaluate significance of properties that:

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. are associated with the lives of persons significant to our past; or

- C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master; or that possess high artistic values; or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Section 101(d)(6)(A) of the NHPA allows properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a Native American tribe to be determined eligible for NRHP inclusion. In addition, a broader range of tribal cultural property (TCP) also is considered and may be determined eligible for or listed in the NRHP. TCPs are places associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history; and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. In the NRHP programs, "culture" is understood to mean the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts, and social institutions of any community, be it an Indian tribe, a local ethnic group, or the nation as a whole.

### **California Environmental Quality Act**

CEQA offers directives regarding impacts on historical resources and unique archaeological resources. Generally, CEQA states that if implementation of a project would result in significant environmental impacts, then public agencies should determine whether such impacts can be substantially lessened or avoided through feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives. This general mandate applies equally to significant environmental effects related to certain cultural resources.

Only significant cultural resources (e.g., "historical resources" and "unique archaeological resources") need to be addressed. The State CEQA Guidelines define a "historical resource" as "a resource listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, Subdivision [a][1]; see also Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 5024.1, 21084.1). A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, as determined by the State Historical Resources Commission or the lead agency, if the resource:

1. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage; or
2. is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; or
3. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition, a resource is presumed to constitute a "historical resource" if it is included in a "local register of historical resources" unless "the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, Subdivision [a][2]). The State CEQA Guidelines require consideration of unique archaeological sites (Section 15064.5; see also PRC Section 21083.2). A "unique archaeological resource" is defined as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, a high probability exists that it meets any of the following criteria (PRC 21083.2):

1. contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and a demonstrable public interest exists in that information; or
2. has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
3. is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

If a cultural resource does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR but meets the definition of a unique archaeological resource as outlined in Section 21083.2 of the PRC, it is entitled to special protection or attention under CEQA. Treatment options under Section 21083.2 of CEQA include activities that preserve such resources in place, in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation under Section 21083.2 include excavation and curation or study in place without excavation and curation

(if the study finds that the artifacts would not meet one or more of the criteria for defining a “unique archaeological resource”).

The State CEQA Guidelines require that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered, and that the county coroner be called to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the NAHC must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, Section 15064.5(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines directs the lead agency to consult with the appropriate Native Americans, as identified by the NAHC, and directs the lead agency (or project applicant), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the Native Americans for the treatment and disposition of the remains. Sacramento County would be responsible for compliance with CEQA.

### **Assembly Bill 52**

Assembly Bill (AB) 52, passed in 2014, amends sections of CEQA relating to Native Americans. AB 52 established a new category of cultural resources, named TCRs, and states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR may have a significant effect on the environment. Section 21074 was added to the PRC to define TCRs, as follows:

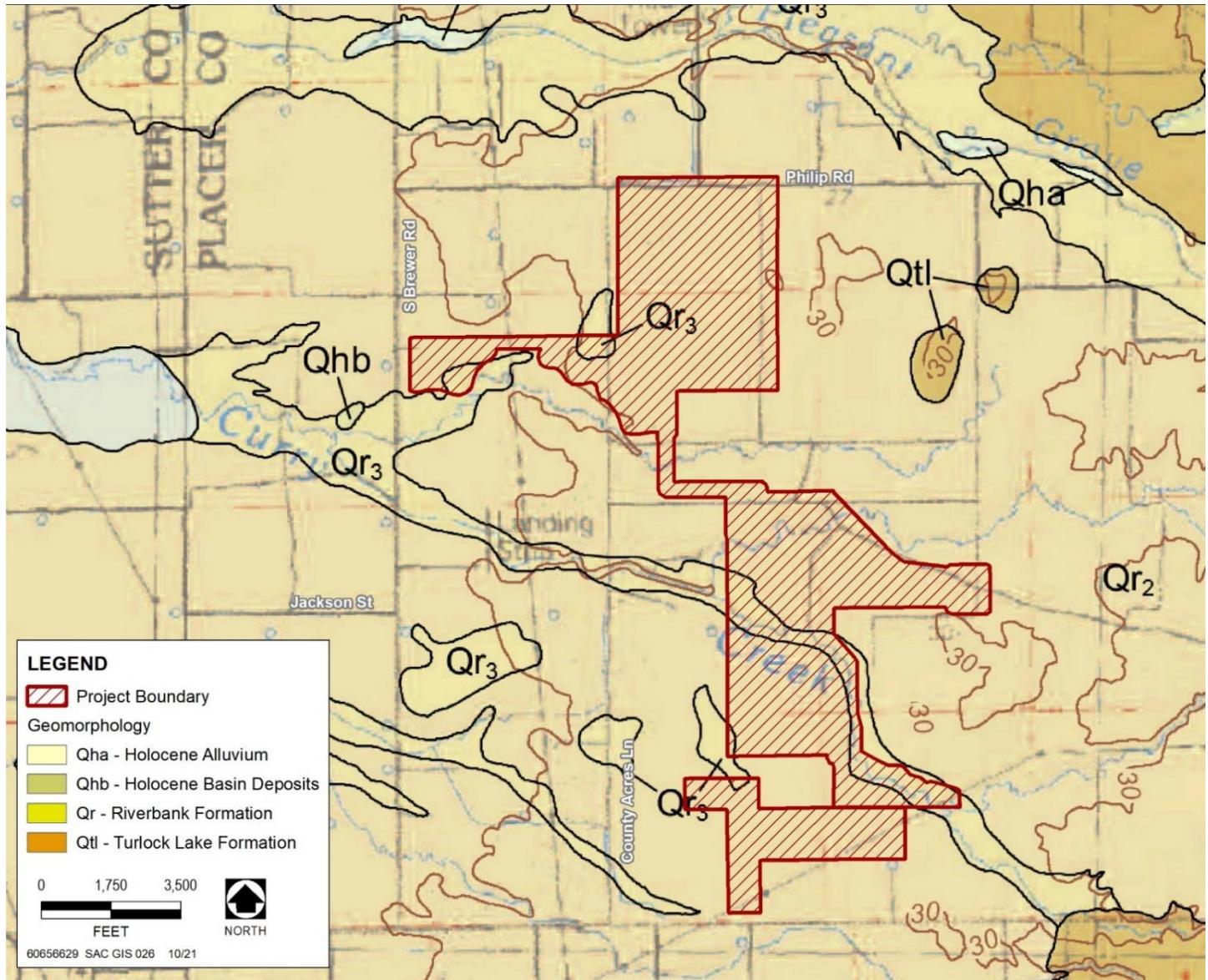
- (a) “TCRs” are either of the following:
- (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
    - (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
    - (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
  - (2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- (b) A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a TCR to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.
- (c) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a “non-unique archaeological resource” as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

Per AB 52, the lead agency must begin consultation with any tribe that traditionally or culturally is affiliated with the geographic area. In addition, AB 52 includes time limits for certain responses regarding consultation, as follows:

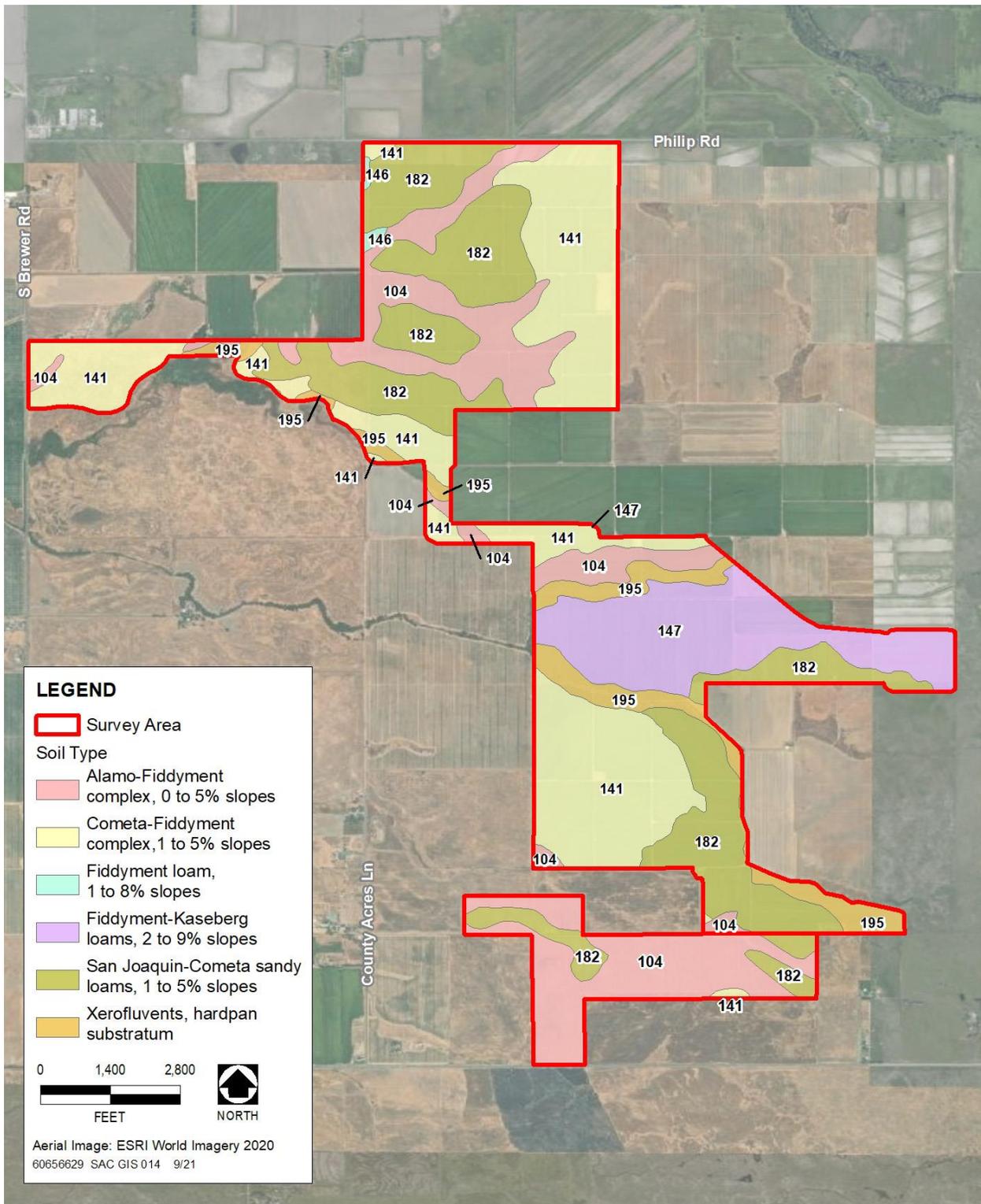
- within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice;
- after provision of the formal notification by the public agency, the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation; and
- the lead agency must begin consultation process within 30 days of receiving a California Native American tribe’s request for consultation.

## Geoarchaeological Sensitivity Analysis

- Geomorphically, the project area is situated on higher elevation portions of the Pleistocene-age Riverbank Formation that is drained by several arms of the incised and seasonal Curry Creek. The younger unit of the Riverbank Formation is mapped along the drainages (Figure 3). Sediments in the Riverbank Formation consist of weathered reddish gravel, sand, and silt that form alluvial terraces and fans. Estimates place the age of the Riverbank Formation between 130,000 and 450,000 years B.P. (Helley and Harwood 1985). Due to the age of these geologic units, there is little to no potential for harboring buried archaeological resources.
- Age designations for the geomorphic mapping in Figure 3 are generally supported by comparison with U.S. Department of Agriculture soils mapping for the area (Soil Survey Staff 2021). Approximately 93% of the project area is mapped as San Joaquin, Cometa, Fiddymont, Kaseberg, and Alamo soil series complexes (Figure 4). All of these soil series have been demonstrated through radiocarbon dating to have been formed during the Pleistocene epoch (Meyer and Rosenthal 2008). These age designations are further supported by the typical soil profiles for these series, which include multiple argillic horizons, sesquioxide accumulations, and duripans/hardpans, all of which are indicative of the long time these sediments have been exposed at the surface and subjected to pedogenic processes.
- The exception to these areas with demonstrably old surface soils are the limited areas along the creek corridors that are mapped as Xerofluvents (Figure 4). In the Sacramento area, Xerofluent soils are typically found along active creek margins and have been radiocarbon dated to be latest Holocene to modern in age (Meyer and Rosenthal 2008). However, within the current project area, these Xerofluent series soils are also designated as containing a hardpan substratum (Soil Survey Staff 2021), which suggests that the underlying sediment is part of the Pleistocene-age Riverbank Formation, with younger organics and perhaps shallow near-surface sediment accumulation occurring as a result of minor overbank deposition from Curry Creek.
- In general, due to the very old age of the surficial alluvial landforms, the majority of the study area should be considered to have very low sensitivity for buried archaeological resources. Pleistocene-age landforms have little potential for harboring buried archaeological resources as they developed prior to human migration into North America (ca. 14,000 B.P.). While prehistoric sites can be found on such landforms they cannot be found in subsurface contexts. Although local areas of fill material such as constructed levees, may obscure archaeological deposits at the surface of these older landforms, these areas are not considered aerially expansive enough to completely obscure such a deposit. Some evidence of surficial archaeological sites located below levees would be expected to be visible outside of the fill prism of the levee. However, Pleistocene surfaces buried below younger Holocene sediments do have a potential for containing archaeological deposits.
- The lack of mapped Holocene-age deposits on the Quaternary geology mapping of the project area suggests that Holocene-age sediments, if present along Curry Creek, are likely very limited and thus not included at the 1:100,000 scale of the geologic map (Figure 3). Given the very small portion of the project area that is mapped as Xerofluent soil series, and the likelihood that Holocene-age sedimentation is very limited in these areas, suggests that any substantial archaeological deposit would likely be at least partially visible at the surface. As such, it does not appear that exploratory subsurface archaeological identification efforts—for example, mechanically excavated test pits or direct-push continuous sampling cores—are warranted at this time. However, if archaeological resources are identified at the surface in proximity to any of the drainages, then additional subsurface investigation may be warranted to determine if a subsurface component is present.



**Figure 3. Geomorphic Mapping**



**Figure 4. Soil Mapping**

## Field Inventory and Findings

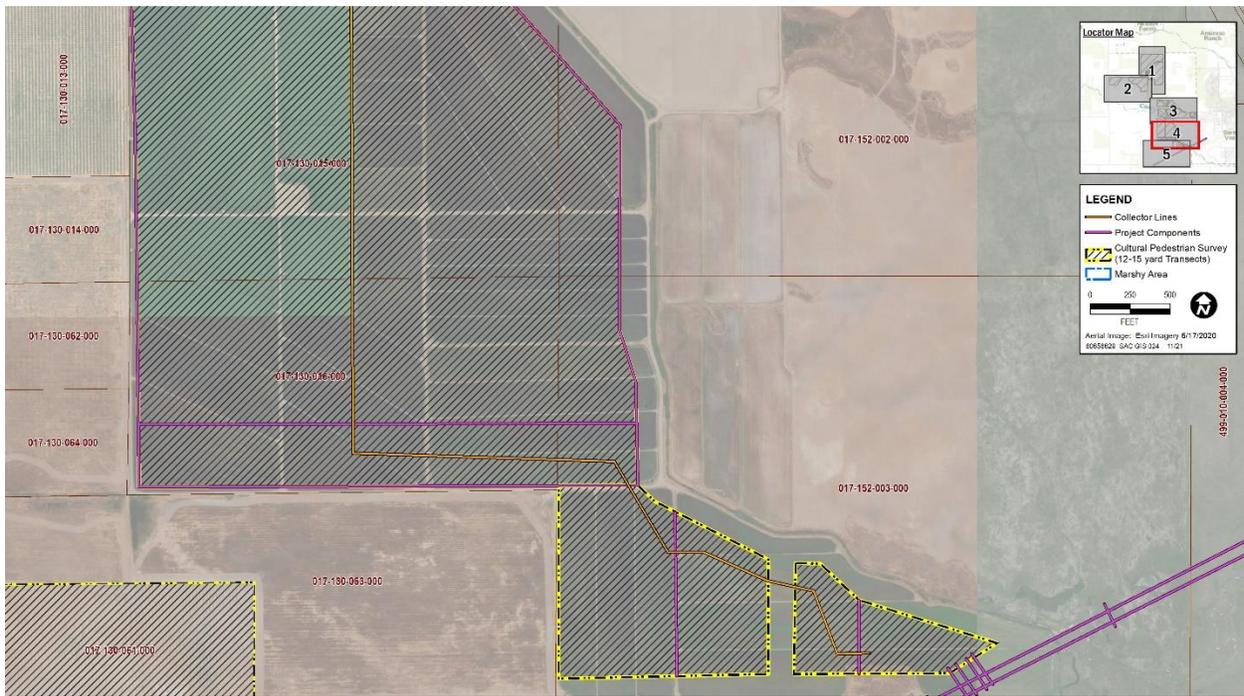
Pedestrian survey utilizing approximately 12- to 15-yard transects was conducted in April, July, and August of 2021. The initial pedestrian survey was conducted in April and March by AECOM Archaeologists Diana Ewing and Michaela Mauriello, and covered disked rice paddies that had been laser leveled in the 1970s and in production for a minimum of 40 years. The initial areas covered are illustrated in Figure 5 through Figure 8 and are the locations of the proposed solar panel installation. Because the area had been disked in preparation for planting, soils were 100% visible in most locations (Figure 9). The area illustrated in Figure 3 was fallow and had weeds and vegetation covering approximately 80% of the soil surface. A marshy area was located in the eastern half of the Figure 5 and covered approximately a quarter of the map where survey was not possible due to ground saturation (Figure 10). Where the soil was dry enough, boot scrapes and trowel scrapes were done randomly to expose soils. No cultural material was observed. The eastern portion of parcel 017-152-002-000 (Figure 7) was subjected to survey, however it was subsequently deleted from the project (APE), which is depicted in Figure 2.

In July, an additional three parcels were added to the survey (Figure 11). These three parcels consisted of young almond orchards. The pedestrian survey of these new parcels also utilized approximately 12- to 15-yard transects. Surface visibility in these three parcels averaged 80% to 90% (Figure 12). Diana Ewing conducted the pedestrian survey of these three parcels in July and August of 2021. No historic or prehistoric cultural material was observed during the pedestrian survey.



Figure 5. Aerial View of Rice Fields (APN 017-090-024-000)





**Figure 8. Aerial View of Rice Fields (APNs 017-130-015-000, 017-130-016-000 and 017-152-003-000)**



**Figure 9. View of Disked Rice Field**





**Figure 12. View of Almond Orchards**

### **Results and Recommendations**

Background research, Native American and interested parties outreach, literature review, and field survey identified no cultural resources in the study area. Therefore, a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” is recommended for the project.

### **Unanticipated Finds**

Based on the results of the archival research and field survey, there is low to moderate potential that archaeological resources will be encountered during ground-disturbing activities for the proposed project.

During ground-disturbing activities necessary to implement the proposed project, if any prehistoric or historic subsurface archaeological resources are discovered, all work within 100 feet of the resources shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted within 24 hours to assess the significance of the find, according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, and implement, as applicable, CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5(d), (e), and (f).

If any find is determined to be a historic property per the NRHP or historical resource according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, representatives from SMUD and the qualified archaeologist will meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Cultural resources shall be recorded on appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation forms, and all significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary and at the discretion of the qualified archaeologist and in consultation with the local Native American community if the discovery is prehistoric in age, subject to scientific analysis, professional curation, and documentation according to professional standards. If it is determined that the proposed development or infrastructure project could damage a historical resource or a unique archaeological resource (as defined pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines), mitigation shall be implemented in accordance with Section 21083.2 of the California Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, with a preference for preservation in place. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being

carried out. Preservation in place may be accomplished by planning construction to avoid the resource; incorporating the resource within open space; capping and covering the resource; or deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement.

If avoidance is not feasible, the qualified archaeologist shall develop and oversee the execution of a treatment plan. The treatment plan shall include, but shall not be limited to, data recovery procedures based on location and type of archaeological resources discovered and a preparation and submittal of report of findings to the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System. Data recovery shall be designed to recover the significant information the archaeological resource is expected to contain, based on the scientific/historical research questions that are applicable to the resource, what data classes the resource is expected to possess, and how the expected data classes would address the applicable resource questions. Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by project proponents' actions. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical.

Although a low potential would exist, the possibility of encountering human remains cannot be discounted. Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial. If human remains are encountered, project work would stop in the vicinity of the remains and, as required by law, the Placer County Coroner would be notified immediately. An archaeologist also would be contacted to evaluate the find. If the human remains were determined of Native American origin, the coroner would need to notify the NAHC within 24 hours of that determination. Pursuant to PRC 5097.98, the NAHC, in turn, would immediately contact a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD would have 48 hours to inspect the site and recommend treatment of the remains. The landowner would be obligated to work with the MLD in good faith, to find a respectful resolution to the situation and entertain all reasonable options regarding the descendants' preferences for treatment.

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# Appendix A Records Search Results Summary Letter

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4/6/2021

NCIC File No.: PLA-21-27

Diana Ewing  
AECOM  
2020 L Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: SMUD County Acres Solar/60656629 Task ODC

The North Central Information Center received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Pleasant Grove USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a 1/4-mi radius.

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format:  custom GIS maps  shapefiles

Recorded resources within project area:	P-31-3280 P-31-6131
Recorded resources outside project area, within radius:	P-31-1255 P-31-3310 P-31-3504 P-31-3739 P-31-6193
Known reports within project area:	355 396 2807 6571 6698 7130 7607 7726 8967 9138 9188 9568 10319 12443 12459 12653 12654
Known reports outside project area, within radius:	2484 7625 10297 11048 11357 11447

**Resource Database Printout (list):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Resource Database Printout (details):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Resource Digital Database Records:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Report Database Printout (list):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Report Database Printout (details):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Report Digital Database Records:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Resource Record Copies:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Report Copies:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed/NA

**Built Environment Resources Directory:**       enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:**    enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):**       enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Caltrans Bridge Survey:**                               enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Ethnographic Information:**                             enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Historical Literature:**                                   enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Historical Maps:**                                         enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Local Inventories:**                                      enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:**                     enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Shipwreck Inventory:**                                 enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

**Soil Survey Maps:**                                      enclosed    not requested    nothing listed/NA

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, it is possible that not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Sincerely,

Paul Rendes, Coordinator  
North Central Information Center

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# **Appendix B Previous Investigations and Documented Resources (Confidential)**

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# **Appendix C Native American Heritage Commission Consultation**

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**Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request**

**Native American Heritage Commission**

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
916-373-3710  
916-373-5471 – Fax  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)

**Type of List Requested**

**CEQA Tribal Consultation List (AB 52)** – *Per Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (b), (d), (e) and 21080.3.2*

**General Plan (SB 18)** - *Per Government Code § 65352.3.*

**Local Action Type:**

\_\_\_ **General Plan**    \_\_\_ **General Plan Element**    \_\_\_ **General Plan Amendment**

\_\_\_ **Specific Plan**    \_\_\_ **Specific Plan Amendment**    \_\_\_ **Pre-planning Outreach Activity**

**Required Information**

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Government/Lead Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Area Subject to Proposed Action**

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/Community:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description:**

**Additional Request**

**Sacred Lands File Search - *Required Information:***

**USGS Quadrangle Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Township:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Range:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Section(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

December 29, 2021

Diana Ewing  
AECOM*Submitted via Electronic Mail*  
*Via Email to: diana.r.ewing@aecom.com*

Re: Native American Consultation, Pursuant to Senate Bill 18 (SB18), Government Codes §65352.3 and §65352.4, as well as Assembly Bill 52 (AB52), Public Resources Codes §21080.1, §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2, SMUD County Acres Solar/60656629 Task ODC, Placer County.

Dear Ms. Ewing:

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties or projects.

Government Codes §65352.3 and §65352.4 require local governments to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to cultural places when creating or amending General Plans, Specific Plans and Community Plans.

Public Resources Codes §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 requires public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects.

The law does not preclude local governments and agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction. The NAHC believes that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

Best practice for the AB52 process and in accordance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1(d), is to do the following:

*Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.*

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that lead agencies include in their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential affect (APE), such as:

CHAIRPERSON  
Laura Miranda  
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON  
Reginald Pagaling  
ChumashPARLIAMENTARIAN  
Russell Attebery  
KarukCOMMISSIONER  
William Mungary  
Paiute/White Mountain  
ApacheCOMMISSIONER  
Isaac Bojorquez  
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER  
Sara Dutschke  
MiwokCOMMISSIONER  
Buffy McQuillen  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER  
Wayne Nelson  
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER  
Stanley Rodriguez  
KumeyaayEXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Christina Snider  
PomoNAHC HEADQUARTERS  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
NAHC.ca.gov

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
  - A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
  - Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
  - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
  - If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
  - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.  
  
All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10.
3. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.
4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event, that they do, having the information beforehand well help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: [Katy.Sanchez@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Katy.Sanchez@nahc.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

*Katy Sanchez*

Katy Sanchez  
Associate Environmental Planner

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contacts List  
December 21, 2021**

Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe  
Clyde Prout, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 4884  
Auburn CA 95604  
miwokmaidu@yahoo.com  
(916) 577-3558

Miwok  
Maidu

Wilton Rancheria  
Jesus G. Tarango Jr., Chairperson  
9728 Kent Street  
Elk Grove CA 95624  
jtarango@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov  
(916)683-6000 Office  
(916) 683-6015 Fax

Miwok

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Regina Cuellar, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1340  
Shingle Springs CA 95682  
rcuellar@ssband.org  
(530)387-4970 Office  
(530) 387-8067 Fax

Miwok  
Maidu

Tsi Akim Maidu  
Don Ryberg, Chairperson  
NO CONTACT INFORMATION

Maidu

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn CA 95603  
bguth@auburnrancheria.com  
(530) 883-2390 Office  
(530) 883-2380 Fax

Maidu  
Miwok

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California  
Serrell Smokey, Chairperson  
919 Highway 395 North  
Gardnerville NV 89410  
Serrell.smokey@washoetribe.us  
(775) 265-8600 Office  
(775) 265-6240 Fax

Washoe

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# Appendix D AB 52 Consultation

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# NAHC Letter

## Response to NAHC Letter

AECOM	NAHC Response
Submitted request to NAHC requesting a list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the project and a Sacred Lands File (SFL) check	NAHC responded in a letter dated 12-29-21. They provided a list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the project and indicated that the result of the Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

# Shingle Springs Letter



August 26, 2021

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Regina Cuellar, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Subject: Notification Under AB52 – SMUD Country Acres Solar Project

Dear Ms. Cuellar,

In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (AB 52) and the Shingle Springs Bank of Miwok Indians' August 24, 2020 letter request for formal notification of and information regarding SMUD-led projects within the Rancheria's geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation, you are hereby notified that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Country Acres Solar Project (Project).

SMUD is proposing to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) solar facility located on leased lands in southwestern Placer County. The project consists of three developmental areas just west of the city of Roseville, totaling around 1,300 acres of vacant grassland and agricultural (rice fields) parcels with scattered seasonal wetlands and drainages. As shown on the attached maps, the project area includes a northern and southern portion of PV panels connected by collection lines, and substation, switch yard, and battery storage facilities located south of the southern portion of PV panels.

SMUD is in the planning phase that includes the preparation of a preliminary site layout and design. The site may accommodate up to a 344 megawatt (MW) solar facility, however, SMUD expects that the site will likely accommodate a smaller MW capacity due to wetland and other constraints on the land. The facility size and design will be influenced by the wetland delineation and biological analysis. In addition to the solar facility, the project will include an interconnection to SMUD's 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical infrastructure, thus requiring interconnection facilities to be built as part of the project. Battery energy storage systems will also be included as part of the project.

SMUD is committed to working with you to identify and minimize or avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (as defined under California Public Resources Code Section 21074) important to the Shingle Springs Bank of Miwok Indians. Your assistance in identifying such potential resources will help SMUD avoid and protect them. We

understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive and SMUD will have appropriate staff and consultants available to work with you during consultation to ensure confidentiality and awareness. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code 6254.10.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (916) 732-5384 or via e-mail at [amy.spitzer@smud.org](mailto:amy.spitzer@smud.org).

Sincerely,

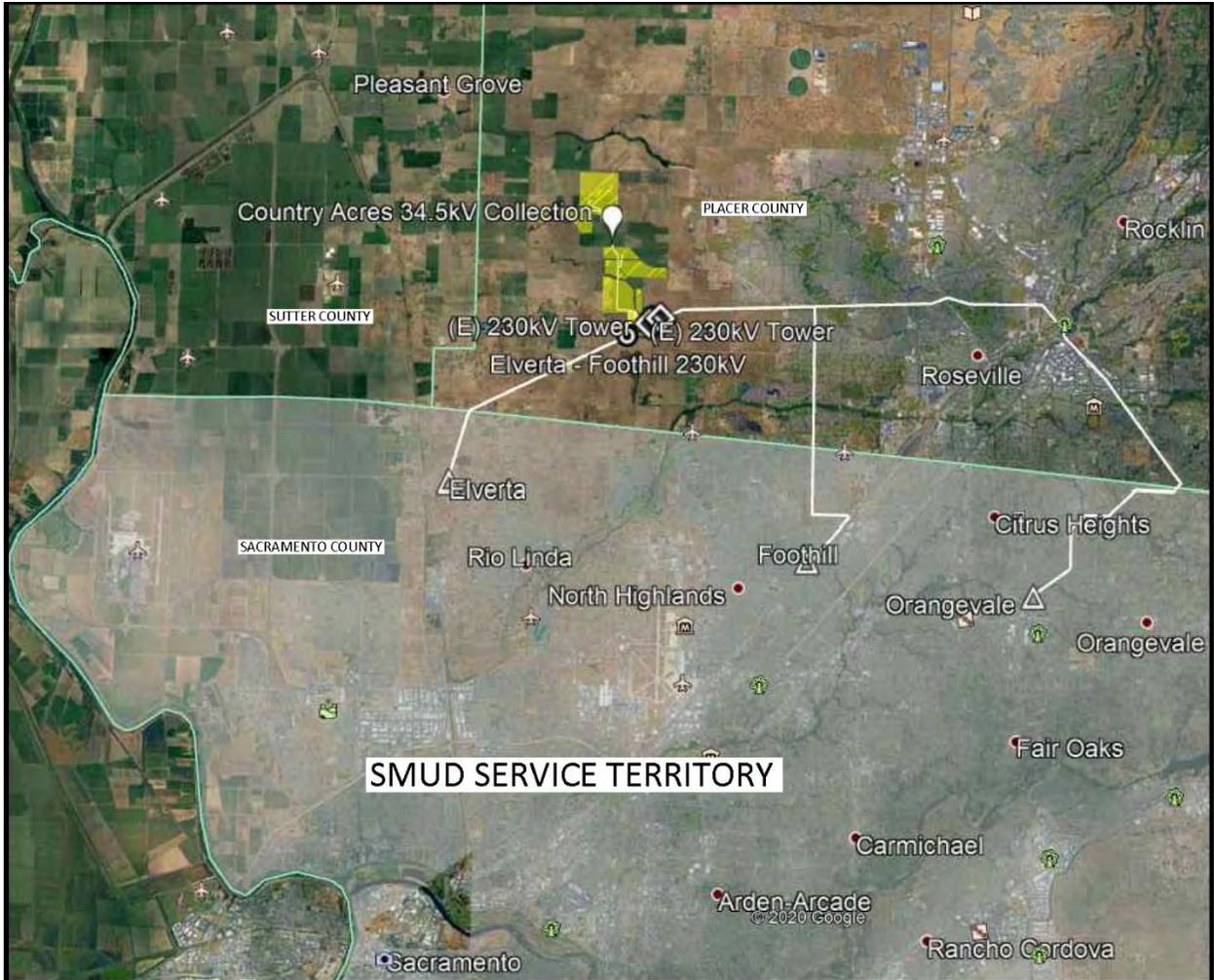


Amy Spitzer  
Environmental Specialist

Attachment

cc: Patrick Durham, SMUD  
Emily Bacchini, SMUD  
Ammon Rice, SMUD  
Joe Schofield, SMUD  
Kara Perry, Shingle Springs  
James Sarmento, Shingle Springs  
Daniel Fonesca, Shingle Springs

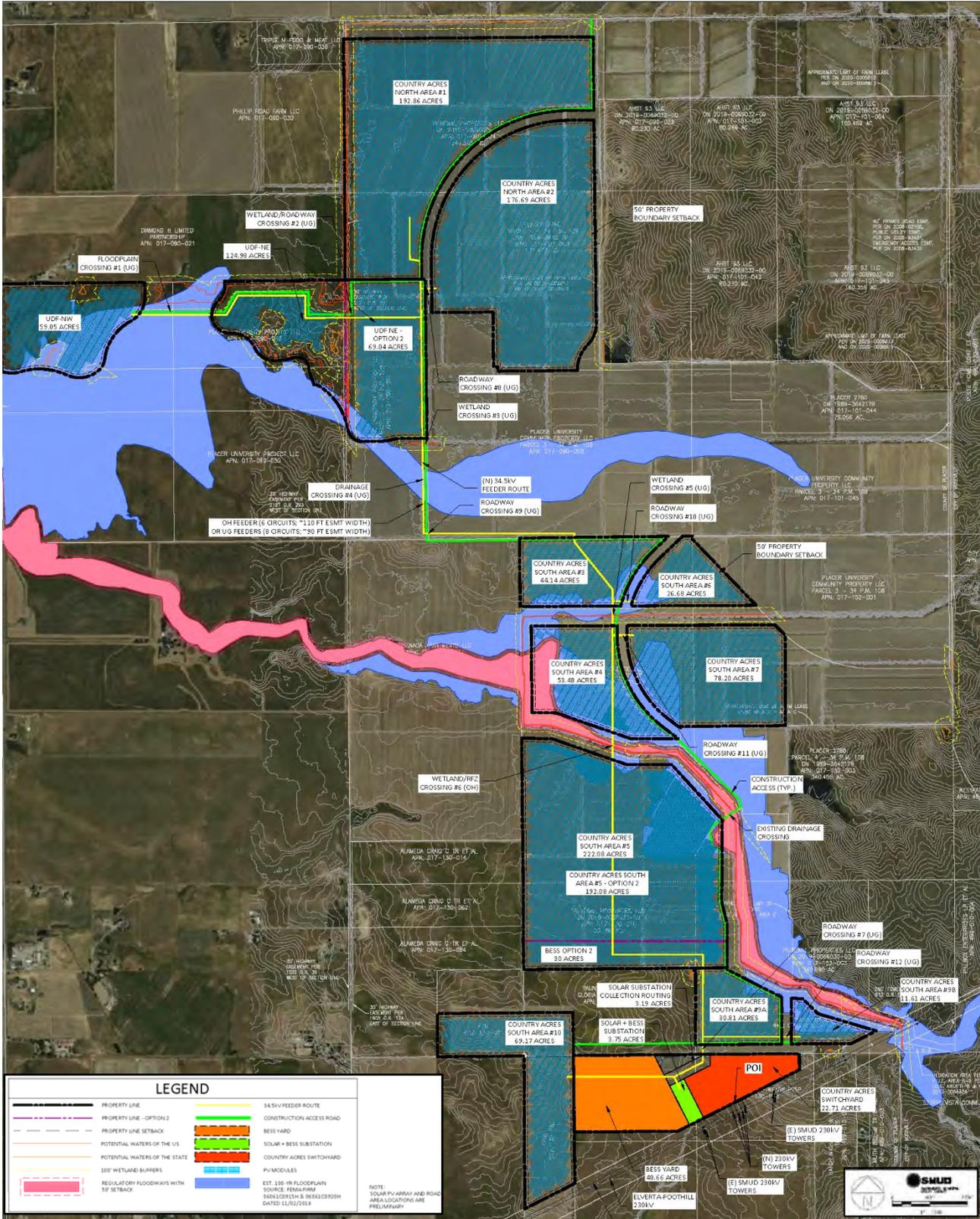
**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT SITE EXHIBIT**



SITE LOCATION: 38°46'11.96"N, 121°24'58.42"W

**VICINITY MAP**

# ATTACHMENT 2 PRELIMINARY SOLAR PV LAYOUT



LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	PROPERTY LINE - OPTION 2
	PROPERTY LINE SETBACK
	POTENTIAL WATERS OF THE US
	POTENTIAL WATERS OF THE STATE
	100' WETLAND BUFFERS
	REGULATORY FLOODWAYS WITH 50' SETBACK
	34.5kV FEEDER ROUTE
	CONSTRUCTION ACCESS ROAD
	BESS YARD
	SOLAR + BESS SUBSTATION
	COUNTRY ACRES SWITCHYARD
	PV MODULES
	EST. 100-YR FLOODPLAIN SOURCE: HEADWATER 0661020154 & 0661020058 DATED 11/02/2018

NOTE: SOLAR PV ARRAY AND ROAD AREA LOCATIONS ARE PRELIMINARY.



## Response to Shingle Springs Letter

SMUD	Shingle Springs Response
8/26/21: AB 52 notificaton letter sent	9/23/21: Sent letter via email requesting consultation
9/23/21: Acknowledged request for consultation. Added item to bimonthly meeting on 9/27/21.	9/27/21: Requested a KMZ of the project location/layout at regular AB52 meeting.
9/27/21: Sent project location KMZ to Kara Perry	
10/13/21: Sent an email to Kara Perry inviting representatives from Shingle Springs to participate in the site visit. Requested availability during the week of November 8th.	No response.

# Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians



## Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

Shingle Springs Rancheria (Verona Tract), California

5281 Honpie Road • Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 698-1400 • shinglespringsrancheria.com

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

September 22, 2021

SMUD

Amy Spitzer

6201 S Street, P.O. Box 15830

Sacramento, CA 95852-0830

Dear Amy Spitzer,

The Most Likely Descendant, Daniel Fonseca would like to initiate consultation process with you in regard to the SMUD Country Acres Solar Project in Placer County. Among other things, we would like this consultation to address the cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Assembly Bill 52.

Prior to meeting we would like to request any and all completed record searches and/or surveys that were done in/around the project area up to and including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports.

Please let this letter serve as a formal request for the Shingle Springs Band Of Miwok Indians to be added as a consulting party in identifying any Tribal Cultural Properties (TCPs) that may exist within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).

Please contact Kara Perry, Site Protection Manager, (530) 488-4049, [kperry@ssband.org](mailto:kperry@ssband.org), to schedule a consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and AB 52.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fonseca

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

Most Likely Descendant (MLD)

# UAIC Letter



August 26, 2021

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Notification Under AB52 – SMUD Country Acres Solar Project

Dear Mr. Whitehouse,

In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (AB 52) and the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria's November 23, 2015 letter request for formal notification of and information regarding SMUD-led projects within the UAIC's geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation, you are hereby notified that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Country Acres Solar Project (Project).

SMUD is proposing to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) solar facility located on leased lands in southwestern Placer County. The project consists of three developmental areas just west of the city of Roseville, totaling around 1,300 acres of vacant grassland and agricultural (rice fields) parcels with scattered seasonal wetlands and drainages. As shown on the attached maps, the project area includes a northern and southern portion of PV panels connected by collection lines, and substation, switch yard, and battery storage facilities located south of the southern portion of PV panels.

SMUD is in the planning phase that includes the preparation of a preliminary site layout and design. The site may accommodate up to a 344 megawatt (MW) solar facility, however, SMUD expects that the site will likely accommodate a smaller MW capacity due to wetland and other constraints on the land. The facility size and design will be influenced by the wetland delineation and biological analysis. In addition to the solar facility, the project will include an interconnection to SMUD's 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical infrastructure, thus requiring interconnection facilities to be built as part of the project. Battery energy storage systems will also be included as part of the project.

SMUD is committed to working with you to identify and minimize or avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (as defined under California Public Resources Code Section 21074) important to the UAIC. Your assistance in identifying such potential resources

will help SMUD avoid and protect them. We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive and SMUD will have appropriate staff and consultants available to work with you during consultation to ensure confidentiality and awareness. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code 6254.10.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (916) 732-5384 or via e-mail at [amy.spitzer@smud.org](mailto:amy.spitzer@smud.org).

Sincerely,

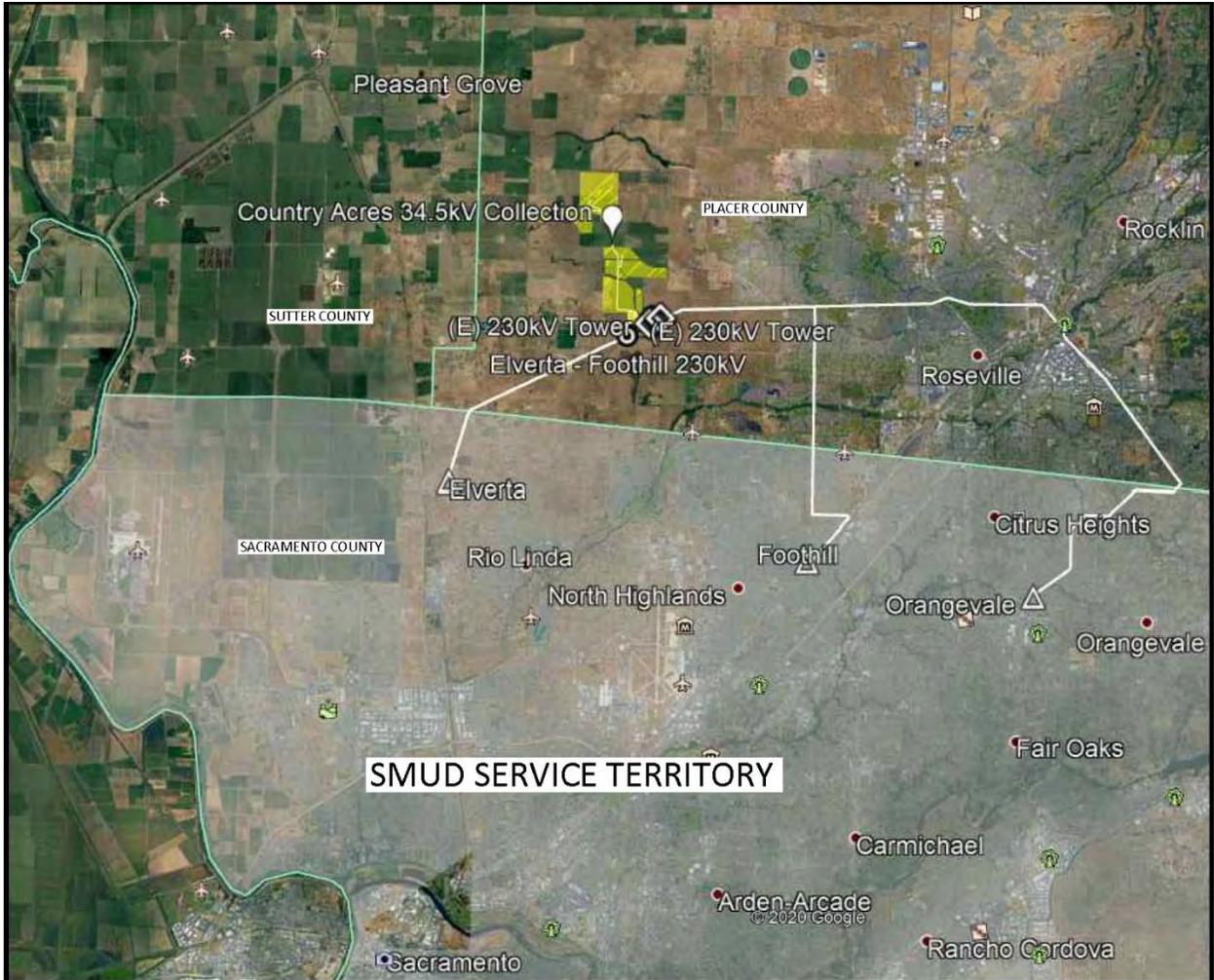


Amy Spitzer  
Environmental Specialist

Attachment

cc: Patrick Durham, SMUD  
Emily Bacchini, SMUD  
Ammon Rice, SMUD  
Joe Schofield, SMUD  
Anna Starkey, UAIC

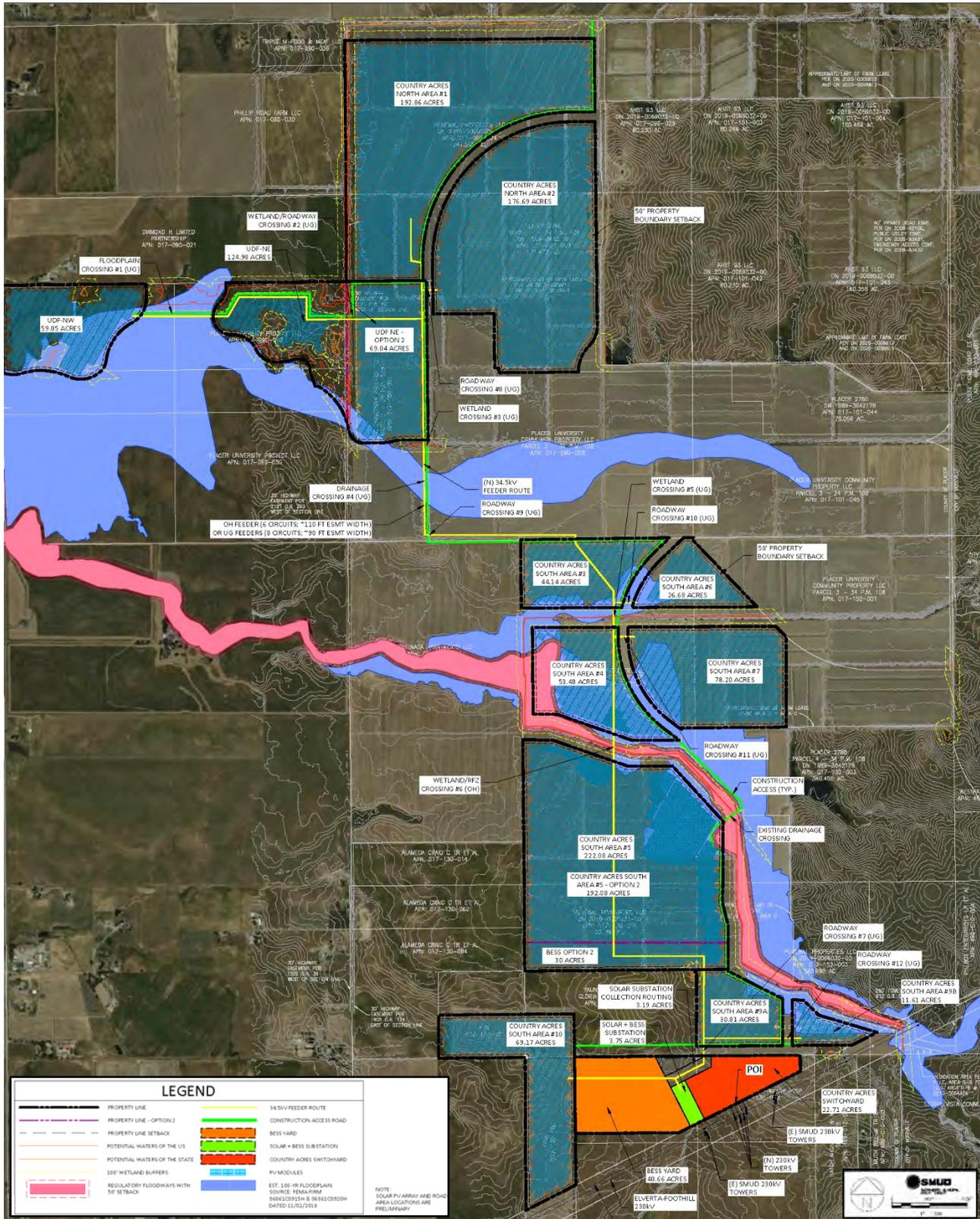
**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT SITE EXHIBIT**



SITE LOCATION: 38°46'11.96"N, 121°24'58.42"W

**VICINITY MAP**

# ATTACHMENT 2 PRELIMINARY SOLAR PV LAYOUT



**LEGEND**

	PROPERTY LINE		34.5KV FEEDER ROUTE
	PROPERTY LINE - OPTION 2		CONSTRUCTION ACCESS ROAD
	PROPERTY LINE SETBACK		BESS YARD
	POTENTIAL WATERS OF THE US		SOLAR + BESS SUBSTATION
	POTENTIAL WATERS OF THE STATE		COUNTRY ACRES SWITCHYARD
	100' WETLAND BUFFERS		PV MODULES
	REGULATORY FLOODWAYS WITH 10' SETBACK		EST. 100-YR FLOODPLAIN SOURCE: FEMA FIRM 89AC0212A & 89AC0203H DATED 11/02/2018

**NOTE:** SOLAR PV ARRAY AND ROAD AREA LOCATIONS ARE PRELIMINARY



**From:** [Anna Starkey](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Spitzer](#)  
**Cc:** [Anna Cheng](#); [Travis Young](#); [Joshua Stewart](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AB52: SMUD Country Acres Solar Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:41:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of SMUD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Spitzer,

On behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community, Tribal Historic Preservation Department, thank you for the notification and opportunity to consult on the SMUD Country Acres Solar Project. UAIC would like to consult on this project.

Has a cultural resources survey been completed for this project? If so, may we please review the results. UAIC would like to conduct a survey for the identification of tribal cultural resources in the project area and are happy to accompany the archaeologists if a survey has yet to occur. Please coordinate with Travis or Joshua (cc'd) for the survey.

Kind regards,  
Anna Starkey

*The United Auburn Indian Community is now accepting electronic consultation request, project notifications, and requests for information! Please fill out and submit through our website. Do not mail hard copy letters or documents. <https://auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation> **Bookmark this link!***



**Anna M. Starkey, M.A., RPA**  
Cultural Regulatory Specialist  
Tribal Historic Preservation Department | UAIC  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603  
Direct line: (916) 251-1565 | Cell: (530) 863-6503  
[astarkey@auburnrancheria.com](mailto:astarkey@auburnrancheria.com) | [www.auburnrancheria.com](http://www.auburnrancheria.com)

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Nothing in this e-mail is intended to constitute an electronic signature for purposes of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act), 15, U.S.C. §§ 7001 to 7006 or the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of any state or the federal government unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this e-mail.

## UAIC Letter

SMUD	UAIC Response
8/25/21: AB52 notificaton letters sent	8/25/21: Confirmation of AB52 notification received
	9/14/2021: UAIC rep Anna Starkey sent email requesting consultation
9/21/21: Acknowledged request for consultation. Updated UAIC on status of the cultural studies and site visit. Anticipate Oct/Nov timeframe for site visit.	9/22/21: Sent out a general timeline of availability for site visit.
10/13/21-10/21/21: Back and forth communication with UAIC and Wilton Rancheria about schedule for site visit. Settled on two separate dates due to tribal representative availability.	
10/22/21: Scheduled site visit for 11/8/21.	
11/8/21: Met onsite with tribal representative Travis Young.	11/8/21: No major concerns after site visit. Travis will recommend only spot monitoring in areas with heavy grading (substation, switch station) to THPO.

# Wilton Letter



August 26, 2021

Wilton Rancheria  
Raymond Hitchcock, Chairperson  
9415 Rancheria Drive  
Wilton, CA 95693

Subject: Notification Under AB52 – SMUD Country Acres Solar Project

Dear Mr. Hitchcock,

In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (AB 52) and the Wilton Rancheria's December 20, 2016 letter request for formal notification of and information regarding SMUD-led projects within the Rancheria's geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation, you are hereby notified that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Country Acres Solar Project (Project).

SMUD is proposing to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) solar facility located on leased lands in southwestern Placer County. The project consists of three developmental areas just west of the city of Roseville, totaling around 1,300 acres of vacant grassland and agricultural (rice fields) parcels with scattered seasonal wetlands and drainages. As shown on the attached maps, the project area includes a northern and southern portion of PV panels connected by collection lines, and substation, switch yard, and battery storage facilities located south of the southern portion of PV panels.

SMUD is in the planning phase that includes the preparation of a preliminary site layout and design. The site may accommodate up to a 344 megawatt (MW) solar facility, however, SMUD expects that the site will likely accommodate a smaller MW capacity due to wetland and other constraints on the land. The facility size and design will be influenced by the wetland delineation and biological analysis. In addition to the solar facility, the project will include an interconnection to SMUD's 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical infrastructure, thus requiring interconnection facilities to be built as part of the project. Battery energy storage systems will also be included as part of the project.

SMUD is committed to working with you to identify and minimize or avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (as defined under California Public Resources Code Section 21074) important to the Wilton Rancheria. Your assistance in identifying such potential resources will help SMUD avoid and protect them. We understand that the

locations of these resources are sensitive and SMUD will have appropriate staff and consultants available to work with you during consultation to ensure confidentiality and awareness. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code 6254.10.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (916) 732-5384 or via e-mail at [amy.spitzer@smud.org](mailto:amy.spitzer@smud.org).

Sincerely,

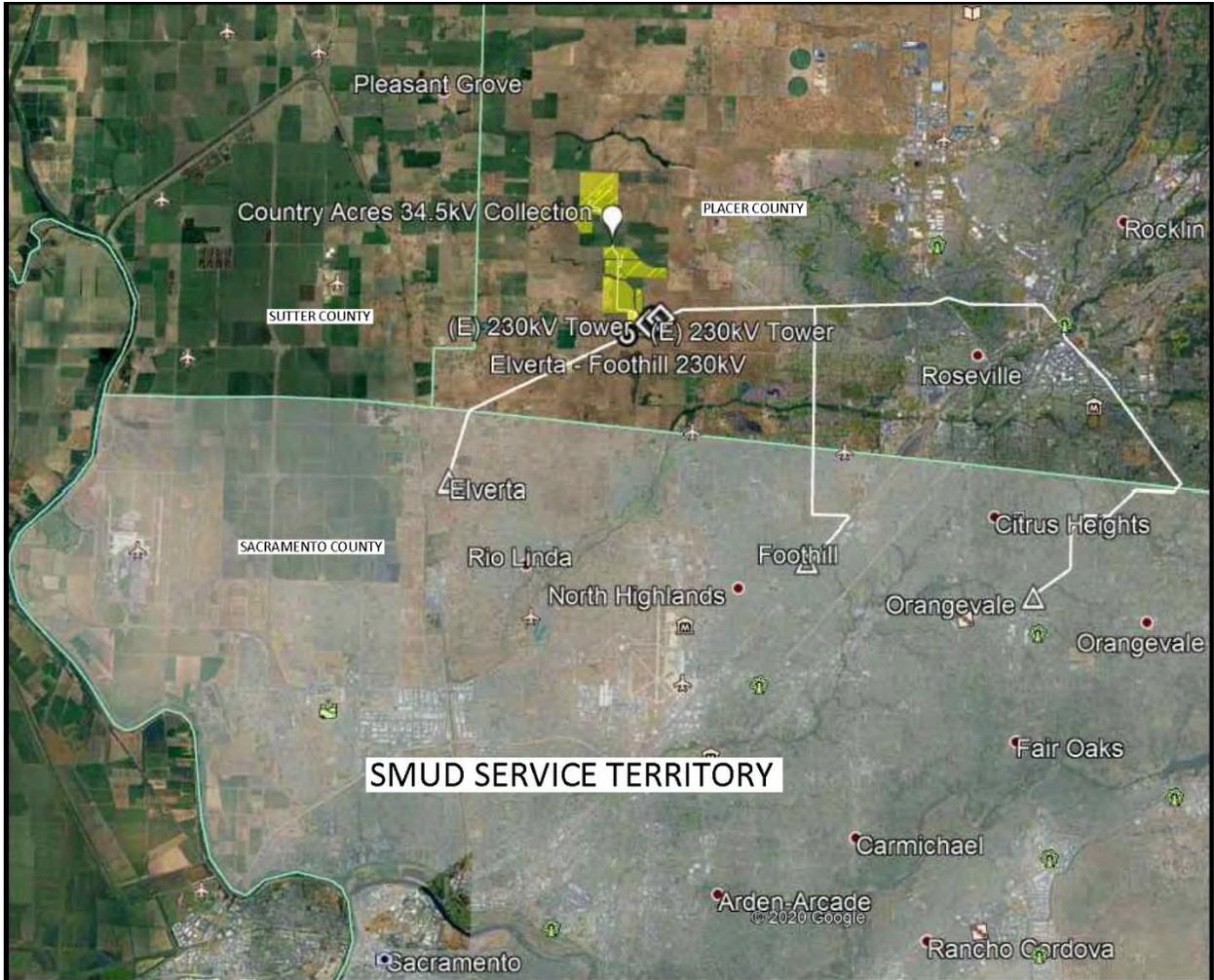


Amy Spitzer  
Environmental Specialist

Attachment

cc: Patrick Durham, SMUD  
Emily Bacchini, SMUD  
Ammon Rice, SMUD  
Joe Schofield, SMUD  
Mariah Mayberry, Wilton Rancheria  
Herbert "Lou" Griffin, Wilton Rancheria

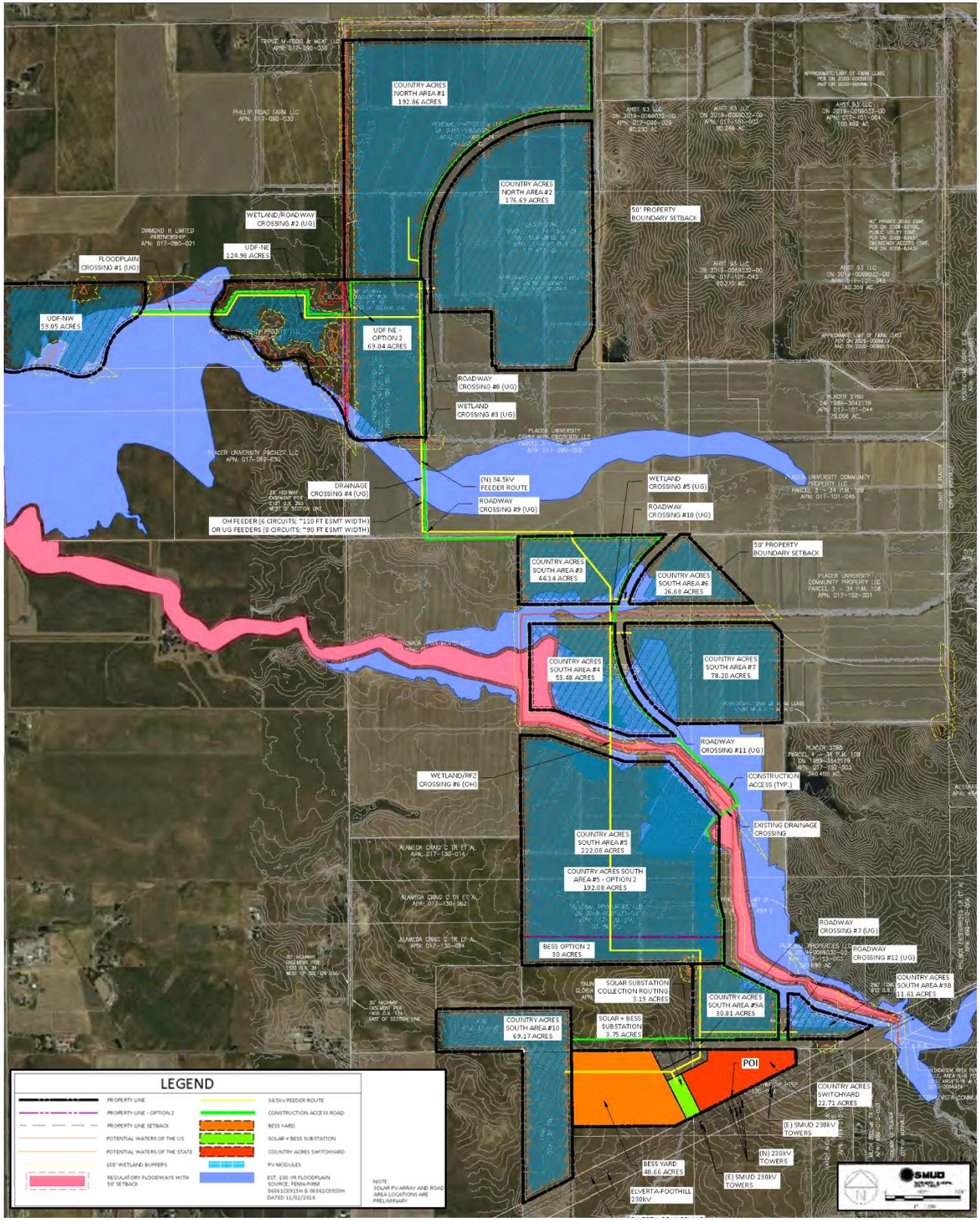
**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT SITE EXHIBIT**



SITE LOCATION: 38°46'11.96"N, 121°24'58.42"W

**VICINITY MAP**

# ATTACHMENT 2 PRELIMINARY SOLAR PV LAYOUT





September 23, 2021

SMUD  
6201 S Street, Mail Stop, B209  
P.O. Box 15830  
Sacramento, CA 95852

RE: Country Acres Solar Project

Dear Amy Spitzer,

This letter constitutes a formal request for tribal consultation under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 subdivisions (b), (d) and (e)) for the mitigation of potential project impacts to tribal cultural resource for the above referenced project. Wilton Rancheria (Tribe) requested formal notice and information for all projects within your agency's geographical jurisdiction on July 1, 2015 and received notification on August 26, 2021 regarding the above referenced project.

The Tribe requests consultation on the following topics checked below, which shall be included in consultation if requested (Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2, subd. (a):

- Alternatives to the project
- Define the Applicant (Lead Agency)
- Project funding
- Recommended mitigation measures
- Significant effects of the project
- Native American Inspector present during ground disturbance

The Tribe also requests consultation on the following discretionary topics checked below (Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2, subd. (a):

- Type of environmental review necessary
- Significance of tribal cultural resources, including any regulations, policies or standards used by your agency to determine significance of tribal cultural resources.
- Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources
- Project alternatives and/or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that we may recommend, including, but not limited to:

(1) Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3, including, but not limited to, planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context, or planning greenspace, parks or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.

(2) Treating the resources with culturally appropriate dignity considering the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resources, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
- b. Protection the traditional use of the resource; and
- c. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.

(3) Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.

(4) Protecting the resource.

Additionally, the Tribe would like to receive any cultural resources assessments or other assessments that have been completed on all or part of the project's area of potential effect (APE), and area surrounding the APE including, but not limited to:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
  - A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE;
  - Copies of all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are in the APE or surrounding the APE.
  - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the potential APE or surrounding the APE; and
  - If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
    - ✦ The Tribe requests to be present at any survey conducted on the Applicants behalf.
2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
  - Any reports that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.
  - Any reports or inventories found under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.
    - ✦ All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10. All Wilton Rancheria correspondences shall be kept under this confidential section and only shared between the Tribe and lead agency.
3. The results of any Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through Native American Heritage Commission. The request form can be found at [http://www.nahc.ca.gov/slf\\_request.html](http://www.nahc.ca.gov/slf_request.html). USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle name, township, range, and section required for the search.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE or areas surrounding the APE; and
5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE or areas surrounding the APE.
  - The Tribe shall be notified before any geotechnical testing is planned. Geotechnical testing has potential to impact Tribal Cultural Resources and should be part of this consultation.
6. Aerial Map of the APE that depicts infrastructure, utility and/or trenching routes, enter and exit routes for equipment, staging areas, and any other proposed ground disturbance.
7. A diagram of known soil types with depths of each type i.e., borrowed soils, fill, or Native soils.

The information gathered will provide us with a better understanding of the project and will allow the Tribe to compare your records with our database.

We would like to remind your agency that CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4, subdivision (b)(3) states that preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological sites. Section 15126.4, subd. (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines has been interpreted by the California Court of Appeal to mean that “feasible preservation in place must be adopted to mitigate impacts to historical resources of an archaeological nature unless the lead agency determines that another form of mitigation is available and provides superior mitigation of impacts.” *Madera Oversight Coalition v. County of Madera* (2011) 199 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 48, disapproved on other grounds, *Neighbors for Smart Rail v. Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority* (2013) 57 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 439.

Please contact the Cultural Preservation Department, via email at [cpd@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov](mailto:cpd@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov) to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

Wilton Rancheria

## Response to Wilton Letter

SMUD	Wilton Response
8/26/21: AB 52 notificaton letter sent	9/23/21: Sent letter via email requesting consultation
9/28/21: At monthly meeting, acknowledged receipt of request for consultation.	9/28/21: Requested site visit at monthly meeting.
10/13/21-10/21/21: Back and forth communication with UAIC and Wilton Rancheria about schedule for site visit. Settled on two separate dates due to tribal representative availability.	
10/22/21: Scheduled site visit for 11/10/21	
11/10/21: Met onsite with tribal representative Vanessa Cruz. Had to cut the site visit short due to unsafe/muddy conditions. Offered to reschedule for later in the spring.	11/10/21: No major concerns about impacts to TCRs. Vanessa stated that she would recommend to the THPO that UAIC's request for spot monitoring in substation/switch station areas is sufficient.

# Ione Letter



August 26, 2021

Ione Band of Miwok Indians  
Sara Dutschke Setshwaelo, Chairperson  
9252 Bush Street  
Plymouth, CA 95669

Subject: Notification Under AB52 – SMUD Country Acres Solar Project

Dear Ms. Setshwaelo,

In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (AB 52) and the Ione Band of Miwok Indians' (IBMI) December 11, 2019 letter request for formal notification of and information regarding SMUD-led projects within the IBMI's geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation, you are hereby notified that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Country Acres Solar Project (Project).

SMUD is proposing to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) solar facility located on leased lands in southwestern Placer County. The project consists of three developmental areas just west of the city of Roseville, totaling around 1,300 acres of vacant grassland and agricultural (rice fields) parcels with scattered seasonal wetlands and drainages. As shown on the attached maps, the project area includes a northern and southern portion of PV panels connected by collection lines, and substation, switch yard, and battery storage facilities located south of the southern portion of PV panels.

SMUD is in the planning phase that includes the preparation of a preliminary site layout and design. The site may accommodate up to a 344 megawatt (MW) solar facility, however, SMUD expects that the site will likely accommodate a smaller MW capacity due to wetland and other constraints on the land. The facility size and design will be influenced by the wetland delineation and biological analysis. In addition to the solar facility, the project will include an interconnection to SMUD's 230 kilovolt (kV) electrical infrastructure, thus requiring interconnection facilities to be built as part of the project. Battery energy storage systems will also be included as part of the project.

SMUD is committed to working with you to identify and minimize or avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (as defined under California Public Resources Code Section 21074) important to the IBMI. Your assistance in identifying such potential resources will help SMUD avoid and protect them. We understand that the locations of these

resources are sensitive and SMUD will have appropriate staff and consultants available to work with you during consultation to ensure confidentiality and awareness. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code 6254.10.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (916) 732-5384 or via e-mail at [amy.spitzer@smud.org](mailto:amy.spitzer@smud.org).

Sincerely,



Amy Spitzer  
Environmental Specialist

Attachment

cc: Patrick Durham, SMUD  
Emily Bacchini, SMUD  
Ammon Rice, SMUD  
Joe Schofield, SMUD  
Jereme Dutschke, IBMI  
Cultural Committee, IBMI

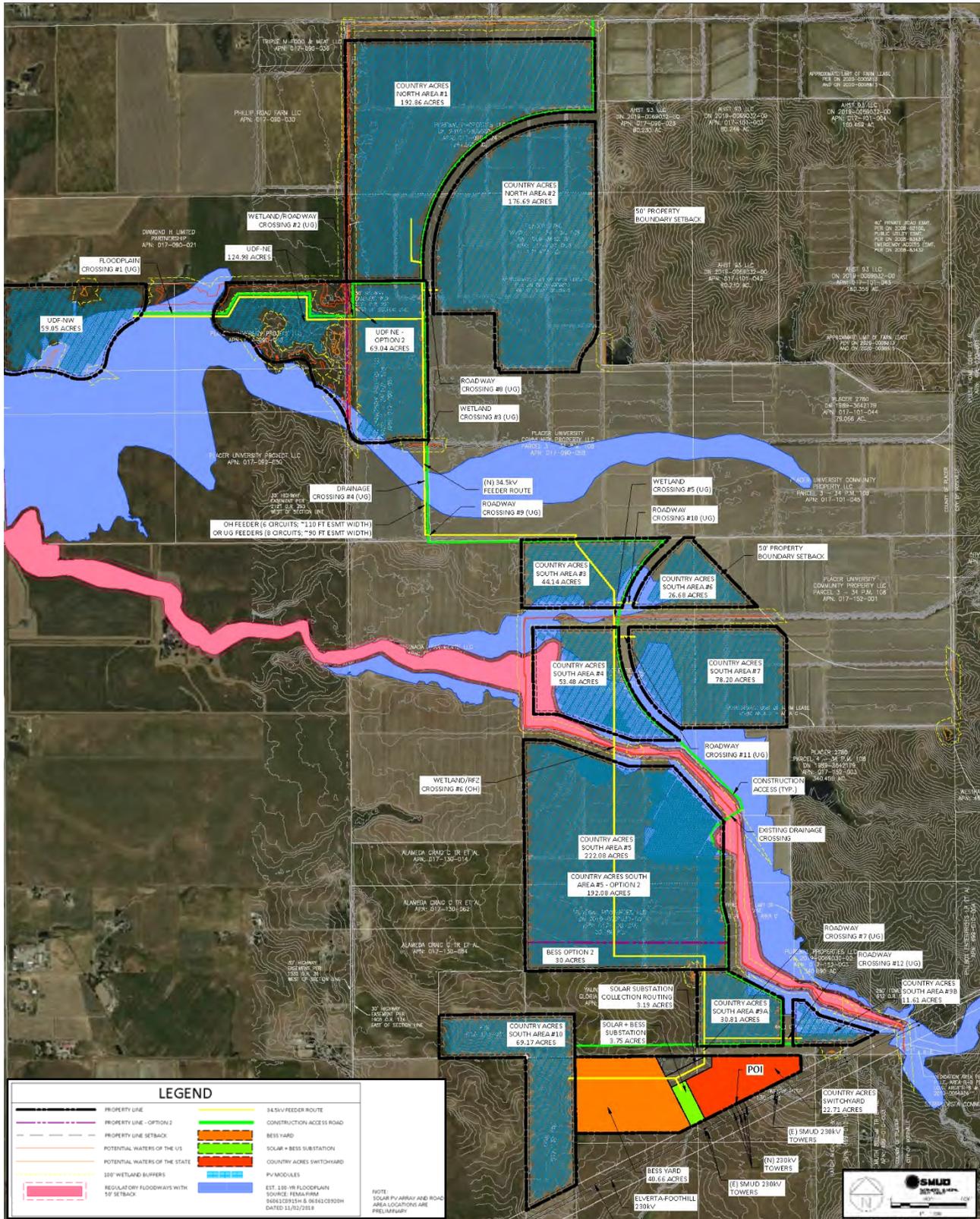
**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT SITE EXHIBIT**



SITE LOCATION: 38°46'11.96"N, 121°24'58.42"W

**VICINITY MAP**

# ATTACHMENT 2 PRELIMINARY SOLAR PV LAYOUT



# Response to Ione Letter

SMUD	Ione Response
8/26/21: AB 52 notificaton letter sent	No response received as of 9/26/21.

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# Appendix E Section 106 Native American Consultation

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Pending Completion by SMUD.