

Appendix D

Cultural Resource Reports

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Valley's Edge Development Project
circa 1,440-acres
Butte County, California.**

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Confidential information contained within this report has been redacted.

Prepared for

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Chico and Hamlin Canyon, Ca. 7.5' Quadrangles

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey for the proposed Valley's Edge Development Project involving approximately 1,440-acres located adjacent to the east side of Potter Road and the north side of the Skyway, south of Little Chico Creek, within the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The project would involve residential and commercial subdivision of the property, which would be followed by construction of various commercial facilities, new homes, creation of recreational facilities, construction of various infrastructure components, including installation of buried utilities, and construction of curbs, gutters and sidewalks as well as vehicle access routes.

A search of State databases, including all records and documents available at the Northeast Information Center, resulted in the identification of two prehistoric and three historic-era resources previously recorded within the subject property. An intensive-level and general-level pedestrian survey of the subject property resulted in the identification of six (6) previously unrecorded resources, and the updating of the five (5) previously recorded resources, resulting in a total of eleven (11) resources within the subject property. All eleven sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility and CEQA significance. All six prehistoric sites were recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, while the five historic-era sites were recommended not eligible.

Aside from the recommended treatment options for sites CA-BUT-711, P-3189, and VE 1-4, archaeological clearance is recommended for the remainder of the project/undertaking as presently proposed.

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
	Project Background.....	1
	Scope of Work	1
2.	LOCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL and CULTURAL CONTEXT	2
	Location	2
	Environment	2
	Prehistory	3
	Ethnography.....	4
	Historic Context.....	6
3.	RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED.....	8
	Northeast Information Center Records	8
	Other Sources Consulted	10
4.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY	11
	Survey Coverage.....	11
	General Observations	11
	Prehistoric Resources	12
	Historic Resources	14
5.	ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS.....	16
	General	16
	Application of the Criteria to Six Prehistoric Sites	17
	Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-1452.....	18
	Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-3141.....	18
	Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-3190.....	19
	Application of the Criteria to Site VE 5.....	20
	Application of the Criteria to Site VE 6.....	21
6.	PROJECT EFFECTS.....	22
7.	NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION.....	23
8.	PROJECT SUMMARY	24
9.	REFERENCES CITED and/or UTILIZED	25

ATTACHMENTS

Project Location and Archaeological Survey Area Map.

Copy of Records Search from NEIC, File No.: W18-11, dated February 5, 2018.

Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

Response from the NAHC.

Consultation letters delivered to parties listed by the NAHC.

Communications log documenting consultation efforts.

Site Records for sites: SITE RECORDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS REPORT

CA-BUT-711

P-04-1452

P-04-3141

P-04-3189

P-04-3190

VE 1

VE 2

VE 3

VE4

VE 5

VE6

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey for the proposed Valley's Edge Development Project involving approximately 1,440-acres located adjacent to the east side of Potter Road and the north side of the Skyway, south of Little Chico Creek, within the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The project would involve residential and commercial subdivision of the property, which would be followed by construction of various commercial facilities, new homes, creation of recreational facilities, construction of various infrastructure components, including installation of buried utilities, and construction of curbs, gutters and sidewalks as well as vehicle access routes.

Since the proposed project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components throughout the project area, the potential exists to impact cultural resources located within the APE. In this case, the APE consists of the 1,440-acre property. Evaluation of the project's potential effects to cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with the City of Chico and Butte County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Additionally, since the project will involve federal permitting, the project must also conform with federal guidelines for assessing effects to cultural resources, including in particular Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and other rules and regulations.

Scope of Work

At the most general level, compliance with CEQA requires completion of projects in conformity with the standards contained in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, as amended. Based on this and other relevant Sections of the Guidelines, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present project:

- Conduct a records search at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at CSU-Chico, and review state data bases and other relevant background information. The goals of the records search and data base review are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all archaeological and historical sites considered significant per CEQA are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.

- Conduct a pedestrian field survey of the project area. Based on map review, a complete coverage intensive survey was considered appropriate, given the presence of high archaeological sensitivity throughout the project area. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously recorded sites identified during the records search are re-located and existing evaluations updated based on current site and field conditions. For previously undocumented sites identified which might qualify as “cultural resources” per CEQA, the field survey would involve formally recording these on DPR-523 Forms.
- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare an archaeological inventory survey report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for any prehistoric or historic sites recommended significant under CEQA and which might be affected by the project.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the Final Report for this project, detailing the results of the records search and field survey and containing recommendations for treatment of significant sites that could be impacted by the project. All field survey procedures followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and conform to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

Location

The proposed Valley's Edge Development project is located adjacent to the east side of Potter Road and the north side of the Skyway, south of Little Chico Creek, within the City of Chico, Butte County, California. The undertaking will affect approximately 5 acres located within portions of Sections 28, 29, 32 & 33 of Township 22 North, Range 2 East, and portions of Sections 4 & 5 of Township 21 North, Range 2 East as shown on the USGS Chico and Hamlin Canyon, California, 7.5' series quadrangles (see attached ***Project Location Map***).

Environment

The project area is located at the interface of the Northern Sacramento Valley with the southern margins of volcanic flows emanating from the Cascade Range, and near the lower reaches of the northern Sierra Nevada (Bateman and Wahrhaftig 1966). Volcanic deposits emanating from the former have capped some lands around Chico, forming numerous buttes (Klaseen and Ellison 1974). Tertiary placer deposits are also exposed throughout the area east and southeast of Chico (Clark 1970), and were discovered early in 1849 resulting in a substantial influx of Euroamericans seeking gold, followed almost immediately by a whole series of landscape modifications as miners churned and sifted every inch of every creek and river bottom in the County, including the perennial and ephemeral stream courses located in the vicinity of the project area.

Prior to disturbance associated with mining, agricultural and residential development, vegetation of the region was dominated by a Foothill-Woodland Community, with small

meadows and meadow margins containing both Valley and Blue Oaks, and stream margins dominated by willow, native sycamore, dense blackberry thickets, and a variety of brush species (Barbour and Major 1977; Kuchler 1977).

Well watered and containing an abundance of both plant and animal resources, the Chico area was intensively utilized and densely populated during prehistoric times. Small overhang shelters and caves have formed under the hard lava cap at many locations east of Chico, and most of them were utilized for at least temporary habitation. Elsewhere, benches and flats flanking the Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek and tributary streams were utilized for open-air camps and villages.

Native vegetation still dominates portions of the Chico area, although urban expansion during the past 100 years has substantially fragmented most of the eco-zones, and today native vegetation is typically restricted to small patches of oak-park woodland and riparian associations, particularly along major water courses such as Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek and Butte Creek and their major tributaries.

Most of the land in this area has been utilized for ranching, beginning around the middle of the 19th Century, giving way to residential development during the latter portion of the 20th century. Collectively, historic through contemporary activities have resulted in impacts, in varying degrees, to the ground surface and subsurface components throughout the project area.

Elevation within the project area ranges from approximately 250 to 575 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The most important natural surface water sources in the immediate vicinity of the project area are Little Chico Creek which is located approximately 1/4 mile north of the APE, and Butte Creek which is located approximately 200 meters south of the APE.

Overall and based upon map review and the results of previous archaeological surveys in the vicinity, the project area appeared to contain lands high in archaeological sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic-period sites and features.

Prehistory

The earliest residents in the Great Central Valley and adjacent lands along the Valley margin are represented by the Fluted Point and Western Pluvial Lakes Traditions, which date from about 11,500 to 7,500 years ago (Moratto 2004). Within portions of central California, fluted projectile points have been found at Tracy Lake (Heizer 1938) and around the margins of Buena Vista Lake in Kern County. Similar materials have been found to the north, at Samwel Cave near Shasta Lake and near McCloud and Big Springs in Siskiyou County. These early peoples are thought to have subsisted using a combination of generalized hunting and lacustrine exploitation (Moratto 2004).

These early cultural assemblages were followed by an increase in Native population density after about 7,500 years ago. One of the most securely dated of these assemblages in north-central California is from the Squaw Creek Site located north of Redding. Here, a charcoal-based C-14 date suggests extensive Native American presence around 6,500 years ago, or

4,500 B.C. Most of the artifactual material dating to this time period has counterparts further south, with clear evidence around Borax (Clear) Lake west-southwest of Chico, and the Farmington Area in a Valley setting east of Stockton. Important artifact types from this era include large wide-stemmed projectile points and manos and metates.

In the Northern Sacramento Valley, aboriginal populations continued to expand between 6,500 and 4,500 years ago (Ragir 1972). By about 2000 years ago, Macro-Penutian-speaking peoples (including the Maidu) are believed to have arrived in the area, bringing with them an economy which relied on extensive use of bulbs and other plant foods, animal and fishing products more intensively processed with mortars and pestles, and perhaps the bow and arrow and associated small stemmed- and corner-notched projectile points. Arriving ultimately from southern Oregon and the Columbia and Modoc Plateau region and proceeding down the major drainage systems (including the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers), the Penutian-speaking Maidu eventually displaced Hokan populations as far west as the Sacramento Valley floor and the margins of the Sacramento River and, at the time of contact with Euroamerican populations (*circa.* AD 1850), were still expanding into areas previously occupied by the earlier Hokan-speaking peoples (including the Yana who by this date had migrated to the north of Chico). Around Chico, the so-called Shasta (archaeological) Complex represents the material culture record of the local Penutian speakers.

This model of prehistoric cultural development within the northern Sacramento Valley is generally well documented, and derives from research by Chartkoff, Miller and Johnson (1970), Ritter (1970), Markley (1975), Kowta (1988), Jensen (1987), Jensen & Jensen (1996, 2000, 2002), and others.

Ethnography

As noted above, the Konkow, or Northwest Maidu, were resident in the Chico area at the time of Euro-American contact (*circa.* AD 1840's). These people, whose language was a branch of the Penutian family, occupied a portion of the Sacramento Valley floor along both sides of the Sacramento River, as well as the foothills east of Chico and Oroville near the confluence of the south, middle, north, and west branches of the Feather River, as well as the lower drainages of Big and Little Chico Creeks and Butte Creek. On the basis of linguistic differences and geographical distribution, the Maidu have been divided into three primary groups: the Southern Maidu, or Nisenan; the Northeastern Maidu, or Mountain Maidu; and the Northwestern Maidu, or Konkow (Shipley 1978:83). It is this latter group which laid claim to the Chico area at the time of General John Bidwell's arrival.

The basic social unit for the Maidu was the nuclear family, although the village may also be considered a social, political and economic unit. Villages were usually located on flats adjoining streams, and on ridges high above rivers and creeks, and were most intensively occupied during the winter months (Dixon 1905:175). Villages typically consisted of a scattering of conical bark dwellings, numbering from four or five to several dozen in larger villages, each house containing a single family of from three to seven people (Riddell 1978:373). Larger villages, with from twelve to fifteen or more houses, might also contain a *kumi*, a semi-subterranean earth-covered lodge. The village containing the largest of these

structures acted as the ceremonial assembly center (ibid:373). Between three and five villages comprised a “village community” which defended, controlled and exploited a known territory. One such “village” was the Mechoopda, some of whose descendants still live in Chico today.

Resources exploited by the Maidu in the Chico area were both diverse and prolific. A variety of plant and animal species was readily available for collection, processing and consumption, with several different food types complimenting one another during various seasons. During the spring, a variety of herbs, tubers, roots, and grass seeds were collected from environments within close proximity to the winter village. During the summer months, individuals and groups would venture into the higher elevations in order to procure various plants and animals. Small, medium, and large mammals were actively hunted within the mountainous regions east of Chico, with only the coyote, dog, wolf, and bear avoided. Several types of insects were also collected during the summer, including yellow jacket larvae, grasshoppers, locusts, and crickets; all of which could be eaten dry, or roasted, the bulk of which were often stored for the winter months.

The transition between summer and autumn brought with it an abundance of food resources. Late summer fish runs were actively exploited, with salmon providing a large portion of the spoils. In addition to salmon, suckers, eels, and a variety of small, slow fish were actively exploited, especially during the Late Prehistoric periods (Broughton 1988). Fresh water mussels were also collected by the Maidu year-round, but were intensively exploited during periods of low water volume (late summer/early autumn) (Eugster 1990:114). Several types of nut seeds were collected during the early autumn months as well, with acorns provided by various oak species representing the greatest volume of nut meat harvested. While several varieties of acorn producing oaks exist, the Maidu preferred the black oak, golden oak, and the interior live oak. Other acorn producing varieties include the valley oak, blue oak, and the tan oak. The acorns were collected and then crushed in mortars to form acorn flour. Tannic acid had to be leached from the flour with warm water before consumption. A bland bread was baked from the flour, providing a carbohydrate staple.

Technological adaptations by the Maidu allowed for a quasi-sedentary lifestyle, especially within the Chico area where food resources and surface water sources were abundant. Storage was crucial to sedentism, with storage devices, structures, and methods being numerous.

During the course of seasonal rounds and in conjunction with specialized resource exploitation, the Maidu created a wide range of archaeological site “types” in the Chico area. While only fragmentary evidence of the associated material culture remains at many of these sites (due in large part to perishability but also to the impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later [historic] land uses), the range of such site types for this general area of Chico includes:

Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage, often but not always associated with dark brown to black “midden” deposits; surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without associated middens; bedrock milling stations, including both mortar holes and metate slicks;

petroglyphs, especially “pitted” or “cupped” rock outcrops; trails; and isolated artifacts and flakes.

Clearly, it was not expected that all such site/feature types would be present within the very small project area, but rather these represent the most likely “types” to be encountered if any sites were discovered at all, based on background information and the results of previous survey within Bidwell Park and the City of Chico.

Historic Context

Early Spanish expeditions arrived in the Great Central Valley of California from Bay Area missions as early as 1804. By the mid-1820's, literally hundreds of fur trappers were annually traversing the Valley on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company (Maloney 1945), some with devastating consequences for the local Maidu and other valley populations (Cook 1955). By the late 1830's and early 1840's, several small permanent European American settlements had emerged in the Valley and adjacent foothill lands, including ranchos in what are now Shasta, Tehama and Butte Counties. One of these was eventually, of course, acquired by Chico's founder, General John Bidwell.

Bidwell arrived in California in 1841 as a member of the first band of Americans to cross the Sierra Nevada for the purpose of settlement (McGie 1983:33). In the spring of 1843 a party of settlers headed north for Oregon from Sutter's Fort, which included John Bidwell, Peter Lassen and James Bruheim (ibid:34). On this trip, Bidwell was clearly impressed by the beauty of the region around Chico, and on his return from Oregon, Bidwell mapped the rivers and streams and the lay of the land at Chico (ibid:34). This map later formed the basis of several of the grants made by Micheltorena, the Mexican Governor of California.

The Rancho Arroyo Chico Grant of November 7, 1844 had been made by Micheltorena on behalf of the Mexican government to William Dickey. Dickey settled on the north side of Big Chico Creek and later sold the ranch to John Bidwell. Bidwell managed this land grant of approximately 22,200 acres, including lands now Bidwell Park, for many years from his home at Arroyo del Chico. As early as 1847 he maintained experimental orchards and fields alongside extensive farming operations (McGie 1983: 35), some of which bordered Lindo Channel and other natural surface water sources in the area, including lands along Chico Creek.

In 1905, a tract of the most desirable land along Big Chico Creek comprising more than 1,900 acres was donated to the City of Chico by Annie Bidwell. This was the beginning of Bidwell Park. In 1911, Mrs. Bidwell gifted an additional 301 acres to the City and to the Park. Later, an area along Lindo Channel, now held by Butte County and designated as an undeveloped park area, was gifted to the State of California by Mrs. Bidwell. Within Mrs. Bidwell's original Park gift stood the massive Hooker Oak (California State Landmark Number 313). Named by Mrs. Bidwell in 1887 in honor of Sir Joseph Hooker, an English botanist, this immense tree was estimated in excess of 1,000 years old, a portion of which was destroyed during a storm in 1962, with the remainder eventually uprooted during a large storm in 1977.

Additional developments occurred within Bidwell Park throughout the 20th Century, not directly linked with or commissioned by Annie Bidwell, but rather undertaken by City resolution in support of the goal of fostering further public use and recreation.

Critical to Chico's growth and economic success was the arrival of the California and Oregon Railroad in 1870, which facilitated rapid transit of goods and services to points throughout the State. Of additional importance to the region was the 1887 establishment of the Northern Branch of the State Normal School. The school's purpose was to train teachers in the art of education and prepare them to administer the State school system. In 1921, the school's name was officially changed to Chico State Teacher's School, and later became California State University, Chico.

Within the present project property, the history of land patent, ownership, acquisition and use have been documented, and establish a context for anticipating resources within the property, and further allow for such resources to be effectively evaluated for their historical significance.

James Thomas Stephens was born in Tennessee in 1830, and at the age of 19 was crossing the continent making his way to the riches of California. Along the way, Stephens met his future wife, Malinda Foster, a native of Missouri, and the two were married in Grass Valley, where the two lived a short time before moving to Butte County.

The Stephens purchased their first home in, what became known as Stone Ranch, Chico in 1852, in an area that later became known as The Chico Seed Orchard, part of the Mendocino National Forest. The Chico Seed Orchard would achieve notoriety for the introduction of the pistachio to the United States in 1917, and the Kiwi in 1934.

Over the next few years, James Stephens sought employment in Colusa County as a teamster, and began raising sheep on his Stone Ranch. Over the next two and one-half decades, Stephens added stock to his flock, and began acquiring lands that comprise the present project property.

Official land ownership of the present project property begins with Sam Neal's Spanish-Mexican Land Grant acquisition in April 4, 1860, which included all of Sections 28 & 32. Neal began selling portions of his acquisition, and on June 1, 1874, a cash sale of Lot/Tract 10 & 11 of Section 32 is shown for the Heirs of Washington Henshaw and Jonas M. Hoyl. A few years later, on June 15, 1877, William Weaver received Lot/Tract 7-9, 12 & 13, NW ¼, SW1/4 of Section 32 under the Homestead Act (General Land Office (GLO) Records).

At the age of 53, on July 5, 1883, James T. Stephens acquired through a cash sale the S1/2, SE1/4 of Section 32, and N1/2, SE1/4 of Section 28 (ibid.) where he ran his 1,450 head of sheep.

Additional lands, which would eventually be acquired by Stephens, were first acquired by: James Stilson acquired the NW1/4 Section 28 on August 1, 1883 through the Homestead Act, August 1, 1883; John C. Stanley, Cash Sale, March 15, 1884: N1/2SW1/4 Section 28; Simeon Moak, Homestead Act, June 30, 1885: NE1/4 Section 28 (ibid.).

On January 20, 1886, James Thomas Stephens acquired the N1/2, SE1/4, and the S1/2, NE1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, further expanding his holdings (ibid.).

Later, on August 30, 1888, Benjamin Franklin Potter, acquired Lot/Tract 1-6, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, on July 30, 1889, Henry Finkernagel acquired the N1/2, NE1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, and on July 30, 1889 Juan Jose Ochoa, acquired the S1/2, SE1/4, and the S1/2, SW1/4 of Section 28 through the Homestead Act (ibid.).

At the age of 69, James Stephens died in 1899, and bequeathed his assets to his wife Malinda, who died eleven years later at the age of 76. Malinda's will passed the assets, including the present project property, to one of their eleven children, Nick Stephens (Mansfield 1918:1149).

Born in 1867, Alvin "Nick" Stephens received title to the land on April 24, 1912, at the age of 55. Nick continued ranching the land, and successfully bought and sold land throughout the Chico area. He also purchased land northeast of Chico and established the popular summer resort, Jonesville (ibid.).

Nick's brother, Lyman Stephens, partnered with Nick on the sheep ranch for five years before purchasing the land outright on December 22, 1917. On April 12, 1943, Lyman transferred the ranch to his nephew Orville Llyod Stephens and Orville's wife, Phoebe Stephens (ibid.).

The ranch remained under the ownership of the Stephens family until 1973 when it was purchased by the Pacific Company of Japan, who eventually sold the property, in 2005, to the present owners.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several sources of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting pedestrian field survey includes soil types and geomorphological features (discussed above), data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, and review of available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments (already discussed).

Northeast Information Center (NEIC)

Prior to conducting the pedestrian field survey, the official Butte County archaeological records maintained by the Northeast Information Center were examined for any existing recorded prehistoric or historic sites I.C. File # W18-11, dated February 5, 2018). These records document the following existing conditions for a ¼-mile search radius surrounding the 1,440-acre project APE:

Previous Archaeological Survey: Twenty-one (21) investigations have been documented within, adjacent to, or within ¼-mile of, the subject APE. All twenty-one investigations are listed below, with five of particular importance addressed in greater detail.

NEIC #	Date	Author(s)
135	1973	Boynton
144	1975	Cross and Thorn
8117	1986	Farber
554	1981	Farber, Jensen
8143	1990	Flint
5910	2004	Harrington
6750	2005	Harrington
165	1977a	Henton
167	1977b	Henton
8146	1990a	Jensen
8147	1990b	Jensen
8148	1990c	Jensen
8130	1991a	Jensen
8130	1991b	Jensen
8135	1993	Jensen
2243	1998	Jensen
10030	2008	Kersey
8048	1979	Manning
8109	1980	Manning
7392	1978	Markley
407	1980	Offermann, Orlins

Harrington (2004) prepared an archaeological investigation for the one-acre Gillis property, which is plotted on the USGS map as being located immediately northeast of the intersection of the Skyway and Potter Road, but which in fact is located ½-mile to the west, at the northeast corner of the intersection of the Skyway and Bruce Road (NEIC # 5910).

Harrington (2008) conducted an archaeological investigation of Potter Road, located immediately west of the present APE (NEIC # 6750). Harrington did not identify any cultural resources during her 2008 investigation.

Kowta (1988) prepared an interpretative model for the region's prehistory (NEIC # 839). This report did not involve any pedestrian field work within the present APE.

Offerman and Orlins (1980) conducted an intensive inventory survey for the Cottonwood-Elverta transmission line which bisects the project property (NEIC # 407). One prehistoric site (CA-BUT-711), described as a single boulder containing three bedrock mortars, was documented during the 1980 investigation as being located within the present project property.

Nelson (2010) conducted a cultural resources investigation involving a linear corridor extending approximately 4.5-miles in length, and which crosses a very narrow (linear corridor) portion of the present project property (NEIC # 11093). Nelson documented three resources (P-04-3141, P-04-3190, P-04-3189) within the present project property.

Documented Sites: Five (5) sites have been formally recorded within the APE: CA-BUT-711, P-04-1452, P-04-3141, P-04-3190, P-04-3189.

CA-BUT-711 was recorded by Offerman and Orlins in 1980, and described as a single bedrock boulder containing three shallow mortars. [REDACTED]

P-04-1452 was recorded by Jensen in 1991, and consists of an historic-era rock wall (fence) extending approximately 1.6-miles in length, and consisting of two distinct segments: [REDACTED]

P-04-3141 was recorded by Trout in 2008, and subsequently updated by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of a hand-placed rock wall that [REDACTED]

P-04-3189 was recorded by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of a prehistoric occupation locale comprised of two bedrock milling features and light density artifact scatter. [REDACTED]

P-04-3190 was recorded by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of "a utility pole complex which includes at least two weathered poles devoid of wires in a northeast to southwest alignment..." [REDACTED]

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining records at the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, the following sources were also reviewed by the Information Center, or separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places.
- The California Register of Historical Resources.
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Data File (OHP 4-5-2012).
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (OHP 4-5-2012).
- The CALTRANS State and Local Bridge Survey (1989 and updates).

- 1930 Official Map of Butte County.
- 1912, 1950, 1953, 1955, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1978, 2012 Chico, CA and Hamlin Canyon, CA USGS Maps.
- GLO Plats and Historic County Maps.
- Published and unpublished documents relevant to environment, ethnography, prehistory and early historic developments in the vicinity, providing context for assessing site types and distribution patterns for the project area (summarized above under *Location, Environmental* and *Cultural Context*).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Coverage

All of the circa 1,440-acre APE was subjected to pedestrian survey by means of two methods: intensive and general.

Intensive survey involved transects spaced from between 5 and 20-meter intervals, and included straight line transects as well as zig-zag transects. Those portions of the present project property subjected to *Intensive* survey include all stream courses and associated benches and nearby slopes, escarpments, riparian corridors and outcrops.

General survey involved transects spaced from 20-60-meter intervals, and involved both straight line and zig-zag survey routes. Land areas subjected to *General* level survey included broad, elevated lava flow flats away from water and other important resources that comprise approximately 80% of the subject property.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor took into account the results of background research and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Michael Jensen between March 5 and April 18, 2018. Mr. Jensen is a professional archaeologist, historian and architectural historian, with 31 years experience in archaeology, history and architectural history, who meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Professional Qualification, as demonstrated in his listing on the California Historical Resources Information System list of qualified archaeologists and historians. No special problems were encountered and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

General Observations

Field work identified the following general conditions within the project area. Disturbance to the ground surface throughout the property has been minimal to moderate, primarily resulting from past livestock grazing, with greater disturbance associated with overhead utility placement and adjacent road construction.

Prehistoric Resources

Six (6) prehistoric sites were identified within the present project property. As discussed in the Documented Sites section, above, two prehistoric sites (CA-BUT-711 and P-04-3189) had been previously identified within the present project boundary. Both sites were relocated during the present intensive pedestrian survey, and their respective site records were updated to address new findings. Four (4) newly identified prehistoric resources were recorded on DPR 523 forms, assigned temporary field designations, and are discussed, along with the previously recorded resources, below.

CA-BUT-711: This site was originally recorded by Offerman and Orlins in 1980, and described as a single bedrock boulder containing three shallow mortars. [REDACTED]

During the present intensive pedestrian survey, this site was relocated, and carefully examined. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Consequently, the boundary for site CA-BUT-711 was dramatically expanded to include these components. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P-04-3189: This site was originally recorded by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of a prehistoric occupation locale comprised of two bedrock milling features and light density artifact scatter. [REDACTED]

During the present intensive pedestrian survey, this site was relocated, and carefully examined. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Consequently, the boundary for site P-04-3189 was expanded to include these components. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VE 1: This site consists of a prehistoric occupation locale extending approximately 300 meters in length and approximately 50 meters in width, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The general site area has been subjected to ongoing livestock grazing as well as past wildfires and limited vehicular (off road) traffic.

VE 2: This site consists of a prehistoric occupation locale extending approximately 55 meters in length and approximately 45 meters in width, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The general site area has been subjected to ongoing livestock grazing as well as past wildfires and very limited bicycle/pedestrian traffic.

VE 3: This site consists of a small rock shelter extending approximately 8 meters in length and 2 meters in width/depth (from drip line to back of rock shelter). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VE 4: This site consists of a prehistoric occupation locale extending approximately 800 meters in length and approximately 70 meters in width, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



The general site area has been subjected to ongoing livestock grazing as well as past wildfires and very limited bicycle/pedestrian traffic.

Historic-Era Resources

Five (5) historic-era sites were identified within the present project property. As discussed in the Documented Sites section, above, three historic-era sites (CA-BUT-3141, P-04-1452 and P-04-3190) had been previously identified within the present project boundary. All three sites were relocated during the present intensive pedestrian survey, and their respective site records were updated to address new findings. Two (2) newly identified historic-era resources were recorded on DPR 523 forms, assigned temporary field designations, and are discussed, along with the previously recorded resources, below.

An extensive discussion regarding land patents within the present APE is provided in the *Historic Context* section, above. Examination of the NETR USGS (1912, 1950, 1953, 1955, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1978, 2012) and Aerial (1941, 1947, 1951, 1969, 1998, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014) images were examined for information concerning components of the built environment, and to further provide a visual historic context for the APE.

The 1912 USGS map depicts two structures within the present APE, both of which are located within Section 32. The first is depicted immediately north of an unnamed stream course immediately west of the line dividing Sections 32 and 33, approximately 100 meters south of the intersection of Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33. With this locational information in hand, this area was subjected to detailed examination in effort to relocate any structures that conformed with the 1912 map information. No structures were located within this area.



VE 5: This site consists of an historic-era ranch complex, including the foundation remains of a residence, a cottage, three barns, two cisterns and wooden corrals/fences.



The 1912, 1950, 1953, 1955 and 1968 USGS quadrangles depict a single structure (residence) located within the general location of the existing residential foundation

identified within the present site boundary. The 1971 and 1978 USGS quadrangles both depict five (5) additional structures in addition to the originally depicted structure. Four of these five additional (pink colored on the maps) structures conform to the observed structures in the field. One of the five (the northeastern most of the five) is not present, and an examination of this land area failed to identify any evidence of the structure in the field. The 1969 and later aerials depict the five (5) structures that comprise the present ranch complex.

VE 6: This site consists of the remnants of a segment of Doe Mill Road. The road measures approximately 12' in width, segments of which exhibit ruts that were likely created by steel-wheeled wagons. Within the project property, the site extends approximately 8,000' from the terminus of the paved portion of Doe Mill Road, to the line dividing Sections 33 and 34. According to local ranchers, late 19th and early 20th century ranchers supplemented their stock feed with almond hulls which were transported by wagon and distributed along the route. Thus, the function and origin of this road was for ranching purposes, likely beginning in the latter half of the 19th century.

P-04-1452: This site was originally recorded by Jensen in 1991, and consists of an historic-era rock wall (fence) extending approximately 1.6-miles in length, and consisting of two distinct segments: [REDACTED]

The present intensive-level pedestrian survey re-located the site, and found that approximately half of the west-east trending segment was destroyed in conjunction with adjacent road construction and placement of buried utilities. The north-south trending element of this site remains relatively intact.

Further, the present inventory survey identified additional wall segments, located throughout the subject property, that all appear to be related in terms of temporal origin and function. Consequently, this record for this site was updated to include these additional segments, the collective of which constitutes the newly defined site description. Among these segments are two distinct varieties. The first consists of relatively intact segments, some of which retains fence posts and wire, while the second consists of very low, dilapidated examples that appear to have been abandoned and scavenged during the 19th century in an effort to add their components to other, more functional segments. In total, there are thirty-three (33) segments that have been identified within the subject property, totaling approximately 17,070 linear feet.

P-04-3141: This site was originally recorded by Trout in 2008, and subsequently updated by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of a hand-placed rock wall [REDACTED]

During the present investigation this site was found to remain essentially unchanged since its original and subsequent recordation. Within the subject property, the wall extends approximately 8,310 feet in length.

P-04-3190: This site was originally recorded by Norwood, Beck and Tilton in 2009, and consists of “a utility pole complex which includes at least two weathered poles devoid of wires in a northeast to southwest alignment...” [REDACTED]

This site was re-located during the present intensive-level pedestrian survey, and found to remain unchanged from its original recorded state.

5. ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

General

Sites identified within the project area have been evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria and eligibility per the National Register of Historic Places. Important cultural resources, per CEQA, are determined in relation to criteria specified in Section 15064.5 of the amended CEQA Guidelines. These criteria suggest that an “important archaeological resource” is one which retains essential integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and associative context, and which:

- 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.
- 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- 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.

Important cultural resources, per the National Register of Historic Places, are those prehistoric and historic sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects, as well as properties with traditional religious or cultural importance to Native Americans, which are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (“historic properties”), according to the criteria outlined in 36 CFR 60.4. An historic property must possess essential integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Associated with events which have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of the United States.
- b) Associated with the lives of people significant in United States history.
- c) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- d) Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

With the Amended CEQA Guidelines, CEQA and the NRHP criteria are now quite similar in their consideration of the qualities and attributes of archaeological sites that might render

them significant or eligible. In the discussion below, the criteria for both CEQA and the National Register are combined in assessing significance/eligibility.

Application of the Criteria to Six Prehistoric Sites

Specific application of the criteria to the six prehistoric sites within the project area yields the following recommendations.

- a) The six prehistoric sites are not associated with specific events which have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, and these six sites are not recommended eligible based on Criterion a).
- b) The six prehistoric sites are not associated with people significant in United States or California history, since there is no way to determine the individuals responsible for creation of the sites, on the basis of the physical evidence that remains at them. These sites are not recommended eligible per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, there are a large number of records on file for prehistoric habitation locales that essentially duplicate the attributes present at these six sites. Such components and the physical remains which comprise these sites are thus not considered rare or underrepresented in the existing California State inventory for the County in general or the project area in particular, nor do these sites represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." These sites are not recommended eligible per Criterion c).
- d) Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American use typically document protracted habitation and/or performance of a range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding of local and regional prehistory in various research domains, and such sites are therefore routinely considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion d). The buried components at these six prehistoric sites may well contain formed and datable (temporally diagnostic) artifact types, faunal and floral remains, specialized samples suitable for radiocarbon dating, etc. Depending on age and certain attributes that might be present, such buried cultural material could yield important and valuable information on prehistoric patterns of resource extraction methodology and technology, technical information concerning lithic reduction strategies employed, the size of the population involved, and further characterization of the intensity of resource use during this early period in Butte County.

Since there are categories of data at these six sites that remain unevaluated (subsurface component or midden development, including possible buried features such as fire hearths, living floors), all six sites are recommended potentially significant per CEQA's Criterion 4), and possibly as a "unique archaeological resource" to the extent that the sites may possess data classes of potential value in answering scientific research questions for which there is a demonstrable public interest, and further recommended eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion d).

Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-1452

Specific application of the criteria to historic site "P-04-1452" yields the following recommendations.

- a) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. There is no evidence that the ranching activities associated with these rock fences ever made significant contributions to history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion a).
- b) The rock fences located within the present project property may be associated with the Stephens family. No public records or other documentation can confirm the origin of the fences. While it is possible, and likely that the rock fences existed on the Stephens property during the time of the family's ownership of the land, there are no additional records or documents attributing ownership or origin of the fences, and none assigning such to the Stephens family. Consequently, this site is not associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. None of the individuals associated with the site have made significant contributions to state, or local history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in the County that duplicate the qualities and attributes of these rock fences. Clearly, this site is not at all rare in the California inventory, nor does this site represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion c).
- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record prepared. There are no subsurface accumulations for which further evaluation or recordation might be considered appropriate. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site. For these reasons, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion d).

Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-3141

Specific application of the criteria to historic site "P-04-3141" yields the following recommendations.

- a) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. There is no evidence that the ranching activities associated with this rock fence ever made significant contributions to history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion a).

- b) This particular rock fence is located within, or immediately adjacent to the present project property, and may be associated with the Stephens family. However, no public records or other documentation can confirm the origin of the fence. While it is possible, and likely that the rock fences existed on the Stephens property during the time of the family's ownership of the land, there are no additional records or documents attributing ownership or origin of the fences, and none assigning such to the Stephens family. Consequently, this site is not associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. None of the individuals associated with the site have made significant contributions to state, or local history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in the County that duplicate the qualities and attributes of this particular rock fence. Clearly, this site is not at all rare in the California inventory, nor does this site represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion c).
- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record prepared. There are no subsurface accumulations for which further evaluation or recordation might be considered appropriate. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site. For these reasons, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion d).

Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-3190

Specific application of the criteria to historic site "P-04-3190" yields the following recommendations.

- a) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. There is no evidence that the transmission line associated with this site ever made significant contributions to history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion a).
- b) This site is not associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. None of the individuals associated with the site have made significant contributions to state, or local history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in the County that duplicate the qualities and attributes of these electrical transmission line poles. Clearly, this site is not at all rare in the California inventory, nor does this site represent a

- “... distinctive type...” or “...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.” Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion c).
- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record prepared. There are no subsurface accumulations for which further evaluation or recordation might be considered appropriate. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site. For these reasons, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion d).

Application of the Criteria to Site VE 5

Specific application of the criteria to historic site “VE 5” yields the following recommendations.

- a) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. There is no evidence that the transmission line associated with this site ever made significant contributions to history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion a).
- b) The foundation remnants of the former residence may be associated with the Stephens family. No public records or other documentation can confirm the origin of the structure that once stood at this location, but its appearance on the 1912 USGS map confirms that it existed on the Stephens property during the time of the family’s ownership of the land. Some of the collapsed fireplace bricks were examined and found to exhibit the “Richmond” brand name. This brick brand was manufactured between 1910 and 1966, and it seems likely that the fireplace would have been constructed simultaneously with the overall residence construction. Thus, the structure likely dates to between 1910-1912, after the death of James Stephens and coincides with the last couple of years that Malinda Stephens was alive, and Nick Stephens’s acquisition of the property. Nick Stephens only held title of the property for five years, and it appears that his brother, Lyman, actually worked the ranch, and ultimately took sole ownership of the ranch from his brother in 1917. While Nick Stephens is known to have purchased and sold land in the region, he is most noted for owning (for a short period of time) the summer resort of Jonesville. None of his noted accomplishments appear to be connected to the ranch or ranch complex in question. Consequently, this site is not associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. None of the individuals associated with the site have made significant contributions to state, or local history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in the County that duplicate the qualities and attributes of this ranch complex. Clearly, this site is not at all rare in the California inventory, nor does this site represent a “... distinctive type...” or

“...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.” With the exception of the concrete foundation remnants, nothing of the residence remains. Further, the additional structures that comprise the complex do not appear on reliable maps until 1969. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion c).

- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record prepared. There are no subsurface accumulations for which further evaluation or recordation might be considered appropriate. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site. For these reasons, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion d).

In addition to meeting at least one of the eligibility criteria, above, a resource, in order to be considered an historic property potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, must retain substantial integrity, sufficient to convey historical significance. In the present case, the overall site's integrity has been substantially compromised, and no longer possesses the design, workmanship, feeling, association, and materials necessary to convey any historical significance it once may have possessed. This site, is therefore, recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Application of the Criteria to Site VE 6

Specific application of the criteria to historic site “VE 6” yields the following recommendations.

- a) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. There is no evidence that the ranching activities associated with Doe Mill Road ever made significant contributions to history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion a).
- b) The segment of Doe Mill Road located within the present project property may be associated with the Stephens family. No public records or other documentation can confirm the origin of the road, but its appearance on the 1912 USGS map confirms that it existed on the Stephens property during the time of the family's ownership of the land, but there are no additional records or documents attributing ownership or origin of the road, and none assigning such to the Stephens family. Consequently, this site is not associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. None of the individuals associated with the site have made significant contributions to state, or local history. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion b).
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in the County that duplicate the qualities and attributes of this ranch complex. Clearly, this site is not at

- all rare in the California inventory, nor does this site represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." While the lower (western) portion of the road is noted on the 1912 USGS map, there are no base maps confirming the road's location until 1955, when the road shows its continuation just east, and then north of Forest Ranch, where it connects with State Route 32. Based on these findings, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion c).
- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record prepared. There are no subsurface accumulations for which further evaluation or recordation might be considered appropriate. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site. For these reasons, this site is not recommended significant per Criterion d).

6. PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on cultural resources/historic properties if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the historic resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair a cultural resource or historic property are actions that would alter or diminish those attributes of a site that qualify the site for inclusion in State site registers or the National Register of Historic Places.

Sites Recommended Not Eligible to be Directly Impacted by Proposed Build-Out of the Project include:

P-04-1452
P-04-3141
P-04-3190
VE 5
VE 6

Sites Recommended Potentially Eligible and to be Avoided, Preserved In Place and Not Directly Impacted include:

CA-BUT-711
CA-BUT-3189
VE 1
VE 2
VE 3
VE 4

Potential impacts of the proposed undertaking to archaeological and historic sites per the above summary is based on the present Waters of the United States map prepared for the present project. In the case of sites P-04-1452 and P-04-3141, while recommended not eligible or significant, the present project envisions preservation of approximately 96% (c. 24,000 linear feet) of these wall segments. Similarly, while site VE 6 has been

recommended not eligible or significant, segments of Doe Mill Road which exhibit defined ruts are planned to be incorporated into a preservation area where their attributes can be exhibited to the public.

7. NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC, on February 1, 2018, requesting a review of their Sacred Lands Files (SLF), and a list of Native American Contacts for the APE. The NAHC responded on February 6, 2018 indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files was negative. The NAHC also provided a list of Native American Contacts, all of whom were contacted via letter (email or United States Postal Service). The list of contacted parties includes:

- Dennis E. Ramirez, Mechoopda Indian Tribe.
- Kyle Self, Greenville Rancheria.
- Gary Archuleta, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians.
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- Wallace Clark-Wilson, KonKow Valley Band of Maidu.
- James Edwards, Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians.
- Glenda Nelson, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria.
- Grayson Coney and Don Ryberg, Tsi Akim Maidu.

Letters were delivered on February 12, 2018 to all representatives on the NAHC contact list, and all those contacted were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. No responses were received from the contacted parties. Consequently, telephone calls, to all parties, were placed on April 23, 2018, with the following results.

Kyle McHenry of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe indicated that the Tribe would like to engage in consultation with all lead agencies for this project due to the project's proximity to known ethnographic villages, and to the property's cultural sensitivity.

The Greenville Rancheria deferred all comments to the Mechoopda Indian Tribe.

The Mooretown Rancheria deferred all comments to the Mechoopda Indian Tribe.

A detailed message was left for Cherilyn Neider of the UAIC. No response has been received.

A detailed message was left for the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians. No response has been received.

The Berry Creek Rancheria had no comments or concerns regarding the project.

The Enterprise Rancheria had no comments or concerns regarding the project.

The totality of consultation efforts is summarized in the attached Communications Log.

8. PROJECT SUMMARY

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey for the proposed Valley's Edge Development Project involving approximately 1,440-acres located adjacent to the east side of Potter Road and the north side of the Skyway, south of Little Chico Creek, within the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The project would involve residential and commercial subdivision of the property, which would be followed by construction of various commercial facilities, new homes, creation of recreational facilities, construction of various infrastructure components, including installation of buried utilities, and construction of curbs, gutters and sidewalks as well as vehicle access routes.

A search of State databases, including all records and documents available at the Northeast Information Center, resulted in the identification of two prehistoric and three historic-era resources previously recorded within the subject property. An intensive-level and general-level pedestrian survey of the subject property resulted in the identification of six (6) previously unrecorded resources, and the updating of the five (5) previously recorded resources, resulting in a total of eleven (11) resources within the subject property. All eleven sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility and CEQA significance. All six prehistoric sites were recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, while the five historic-era sites were recommended not eligible.

Aside from the recommended treatment options for sites CA-BUT-711, P-3189, and VE 1-4, archaeological clearance is recommended for the remainder of the project/undertaking as presently proposed, although the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

- 1) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:** Evidence of human burial or scattered human remains related to prehistoric occupation of the area could be inadvertently encountered anywhere within the project area during future construction activity or other actions involving disturbance to the ground surface and subsurface components. In the event of such an inadvertent discovery, the County Coroner would have to be informed and consulted, per State law. Ultimately, the goal of consultation is to establish an agreement between the most likely lineal descendant designated by the Native American Heritage Commission and the project proponent(s) with regard to a plan for treatment and disposition of any human remains and artifacts which might be found in association. Such treatment and disposition may require reburial of any identified human remains/burials within a "preserve" or other designated portion of the development property not subject to ground disturbing impacts.
- 2) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that significant unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development or construction activities. This caveat is particularly relevant considering

the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where ground disturbance has occurred. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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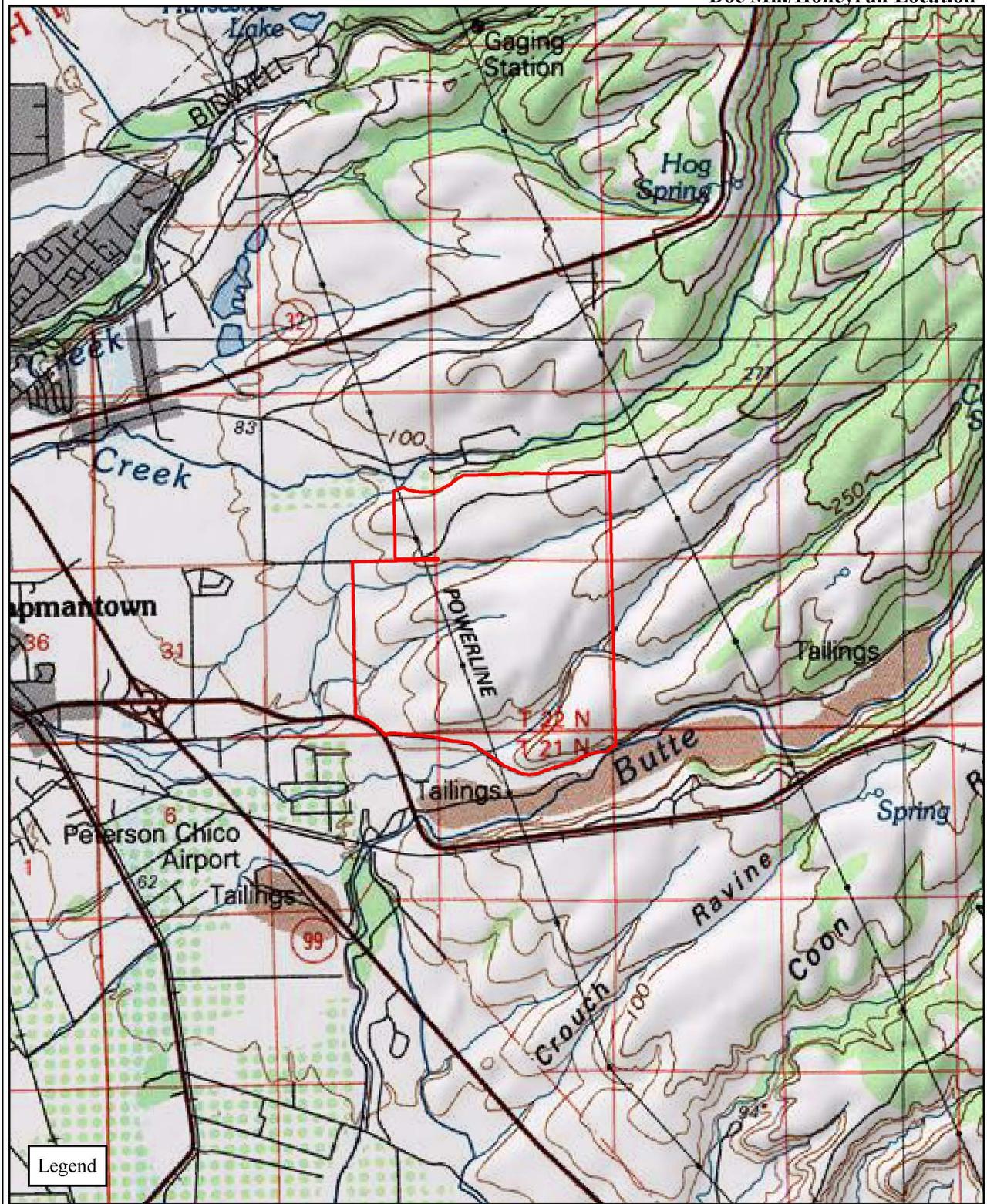
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Valley's Edge Development Project
circa 1,440-acres
Butte County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- Archaeological Survey Area Map
- Records Search from Northeast Information Center
- Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Response from the NAHC
- Consultation letters delivered to parties listed by the NAHC
- Communications log documenting consultation efforts
- Site Records: SITE RECORDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS REPORT
 - CA-BUT-711
 - P-04-1452
 - P-04-3141
 - P-04-3189
 - P-04-3190
 - VE 1
 - VE 2
 - VE 3
 - VE 4
 - VE 5
 - VE 6

Doe Mill/Honeyrun Location



Location from BCAG Parcel Data
Map Date: February 2010

Northeast Center of the
California Historical Resources
Information System

BUTTE
GLENN
LASSEN
MODOC
PLUMAS
SHASTA

SIERRA
SISKIYOU
SUTTER
TEHAMA
TRINITY

123 West 6th Street, Suite 100
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 898-6256
neinfoctr@csuchico.edu

ACCESS AGREEMENT

I.C. File #: W18-11

I, the undersigned, have been granted access to historical resources information on file at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System.

I understand that any CHRIS Confidential Information I receive shall not be disclosed to individuals who do not qualify for access to such information, as specified in Section III (A-E) of the CHRIS Information Center Rules of Operation Manual, or in publicly distributed documents without written consent of the Information Center Coordinator.

I agree to submit historical Resource Records and Reports based in part on the CHRIS information released under this Access Agreement to the Information Center within sixty (60) calendar days of completion.

I agree to pay for CHRIS services provided under this Access Agreement within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of billing.

I understand that failure to comply with this Access Agreement shall be grounds for denial of access to CHRIS Information.

Print Name: Sean Jensen Date: 2/5/18 Signature: [Signature]

Affiliation: GENESIS SOCIETY

Address: 7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE City/State/Zip: PARADISE, CA 95969

Billing Address (if different): _____

Office#: _____ Cell#: 530-680-6170 Email: _____

Project Name: MARIGOLD / NIEMEIR / POTTER

Purpose of Access: PROJECT PLANNING

County: BUTTE / SHASTA / BUTTE Township/Range/Section: TEHAMA / T34N, R4E

USGS 7.5' Quad: RICHARDSON SPRINGS / MURKEN BEACH / CHICO, HAMLIN CANYON

STAFF USE ONLY

Time: In-House Fees: 1 hours @ \$100.00/hour \$ 100.00

IN: 11:00 Staff Charges: _____ hours @ \$40.00/hour \$ _____

OUT: 12:00 Photocopy Charges: 159 copies @ \$0.15/page \$ 23.85

[Signature] Information Center Staff Other: _____ \$ _____

Backlog () _____ TOTAL: \$ 123.85

*** THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE ***

GENESIS SOCIETY

a Corporation Sole

7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE
PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969
(530) 680-6170 VOX
seanjensen@comcast.net

February 1, 2018

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Boulevard,
West Sacramento, California 95691

***Subject: Valley's Edge Development Project, circa 1,400-acres, City of Chico,
Butte County, California.***

Dear Commission:

We have been requested to conduct the archaeological survey, for the above-cited projects and are requesting any information you may have concerning archaeological sites or traditional use areas for this area. Any information you might supply will be used to supplement the archaeological and historical study being prepared for this project.

Project Name: Valley's Edge Development Project, circa 1,400-acres
County: Butte
Maps: USGS Chico and Hamlin Canyon, 7.5'
Location: Portion of Sections 28, 29, 32 & 33 of T22N, R2E, and Portion of
Sections 4 & 5 of T21N, R2E

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471



February 6, 2018

Sean Michael Jensen
Genesis Society

Email to: seanjensen@comcast.net

RE: Valley's Edge Development, Butte Count

Dear Mr. Jensen,

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 preclude the presence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources for cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and/or recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans tribes who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the 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 to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 916-573-1033 or frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Lienert".

Frank Lienert
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Native American Heritage Commission

Native American Contacts

2/6/2018

Mechoopda Indian Tribe
Dennis E. Ramirez. Chairperson
125 Mission Ranch Blvd
Chico, CA 95926
dramirez@mechoopda-nsn.gov
(530) 899-8922

Mechoopda Maidu
Concow

(530) 899-8517 - Fax

Greenville Rancheria
Kvle Self. Chairperson
P.O. Box 279
Greenville, CA 95947
kself@greenvillerancheria.com
(530) 284-7990

Maidu

(530) 284-6612 Fax

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Garv Archuleta. Chairperson
#1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
frontdesk@mooretown.org
(530) 533-3625

Maidu
KonKow / Concow

(530) 533-3680 Fax

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

Maidu
Miwok

(530) 883-2380 Fax

KonKow Valley Band of Maidu
Wallace Clark-Wilson. Chairperson
2086 N. Villa St.
Palermo, CA 95968
konkowvalleybandofmaiduians@gmail.com
(707) 357-2415

KonKow / Concow
Maidu

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
James Edwards. Chairperson
5 Tvme Wav
Oroville, CA 95966
jedwards@berrycreekrancheria.com
(530) 534-3859

Tvme Maidu

(530) 534-1151 Fax

Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
Glenda Nelson. Chairperson
2133 Monte Vista Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966
info@enterpriserancheria.org
(530) 532-9214

Maidu

(530) 532-1768 Fax

Tsi Akim Maidu
Gravson Conev. Cultural Director
P.O. Box 510
Browns Valley, CA 95918
tsi-akim-maidu@att.net
(530) 274-7497

Maidu

Tsi Akim Maidu
Don Rvbera. Chairperson
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Browns Valley, CA 95918
tsi-akim-maidu@att.net
(530) 274-7497

Maidu

(530) 559-8595

This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American Tribes with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed **Valley's Edge Development, Butte Count**

GENESIS SOCIETY

a Corporation Sole

7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE
PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969
(530) 680-6170 VOX
seanjensen@comcast.net

February 12, 2018

Native American Individuals, Groups and Tribes

Subject: Valley's Edge Development Project, circa 1,400-acres, City of Chico, Butte County, California.

Dear Interested Native Americans:

Enclosed is a USGS topo-based map showing the location for a community development project within the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

We have been requested to conduct the archaeological survey, and are requesting any information you may have concerning archaeological sites or traditional use areas for this area. Any information you might supply will be used to supplement the archaeological and historical study being prepared for this project.

Project Name: Valley's Edge Development Project, circa 1,400-acres
County: Butte
Maps: USGS Chico and Hamlin Canyon, 7.5'
Location: Portion of Sections 28, 29, 32 & 33 of T22N, R2E, and Portion of Sections 4 & 5 of T21N, R2E

Thanks for your help. Please call with any questions.

Regards,

Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator

COMMUNICATIONS LOG, VALLEY'S EDGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contacted Party	Date	Medium	Comments
Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Glenda Nelson	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. Indicated the Tribe had no concerns regarding the project.
Tsi-Akim Maidu, Grayson Coney and Don Ryberg	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. Detailed telephone message left with no response.
Mechoopda Tribe of the Chico Rancheria, Dennis Ramirez, Colin Klinesteker and Kyle McHenry	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. Spoke with Mr. McHenry who indicated that the Tribe wants to consult on this project due to the project's proximity to known sites and to the cultural sensitivity of the project property.
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Gene Whitehouse and Cherilyn Neider	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	United States Postal Service Telephone	Delivered hard copies of consultation letter and project map. Detailed telephone message left with no response.
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians, Gary Archuleta	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. No concerns.
Greenville Rancheria, Kyle Self	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. No concerns.
Konkow Valley Band of Maidu, Wallace Clark-Wilson	February 12, 2018 April 23, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. Detailed telephone message left with no response.
Berry Creek Rancheria, James Edwards	December 8, 2017 January 16, 2018	Email Telephone	Delivered email containing consultation letter and project map. No concerns.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY SURVEY

**Valley's Edge Off-Site Infrastructure Project
circa 3.5-Mile Linear Corridor
City of Chico, Butte County, California.**

Prepared for

Chico Land Investment

Attention: Bill Brouhard
2550 Lakewest Drive, Suite 50
Chico, CA 95928

Author

Sean Michael Jensen, M. A.

Keywords *for Information Center Use:*

Cultural Resources Inventory Survey, circa 3.5-Mile Linear Corridor, Butte County, CEQA, USGS Chico, Ca. 7.5' Quadrangle, No Significant Historical Resources, No Unique Archaeological Resources

July 4, 2020

ABSTRACT

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey of a linear utility corridor ranging from between 30 and 130 feet in width, and extending approximately 3.5-miles in length. The utility corridor consists of two distinct elements, one along the paved length of East 20th Street from its eastern terminus to Bruce Road, and the second following a complex route from the intersection of Potter Road and the Skyway, in the east, and terminating at the intersection of the Midway with Hegan Lane, in the west. The project is located within the southern portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The proposed project consists of trenching to install underground utilities (sewer lines, electricity, natural gas) connecting to existing infrastructure. Whenever the proposed alignment crosses a swale, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, and Comanche Creek the infrastructure will involve jack and bore under these features. Thus, no direct impacts to these resources are anticipated. Jack and bore involves diagonal and horizontal boring between two points without disturbing the surface of the feature that is being crossed.

The infrastructure alignments follow existing roads and/or existing utility corridors. The width of the study area ranges from between 30 and 130 feet. Within segment A, the proposed off-site infrastructure will stay within the paved portion of 20th Street and will cross Butte Creek Diversion Channel, terminating at the intersection of East 20th Street and Bruce Road. Within segment B, the infrastructure construction will be trenched in the road shoulder of Skyway, Morrow Lane, and Cramer Lane. The alignment crosses the Butte Creek Diversion Channel at Skyway before connecting with Morrow Lane. Traveling south on Cramer lane, the project will cross several swale-like depressions and Comanche Creek, before turning west towards State Highway 99. Segment B is mostly within paved sections of roads until it crosses Comanche Creek, where it travels overland through valley oak woodland and highly disturbed grassland. It then crosses State Highway 99 and connects to existing infrastructure in Entler Road. From Entler Road to the terminus in Midway, at the intersection of Midway and Hegan Lane, the project will be contained in the paved portion of the road. The study area consists of urban, barren and valley foothill riparian habitat types. The habitat conditions within the study area are highly degraded due to existing development and the previous installation of utilities (e.g. underground water and gas lines). Within segment B south and west of Comanche Creek the project traverses overland, but the alignment is located in an existing utility corridor, thus permanent impacts to resources is not expected.

Existing records at the NEIC document that portions of the APE had been subjected to previous archaeological investigation. The NEIC further indicated that no prehistoric or historic-era sites had been documented within the APE, but that seven (7) resources had been documented within the 0.25-mile search radius. As well, the present effort included an intensive-level pedestrian survey. The pedestrian survey resulted in the identification of one historic-era site, P-04-1446. This abandoned segment of the Butte County Railroad was recorded, and evaluated for CRHR eligibility, and recommended not eligible under any of the evaluative criteria.

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) re. sacred land listings for the property. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on April 30, 2020. The NAHC responded with a letter dated May 5, 2020, indicating that a search of their Sacred Lands files returned negative results.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources within the APE, archaeological/cultural resources clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
Project Background.....	1
Regulatory Context	2
Scope of Work	5
2. LOCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL and CULTURAL CONTEXT	6
Location	6
Environment	6
Prehistory	7
Ethnography.....	9
Historic Context.....	10
3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED.....	14
Northeast Information Center Records	14
Other Sources Consulted	15
4. CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY ..	16
Survey Strategy and Field Work.....	16
General Field Observations	16
Prehistoric Resources	17
Historic-era Resources.....	17
5. ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION	17
General	17
Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-1446.....	18
6. PROJECT EFFECTS.....	20
7. NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION.....	20
8. PROJECT SUMMARY	20
9. REFERENCES CITED and/or UTILIZED	22

ATTACHMENTS

APE Map.
Copy of Records Search from NEIC, File No.: W20-13, dated January 27, 2020.
Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).
Response from the NAHC.
Primary Record: P-04-1446

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey of a linear utility corridor ranging from between 30 and 130 feet in width, and extending approximately 3.5-miles in length. The utility corridor consists of two distinct elements, one along the paved length of East 20th Street from its eastern terminus to Bruce Road, and the second following a complex route from the intersection of Potter Road and the Skyway, in the east, and terminating at the intersection of the Midway with Hegan Lane, in the west. The project is located within the southern portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The proposed project consists of trenching to install underground utilities (sewer lines, electricity, natural gas) connecting to existing infrastructure. Whenever the proposed alignment crosses a swale, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, and Comanche Creek the infrastructure will involve jack and bore under these features. Thus, no direct impacts to these resources are anticipated. Jack and bore involves diagonal and horizontal boring between two points without disturbing the surface of the feature that is being crossed.

The infrastructure alignments follow existing roads and/or existing utility corridors. The width of the study area ranges from between 30 and 130 feet. Within segment A, the proposed off-site infrastructure will stay within the paved portion of 20th Street and will cross Butte Creek Diversion Channel, terminating at the intersection of East 20th Street and Bruce Road. Within segment B, the infrastructure construction will be trenched in the road shoulder of Skyway, Morrow Lane, and Cramer Lane. The alignment crosses the Butte Creek Diversion Channel at Skyway before connecting with Morrow Lane. Traveling south on Cramer lane, the project will cross several swale-like depressions and Comanche Creek, before turning west towards State Highway 99. Segment B is mostly within paved sections of roads until it crosses Comanche Creek, where it travels overland through valley oak woodland and highly disturbed grassland. It then crosses State Highway 99 and connects to existing infrastructure in Entler Road. From Entler Road to the terminus in Midway, at the intersection of Midway and Hegan Lane, the project will be contained in the paved portion of the road. The study area consists of urban, barren and valley foothill riparian habitat types. The habitat conditions within the study area are highly degraded due to existing development and the previous installation of utilities (e.g. underground water and gas lines). Within segment B south and west of Comanche Creek the project traverses overland, but the alignment is located in an existing utility corridor, thus permanent impacts to resources is not expected.

Since the project could ultimately involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with future utility infrastructure development, it has the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the APE. In this case, the APE consists of the circa 3.5-mile linear corridor. Evaluation of the project's potential to impact cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with City of Chico rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California

CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Regulatory Context

The following section provides a summary of the applicable regulations, policies and guidelines relating to the proper management of cultural resources.

The California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term “historical resource” includes “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California” (Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(j)). In 1992, the California legislature established the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) “to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state’s historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (PRC Section 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR were developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the NRHP. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1–4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains “substantial integrity,” and (ii) meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
- (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
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

To understand the historic importance of a resource, sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance (see 14 CCR 4852(d)(2)). The CRHR protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources. The criteria for the CRHR are nearly identical to those for the NRHP, and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

California Environmental Quality Act

As described further, the following CEQA statutes and CEQA Guidelines are of relevance to the analysis of archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources:

- PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines “unique archaeological resource.”
- PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) define “historical resources.” In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.” It also defines the circumstances when a project would materially impair the significance of a historical resource.
- PRC Section 21074(a) defines “tribal cultural resources.”
- PRC Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains can occur until the County Coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5b). PRC Section 5097.98 also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If the County Coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact the California NAHC within 24 hours (Section 7050.5c). The NAHC will notify the Most Likely Descendant. With the permission of the landowner, the Most Likely Descendant may inspect the site of discovery. The inspection must be completed within 48 hours of notification of the Most Likely Descendant by the NAHC. The Most Likely Descendant may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and items associated with Native Americans.

PRC Sections 21083.2(b)–(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 provide information regarding the mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including examples of preservation-in-place mitigation measures; preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological sites because it maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archaeological context, and may also help avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the archaeological site(s).

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)). If a site is either listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or if it is included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(q)), it is a “historical resource” and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section

15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource, even if it does not fall within this presumption (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

A “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” reflecting a significant effect under CEQA means “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); PRC Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project does any of the following:

- (1) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or
- (2) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
- (3) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA [CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(2)].

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA inquiry begins with evaluating whether a project site contains any “historical resources,” then evaluates whether that project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource’s historical significance is materially impaired.

If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (Section 21083.2(a), (b), and (c)).

Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest 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

- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person

Impacts to non-unique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (PRC Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)). However, if a non-unique archaeological resource qualifies as tribal cultural resource (PRC 21074(c); 21083.2(h)), further consideration of significant impacts is required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described in the following text, these procedures are detailed in PRC Section 5097.98.

Native American Historic Cultural Sites

State law (PRC Section 5097 et seq.) addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and established the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

In the event that Native American human remains or related cultural material are encountered, Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines (as incorporated from PRC Section 5097.98) and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 define the subsequent protocol. In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, excavation or other disturbances shall be suspended of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains or related material. Protocol requires that a county-approved coroner be contacted in order to determine if the remains are of Native American origin. Should the coroner determine the remains to be Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98 (14 CCR 15064.5(e)).

Scope of Work

Compliance with CEQA (and County rules and regulations) requires completion of projects in conformity with the amended (2019) Guidelines, including in particular Section 15064.5. Based on these rules, regulations and Guidelines, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present archaeological survey:

- Conduct a records search at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System and consult with the Native American Heritage Commission. The goals of the records search and consultation are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all significant/eligible cultural

resources are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.

- Conduct a pedestrian survey of the APE in order to record and evaluate any previously unidentified cultural resources. Based on map review, a complete coverage, intensive survey was considered appropriate, given the presence of moderate archaeological sensitivity within the property. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously identified sites are re-located and evaluated in relation to the present project/undertaking. For any previously undocumented sites discovered, the field survey would include formally recording these resources on State of California DPR-523 Forms.
- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare a Final Report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for sites that might be affected by the undertaking and that are considered significant or potentially significant per CEQA, and/or eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the Final Report for this project, detailing the results of the records search, consultation and pedestrian survey and providing recommendations for treatment of significant/eligible archaeological and historic sites. All field survey work followed guidelines provided by the Office of Historic Preservation (Sacramento) and conforms to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

Location

The present APE incorporates a linear utility corridor ranging from between 30 and 130 feet in width, and extending approximately 3.5-miles in length. The utility corridor consists of two distinct elements, one along the paved length of East 20th Street from its eastern terminus to Bruce Road, and the second following a complex route from the intersection of Potter Road and the Skyway, in the east, and terminating at the intersection of the Midway with Hegan Lane, in the west. The project is located within the southern portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California. Lands affected are located within portions of Sections 31 & 32 of Township 22 North, Range 2 East, portions of Sections 5 & 6 of Township 21 North, Range 2 East, and portions of Section 1 of Township 21 North, Range 1 East, as shown on the USGS Chico, California, 7.5' Series Quadrangle (see attached *APE Map*).

Environment

The project area is located at the interface of the Northern Sacramento Valley with the southern margins of volcanic flows emanating from the Cascade Range, and near the lower reaches of the northern Sierra Nevada (Bateman and Wahrhaftig 1966). Volcanic deposits emanating from the former have capped some lands around Chico, forming numerous buttes (Klaseen and Ellison 1974). Tertiary placer deposits are also exposed throughout the area east and southeast of Chico (Clark 1970), and were discovered early in 1849 resulting in a substantial influx of Euroamericans seeking gold, followed almost immediately by a whole

series of landscape modifications as miners churned and sifted every inch of every creek and river bottom in the County, including the perennial and ephemeral stream courses located in the vicinity of the project area.

Prior to disturbance associated with mining, agricultural and residential development, vegetation of the region was dominated by a Foothill-Woodland Community, with small meadows and meadow margins containing both Valley and Blue Oaks, and stream margins dominated by willow, native sycamore, dense blackberry thickets, and a variety of brush species (Barbour and Major 1977; Kuchler 1977).

Well-watered and containing an abundance of both plant and animal resources, the Chico area was intensively utilized and densely populated during prehistoric times. Small overhang shelters and caves have formed under the hard lava cap at many locations east of Chico, and most of them were utilized for at least temporary habitation. Elsewhere, benches and flats flanking the Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek and tributary streams were utilized for open-air camps and villages.

Native vegetation still dominates portions of the Chico area, although urban expansion during the past 100 years has substantially fragmented most of the eco-zones, and today native vegetation is typically restricted to small patches of oak-park woodland and riparian associations, particularly along major water courses such as Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek and Butte Creek and their major tributaries.

Most of the land in this area has been utilized for ranching, beginning around the middle of the 19th Century, giving way to residential development during the latter portion of the 20th century. Collectively, historic through contemporary activities have resulted in impacts, in varying degrees, to the ground surface and subsurface components throughout the project area.

Elevation within the project area ranges from approximately 200 to 300 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The most important natural surface water sources in the immediate vicinity of the project area are Comanche Creek which is bisected by the APE, and Butte Creek which is located approximately 0.5-miles southeast of the APE.

Overall and based upon map review and the results of previous archaeological surveys in the vicinity, the project area appeared to contain lands high in archaeological sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic-period sites and features.

Prehistory

The earliest residents in the Great Central Valley and adjacent lands along the Valley margin are represented by the Fluted Point and Western Pluvial Lakes Traditions, which date from about 11,500 to 7,500 years ago (Moratto 2004). Within portions of central California, fluted projectile points have been found at Tracy Lake (Heizer 1938) and around the margins of Buena Vista Lake in Kern County. Similar materials have been found to the north, at Samwel Cave near Shasta Lake and near McCloud and Big Springs in Siskiyou County. These early peoples are thought to have subsisted using a combination of generalized hunting and lacustrine exploitation (Moratto 2004).

These early cultural assemblages were followed by an increase in Native population density after about 7,500 years ago. One of the most securely dated of these assemblages in north-central California is from the Squaw Creek Site located north of Redding. Here, a charcoal-based C-14 date suggests extensive Native American presence around 6,500 years ago, or 4,500 B.C. Most of the artifactual material dating to this time period has counterparts further south, with clear evidence around Borax (Clear) Lake west-southwest of Oroville, and the Farmington Area in a Valley setting east of Stockton. Important artifact types from this era include large wide-stemmed projectile points and manos and metates.

In the Central Valley of California and adjacent foothills of the Sierra Nevada around Oroville, aboriginal populations continued to expand between 6,500 and 4,500 years ago, with the possibility that arriving Macro-Penutian-speaking people (including Miwok, Yokuts and Nisenan to the south, and Maidu at Oroville) introduced more extensive use of bulbs and other plant foods, animal and fishing products more intensively processed with mortars and pestles, and perhaps the bow and arrow and associated small stemmed- and corner-notched projectile points (Ragir 1972).

Archaeological investigations at regional sites have resulted in some important findings over the past several decades. Chico State University's Research Archaeology Program and contributions by private consultants have produced a roster of different types of sites located throughout Konkow as well as adjacent Indian groups' territories. Within the Oroville-Paradise Locality, Ritter's late-1960's studies provide a prehistoric sequence clearly applicable to the present project area (Ritter 1969, 1970, Jensen 1984, 1987, 1998, 2000, Jensen & Jensen 2000, 2002, and Markley 1975).

Ritter's findings suggested that some of the earliest archaeological remains within the Oroville Locality probably do not represent Maidu-speaking peoples. Rather, the earliest period, referred to as the Mesilla Complex (Ritter 1970), is believed to represent Hokan-speaking peoples (Olsen and Riddell 1963; Baumhoff and Olmsted 1963; Chartkoff, Miller and Johnson 1970), living in small bands and relying heavily on the exploitation of seeds which were processed by means of millstones and manos, and on game animals which were taken with basalt-tipped darts. This period is believed to date from before 1000 B.C. and to have lasted until about AD 1.

Periods of occupation following the Mesilla Complex period were marked by increasing reliance on acorns and salmon, increased socio-political complexity, increasing population density, and eventually a predominantly sedentary existence. These periods were named by Ritter as follows:

- Bidwell Complex, dating from c. AD 1 to AD 800;
- Sweetwater Complex, dating from c. AD 800 to AD 1500; and
- Oroville Complex dating from c. AD 1500 through Protohistoric and early historic times.

The changes which occurred during this rather long time period have in part been defined by the introduction, or at least increasing reliance upon and use of, the mortar and pestle, and introduction of the bow and arrow, with the latter inferred on the basis of the appearance and

predominance of smaller, more finely crafted projectile points of crypto-crystalline material during the later time periods. Further, it has long been suggested that these changes might also correlate with entry into this area of Penutian speaking peoples, possibly, but not necessarily, Maiduan. Kowta (1978; 1988), for example, has suggested that the first wave of Penutian-speaking people into the Oroville-Paradise-Chico area was not necessarily Maiduan, but rather may have been Miwok or Costanoan, an hypothesis also suggested by Whistler on the basis of linguistic evidence (Whistler 1977). An apparent break in the archaeological sequence within the Oroville-Paradise-Chico area at about AD 1000 might thus represent the initial entry of Penutian speakers (*ibid.*). If these initial occupants were Miwok or Costanoan, they were soon replaced by Maidu expanding out of the Oroville Locality between about AD 1400 to AD 1850. These are the Indian peoples who would have been the final occupants of lands within the project area – occupants of this area during the past 300 to 500 or so years.

Ethnography

As noted above, the Konkow, or Northwest Maidu, were resident in the Chico area at the time of Euro-American contact (*circa.* AD 1840's). These people, whose language was a branch of the Penutian family, occupied a portion of the Sacramento Valley floor along both sides of the Sacramento River, as well as the foothills east of Chico and Oroville near the confluence of the south, middle, north, and west branches of the Feather River, as well as the lower drainages of Big and Little Chico Creeks and Butte Creek. On the basis of linguistic differences and geographical distribution, the Maidu have been divided into three primary groups: the Southern Maidu, or Nisenan; the Northeastern Maidu, or Mountain Maidu; and the Northwestern Maidu, or Konkow (Shibley 1978:83). It is this latter group which laid claim to the Chico area at the time of General John Bidwell's arrival.

The basic social unit for the Maidu was the nuclear family, although the village may also be considered a social, political and economic unit. Villages were usually located on flats adjoining streams, and on ridges high above rivers and creeks, and were most intensively occupied during the winter months (Dixon 1905:175). Villages typically consisted of a scattering of conical bark dwellings, numbering from four or five to several dozen in larger villages, each house containing a single family of from three to seven people (Riddell 1978:373). Larger villages, with from twelve to fifteen or more houses, might also contain a *kumi*, a semi-subterranean earth-covered lodge. The village containing the largest of these structures acted as the ceremonial assembly center (*ibid*:373). Between three and five villages comprised a "village community" which defended, controlled and exploited a known territory. One such "village" was the Mechoopda, some of whose descendants still live in Chico today.

Resources exploited by the Maidu in the Chico area were both diverse and prolific. A variety of plant and animal species was readily available for collection, processing and consumption, with several different food types complimenting one another during various seasons. During the spring, a variety of herbs, tubers, roots, and grass seeds were collected from environments within close proximity to the winter village. During the summer months, individuals and groups would venture into the higher elevations in order to procure various plants and animals. Small, medium, and large mammals were actively hunted within the mountainous regions east of Chico, with only the coyote, dog, wolf, and bear avoided.

Several types of insects were also collected during the summer, including yellow jacket larvae, grasshoppers, locusts, and crickets; all of which could be eaten dry, or roasted, the bulk of which were often stored for the winter months.

The transition between summer and autumn brought with it an abundance of food resources. Late summer fish runs were actively exploited, with salmon providing a large portion of the spoils. In addition to salmon, suckers, eels, and a variety of small, slow fish were actively exploited, especially during the Late Prehistoric periods (Broughton 1988). Fresh water mussels were also collected by the Maidu year-round, but were intensively exploited during periods of low water volume (late summer/early autumn) (Eugster 1990:114). Several types of nut seeds were collected during the early autumn months as well, with acorns provided by various oak species representing the greatest volume of nut meat harvested. While several varieties of acorn producing oaks exist, the Maidu preferred the black oak, golden oak, and the interior live oak. Other acorn producing varieties include the valley oak, blue oak, and the tan oak. The acorns were collected and then crushed in mortars to form acorn flour. Tannic acid had to be leached from the flour with warm water before consumption. A bland bread was baked from the flour, providing a carbohydrate staple.

Technological adaptations by the Maidu allowed for a quasi-sedentary lifestyle, especially within the Chico area where food resources and surface water sources were abundant. Storage was crucial to sedentism, with storage devices, structures, and methods being numerous.

During the course of seasonal rounds and in conjunction with specialized resource exploitation, the Maidu created a wide range of archaeological site "types" in the Chico area. While only fragmentary evidence of the associated material culture remains at many of these sites (due in large part to perishability but also to the impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later [historic] land uses), the range of such site types for this general area of Chico includes:

Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage, often but not always associated with dark brown to black "midden" deposits; surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without associated middens; bedrock milling stations, including both mortar holes and metate slicks; petroglyphs, especially "pitted" or "cupped" rock outcrops; trails; and isolated artifacts and flakes.

Clearly, it was not expected that all such site/feature types would be present within the very small project area, but rather these represent the most likely "types" to be encountered if any sites were discovered at all, based on background information and the results of previous survey within Bidwell Park and the City of Chico.

Historic Context

Early Spanish expeditions arrived in the Great Central Valley of California from Bay Area missions as early as 1804. By the mid-1820's, literally hundreds of fur trappers were annually traversing the Valley on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company (Maloney 1945), some with devastating consequences for the local Maidu and other valley populations (Cook 1955). By the late 1830's and early 1840's, several small permanent European American

settlements had emerged in the Valley and adjacent foothill lands, including ranchos in what are now Shasta, Tehama and Butte Counties. One of these was eventually, of course, acquired by Chico's founder, General John Bidwell.

Bidwell arrived in California in 1841 as a member of the first band of Americans to cross the Sierra Nevada for the purpose of settlement (McGie 1983:33). In the spring of 1843 a party of settlers headed north for Oregon from Sutter's Fort, which included John Bidwell, Peter Lassen and James Bruheim (ibid:34). On this trip, Bidwell was clearly impressed by the beauty of the region around Chico, and on his return from Oregon, Bidwell mapped the rivers and streams and the lay of the land at Chico (ibid:34). This map later formed the basis of several of the grants made by Micheltorena, the Mexican Governor of California.

The Rancho Arroyo Chico Grant of November 7, 1844 had been made by Micheltorena on behalf of the Mexican government to William Dickey. Dickey settled on the north side of Big Chico Creek and later sold the ranch to John Bidwell. Bidwell managed this land grant of approximately 22,200 acres, including lands now Bidwell Park, for many years from his home at Arroyo del Chico. As early as 1847 he maintained experimental orchards and fields alongside extensive farming operations (McGie 1983: 35), some of which bordered Lindo Channel and other natural surface water sources in the area, including lands along Chico Creek.

In 1905, a tract of the most desirable land along Big Chico Creek comprising more than 1,900 acres was donated to the City of Chico by Annie Bidwell. This was the beginning of Bidwell Park. In 1911, Mrs. Bidwell gifted an additional 301 acres to the City and to the Park. Later, an area along Lindo Channel, now held by Butte County and designated as an undeveloped park area, was gifted to the State of California by Mrs. Bidwell. Within Mrs. Bidwell's original Park gift stood the massive Hooker Oak (California State Landmark Number 313). Named by Mrs. Bidwell in 1887 in honor of Sir Joseph Hooker, an English botanist, this immense tree was estimated in excess of 1,000 years old, a portion of which was destroyed during a storm in 1962, with the remainder eventually uprooted during a large storm in 1977.

Additional developments occurred within Bidwell Park throughout the 20th Century, not directly linked with or commissioned by Annie Bidwell, but rather undertaken by City resolution in support of the goal of fostering further public use and recreation.

Critical to Chico's growth and economic success was the arrival of the California and Oregon Railroad in 1870, which facilitated rapid transit of goods and services to points throughout the State. Of additional importance to the region was the 1887 establishment of the Northern Branch of the State Normal School. The school's purpose was to train teachers in the art of education and prepare them to administer the State school system. In 1921, the school's name was officially changed to Chico State Teacher's School, and later became California State University, Chico.

Following the 1849 California Gold Rush, one of the important objectives of 19th Century entrepreneurs was linking the burgeoning San Francisco and Sacramento Valley population and industry with the gold- and timber-producing counties to the north and east. To this end, voters approved bonds in 1862 to construct the California Northern Railroad, linking

Marysville with Oroville. Later in the decade the line was acquired and expanded by Western Pacific, with the two systems merging with one another near Palermo, south of Oroville.

The merger of the California Northern Railroad and the Western Pacific was soon followed by construction of the Oroville Depot and the substantial maintenance yard at Oroville, setting the stage for additional rail links to Oroville. One of these links involved Chico.

The Chico Electric Railroad, and its eventual acquisition and expansion to Oroville by the Northern Electric Railroad Company, had its beginnings in 1900 with arrival of the Diamond Match Company to Chico. One consequence of the emergence of Diamond was a substantial expansion of the Chico urban area. In fact, Chico's population more than doubled between 1900 and 1910 (Stephens 1977:43) as a direct result of Diamond's massive new mill at "Barber" (south Chico) and its mill and other operations east of Chico at Paradise and Sterling City.

The Butte County Railroad extended approximately 32 miles connecting Chico with Stirling City. The railroad operated from 1903-1915 and then became the Southern Pacific's Stirling City Branch, before terminating operations in the 1970s (Stephens 1977).

The railroad route began at Barber (situated approximately one mile south of Chico at the time), across Butte Creek, through Paradise and Magalia, and ultimately ended at Stirling City. The last regular service by the Southern Pacific Railroad, over the line, was in 1974. The tracks, ties and other hardware were removed in 1979, leaving only the grade in place. In Paradise, the railroad grade was ultimately converted into use as a bicycle/pedestrian trail.

Within the present APE, and its immediate vicinity, the history of land patent, ownership, acquisition and use have been documented, and establish a context for anticipating resources within the APE, and further allow for such resources to be effectively evaluated for their historical significance.

James Thomas Stephens was born in Tennessee in 1830, and at the age of 19 was crossing the continent making his way to the riches of California. Along the way, Stephens met his future wife, Malinda Foster, a native of Missouri, and the two were married in Grass Valley, where the two lived a short time before moving to Butte County.

The Stephens purchased their first home in, what became known as Stone Ranch, Chico in 1852, in an area that later became known as The Chico Seed Orchard, part of the Mendocino National Forest. The Chico Seed Orchard would achieve notoriety for the introduction of the pistachio to the United States in 1917, and the Kiwi in 1934.

Over the next few years, James Stephens sought employment in Colusa County as a teamster, and began raising sheep on his Stone Ranch. Over the next two and one-half decades, Stephens added stock to his flock, and began acquiring lands that comprise the present project property.

Official land ownership of the present project property begins with Sam Neal's Spanish-Mexican Land Grant acquisition in April 4, 1860, which included all of Sections 28 & 32.

Neal began selling portions of his acquisition, and on June 1, 1874, a cash sale of Lot/Tract 10 & 11 of Section 32 is shown for the Heirs of Washington Henshaw and Jonas M. Hoyl. A few years later, on June 15, 1877, William Weaver received Lot/Tract 7-9, 12 & 13, NW ¼, SW1/4 of Section 32 under the Homestead Act (General Land Office (GLO) Records).

At the age of 53, on July 5, 1883, James T. Stephens acquired through a cash sale the S1/2, SE1/4 of Section 32, and N1/2, SE1/4 of Section 28 (ibid.) where he ran his 1,450 head of sheep.

Additional lands, which would eventually be acquired by Stephens, were first acquired by: James Stilson acquired the NW1/4 Section 28 on August 1, 1883 through the Homestead Act, August 1, 1883; John C. Stanley, Cash Sale, March 15, 1884: N1/2SW1/4 Section 28; Simeon Moak, Homestead Act, June 30, 1885: NE1/4 Section 28 (ibid.).

On January 20, 1886, James Thomas Stephens acquired the N1/2, SE1/4, and the S1/2, NE1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, further expanding his holdings (ibid.).

Later, on August 30, 1888, Benjamin Franklin Potter, acquired Lot/Tract 1-6, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, on July 30, 1889, Henry Finkernagel acquired the N1/2, NE1/4 of Section 32 through the Homestead Act, and on July 30, 1889 Juan Jose Ochoa, acquired the S1/2, SE1/4, and the S1/2, SW1/4 of Section 28 through the Homestead Act (ibid.).

At the age of 69, James Stephens died in 1899, and bequeathed his assets to his wife Malinda, who died eleven years later at the age of 76. Malinda's will passed the assets, including lands in and around the present APE, to one of their eleven children, Nick Stephens (Mansfield 1918:1149).

Born in 1867, Alvin "Nick" Stephens received title to the land on April 24, 1912, at the age of 55. Nick continued ranching the land, and successfully bought and sold land throughout the Chico area. He also purchased land northeast of Chico and established the popular summer resort, Jonesville (ibid.).

Nick's brother, Lyman Stephens, partnered with Nick on the sheep ranch for five years before purchasing the land outright on December 22, 1917. On April 12, 1943, Lyman transferred the ranch to his nephew Orville Llyod Stephens and Orville's wife, Phoebe Stephens (ibid.).

The ranch, located north of the Skyway, and east of Potter Lane, remained under the ownership of the Stephens family until 1973 when it was purchased by the Pacific Company of Japan, who eventually sold the property, in 2005, to the present owners.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several types of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting the pedestrian survey includes data maintained by the Northeast Information Center, and available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

Northeast Information Center Records

The official Butte County archaeological records were examined on June 22, 2020 (IC File # D20-74). This search documented the following existing conditions for the linear APE, and for a 0.25-mile radius surrounding the APE.

- According to the Information Center, forty (40) investigations have been conducted within the present APE, or within the 0.25-mile search radius.

NEIC #	Date	Author(s)
000164	1977	Friedman, Furry, Henrici, White, and Friedman
000165	1977	Henton
000407	1980	Offerman and Orlins
000827	1987	Minor, Underwood, Apple, Beckham, and Woods
000827A	1987	Shackley, et al.
000827B	1987	Vaughan
000827C	1987	Shackley
000827D	1987	Gonzalez
000839	1988	Kowta
001531	1995	Greenway
001545	1997	Jensen
001984	1998	Jensen
002243	1998	Jensen
004884	2003	Harrington
005910	2004	Harrington
005967	1978	Manning
006238	2003	Germano
006407	2005	Harrington
006750	2005	Harrington
006887	2006	Harrington
006887A	2007	Harrington
007232	1978	Manning
007234	1980	Manning
007235	1989	Farber
007236	1988	Swillinger and Bayham
007238	1991	Jensen
007239	1992	Jensen
008146	1990	Jensen
008147	1990	Jensen

NEIC #	Date	Author(s)
008148	1990	Jensen
010645	2009	Hatoff
010705	2009	Pecora
010707	2009	Dwyer
010832	2010	Jensen
013255	2007	Davy, Calicher, and Shapiro
013478	2016	Hoffman and Zimmer
014299	2014	Harrington
014341	2016	King, Hildebrandt, and Waechter
014380	2019	Sims, Hoffman, and Cleveland
014495	2018	Engbring and Waechter

- According to the Information Center's records, seven (7) cultural resources (sites) have been documented either within the APE, or within the 0.25-mile search radius. Site primary numbers, affiliated age, and recorded attributes are listed below.

Primary #	Age	Attribute Code
P-04-000575	Historic	AH11
P-04-001452	Historic	AH11
P-04-001455	Historic	AH06; AH15
P-04-002207	Historic	AH02
P-04-003800	Historic	HP02; HP05; HP13; HP14; HP30; HP33; HP38; HP39
P-04-004209	Historic	AH06
P-04-004210	Historic	AH04; AH05; AH09; AH16

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining the archaeological site and survey records of Shasta County maintained at the Northeast Information Center, the following sources were also included in the search conducted at the Information Center, or were evaluated separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1986, Supplements).
- The California Register of Historical Resources.
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Data File (OHP 2012).
- Determination of Effects (OHP 2012).
- The CALTRANS State and Local Bridge Survey (1989 and updates).
- 1930 Official Map of Butte County.
- 1912, 1950, 1953, 1955, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1978, 2012 Chico, CA and Hamlin Canyon, CA USGS Maps.
- NETR Topographic Maps (1912, 1950, 1953, 1955, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1978, 2012) and Aerial (1941, 1947, 1951, 1969, 1998, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014).

- Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area.

4. CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Strategy and Field Work

All of the APE was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey by means of walking parallel transects, spaced at 5-meter intervals.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor considered the results of background research and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Fieldwork was undertaken on June 24, 2020 by Principal Investigator, Sean Michael Jensen, M.A. Mr. Jensen is a professional archaeologist, architectural historian and historian, with 34 years of experience in archaeology, history and architectural history, who meets the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, as demonstrated in his listing on the California Historical Resources Information System list of qualified archaeologists, architectural historians and historians. No special problems were encountered and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

General Field Observations

Disturbance to the ground surface ranges from minimal to substantial throughout the APE. The majority of the project APE is located within paved road corridors which have been subjected to intensive disturbance associated with initial construction, subsequent widening and period maintenance and improvement, as well as placement of various buried utilities. South of Cramer Lane, APE lands were found to have been subjected to intensive grading and modifications, most recently associated with athletic fields at the Core Butte Charter School. State Route 99, itself, has been subjected to various episodes of construction and widening, and thus the adjacent lands have all been heavily disturbed.

Examination of the variously sourced map materials for the APE provided a relatively clear history of the property over the century. Most of the above-referenced disturbances appear to have been undertaken between ca. 1968-2000. No evidence of buildings appears within the APE on any of the examined aerials or quadrangles.

Prehistoric Resources

No evidence of prehistoric use or occupation was observed within the APE. The absence of such materials might best be explained by more suitable habitation settings at nearby locales, as well as the significant degree of disturbance to which the entire APE has been subjected.

Historic Resources

Evidence of historic-era activity was observed at one location within the APE.

Site P-04-1446, Butte County Railroad Grade: This site represents an abandoned segment of the Butte County Railroad grade between Chico and Stirling City. The only site attributes that remain within the APE consist of the elevated grade and an adjacent telephone line.

The grade was constructed with rock and dirt fill, elevated above the surrounding terrain by approximately 5 feet along the 567 feet length of the feature within the APE. The height of the grade above surrounding lands increases slightly from west to east. Width of the grade at the base averages 25 feet, while width at the top is approximately 10-12 feet. All of the ballast, ties, tracks, tie plates, and other features have been removed (salvaged at the time of abandonment of the line in 1979).

Situated approximately 30 feet south of the railroad grade is a series of telephone poles connected via single strand of contemporary wire (likely coaxial cable). Most of the poles exhibit circular, aluminum identification tags with "Dan Kampausen, Inc." embossed on the surface.

None of the original ballast, ties, tracks or other components of the rail system exist. Thus, integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost, since all of the original built environment is absent save the elevated grade and the telephone line.

This site was originally recorded by Huberland (1999), and recommended not significant/eligible due to wholesale disturbance (i.e., removal of rails, ties and other features), and thus a substantial loss of integrity.

5. ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

General

Sites identified within the project area were to be evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed. Therefore, before developing mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must be determined in relation to

criteria presented in PRC 15064.5, which defines a historically significant resource (one eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, per PRC SS5024.1) as an archaeological site which possess one or more of the following attributes or qualities:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
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
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource as described above (for the purpose of determining effects), and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the current body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Application of the Criteria to Site P-04-1446

Application of the significance criteria to site P-04-1446, a segment of the Butte County Railroad grade and telephone line, yields the following recommendations.

Criteria 1) This site represents a segment of the Butte County Railroad between Chico and Stirling City, which operated from 1903-1915 and then became the Southern Pacific's Stirling City Branch, before terminating operations in the 1970s. The railroad route began at Barber (situated approximately one mile south of Chico at the time), across Butte Creek, through Paradise and Magalia, and ultimately ended at Stirling City. The last regular service by the Southern Pacific Railroad, over the line, was in 1974. The tracks, ties and other hardware were removed in 1979, leaving only the grade in place. In Paradise, the railroad grade was ultimately converted into use as a bicycle/pedestrian trail. This line and its role in early 20th Century development of Butte County is considered important at the local level. However, there is no evidence that the operational role of this railroad contributed to State-wide or national historical themes.

Based on these facts and considerations, this recorded segment is not recommended significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

Criteria 2) None of the individuals involved in the design, construction, incorporation or operation of this railroad achieved particular notoriety at the local, state, or national level. None are known to have made significant contributions to history.

Based on these facts and considerations, this recorded segment is not recommended significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

Criterion 3) This site does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. As noted in the discussion above, the majority of the historically-definitive attributes of the original railroad are absent, such that integrity of materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost. Moreover, based on the author's familiarity with existing historical site records on file at the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in Butte and adjacent Counties that duplicate the qualities and attributes of this cleared railroad grade. In short, this site type is not rare or under-represented in the California inventory.

Based on these facts and considerations, this recorded segment is not recommended significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

Criterion 4) Data recovery work involving this segment of site P-04-1446 could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that in the existing site record. Only some of the defining historic attributes remain, and these do not contain nor are they associated with historic trash scatters or other historic artifacts or features for which further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would substantially improve our understanding of this site in relation to important historic research objectives or themes.

Based on these facts and considerations, this site is not recommended significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

While the site would not appear to be potentially significant per any of the evaluative criteria, the issue of site integrity must be addressed. Based on mapping and ownership data, the period of incorporation and operation for this railroad is well known. Further, the transfer of ownership, subsequent abandonment and deconstruction have been completely documented. The complete dismantling of the railroad in 1979 resulted in a reduction of site integrity by approximately 90%. Further, substantial portions of the site (in Paradise) have been fully modified for pedestrian/bicycle traffic. Ultimately, these cumulative actions have resulted in a loss of *Association, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Setting*, with *Location* the only element of integrity retained by the site.

According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains "substantial integrity," and (ii) meets at least one of the significance criteria.

Considering the fact that site integrity has been dramatically compromised, this site is not considered significant per any of the eligibility criteria, and is therefore not recommended a significant historical resource, or unique archaeological resource.

6. PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on cultural resources/historic properties if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the historic resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair a cultural resource or historic property are actions that would alter or diminish those attributes of a site that qualify the site for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

Based on the specific findings detailed above under *Cultural Resources Survey and Cultural Inventory*, no significant historical resources, or unique archaeological resources are located within the APE.

7. NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) re. sacred land listings for the property. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on April 30, 2020. The NAHC responded with a letter dated May 5, 2020, indicating that a search of their Sacred Lands files returned negative results.

8. PROJECT SUMMARY

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey of a linear utility corridor ranging from between 30 and 130 feet in width, and extending approximately 3.5-miles in length. The utility corridor consists of two distinct elements, one along the paved length of East 20th Street from its eastern terminus to Bruce Road, and the second following a complex route from the intersection of Potter Road and the Skyway, in the east, and terminating at the intersection of the Midway with Hegan Lane, in the west. The project is located within the southern portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California.

The proposed project consists of trenching to install underground utilities (sewer lines, electricity, natural gas) connecting to existing infrastructure. Whenever the proposed alignment crosses a swale, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, and Comanche Creek the infrastructure will involve jack and bore under these features. Thus, no direct impacts to these resources are anticipated. Jack and bore involves diagonal and horizontal boring between two points without disturbing the surface of the feature that is being crossed.

The infrastructure alignments follow existing roads and/or existing utility corridors. The width of the study area ranges from between 30 and 130 feet. Within segment A, the proposed off-site infrastructure will stay within the paved portion of 20th Street and will cross Butte Creek Diversion Channel, terminating at the intersection of East 20th Street and Bruce Road. Within segment B, the infrastructure construction will be trenched in the road

shoulder of Skyway, Morrow Lane, and Cramer Lane. The alignment crosses the Butte Creek Diversion Channel at Skyway before connecting with Morrow Lane. Traveling south on Cramer lane, the project will cross several swale-like depressions and Comanche Creek, before turning west towards State Highway 99. Segment B is mostly within paved sections of roads until it crosses Comanche Creek, where it travels overland through valley oak woodland and highly disturbed grassland. It then crosses State Highway 99 and connects to existing infrastructure in Entler Road. From Entler Road to the terminus in Midway, at the intersection of Midway and Hegan Lane, the project will be contained in the paved portion of the road. The study area consists of urban, barren and valley foothill riparian habitat types. The habitat conditions within the study area are highly degraded due to existing development and the previous installation of utilities (e.g. underground water and gas lines). Within segment B south and west of Comanche Creek the project traverses overland, but the alignment is located in an existing utility corridor, thus permanent impacts to resources is not expected.

Existing records at the NEIC document that portions of the APE had been subjected to previous archaeological investigation. The NEIC further indicated that no prehistoric or historic-era sites had been documented within the APE, but that seven (7) resources had been documented within the 0.25-mile search radius. As well, the present effort included an intensive-level pedestrian survey. The pedestrian survey resulted in the identification of one historic-era site, P-04-1446. This abandoned segment of the Butte County Railroad was recorded, and evaluated for CRHR eligibility, and recommended not eligible under any of the evaluative criteria.

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) re. sacred land listings for the property. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on April 30, 2020. The NAHC responded with a letter dated May 5, 2020, indicating that a search of their Sacred Lands files returned negative results.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources within the APE, archaeological/cultural resources clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed, although the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

1. ***Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:*** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future construction or other ground disturbing activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., road construction, buried utility placement, importation of fill, etc.) may have obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

2. ***Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:*** In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes, but is not limited to, immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.

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- 1988 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Enloe Hospital 20th Street Property, Chico, Butte County, California.* Report on File, Northeast Information Center, CSU-Chico (NEIC # 007236).

Talbitzer, Bill

- 1987 *Butte County: An Illustrated History.* Windsor Publications, Inc., Northridge, California.

United States Department of the Interior

- 1983 Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, *Federal Register* 48:190 (29 Sept. 1983), pp. 44716-44742.
- 1986 *National Register of Historic Places. Federal Register* 1986, Supplements through December 2006. Washington, D.C.

Vaughan, Trudy

- 1987 *US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project – Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon: Addendum #4 to the Technical Report, Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Regeneration Stations and Point of Presence Sites from Oroville to Eugene.* Report on File, Northeast Information Center, CSU-Chico (NEIC # 000827B).

Whistler, Kenneth A.

- 1977 Wintun Prehistory: An Interpretation Based on Reconstruction of Plant and Animal Nomenclature. *Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, pp. 157-174. Berkeley.

Work, John

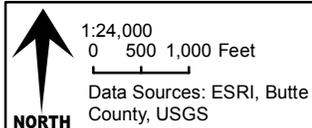
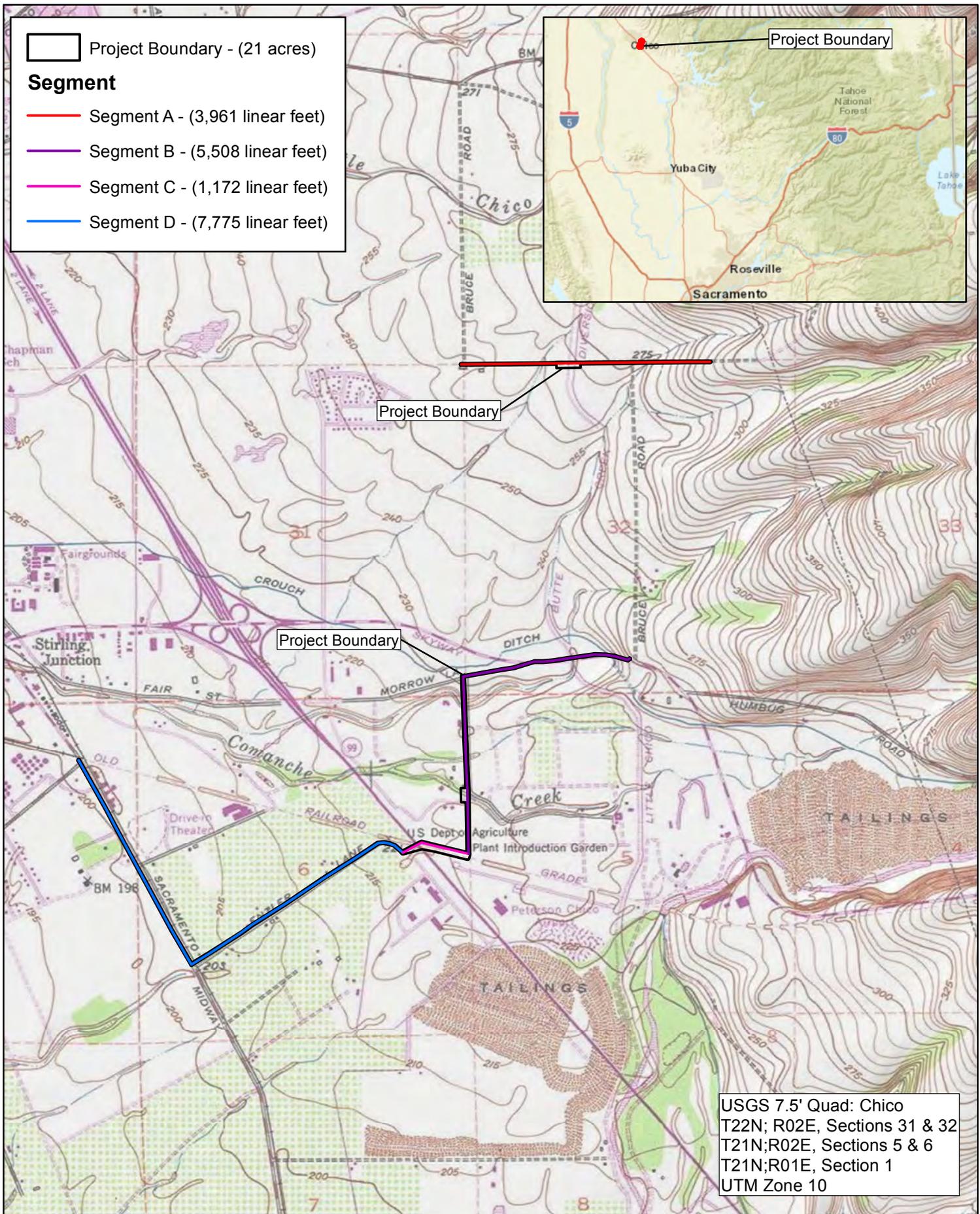
- 1945 "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventura: John Work's California Expedition, 1832-1833, for the Hudson's Bay Company," *The Journal of John Work*, Alice B. Maloney, Editor. California Historical Society, San Francisco.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY SURVEY

**Valley's Edge Off-Site Infrastructure Project
circa 3.5-Mile Linear Corridor
City of Chico, Butte County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- APE Map
- Records Search from Northeast Information Center
- Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Response from the NAHC
- Primary Record: P-04-1446



Valley's Edge Development Project Off-Site Utility Corridor
Regional Location
Figure 1

Northeast Center of the
California Historical Resources
Information System

BUTTE
GLENN
LASSEN
MODOC
PLUMAS
SHASTA

SIERRA
SISKIYOU
SUTTER
TEHAMA
TRINITY

123 West 6th Street, Suite 100
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 898-6256
neinfoctr@csuchico.edu

June 22, 2020

Sean Jensen
Genesis Society
127 Estates Drive
Chico, CA 95928

**IC File # D20-74
Records Search**

RE: Valley's Edge Off-Site
T22N, R2Em Section 31 & 32; T21N, R2E, Section 5 & 6; T21N, R1E, Section 1, MDBM
USGS Chico 7.5' quad
Approximately 23 acres, estimated from project map (Butte County)

Dear Mr. Jensen,

In response to your request, a records search for the project cited above was conducted by examining the official maps and records for cultural resources and surveys in Butte County. Please note, the search includes the requested ¼-mile radius surrounding the project area.

RESULTS:

Prehistoric Resources: According to our records, no resources of this type have been recorded within the project boundaries or ¼-mile search radius. However, approximately 50 bedrock mortars (IDR-544) have been informally reported within the ¼-mile vicinity. The approximate location is plotted on the enclosed NEIC-generated map. The project is in a region utilized by the *Mechoopda* subgroup of Konkow Maidu populations. Unrecorded prehistoric cultural resources may be located within the project areas.

Historic Resources: According to our records, three resources of this type have been recorded within the project boundaries. In addition, four historic resources have been recorded in the ¼-mile search radius. The resources are listed in Table 1, below. Resource locations are plotted on the enclosed NEIC-generated map, and Report Lists and Resource Records are attached. Unrecorded historic cultural resources may be located within the project areas.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Resources within the Project Areas or ¼-Mile Search Radius.

Primary	Trinomial	Other IDs	Age	Attributes
P-04-000575	CA-BUT-000575/H		Historic	AH11
P-04-001452*		Other - Warfield Site #1-H	Historic	AH11
P-04-001455		Other - CASCO #1	Historic	AH06; AH15
P-04-002207*	CA-BUT-002207H	Submitter ID - Stonegate #1	Historic	AH02
P-04-003800*	CA-BUT-003800H	Resource Name - Wright-Patrick House, Patrick House; Other - Wright Ranch; Old Patrick Ranch; Old Patrick House; OHP Property Number - 049646; OHP PRN - 5926-0174-0000	Historic	HP02; HP05; HP13; HP14; HP30; HP33; HP38; HP39
P-04-004209	CA-BUT-004209H	Resource Name - Crouch Ditch	Historic	AH06
P-04-004210	CA-BUT-004210H	Agency Nbr - LE-1H	Historic	AH04; AH05; AH09; AH16

Note: *Within or immediately adjacent to project boundary.

The Patrick Ranch House (CA-BUT-3800H) is listed on the National Register (N149), Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD), and California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976).

The USGS Chico (1952) 15' quadrangle map indicates that Highway 99, Southern Pacific Railroad, Humbug Road, Comanche Creek, Crouch Ditch, Bruce Road, and orchards are within the project area. The city of Chico, Patrick Airport, Stirling Junction, US Plant Introduction Gardens, Butte Creek, fairgrounds, cemetery, tailings, roads, and structures are in the general vicinity of the project location.

Sections of the 1871 Chico topographic and 1867 General Land Office (GLO) plat maps are enclosed.

Previous Archaeological Investigations: According to our records, the project area and portions of the ¼-mile search radius have been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Report locations are plotted on the enclosed NEIC-generated map, and copies of the requested reports are attached. The reports are listed in Table 2, below.

Literature Search: The official records and maps for archaeological sites and surveys in Butte County were reviewed. Also reviewed: **National Register of Historic Places - Listed properties and Determined Eligible Properties** (2012); **California Register of Historical Resources** (2012); **California Points of Historical Interest** (2012); **California Inventory of Historic Resources** (1976); **California Historical Landmarks** (2012); **Built Environment Resource Directory** (2019); and **Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California** (1978).

Table 2. Previous Investigations within the Project Area or ¼-Mile Search Radius.

Report	Authors	Year	Title
000164	Friedman, Janet P., John D. Furry, Dawn Henrici, William White, and Edward I. Friedman	1977	Emergency Archaeological Excavation (Phase I) and Surface Reconnaissance (Phase II), Chico Tree Improvement Center, Butte County, California
000165	Henton, Gregory H.	1977	Archeological Impact Evaluation of a Stone Fence near Chico, Butte County, California
000407	Offermann, Janis K. and Robert I. Orlins	1980	An Archaeological Survey of the Cottonwood-Elverta # 3 Transmission Line in Shasta, Tehama, and Butte Counties, California
000827	Minor, Rick, Jackson Underwood, Rebecca Apple, Stephen Dow Beckham, and Clyde Woods	1987	Technical Report: Cultural Resources Survey for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project - Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon
000827A	Shackley, M. Steven, Rick Minor, Rebecca Apple, Stephen Dow Beckham, Trudy Vaughan, Clyde M. Woods, and Jan E. Wooley	1987	US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon: Addendum #1 to the Technical Report
000827B	Vaughan, Trudy	1987	US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon: Addendum #4 to the Technical Report, Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Regeneration Stations and Point of Presence Sites from Oroville to Eugene
000827C	Shackley, M. Steven	1987	Testing Report: US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project - Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon/ Archaeological Testing of Four Sites in California: CA-BUT-5, THE-1468, SHA-1684, SIS-332/ Addendum #2 to the Technical Report
000827D	Gonzalez, Tirzo	1987	US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon: Addendum #5 to the Technical Report, Cultural Resources Construction Monitoring Program in California
000839	Kowta, Makoto	1988	The Archaeology and Prehistory of Plumas and Butte Counties, California: An Introduction and Interpretive Model
001531	Greenway, Greg	1995	Short Form Archaeological Survey Report for the GRC Wildlife Pond, ASR# 05-08-28-95
001545	Jensen, Peter M.	1997	Archaeological Inventory Survey, c. 17-Acre McAmis Development Project, Chico, Butte County, California
001984	Jensen, Peter M.	1998	Archaeological Inventory Survey: Proposed Midway Bike Path, c. 1/2 Mile Linear Corridor, Hegan Lane to Intersection of East Park Avenue and Park Avenue, Chico, Butte County, California
002243	Jensen, Peter M.	1998	Archaeological Inventory Survey for the CASCO Asphalt Co. Proposed Relocation Site on the Skyway, Chico, Butte County, California
004884	Harrington, Lori	2003	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Hays Property, Chico, Butte County, California
005910	Harrington, Lori	2004	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Gillis Project, Chico, California: Report on 1-Acre Survey USGS Chico Quadrangle (T22 North, R2 East Sections 32)

**Table 2. Previous Investigations within the Project Area or ¼-Mile Search Radius
(continued).**

Report	Authors	Year	Title
005967	Manning, James P.	1978	Archaeological Reconnaissance of three properties: Messerole, Hobson, and Brown, c. 22.6 acres, Butte County, California, Letter Report to Earl Nelson, Director, Environmental Review
006238	Germano, Vida	2003	Thomas S. Wright, the Patrick Family, and a Vernacular Farmhouse Passed Down Through Three Generations: The History of an 1852 Building in Rural Chico, California
006407	Harrington, Lori	2005	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Chico Neighborhood Church Project, Chico, California.
006750	Harrington, Lori	2005	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Potter Bike Path Project, Chico, Butte County, California.
006887	Harrington, Lori	2006	An Archaeological Evaluation of the Meriam Park Project, Chico, Butte County, California
006887A	Harrington, Lori	2007	An Unexpected Discovery Evaluation of the Meriam Park Project Chico, Butte County, California
007232	Manning, James P.	1978	Archaeological Reconnaissance of 329 acres of the Southgate Industrial Park, Butte County, California
007234	Manning, James P.	1980	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Jack Norton Property, Ray Holt Property, Robbins King et. al. Property, and the Neighborhood Church Expansion Property, Butte County, California
007235	Farber, Alfred	1989	Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Federal Land Bank of Sacramento Parcel Map Area, Chico, Butte County, California
007236	Swillinger, Lisa and Frank Bayham	1988	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Enloe Hospital 20th Street Property, Chico, Butte County, California
007238	Jensen, Peter M.	1991	Archaeological Inventory Survey of the Proposed Chance Subdivision of 9.98 Acres, on the Midway South of Chico, Butte County, California
007239	Jensen, Peter M.	1992	Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Stonegate Development Project, Southeast Chico, Butte County, California
008146	Jensen, Peter M.	1990	Archaeological Inventory Survey of the Proposed Ruffino Subdivision Project, near Little Chico Creek, East Chico, Butte County, California.
008147	Jensen, Peter M.	1990	Archaeological Inventory Survey of Haas' Proposed Subdivision Project, On Lower Doe Mill Ridge near Little Chico Creek, Chico, Butte County, California.
008148	Jensen, Peter M.	1990	Archaeological Inventory Survey of a 40-Acre Subdivision Project, Proposed for Lower Doe Mill Ridge near Little Chico Creek, Chico, Butte County, California.
010645	Hatoff, Brian	2009	New Tower ("NT") Submission Packet FCC Form 620 for the Proposed Verizon Wireless Chico Relo Tower Project, Butte County, California
010705	Pecora, Meredith	2009	Final Cultural Resources Technical Report: Levee Geotechnical Evaluation Program, Butte Creek - Right Bank Levee near Chico, Durham and Nelson, California

**Table 2. Previous Investigations within the Project Areas or ¼-Mile Search Radius
(continued).**

Report	Authors	Year	Title
010707	Dwyer, Erin	2009	Historic Property Survey Report for the State Route 99 Bridge Replacement Project, Butte County, California
010832	Jensen, Sean	2010	Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Bruce Road Improvement Project, c. 2-mile linear corridor, Chico, Butte County, California.
013255	Davy, Douglas, Humphrey Calicher, and Wiliam Shapiro	2007	Cultural Resources Inventory for the North Area Right-of-Way Maintenance Environmental Assessment CVP and Pacific AC Intertie
013478	Hoffman, Robin and Paul Zimmer	2016	Rodent Abatement and Damage Repair Activities Project, Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment, Butte, Glenn, and Sutter Counties, California
014299	Harrington, Lori	2014	Phase I Archaeological Study for the Carriage Park Housing Development Project, Chico, Butte County, California
014341	King, Jerome H., William R. Hildebrandt, and Sharon A. Waechter	2016	Part I – Overview: A Class I Cultural Resources Overview and Existing Information Inventory for the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan, Bureau of Land Management Redding and Arcata Field Offices
014380	Sims, Ashleigh, Robin Hoffman, and Katherine Cleveland	2019	California Department of Water Resources Sacramento Yard and Sutter Yard 2019-2020 Channel Maintenance Areas: Archaeological Resources Inventory and Architectural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report
014495	Engbring, Laurel and Sharon Waechter	2018	Cultural Resources Identification and Evaluation for the Stonegate Subdivision Project, Butte County, California

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We recommend that you contact the appropriate local Native American representatives for information regarding traditional cultural properties that may be located within project boundaries for which we have no records.

The charge for this record search is **\$557.70** (please refer to the following page for more information). An invoice will follow from Chico State Enterprises for billing purposes. Thank you for your concern in preserving California's cultural heritage, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,



Ryan Bradshaw
NEIC Coordinator

GENESIS SOCIETY

a Corporation Sole

127 ESTATES DRIVE
CHICO, CALIFORNIA 95928
(530) 680-6170
seanjensen@comcast.net

April 30, 2020

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Boulevard,
West Sacramento, California 95691

Subject: Valley's Edge Off-Site Project, circa 21-acres, City of Chico, Butte County, California.

Dear Commission:

We have been requested to conduct the archaeological survey, for the above-cited project, and are requesting any information you may have concerning archaeological sites or traditional use areas for this area. Any information you might supply will be used to supplement the archaeological and historical study being prepared for this project.

Project Name: Valley's Edge Off-Site Project
County: Butte
Map: USGS Chico, CA 7.5'
Location: Portion of T22N, R2E, Sections 31 & 32; T21N, R2E, Sections 5 & 6; T21N, R1E, Section 1

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator

*Genesis Society
a Corporation Sole*



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

May 5, 2020

Sean Michael Jensen
Genesis Society

Via Email to: seanjensen@comcast.net

Re: Valley's Edge Off-Site Project, circa 21-acres, City of Chico, Butte County

Dear Mr. Jensen:

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: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
Marshall McKay
Wintun

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
(916) 373-5471 fax
nahc.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Butte County
5/5/2020**

**Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu
Indians**

Francis Steele, Chairperson
5 Tyme Way Maidu
Oroville, CA, 95966
Phone: (530) 534 - 3859
Fax: (530) 534-1151
fsteele@berrycreekrancheria.com

**Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu
Indians**

Benjamin Clark, Chairperson
#1 Alverda Drive KonKow
Oroville, CA, 95966 Maidu
Phone: (530) 533 - 3625
Fax: (530) 533-3680
frontdesk@mooretown.org

**Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of
the Enterprise Rancheria**

Glenda Nelson, Chairperson
2133 Monte Vista Avenue Maidu
Oroville, CA, 95966
Phone: (530) 532 - 9214
Fax: (530) 532-1768
info@enterpriserancheria.org

Tsi Akim Maidu

Grayson Coney, Cultural Director
P.O. Box 510 Maidu
Browns Valley, CA, 95918
Phone: (530) 383 - 7234
tsi-akim-maidu@att.net

**Greenville Rancheria of Maidu
Indians**

Kyle Self, Chairperson
P.O. Box 279 Maidu
Greenville, CA, 95947
Phone: (530) 284 - 7990
Fax: (530) 284-6612
kself@greenvillerancheria.com

KonKow Valley Band of Maidu

Jessica Lopez, Chairperson
2086 N. Villa St. KonKow
Palermo, CA, 95968 Maidu
Phone: (707) 357 - 2415
jessica@konkowmaidu.org

Mechoopda Indian Tribe

Dennis Ramirez, Chairperson
125 Mission Ranch Blvd KonKow
Chico, CA, 95926 Maidu
Phone: (530) 899 - 8922
Fax: (530) 899-8517
dramirez@mechoopda-nsn.gov

**Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu
Indians**

Guy Taylor,
#1 Alverda Drive KonKow
Oroville, CA, 95966 Maidu
Phone: (530) 533 - 3625

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Valley's Edge Off-Site Project, circa 21-acres, City of Chico, Butte County.

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page _____ of _____ *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Butte Count Rail Road

P1. Other Identifier: Butte County Rail Road

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Butte and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Chico Date 1969 T 21N; R 2E; of Sec 5; M. D. B.M.

c. Address _____ City Chico Zip 95928

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10, 603896 mE/ 4395685 mN
604076 mE/ 4395644 mN

e. Other Locational Data: From the intersection of Skyway and Notre Dame Boulevard in Chico, proceed south along Notre Dame Boulevard for approximately 0.5 miles to the Neighborhood Church entrance. Continue south-southeast for approximately 500' to riparian corridor. Continue south-southeast, adjacent to Neighborhood Church fence/property line for approximately 300' to UTM point A and railroad grade.

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

See attached Site Sketch Map and Photographs for detailed descriptions.

***P3a. Description:**

This site represents an abandoned segment of the Butte County Railroad grade between Chico and Stirling City. The only site attributes that remain within the APE consist of the elevated grade and an adjacent telephone line.

The grade was constructed with rock and dirt fill, elevated above the surrounding terrain by approximately 5 feet along the 567 feet length of the feature within the project area. The height of the grade above surrounding lands increases slightly from west to east. Width of the grade at the base averages 25 feet, while width at the top is approximately 10-12 feet. All of the ballast, ties, tracks, tie plates, and other features have been removed (salvaged at the time of abandonment of the line in 1979).

Situated approximately 30 feet south of the railroad grade is a series of telephone poles connected via single strand

of contemporary wire (likely coaxial cable). Most of the poles exhibit circular, aluminum identification tags with "Dan Kampausen, Inc." embossed on the surface. - CONTINUED-

*P3b. Resource Attributes: AH7-Railroad.

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) See photos for description

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric Both Historic, circa 1903-1915; 1915-1974/1979.

*P7. Owner and Address: Unknown

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Sean Jensen, Genesis Society, 127 Estates Drive, Chico, CA 95928

*P9. Date Recorded: 6/24/20

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive-level inventory survey of c. 3.5-mile linear corridor.

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Cultural Resources Inventory Survey Valley's Edge Off-Site Infrastructure Project, circa 3.5-mile linear corridor, City of Chico, Butte County, California.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record

Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record

Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Butte County Rail Road
Page ____ of ____

Continuation

***P3a. Description:**

None of the original ballast, ties, tracks or other components of the rail system exist. Thus, integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost, since all of the original built environment is absent save the elevated grade and the telephone line.

The Butte County Railroad extended approximately 32 miles connecting Chico with Stirling City. The railroad operated from 1903-1915 and then became the Southern Pacific's Stirling City Branch, before terminating operations in the 1970s (Stephens 1977).

The railroad route began at Barber (situated approximately one mile south of Chico at the time), across Butte Creek, through Paradise and Magalia, and ultimately ended at Stirling City. The last regular service by the Southern Pacific Railroad, over the line, was in 1974. The tracks, ties and other hardware were removed in 1979, leaving only the grade in place. In Paradise, the railroad grade was ultimately converted into use as a bicycle/pedestrian trail.

Specific application of the criteria to historic site "P-04-1446" yields the following recommendations.

- 1) This site represents a segment of the Butte County Railroad between Chico and Stirling City, which operated from 1903-1915 and then became the Southern Pacific's Stirling City Branch, before terminating operations in the 1970s. The railroad route began at Barber (situated approximately one mile south of Chico at the time), across Butte Creek, through Paradise and Magalia, and ultimately ended at Stirling City. The last regular service by the Southern Pacific Railroad, over the line, was in 1974. The tracks, ties and other hardware were removed in 1979, leaving only the grade in place. In Paradise, the railroad grade was ultimately converted into use as a bicycle/pedestrian trail. This line and its role in early 20th Century development of Butte County is considered important at the local level. However, there is no evidence that the operational role of this railroad contributed to State-wide or national historical themes.

For these reasons, this site is recommended not eligible per CRHR Criterion 1), and this site would not appear to be potentially significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

- 2) None of the individuals involved in the design, construction, incorporation or operation of this railroad achieved particular notoriety at the local, state, or national level. None are known to have made significant contributions to history.

For these reasons, this site is recommended not eligible per CRHR Criterion 2), and this site would not appear to be potentially significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Butte County Rail Road
Page ____ of ____

- 3) This site does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. As noted in the discussion above, the majority of the historically-definitive attributes of the original railroad are absent, such that integrity of materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost. Moreover, based on the author's familiarity with existing historical site records on file at the Northeast Information Center at CSU-Chico, a large number of sites have already been well documented in Butte and adjacent Counties that duplicate the qualities and attributes of this cleared railroad grade. In short, this site type is not rare or under-represented in the California inventory.

For these reasons, this site is recommended not eligible per CRHR Criterion 3), and this site would not appear to be potentially significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

- 4) Data recovery work involving this segment of site P-04-1446 could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that in the existing site record. Only some of the defining historic attributes remain, and these do not contain nor are they associated with historic trash scatters or other historic artifacts or features for which further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would substantially improve our understanding of this site in relation to important historic research objectives or themes.

For these reasons, this site is recommended not eligible per CRHR Criterion 4), and this site would not appear to be potentially significant per the CEQA criterion under PRC SS5024.1.

While the site would not appear to be potentially significant per any of the evaluative criteria, the issue of site integrity must be addressed. Based on mapping and ownership data, the period of incorporation and operation for this railroad is well known. Further, the transfer of ownership, subsequent abandonment and deconstruction have been completely documented. The complete dismantling of the railroad in 1979 resulted in a reduction of site integrity by approximately 90%. Further, substantial portions of the site (in Paradise) have been fully modified for pedestrian/bicycle traffic. Ultimately, these cumulative actions have resulted in a loss of *Association, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Setting*, with *Location* the only element of integrity retained by the site.

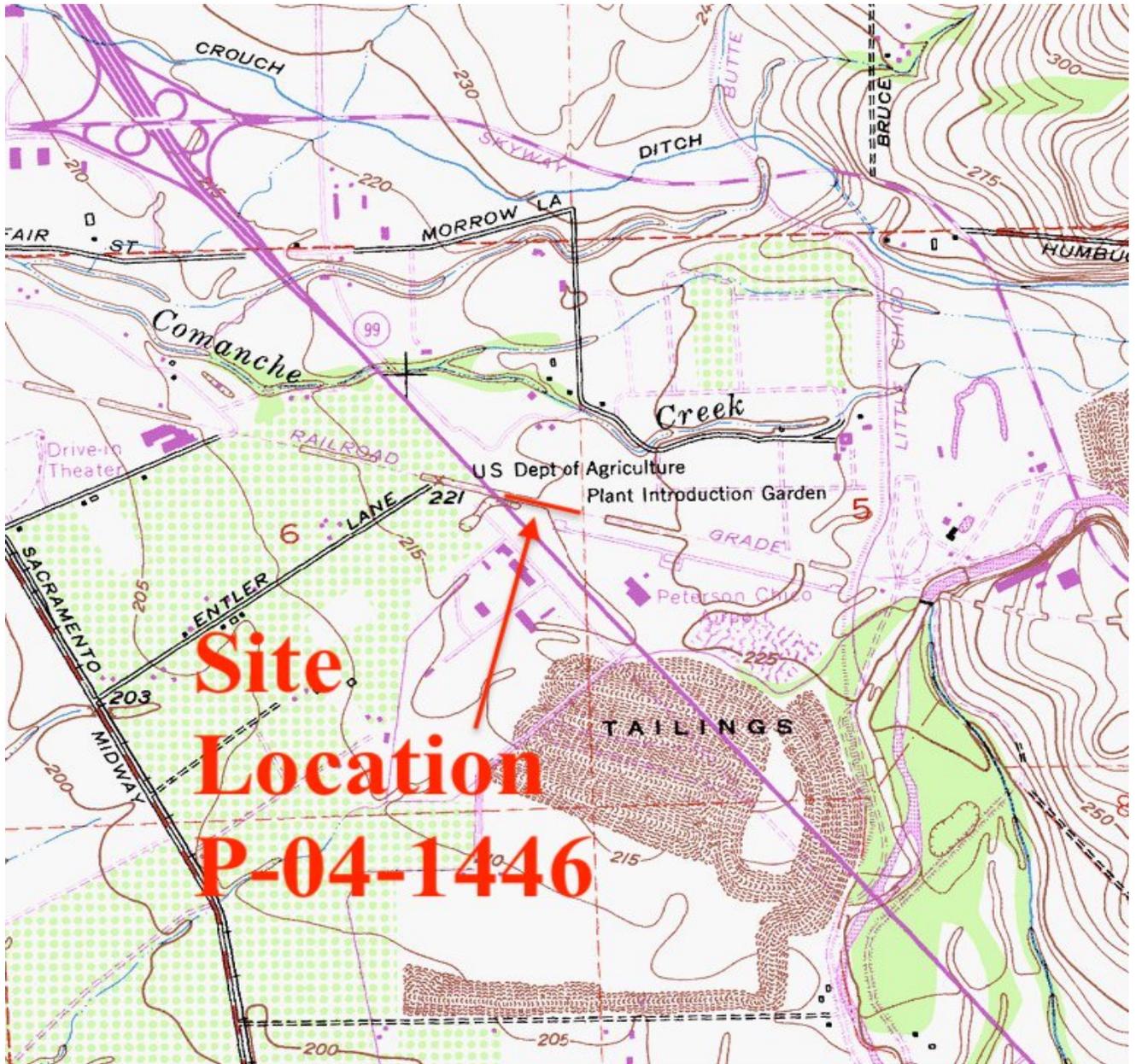
According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains "substantial integrity," and (ii) meets at least one of the significance criteria.

Considering the fact that site integrity has been dramatically compromised, this site is not considered significant per any of the eligibility criteria, and is therefore not recommended a significant historical resource, or unique archaeological resource.

LOCATION MAP

Page _____ of _____ *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Butte County Railroad

*Map Name: Chico *Scale: 1:24,000 *Date of map: 1969



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Butte County Railroad

Page of

