

APPENDIX CR-1
Cultural Resources Identification Report

Oveja Ranch Solar Project

Cultural Resources Identification Report

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

December 2024

Prepared for:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
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Summary of Findings

As part of this Cultural Resources Identification Report, AECOM conducted a records search, reviewed archival documentation, and completed surveys to identify cultural resources within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). A records search conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) identified an isolated metal fence post and two ranch/farm complexes and an isolated white earthenware within 0.25 mile of the project. On January 10, 2024, Diana Ewing, staff archaeologist with AECOM and accompanied by Jonathan Prout, certified Tribal Monitor with United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), conducted an archeological survey of the proposed transmission line. A second cultural resource pedestrian survey was conducted between March 25 and March 28, 2024, by AECOM Archaeologists Karen Gardner, Richard Deis and Zenzi Moore-Dawes accompanied by Jonathan Prout. An additional survey was conducted on June 10 and 11, 2024, by AECOM archaeologists Zenzi Moore-Dawes, and Noah Wallick accompanied by Jonathan Prout.

Based on the records search results, additional background research, and the results of the cultural resources survey, no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) significant archaeological resources were located within the project site.

Preparers

This Cultural Resources Identification Report has been prepared and reviewed by the following principal investigators who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications (SOIPQS) (62 Federal Register 33708-33723):

- Richard Deis, RPA (Register of Professional Archaeologists) provided guidance and input for this study. He has an MA degree in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento, and has 31 years of experience in archaeology. He has served as project manager and field supervisor on numerous archaeological surveys in Northern and Southern California and Nevada, authored or co-authored more than 300 cultural resource inventory reports, completed numerous National Register evaluations, and drafted and implemented several Historic Property Management and Treatment Plans. He meets the SOIPQS for work in archaeology.
- Diana Ewing was principal investigator for archaeology and conducted the field survey of the proposed transmission line. She has a BA degree in Anthropology (Archaeology) from the University of California, Davis, 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.
- Karen Gardner is a RPA with 15 years of precontact and historic archaeological experience in both California and Peru. She specializes in the excavation, analysis, and interpretation of human remains, but also has extensive knowledge of faunal skeletal morphology and zooarchaeological techniques, as well as a full suite of archaeological skills (e.g., background research, survey, excavation, field analysis, laboratory analysis, documentation, monitoring, and report writing). She is an award-winning writer and speaker and has presented more than 25 papers and posters at academic conferences. Ms. Gardner meets the SOIPQS for work in archaeology.
- Zenzi Moore-Dawes is an archaeological technician who has experience conducting historic research and field surveys to support environmental review documents and clearance for proposed projects. She has a working knowledge of Geographic Information System (GIS), total station, single context excavation, process of archaeological field work, foundational

methods of archaeological recovery including survey, mapping, documentation, excavation, artifact identification and artifact interpretation.

- Noah Wallick is proficient with archaeological monitoring, excavation, survey, and laboratory methods with more than 3 years of cumulative experience. He is comfortable in survey over rugged terrain and is capable of providing efficient and accurate excavation. He has field experience with ArcGIS and is currently enrolled in a graduate degree with a focus on geospatial analysis pertaining to maritime archaeology.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AMSL	above mean sea level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
B.P.	Before Present
BESS	battery energy storage system
ca.	circa
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLO	General Land Office
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
kV	kilovolt
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MW	megawatts
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
RPA	Registered Professional Archaeologist
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SOIPQS	Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications
SPA	Special Planning Area
TCR	tribal cultural resource
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

Undertaking Description

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), a local public agency, proposes to build and operate a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility interconnected to SMUD's distribution grid (hereinafter the "project") in unincorporated southeastern Sacramento County. The project area includes three parcels: Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 123-0030-003, APN 123-0040-001 and APN 067-0110-083 are located near the intersection of Grant Line Road and Eagles Nest Road as shown in Figure 1.

The project would construct PV solar panels, BESS, a substation, and new and upgraded distribution lines to interconnect the project to SMUD's existing distribution system. SMUD would lease up to 400 acres of land within the project site for the installation of solar panels, battery storage facilities, and associated infrastructure delivering up to 75 megawatts (MW) of PV energy generation. Together, the collection system and the 400 acres represent the Area of Potential Effects.

The project would include up to 3.5 miles of new offsite 69 kilovolt (kV) lines and up to 4 miles of reconducted existing overhead 69 kV lines. Reconductoring is the process of replacing wires on an existing electric circuit to update them to meet capacity needs; reconductoring often requires the existing poles to be replaced. As shown in Figure 2, there are two options for the new and reconducted distribution lines. The two options to connect the project gen-tie lines to the SMUD 69 kV system include the following components:

- **Option 1:** install 69 kV along Florin Road, Eagles Nest Road, and the property line to the project site. There is existing overhead 12 kV along the majority of the route; plans call for installing a double-circuit 69 kV with a 12 kV underbuild.
- **Option 2:** install new 69 kV along non-public road/property line to the west of the project site. There are no existing facilities along the route. This new line would connect to existing 69 kV lines along Excelsior Road between Florin Road and Gerber Road which would require reconductoring of 69 kV existing single-circuit 69 kV with 12 kV underbuild.

Both options include using the existing 69 kV line along Florin Road between approximately 300 feet east of Arroyo Willow Drive and Excelsior Road, which will require reconductoring existing single-circuit 69 kV with a 12 kV underbuild; the 12 kV will also be reconducted since the pole line will have to be rebuilt.

The purpose of this Cultural Resources Identification Report is to identify and provide an assessment of the effect the project may have in relation to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Historic Properties. "Historic properties" may include precontact or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, sacred sites, and traditional cultural places, that are included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This report meets the March 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento District Guidelines for Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 requirements prior to authorization of a Section 404 permit which documents the results of the background research and field survey. The project also must comply with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CEQA requires public agencies to consider the effects of their actions on "historical resources," which include all cultural resources (archaeological sites and historical buildings, structures and objects, and unique archaeological resources) listed in or formally determined eligible for the National Register, the California Register, or listed in a local (county or municipal) register of historical resources. Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21084.1, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." Section 21083.2 of CEQA also requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources. CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether projects will affect a Tribal Cultural Resource.

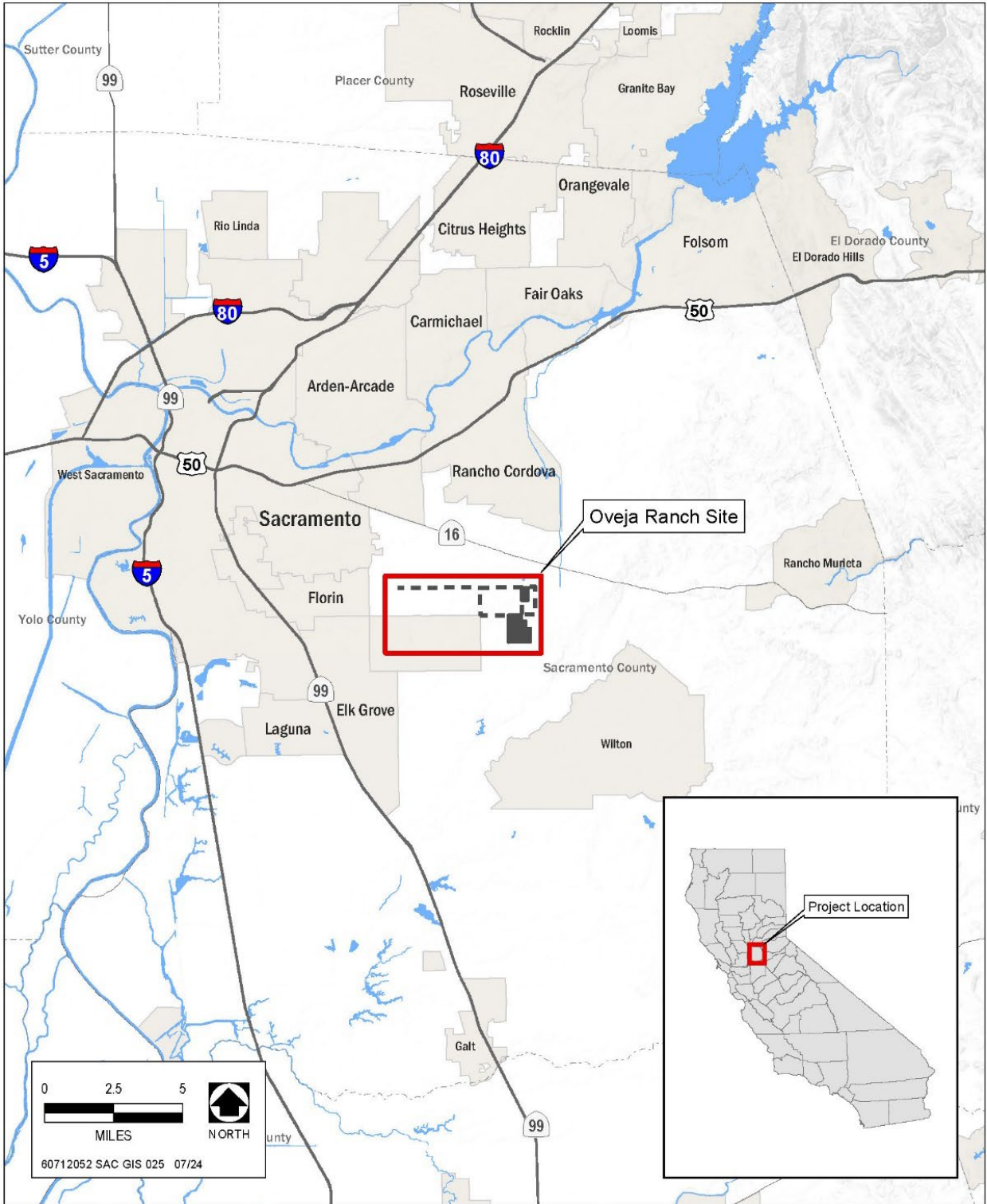


Figure 1 Project Vicinity Map

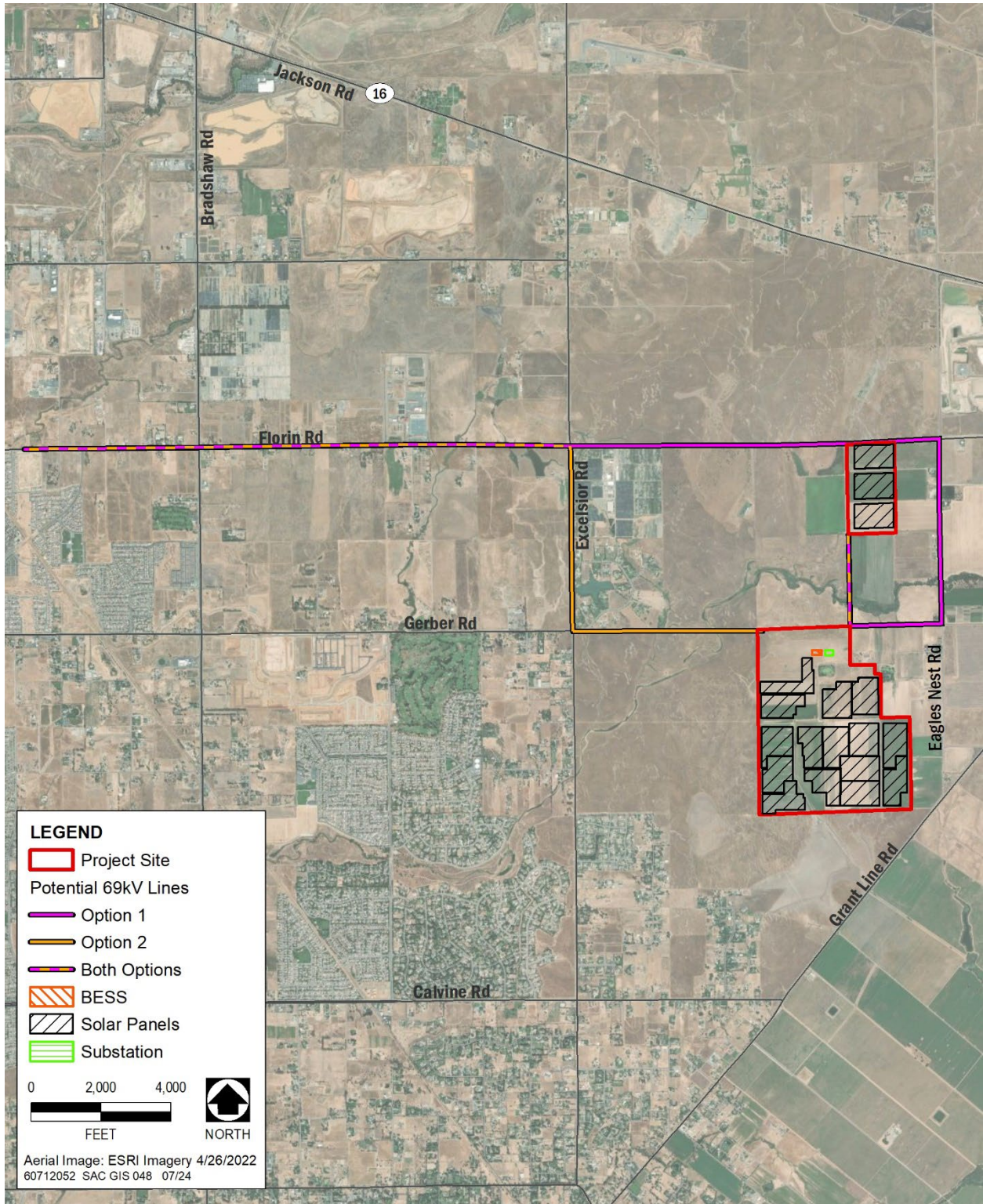


Figure 2 Project Area (Vertical APE) with Proposed Project Components

This report was prepared by principal investigator, Richard Deis who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology.

Project Setting

The study area is in unincorporated southeastern Sacramento County, south of the City of Rancho Cordova and north of Wilton, located within the Elk Grove U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, and within Township 7N, Range 06E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, and 12. The proposed project site is generally flat, with an elevation of 85 to 120 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Irrigated pastures and croplands are the dominant landcover within the project site, and the surrounding land uses include low-density residential, cattle grazing, croplands, and existing open space preserves. Vernal pool complexes and wetlands are common in the surrounding existing preserves.

The project site is located within the Central California Valley ecoregion of California (Griffith et al. 2016). This region is characterized by rolling grasslands used mostly for agriculture with interspersed creeks, rivers, wetlands, and vernal pools. This region tends to lack the extent of oak woodlands present in the neighboring regions with higher elevation. The project region is defined by a "Mediterranean" climate (Mediterranean California subregion of the Arid West Region), which is characterized by relatively warm, wet winters and dry summers with most of the precipitation falling between November and April (Environmental Laboratory 2010). Rainfall averages approximately 18.15 inches annually, with most of the precipitation occurring from December to March (WRCC 2024).

The study area is within the Laguna Creek Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 180201630403, EPA 2024). Agricultural irrigation occurs within the study area during the late spring and summer; this includes the flood irrigation of row crops and pastures. The proposed powerlines overlap with portions of Laguna Creek, Frye Creek and Gerber Creek. The headwaters to Frye Creek are located near the intersection of Kiefer Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard. From its headwaters, the stream flows southwest approximately 4.5 miles before intersecting with the northern portion of Laguna Creek, west of Eagles Nest Road. The headwaters of Laguna Creek are approximately 5 miles northeast of the powerlines. Laguna Creek enters the project site at Eagle Nest Road, connects with Frye Creek, and then moves southwest exiting the project on Gerber Road and ultimately ends at the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Gerber Creek originates near the intersection of Excelsior and Florin Road. It crosses through the powerline alignment at this location and then flows southwest approximately 5.5 miles where it connects with Elder Creek. All creeks within the project area cross the powerlines area. No creeks within the project area cross the project site where the main project components would be installed. The geological formation is characterized by nonmarine (continental) sedimentary rocks of Pleistocene to early Holocene age with Pliocene and/or Pleistocene sandstone, shales and gravel deposits.

Cultural Context

This chapter describes the precontact, ethnographic, and historic setting of the study area for the undertaking.

Precontact 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 sub-regions. 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 non-existent 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 milling stones are found in abundance.

The Early and Middle Sierran pattern (ca. 3200–600 B.P.) evidences a possible expansion in the use of obsidian that would 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 items 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 is situated within the lands traditionally occupied by the Nisenan, or Southern Maidu and the Eastern Miwok. The Eastern Plains Miwok specifically, according to Levy. The Eastern Plains Miwok belong to their own language group and although a common language was spoken among the Plains Miwok they were not a unified people but several independent political nations that shared a common language and culture (Levy 1978, p. 398). According to Wilson and Towne (1978) few native villages are thought to have existed on the valley plain between the foothills and the Sacramento River with the nearest recorded village site (well outside of the project area or the quarter mile buffer) being the Nisenan historic era encampment *Kadema* (CA-SAC-192). The project site occurs in a region closest to this border territory of the Nisenan and Eastern Plains Miwok.

The language of the Nisenan, which includes several dialects, is classified within the Maiduan family of the Penutian linguistic stock (Kroeber 1925). The western boundary of Nisenan territory was the western bank of the Sacramento River and the area between present-day Sacramento and Marysville. In the Sacramento Valley, the tribelet, consisting of a primary village and a few satellite villages, served as the basic political unit (Moratto 1984). Valley Nisenan territory was divided into three tribelet areas, each populated with several large villages (Wilson and Towne 1978), generally located on low, natural rises along streams and rivers or on slopes with a southern exposure.

Euro-American contact began with infrequent excursions by Spanish explorers and Hudson Bay Company trappers traveling through the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys in the early 1800s. In general, Nisenan lifeways remained stable for centuries until the early to middle decades of the nineteenth century. With the coming of Russian trappers and Spanish missionaries, cultural patterns began to be disrupted as social structures were stressed. An estimated 75 percent of the Valley Nisenan population died in the malaria epidemic of 1833 (Wilson and Towne 1978). With the influx of Europeans during the Gold Rush era, the population was further reduced by disease and violent encounters with the miners.

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 continuing stewards of their ancestral lands including the identification of Tribal cultural resources (TCRs). TCRs provide the backdrop to spiritual 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 feelings persist and connect with descendant communities.

Historical Context

Developmental History of Sloughhouse and Vicinity, 1839-1851

Jared Dixon Sheldon, born on January 8, 1813 in Underhill Centre, Vermont, became the first Euro-American to settle Sloughhouse in 1841, in addition to his friend and partner, William Daylor, making the Sloughhouse/Cosumnes area one of the oldest Euro-American settlements in the Central Valley of California. Sheldon was born to Truman Sheldon, a veteran of the War of 1812. Truman Sheldon provided Jared Sheldon with an adequate education during his youth. In 1832, at the age of 19, Sheldon moved to Illinois and supported himself by teaching at local district schools. Around 1834, Sheldon accepted a teaching job in Dayton, Ohio, where he met and married "Miss Edwards." His wife died about six months later, prompting Sheldon to move to St. Louis, Missouri in 1838, at the age of 26 (*Sacramento Bee* 1940).

In St. Louis, Sheldon signed onto a trading party headed to Santa Fe, New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. He arrived in Santa Fe circa 1839 and quickly transferred to an additional hunting and prospecting party headed for Alta California (Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. 1998). While in route to Alta California, Sheldon fell ill and the expedition left him behind to follow at his own pace (*Sacramento Bee* 1932). Sheldon allegedly survived his journey on coyote meat and other game. The exact date of Sheldon's arrival in Alta California is often debated among historians. Some historians believe he arrived in modern day Los Angeles in 1839, while others argue he arrived in 1837. Hubert Howe Bancroft believes he arrived as early as 1832 or 1834. However, most agree that Sheldon arrived in Alta California circa 1839 to 1840 (*Sacramento Bee* 1932/1940). During this period, Sheldon constructed the first sawmill on the Pacific slope, at or near modern day Los Angeles. He transported the saw on pack mules from Mexico, wrapped in rawhides. The sawmill was put into complete working order by 1841. However, the owner of the sawmill died during its construction. Mexican law did not require the owner's widow to pay her husband's debts, therefore, she failed to pay Sheldon. As a result, Sheldon accumulated significant debt to the Mexican government for the construction of the sawmill and the owner's unpaid debt. Mexican officials issued a warrant for Sheldon's arrest. He quickly fled and hid among local Indigenous tribes (*Sacramento Bee* 1932). Sheldon became a leader among the Indigenous tribes and participated in several raids, presumably against the Comanche nation who routinely attacked the Mexican border. As a result, the Governor of Mexico annulled his debt crimes and Sheldon retired from raiding (*Sacramento Bee* 1932).

For a short time, Sheldon remained in Southern Alta California and traded horses with Chihuahua, Mexico. However, shortly after his debt annulment, Sheldon traveled to Monterey and, as a carpenter by trade, built the Customs House for the Mexican government. As a form of payment, the Mexican Governor, Manuel Micheltoarena, granted him an unspecified piece of land of his choice. To qualify for the grant, Sheldon joined the Catholic Church, assumed a Mexican name, and became a Mexican citizen (*Sacramento Bee* 1987).

While in Monterey, Sheldon met and befriended William Daylor. Daylor arrived in Monterey as a sailor on an English trading vessel docked in the Monterey Bay. Sheldon convinced Daylor to "jump ship" and join his ventures. Sheldon and Daylor traveled to Sacramento in 1841 and worked for Captain John Sutter at Sutter's Fort. That same year, Daylor traveled east from

Sutter's Fort with the intention of locating lost horses that belonged to Sutter. In the process, he "discovered" a valley bisected by the Cosumnes River (PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 2011). Daylor, immediately impressed with the valley, returned to Sheldon and shared the news. Sheldon quickly recognized the agricultural potential of the land and elected to use his land grant to apply for ownership of the valley. Sheldon and Daylor settled in the land that same year. However, the Mexican government did not complete the process of the land grant until 1844, when they officially transferred the ownership of the Omochumnes Rancho to Sheldon (*Sacramento Bee* 1932; Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. 1998). The Omochumnes Rancho, totaling 18,662 acres along Jackson Road, extended from modern Grant Line Road on the west to Latrobe Road on the east, with the Cosumnes River forming the southern border and an arbitrary straight line forming the northern border (Jones & Stokes Associates Inc. 1998).

Sheldon and Daylor divided the land grant and the responsibility of maintaining the land. Between 1841 and 1845, Daylor managed the land while Sheldon continued to work for Sutter in order to raise money for cattle and agricultural supplies. Daylor constructed an adobe house in 1841, historically located along the Cosumnes River. In 1845, Sheldon permanently settled on the land and built a house along modern-day Jackson Road, roughly located east of the Slough House Inn (Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. 1998). At this time, Sheldon renamed the land the Sheldon Grant and divided it into three parcels: Upper Daylor's Ranch, Sheldon's Ranch, and Lower Daylor's Ranch (PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 2011).

In 1847, Sheldon married Catherine F. Rhoads, the 15-year-old daughter of Thomas Rhoads who arrived in Alta California in 1846 and settled on Dry Creek. William Daylor married the sister, Sarah Rhoads, that same year, who was 17 years old. The Rhoads sisters traveled west with their Mormon family between 1845 and 1846, traveling with the Donnor Party for a short period of time. They avoided the tragedy that befell the Donnor Party by electing not to pursue the "Hasting's Cut-off." Thomas Rhoads participated in the Donnor rescue party in 1846. The two families became the first American settlers of the Cosumnes River (*Sacramento Bee* 1932; Elk Grove Historical Society, n.d.).

During the early years of the Gold Rush, Sheldon and Daylor prospered by selling cattle and supplies to miners who passed through towards the Amador Mines. The Gold Rush traffic along Jackson Road, the main route from Sacramento to Jackson, prompted Daylor to open a general store near his home. Sheldon also constructed the Slough House Inn in 1850. The inn became a favorite overnight stopping place for miners and travelers, including Leland Stanford. In 1890, the Slough House Inn burned down but was quickly rebuilt. The existing 1890 structure became the State Historical Landmark No. 575 and commemorates both the 1850 building and 1890 reconstruction (Jones & Stokes Associates Inc. 1998).

In 1851, well into the California Gold Rush, Sheldon constructed a dam on Clarks Bar, along the Cosumnes River, to irrigate his land. However, Sheldon's dam caused potential flooding of gold claims upstream as a result of the rising water. On July 12, 1851, a group of miners destroyed the dam and confronted Sheldon about the control of water. The miners shot and killed Sheldon, along with two of his men, James M. Johnson and Edward Cody (*Sacramento Bee* 1932; Elk Grove Historical Society, n.d.). The death, known as the "Riot on the Cosumnes," became the first recorded incident of miners and farmers fighting for the control of water in California. William Daylor died that same year of cholera.

Developmental History 1860-Present

After the death of Sheldon and Daylor, Sarah and Catherine Rhoads quickly remarried in order to maintain the rights to their late husbands' land. Sarah Rhoads married William Grimshaw in April 1851, a bookkeeper in Daylor's Jackson Road store. Circa 1876, Grimshaw contracted a tropical disease while on a business trip in Mexico. He traveled to China in search of medical treatment but died on September 14, 1881. Before his death, Sarah and Grimshaw had 12 children together. Catherine Rhoads married John Mahone in 1852 and built a house that same

year near the Slough House Inn. In 1872, Mahone died and Catherine remarried to an Irish-born immigrant, Dennis Dalton. In 1905, Sarah Rhoads died. Sarah and Catherine Rhoads' marriages and association to the settlement of valley became significant to the establishment of Sloughhouse. First, both sisters long outlived their late husbands and, through their marriages to Grimshaw, Mahone, and Dennis, helped develop the future communities of Sloughhouse. For example, Sarah's twelve children continued to raise important families whose ancestors continue to live in the area today. Lastly, the Mormon heritage of the two sisters established the ownership of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers over the Slough House Pioneer Cemetery, where Sheldon and Daylor are currently buried (Jones & Stokes Associates Inc. 1998; PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 2011).

Prior to the deaths of the Rhoads sisters, and with the end of the Gold Rush, the Sloughhouse area quickly shifted from roadside businesses to an agricultural region. The Rhoads sisters divided and sold Sheldon's original grant into smaller parcels to accommodate their children and the rising demand of the agricultural industry. By 1870, the Upper Daylor Ranch property was divided into a series of long narrow parcels that stretched from the Cosumnes River over Deer Creek to the grant line (Grant Line Road) located immediately south of the current project. Sarah and William Grimshaw continued to live on a 437-acre parcel with their house north of Deer Creek. However, by 1876, they sold a large parcel of their land to the Belcher Family who settled and established their own agricultural ranch. Between 1882 and 1892, Sarah and William Grimshaw divided more of their land for their children, leaving a sliver of what they previously owned at the time of Sheldon's and Daylor's death (PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 2011).

In response to the division of Sheldon's original land grant, outside families and opportunists arrived in the Sloughhouse area, including the project site, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to take advantage of its commercial potential. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, agriculture in the Sloughhouse vicinity gradually transitioned from cattle and sheep ranching to tree crops and hop farming. The lowlands, or river bottom lands, in the middle of the valley primarily focused on crop farming while the high lands, to the east and west including the project area, focused on livestock grazing.

The hop industry became a well-known industry in the Sloughhouse area until about 1988. A man named David Flint is often credited with introducing hops from hopyards in the Northeastern United States. Early planting of hops in Sloughhouse supported local breweries. By 1900, Sloughhouse's hop industry expanded to supply national, and international, markets. The hop industry reached its peak during the Prohibition era between 1920 and 1933. The hop industry continued to grow during World War II. In 1945 Sacramento County records indicated 2,500 acres of land operated as hop farms. By 1958, records indicate 3,332 acres operated as hop farms. However, by 1970, the industry declined and only counted 1,100 acres of hop farm land. Sacramento County recorded George Signorotti as the last commercial hop grower who retired from the career in 1988 (Jones & Stokes Associates Inc. 1998).

Literature Review

A cultural records search was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC), of the California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento on January 3, 2024 (File No. SAC-24-5). The NCIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official state repository of cultural resource records and studies for Sacramento County. A copy of the 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. Other resources reviewed included

the NRHP, CRHR, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, the Historic Property Data File, and historic General Land Office (GLO) maps.

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

- National Register of Historic Places
- California Register of Historical Resources
- OHP Historic Property Data File (April 2012)
- OHP Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California (OHP 1988)
- 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)
- GLO Plat Maps

The records search indicated that an isolated metal fence post was noted within the project study area and two ranch/farm complexes, and an isolated white earthenware fragment were located within the 0.25-mile search radius outside of the project study area (Table 1 and Table 2). Eight previous cultural resource studies of precontact and historic cultural resources have been conducted within the APE (Table 3), in addition to five cultural studies within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area (Table 4). See Appendix A Records Search results summary and Appendix B for the NCIC generated maps of the reports and resource locations.

Table 1 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within the APE

Primary Number	Resource Name	Resource Type	Historic Property Status
P-34-1111-H	Isolated iron fence post	Historic	Not significant/eligible

Source: Site documentation is on file at the North Central Information Center, data compiled by AECOM 2024
 APE = Area of Potential Effect

Table 2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Outside of the APE within 0.25 Mile

Primary Number	Resource Name	Resource Type	Historic Property Status
P-34-1110-H	Cattle Ranch Complex	Historic	Unevaluated
P-341112-H	Isolated white earthen ware	Historic	Not significant/eligible
P-34-5402	Farm complex with five features	Historic	Recommended not significant/not eligible

Source: Site documentation is on file at the North Central Information Center, data compiled by AECOM 2024
 APE = Area of Potential Effect

Table 3 Previous Cultural Resources Reports in the APE

Report Number	Title	Author/Date
88	Reconnaissance Archeological Survey of the Morrison Stream Group in Sacramento County, California.	Johnson (1974)
6751	Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed North Vineyard Station Traffic Signal Project, Florin Road/Excelsior Road	Herrmann (2005)
8062	Cultural Resources Survey and Evaluation North Vineyard Station Off-Site Project	Mason (2006)
9989a	Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Freeport Regional Water Project, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, California	Jones and Stokes (2008)
9989b	Revised Addendum Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Modifications to the Freeport Regional Water Project Area of Potential Effects, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, California-APE Modification FRWP-2007-06	Jones and Stokes (2008)
9989c	APE Modification FRWP-2008-03, Sediment Disposal Site at 9005 River Road, FRWA Intake Facility and Joint Pipeline, Freeport Regional Water Project	Jones and Stokes (2008)
9989d	Revised APE Modification FRWP-2008-10, Permanent Disposal Area on Segment 2 of the FRWA Pipeline, Freeport Regional Water Project and Warren Sediment Disposal Site, Folsom South Canal Connection Pipeline, Freeport Regional Water Project (05-CCAO-197.10)	Jones and Stokes (2008)
11723	Heritage Resources Inventory Report for the Interim NSA Pipeline Project, Sacramento County, California	Heffner (2014)

Source: All reports are on file at the North Central Information Center, data compiled by AECOM 2024

APE = Area of Potential Effect

NSA = North Service Area

FRWP = Freeport Regional Water Project

Table 4 Previous Cultural Resources Reports Outside of the APE within 0.25 Mile

Report Number	Citation	Author/Date
558	Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Klotz Subdivision, Sacramento County, California.	Peak. and Associates (1980)
1857	Archeological Survey and Letter Report for Southeast Florin Multi-Cultural Park	Slaymaker (1988)
5933	Cultural Resource Inventory: Klotz Property	ECORP Consulting (2005)
6154	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project	Brian Hatoff et al. 1995
13213	Cultural Resources Study, Sacramento Aggregates Expansion Site Project, Sacramento County, California	Vallaire et al. (2017)

Source: All reports are on file at the North Central Information Center, data compiled by AECOM 2024

APE = Area of Potential Effect

Native American and Interested Parties Coordination

SMUD conducted Native American and interested parties outreach for the project. The outreach efforts are summarized in this section. A copy of the relevant correspondence and communications is provided in Appendix C.

Native American Heritage Commission

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by AECOM on behalf of SMUD. The NAHC responded on January 12, 2024, that a search of the Sacred Land Files for the proposed project was negative (provided in Appendix D).

Tribal Outreach

CEQA – Assembly Bill (AB) 52

Pursuant to Public Resources Code 21090.3.1(b)(1), Tribal notifications were sent out to participating Tribes on January 8, 2024.

On January 16, 2024, Wilton Rancheria confirmed that this project will be located within the Tribe's ancestral and culturally affiliated territory. They requested copies of the final report and recommended that an on-site Tribal Monitor be present for ground disturbing activities. Additionally, they provided a copy of their Inadvertent Discovery Treatment Plan (see Appendix C) and requested that it be added to the work protocols. To date, the AB 52 consultation with Wilton Rancheria for the project is ongoing and has not yet been concluded.

The UAIC also indicated an interest to of the project and asked to participate in the field inventory. Jonathan Prout, UAIC certified Tribal Monitor , participated in onsite surveys conducted by AECOM archeologists in 2024 on April 25, April 26, April 27, April 28, and June 10 and provided monitoring logs to SMUD. On July 8, 2024, Anna Starkey, M.A. RPA and UAIC Cultural Regulatory Specialist provided a tribal cultural resources survey write up which is included below in the Field Inspection Methods and Results and to include in the CEQA document.

On October 3, 2024 UAIC concluded AB52 consultation for the SMUD's Oveja Ranch Solar Project with the understanding that their standard unanticipated discoveries mitigation measure will be included in the TCR chapter. Additionally, that the chapter will accurately reflect the Tribal methods of identification of Tribal Cultural Resources and include Tribal values and contemporary Tribal community background in the Environmental Setting section. The purpose of discussing these topics within the environmental setting is to ensure that the impact analysis and mitigation measures for Tribal Cultural Resources are accurately and effectively evaluated.

Regulatory Context

For the purposes of this project, SMUD is the lead state agency and USACE would likely be the lead federal agency should the project have a federal nexus (e.g., through USACE Section 404 permit and Section 10 permits). The following is a summary of the types of regulatory processes the project is subject to as a result.

Cultural resources in California are protected by a number of federal, state, and local regulations. NEPA and CEQA are the two environmental regulatory frameworks that require consideration of impacts to cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA, a parallel regulatory process tied to NEPA by the requirement to consider impacts to cultural resources, is relevant when federal agencies are involved. Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations require federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions, or those they fund or permit, on historic properties that may be eligible for listing or that are listed on the NRHP. To determine whether an undertaking could affect historic properties, cultural resources (including archaeological, historical, and architectural properties) must be identified, inventoried, and evaluated for listing in the NRHP.

CEQA, in comparison with the NHPA, is a broader and more far-reaching environmental regulatory framework that includes cultural resources as an important component of its

oversight and management policies. Prior to approving discretionary projects, state and local agencies must consider the potential significant impacts of those projects on archaeological and historical resources in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1) and Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Listing or eligibility for listing on the NRHP and significance under CEQA are the primary considerations in determining whether a cultural resource may be affected by a project.

Assessing Significance Under Section 106

The 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800 regulations, implementing Section 106, call for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian tribes, and interested members of the public throughout the Section 106 compliance process. The four principal steps are:

1. initiate the Section 106 process (36 CFR Part 800.3);
2. identify historic properties, cultural resources that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (36 CFR Part 800.4);
3. assess the effects of the undertaking to historic properties within the area of potential effects (36 CFR Part 800.5); and
4. resolve adverse effects (36 CFR Part 800.6).

Adverse effects to historic properties are often resolved through preparation of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) developed in consultation between Reclamation, SHPO, Indian tribes, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and interested members of the public. The MOA stipulates procedures that treat historic properties to mitigate adverse effects (36 CFR Part 800.14[b]).

The NRHP is a register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The regulations provided in 36 CFR Part 60.4 describe the criteria to evaluate cultural resources for inclusion in the NRHP. Cultural resources can be significant on the national, state, or local level. Properties may be listed in the NRHP if they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess an artistic value, 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.

Assessing Significance Under CEQA

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 an “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 PRC Sections 5024.1, 21084.1). An historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (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 an “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;
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 precontact 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 items 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

AB 52, passed in 2014, amends sections of CEQA relating to Native Americans. AB 52 established a new category of 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 is a TCR to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.

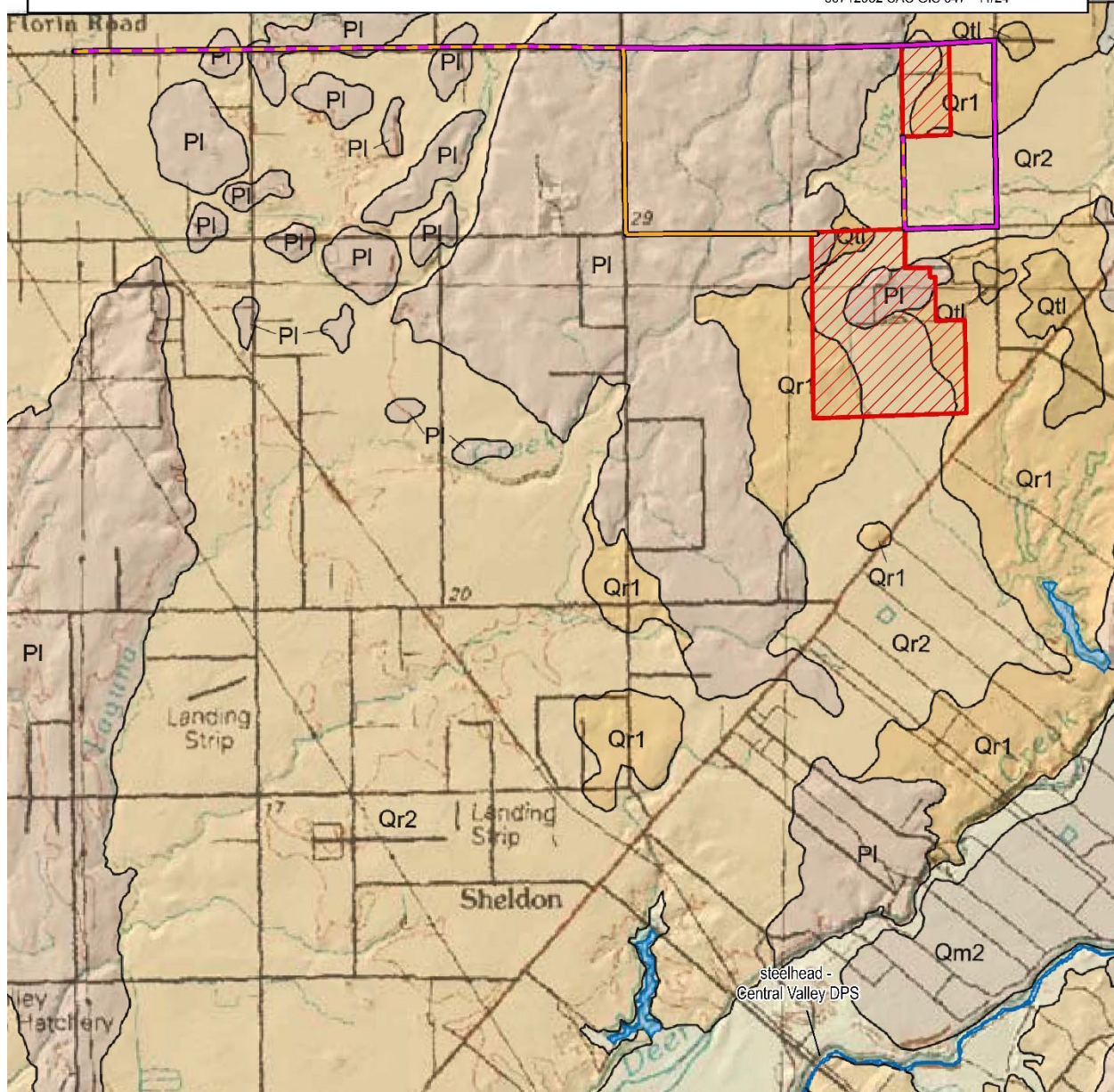
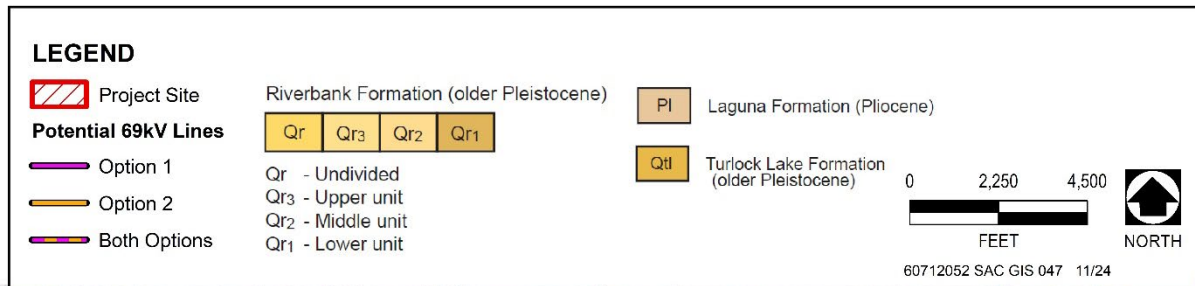
(c) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision.

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 site is situated on lower (Qr1) and middle (Qr2) elevation portions of the Pleistocene-age Riverbank Formation and on the Pliocene-age Laguna Formation (PI), which are drained by the incised and seasonal Laguna and Frye creeks (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). Sediments in the Laguna Formation consist of granitic alluvium ranging from gravel to fine silt. Estimates place the age of the Laguna Formation between 3 and 4 million years B.P. (Marchand and Allwardt 1981). Due to the age of these geologic units, which significantly predate the oldest evidence of humans in California, there is little to no potential for harboring buried archaeological resources.



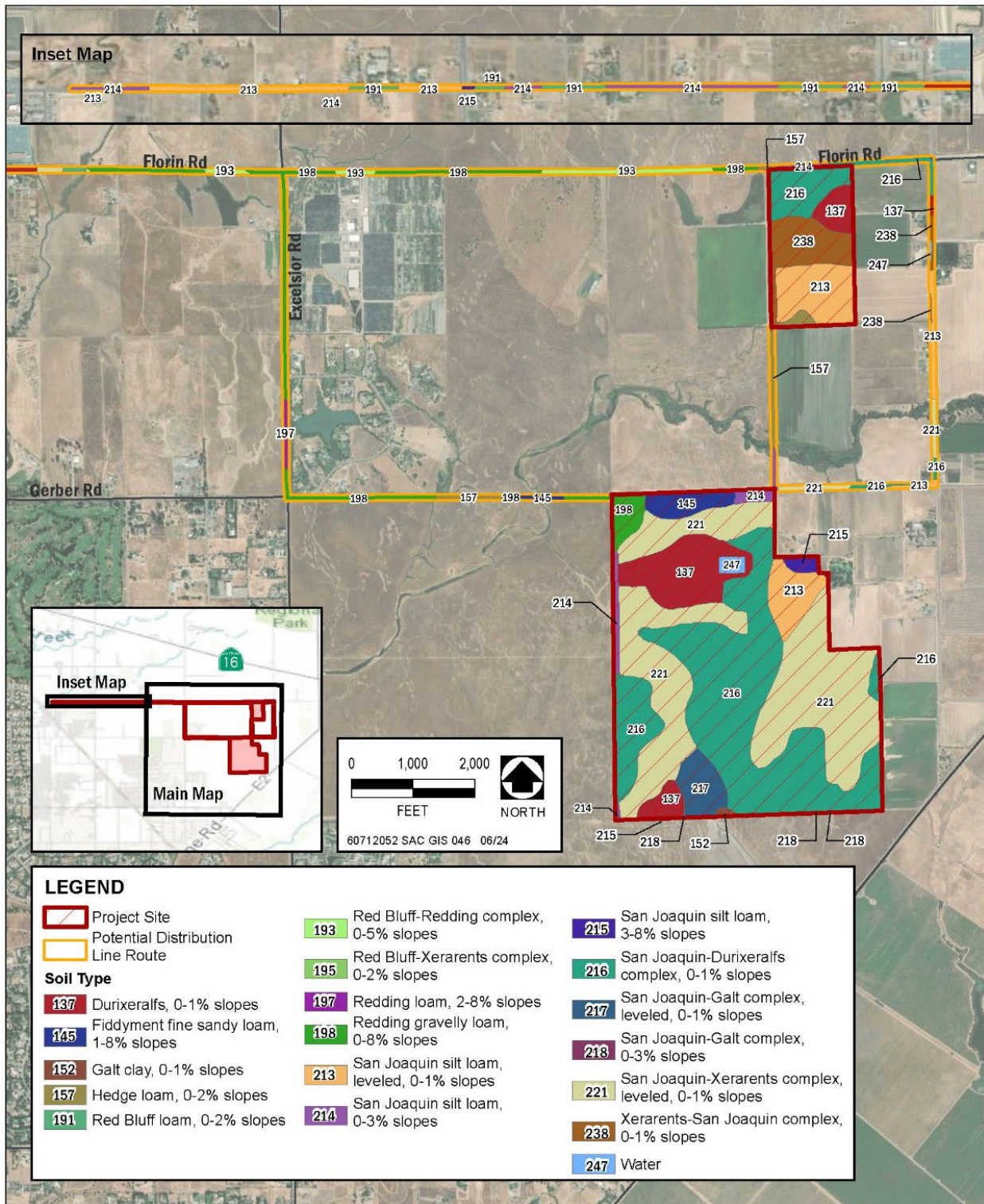
Source: California Geological Survey 2009 (Lodi Quadrangle)

Figure 3 Geomorphic Mapping

Age designations for the geomorphic mapping in Figure 3 are generally supported by comparison with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soils mapping for the area (USDA 2024). The project site is mapped predominantly as San Joaquin soil series complexes (Figure 4), which have been demonstrated through radiocarbon dating to have been formed during the early Pleistocene epoch (Meyer and Rosenthal 2008). These age designations are further supported by the typical soil profiles for the San Joaquin soil 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.

In general, due to the very old age of the surficial alluvial landforms, the project site should be considered to have very low sensitivity for buried archaeological resources. Pleistocene and Pliocene 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 precontact 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; that said, no Holocene sediments are mapped in the project site.

The lack of mapped Holocene-age deposits on the geology mapping of the project area suggests that Holocene-age sediments, if present along Frye or Laguna creeks, are likely very limited and thus not included at the 1:24,000 scale of the geologic map (Figure 3). Similarly, the absence of mapped Holocene-age soils supports the conclusion that, if present, Holocene-age sedimentation is very limited in the project site and 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.



Source: USDA NRCS 2019

Figure 4 Soil Mapping

Field Inspection Methods and Results

69 kV Transmission Lines

On January 10, 2024, AECOM Archaeologist Diana Ewing, accompanied by Jonathan Prout, consultant with UAIC, conducted a cultural resource pedestrian survey of the proposed 69 kV transmission lines (Photograph 1 through Photograph 4). The majority of the route is within the public-rights-of-way. With the exception of contemporary refuse, no cultural material was observed.



Photograph 1 Transmission Line Corridor East of Project Site



Photograph 2 Transmission Line Corridor at Intersection of Eagles Nest and Florin Roads



Photograph 3 Route of Transmission Line at Excelsior and Florin Roads



Photograph 4 Transmission Line Right-of-Way at Birch Ranch Drive and Excelsior Road

Project Site

Between March 25 and March 28, 2024, AECOM Archaeologists Karen Gardner, Richard Deis and Zenzi Moore-Dawes accompanied by Jonathan Prout, UAIC certified Tribal Monitor , conducted a cultural resource pedestrian survey of 522 acres located on APNs 123-0030-003 and 123-0040-001. Initial assessment indicated that the entire project site has been subjected to leveling for agriculture and little to none of the original ground surface is present. In addition, the seasonal drainage that originally bisected the site has been relocated and is now located along the western project boundary. Several gravel ranch roads provided access to individual fields. With the exception of one field all were covered with grasses up to one foot in height. Surface visibility ranged from 1 to 5% and transects were spaced at 25-meter intervals. The exception was an 85-acre field vegetated with extremely dense grass up to 3 feet in height. Approximately

25 percent of the field was surveyed, however none of the surface was visible. The skeletal remains of sheep were scattered throughout the project site (Photograph 5 and Photograph 6).

Additional survey was conducted on June 10 and 11, 2024, by AECOM archaeologists Zenzi Moore-Dawes and Noah Wallick accompanied by UAIC certified Tribal Monitor Jonathan Prout. This survey consisted of the 85-acre parcel mentioned above which had been mowed and was accessible (Photograph 7 and Photograph 8), an 80-acre parcel located south of Florin Road and west of Eagles Nest Road and proposed rights-of-way for the connector and distribution lines extending from the original parcel north to the 80-acre parcel. Newly mowed fields characterized the project sites with surface visibility averaging less than 5 percent. Standing water was present within the 80 acre parcel, and was therefore not accessible. See Photograph 9. No cultural material was observed.

The geoarchaeological assessment, discussed above, indicates that the original landform is characterized by Pleistocene-era deposits such that any archaeological material would be located at or near the surface. Given that extensive levelling to a depth of up to 8 feet has occurred throughout the project site, the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits is extremely low.

Tribal Survey

UAIC certified Tribal Monitor, Jon Prout, accompanied AECOM Archaeologists during all of the field inspections. The pedestrian survey used 30 meter transects, visibility ranged from 0 to 20% with some areas obscured by heavy vegetation and harvested crops.

The purpose of the UAIC tribal survey was for the identification of TCRs for the Oveja Ranch Solar Project. Tribal cultural resources can include midden soil, flaked stone items, ground stone, fire-cracked rock, tribal landscapes, significant plants and ecological resources, and cultural features, such as rabbit fences, house pits, or hunting blinds. The Project is located within the Frye Creek corridor, less than 3 miles of two known indigenous village sites and a vast cultural complex along the Deer Creek and Cosumnes River.

During the survey the ground was closely inspected for evidence of surficial or buried indigenous resources and all areas of rodent or human disturbance, such as disced areas, were carefully scrutinized for the presence of subsurface cultural deposits. Soils ranged from brown to reddish brown; some areas with darker brown silty/gravelly loam. No cobbles or gravels were observed.

No TCRs were observed during the pedestrian survey; no subsurface investigations were conducted or recommended by UAIC.



Photograph 5 View of field with Sheep skull – Note slope on left resulting from levelling



Photograph 6 Close-up of Sheep Skull



Photograph 7 View of Mowed Field



Photograph 8 View of Mowed Field



Photograph 9 View of Field with Standing Water

Results and Recommendations

Management recommendations for identified resources are based on evaluation of a site's potential eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP and CRHR, and potential project-related impacts on that site. For sites that are recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP or on the CRHR, or that are recommended as eligible but that would not be affected by a proposed project, a finding of No Historic Properties Affected/No Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical or Archaeological Resource is proposed. For eligible sites that would be adversely affected by a proposed project, a recommendation of Adverse Effect/Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource would be proposed and a suitable plan to mitigate the adverse effects would be developed in consultation with the SHPO and in the case of precontact sites in consultation with Native American Groups and Tribal representatives.

No TCRs were observed during the pedestrian survey; no subsurface investigations were conducted or recommended by UAIC. Background research and field surveys did not result in the identification of significant/NRHP eligible cultural resources within the site of the proposed solar project or the 69 kV transmission line. Therefore, a finding of *No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties/No Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical or Archaeological Resource* is proposed.

Unanticipated Finds

Based on the results of the archival research and field survey, there is low potential that archaeological resources would be encountered during ground-disturbing activities for the proposed project. During ground-disturbing activities necessary to implement the proposed project, if any precontact 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).

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Appendix A Records Search Summary



1/3/2024

NCIC File No.: SAC-24-5

Diana Ewing
AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Waegell Solar Project, Project Number 60721300 Task 1

The North Central Information Center (NCIC) received your records search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Elk Grove USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ¼-mi radius.

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

Recorded resources within project area:	P-34-1111
Recorded resources outside project area, within radius:	P-34-1110 P-34-1112 P-34-5402
Known reports within project area:	88 6751 8062 9989 11723
Known reports outside project area, within radius:	558 1857 5933 6154 13213

- 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 Resources Directory:** 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 and resource records from this project to NCIC as soon as possible. The lead agency/authority and cultural resources consultant should coordinate sending documentation to NCIC. Digital materials are preferred and can be sent to our office via our file transfer system. Please contact NCIC for instructions. 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 records 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

Appendix B CONFIDENTIAL - Not for Public Review

**Appendix C Tribal Outreach and Interested Parties Communication, Including the
Inadvertent Discovery Treatment Plan Provided by Wilton Rancheria**

Subject: FW: Waegell Solar and Battery Project
Sent: 1/16/2024, 1:43:59 PM
From: Kim Crawford<Kim.Crawford@smud.org>
To: Betro, Jillian
Cc: Unger, Petra
Attachments: [Inadvertent Discovery Treatment Plan WR_CRD.pdf](#)

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FYI – Wilton Rancheria wants to consult on the Project – see below.

Kim Crawford
Environmental Specialist, Environmental Services
w.916-732-5063 | c.916-952-3911 | kim.crawford@smud.org

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From: Venesa Kremer <vkremer@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:42 AM
To: Kim Crawford <Kim.Crawford@smud.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waegell Solar and Battery Project

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January 16, 2024

RE: AB52 Notification- Waegll Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Hello-

Wilton Rancheria has received notification of the above-mentioned project and has confirmed that this project will be located within the tribe's ancestral and culturally affiliated territory. We appreciated the invitation to participate in the pedestrian surveys and regret not being able to attend. We would like to request copies of the final results. Due to this site's proximity to seasonal tributaries of the Laguna Creek, as well as the original Rancheria, it is still my recommendation that we have an on-site Tribal Monitor for all ground disturbing activities. Additionally, I have included a copy of our Inadvertent Discovery Treatment Plan to be added to the work protocols. This plan briefly describes how to identify Tribal Cultural Resources, how to treat them and how to get ahold of us should any TCRs be encountered during the project implementation. Please let me know if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss further or if you need anything additionally from us. Thank you for your time and consideration of our tribal concerns. Appreciatively,



Venesa Kremer

Lead Monitor

Cultural Resources Assistant

Wilton Rancheria

Tel: 916.683.6000 ext 2023 | Mobile: 415.827.8198

9728 Kent Street | Elk Grove | CA | 95624

vkremer@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov



Inadvertent Discovery Treatment Plan

If potential tribal cultural resources (TCRs), archaeological artifacts, other cultural resources, articulated, or disarticulated human remains are discovered during construction activities, all work will cease within 100 feet of the find (based on the apparent distribution of the resources. Examples of potential cultural materials include but are not limited to midden soils, artifacts, chipped or worked stone, baked clay, shell, or bone.)

A Native American Representative from the federally recognized, Wilton Rancheria will assess the significance of the find and make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment if necessary. Culturally appropriate treatment that preserves or restores the cultural qualities and integrity of a Tribal Cultural Resource may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, construction monitoring of any further activities by a tribal representative, and or returning the objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts.

Wilton Rancheria does not consider curation of TCRs to be appropriate or respectful and requests that materials not be permanently curated, unless specifically requested by the Tribe.

If any human remains are discovered during construction activities, the County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted immediately. Upon determination by the County Coroner that the remains are Native American in origin, the Native American Heritage Commission will assign the Most Likely Descendant(s) (MLD) who will work the project proponents to define proper treatment and disposition.

After review of the find and consultation with the MLD, the authority to proceed may be accompanied by the addition of development requirements which provide for protection and preservation of the site and/or additional measures necessary to address the sensitive and unique nature of the site. All treatment recommendations made by the tribe and other cultural resources specialists will be documented in the confidential portion of the project record. Work in the area(s) of the cultural find may only proceed after authorization from the lead agency in coordination with the Tribe.

Please reach out to the tribe by using the contact information listed below. We appreciate your compliance and understanding in our endeavors to protect and preserve our tribal cultural resources.

Cultural Resources

Wilton Rancheria- Cultural Preservation Department

Tel: 916.683.6000 ext. 2023

cpd@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

Appendix D Results of the Sacred Land File Search

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 12, 2024

Diana Ewing
AECOM

Via Email to: diana.r.ewing@aecom.com

Re: Waegell Solar Project, Sacramento County

Dear Ms. Ewing:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



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