
APPENDIX F
Cultural Resources Review



1 September 2020

Mr. Dan Bartel
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
PO Box 20820
Bakersfield, CA 93390

RE: Cultural Resources Review, James Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, Bakersfield

Dear Mr. Bartel:

The following constitutes a cultural resource review and update for the James Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, Bakersfield, Kern County, California. This review has been prepared pursuant to the City of Bakersfield, Planning Division, Development Services Department, request for additional information for Specific Plan Amendment/General Plan Amendment No. 19-0342, dated 9 November 2019. This memo includes a brief Project description; the results of an archival records search conducted by the California State University, Bakersfield, Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center; a summary of the previous cultural resource studies within the Project area; a summary of the results of a Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File record search and tribal outreach; geoarchaeological assessment; results of a field examination of the Project location; and recommendations for CEQA compliance.

Project Location and Description

The James Project is located on property commonly called the McCallister Ranch, located immediately north of Panama Lane, near the southeastern limits of the City of Bakersfield. This places it a short distance east of State Highway 43 at its intersection with the Interstate-5 freeway (Figure 1). The Project is on the open flats of the southern San Joaquin Valley in an area that, prior to historical reclamation, was part of the Kern River Delta and was characterized by sloughs, wetlands and periodic flooding. The Kern River is a short distance north of the Project. Elevation within the Project area ranges from about 330 to 345-feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl), and it is currently undeveloped. Roughly the southeastern one-half of the property had been farmed but was graded in about 2007, however, with roads, infrastructure and a golf course club house constructed for a housing development that was never completed. The southwestern corner of the Project area is a portion of the Ten Section Oil Field. Although this area experienced earlier oil field development (with equipment subsequently removed), the immediate landscape of this portion of the Project area is still generally intact. The remainder of the western and northeastern Project area has and continues to be farmed for row crops.

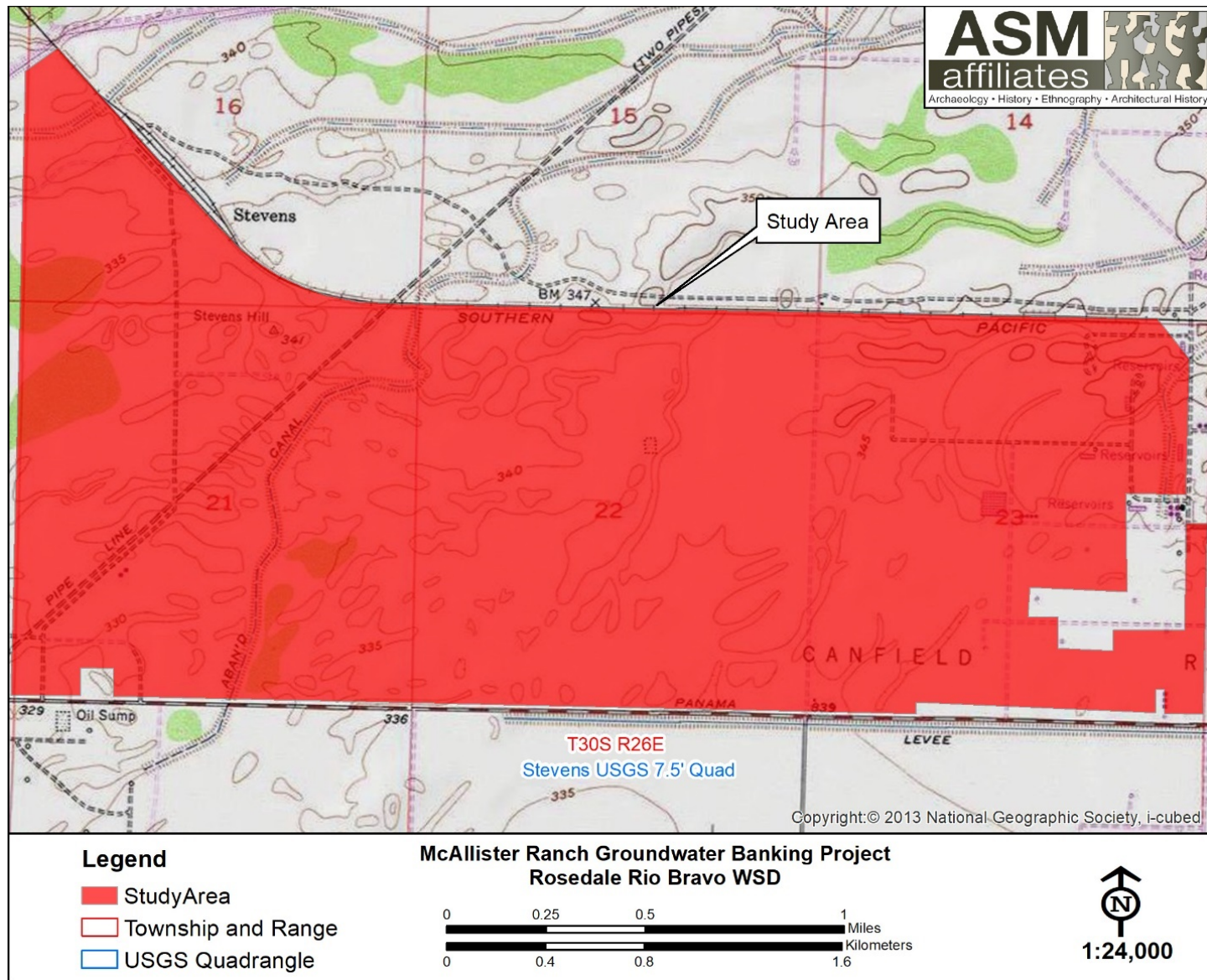


Figure 1. James Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project area, Bakersfield, Kern County, California.

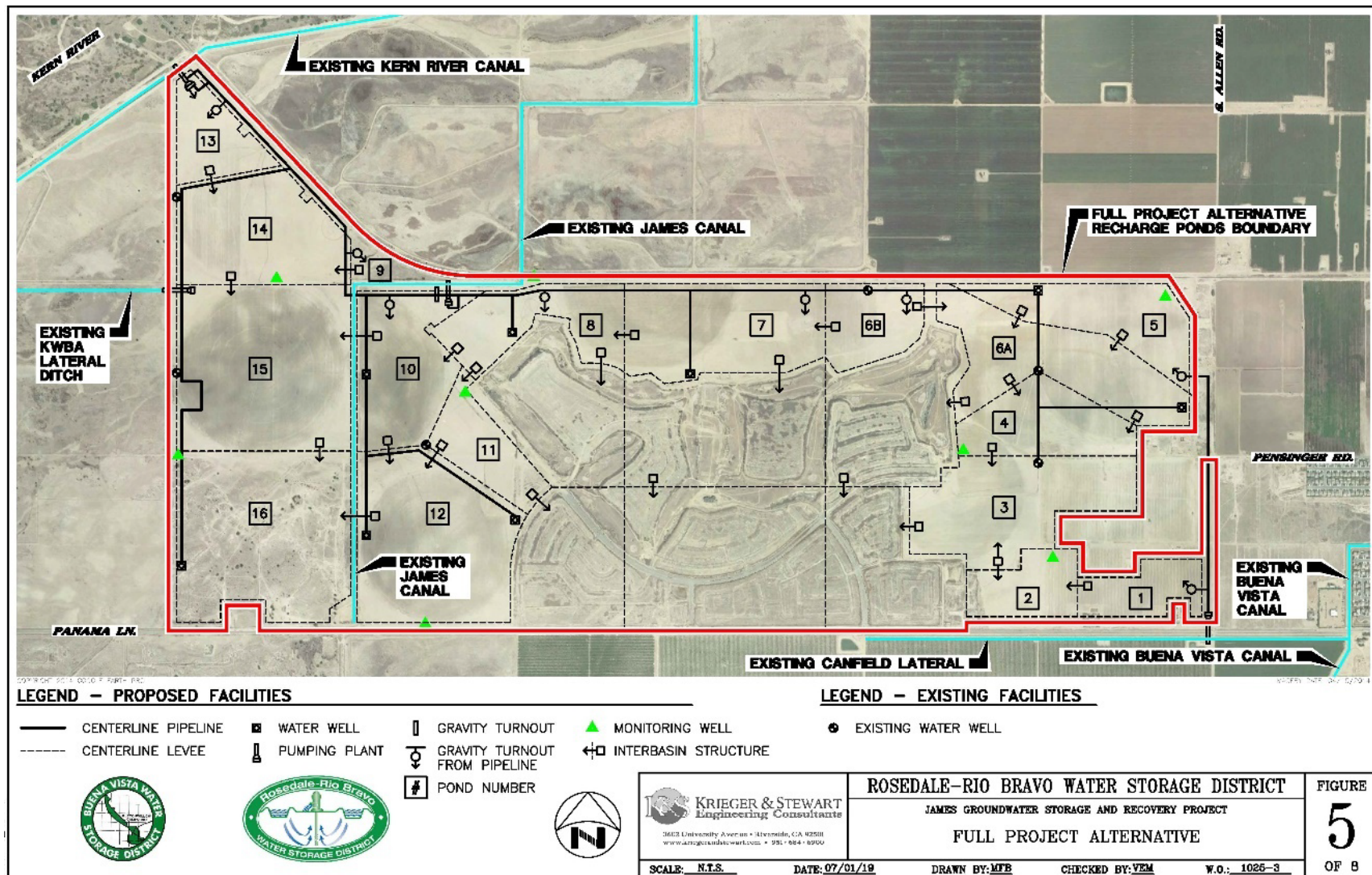


Figure 2. Offsite Project Components, James Groundwater Project

The proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of 1800-acres (ac) of shallow percolation ponds. These will require levees surrounding the ponds, up to 14 groundwater extraction wells, 3 pumping plants, 2 gravity turnouts, up to 8 groundwater monitoring wells, and water conveyance facilities. Offsite improvements will include 2 siphon crossings along the James Canal; modifications of the prism of the James Canal; a gravity turn-out from the Kern River to an existing basin; improvements to the intake structure from the Buena Vista Canal to the Canfield Lateral ditch; and modifications to the Canfield Lateral ditch prism (Figure 2).

Records Search

An archival records search was received from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (IC), California State University, Bakersfield (a component of the California Office of Historic Preservation CHRIS System), on 22 June 2020. This records search is included in Confidential Attachment A. Based on our mapping of the previous studies, 9 projects have resulted in full survey coverage of the entirety of the James Project area (Table 1). Test excavations on sites within the Project area have also occurred. These studies are listed in Table 1 and are discussed below. An additional 14 surveys had been conducted within a 0.5-mile (mi) radius of the Project area (Table 2).

Table 1 Archaeological Reports Within the Project Area.

Report No	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-00251	1979	King, Chester and Craig, Steve/ Ancient Enterprises, Inc.	Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Proposed 8.8 mile Gosford Intertie Pipeline, Kern County, California
KE-00252	1979	Craig, Steve and King, Chester/ Ancient Enterprises, Inc.	An Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Proposed Alternate Routes for the Gosford Intertie Pipeline, Kern County, California
KE-00846	1994	Parr, Robert E./ Cultural Resource Facility, California State University, Bakersfield	Archaeological Assessment of 4,525.45 Acres of Land West of Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-01023	1996	The Planning Center	Preliminary Archaeological Resources Evaluation for Buena Vista, Bakersfield, California
KE-01139	1991	Schiffman, Robert A./ Bakersfield College	Archaeological Test Excavation for the McAllister Ranch Development: A 2070 Acre Development
KE-01190	1993	Schiffman, Robert A.	Archaeological Test Excavation for the McAllister Ranch Development
KE-01835	1979	Ancient Enterprises, Inc.	Archaeological Investigations at KER-1051, Kern County, California
KE-01916	1993	Singer, Clay/ C.A. Singer and Associates	Results of Archaeological Investigation at CA-KER-668 - McAllister Ranch
KE-02278	1999	Avina, Mike/ Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Williams Communications, Inc. Fiber Optic Cable System Installation Project, San Luis Obispo to Bakersfield, Volume I
KE-03098	2005	Hudlow, Scott M./ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for Centex Homes, South Allen Road Project A, City of Bakersfield, California
KE-03187	2005	Hudlow, Scott/ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for a Residential Project at Pensinger Road and South Allen Road, City of Bakersfield, CA
KE-03402	2005	Hudlow, Scott/ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for Centex Homes, South Allen Road Project B, City of Bakersfield, California

Report No	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-03643	2007	Lewis Pruett, Catherine and Fleagle, Dorothy/ Three Girls and a Shovel (Bakersfield)	A Cultural Resources Assessment for the SE 1/4 of Section 15, T. 30S, R. 26E, Located West of Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-04253	2012	Pruett, Catherine Lewis/ Three Girls and a Shovel (Bakersfield)	Location of Three Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and Five Previously Recorded Isolated Artifacts for the James Groundwater Proposal
-----	2006	W&S Consultants	Phase II Archaeological Test Excavations at Nine Sites Within the McCallister Ranch Project Area, Kern County, California

Table 2 Survey Reports Within 0.5-mi of the Project Area.

Report No	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-01047	1976	Schiffman, Robert A./ Bakersfield College	Archaeological Report on Ten Section Site
KE-02115	1998	Murphy, Peggy B./ Three Girls and a Shovel	Addendum III: Gas Well Site, A Cultural Resources Assessment and Plan for the Kern Water Bank Authority Project Near Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-02390	1999	Hudlow, Scott M./ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	Negative Historic Property Survey Report: Southwest Bakersfield Bike Path Between Stockdale and Enos Lane
KE-02435	2000	Hudlow, Scott M./ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A Historic Architectural Survey Report for the Southwest Bike Path and the Southern Pacific Rail Bridge over the Kern River, City of Bakersfield, California
KE-02807	1993	Herbert, Rand F./ JRP Historical Consulting Services	Historic Resource Evaluation Report: Tier 1, Route Adoption on Route 58 Between I-5 and State Route 99
KE-02874	2003	Fleagle, Dorothy/ Three Girls and a Shovel	A Cultural Resources Assessment for Approximately 60 Acres Located North of Panama Lane and West of Buena Vista Road, Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-02907	2004	Pruett, Catherine Lewis/ Three Girls and a Shovel	Addendum I Cultural Resources Assessment for Approximately 60 Acres Located North of Panama Lane and West of Buena Vista Road, Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-02970	2004	Murphy, Peggy B. and Pruett, Catherine Lewis/ Three Girls and a Shovel	Cultural Resources Assessment for 1,260 Acres, Located in Southwest Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-03002	2005	Schiffman, Robert A. and Gold, Alan P./ Archaeological Associates of Kern County	Cultural Resource Survey for a 40 Acre Parcel Near the Corner of Pensinger Road and Buena Vista Road in SW Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-03084	2005	Pruett, Catherine Lewis and Murphy, Peggy/ Three Girls and a Shovel	A Cultural Resources Assessment for Old River Ranch, Located in Southwest Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-03092	2005	Getchell, Barbie and Atwood, John E./ PAST, Inc.	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Ten Section L.P. Project Area (218.18-Acres), Kern County, California
KE-03726	2005	Flint, Sandra S., McDougall, Dennis P., Jernigan, Kathleen, and Anderson, Lisa/ Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	Cultural Resources Surveys for the Kern Delta Water District Water Banking and In-Lieu Water Supply Project, Kern County, California
KE-04207	2009	Hale, Mark R., Laurie, Leroy, Bunse, Meta, and Beason, Mark A./ URS Corporation, Inc.	Ten Section Natural Gas Storage Project Kern County California Cultural Resources Overview and Survey Report, Kern County, California
KE-04617	2014	Hudlow, Scott M./ Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for Monitoring Wells and Pipeline Construction at Pioneer South, Kern County, California

Based on these surveys, 10 prehistoric/Native American archaeological sites had been recorded within the James Project area, along with 7 isolated artifacts (Table 3). Two historical structures (the Stevens Railroad Siding and the Southern Pacific Railroad) indicated as within the Project

area are in fact immediately outside of the property boundaries and will not be affected by the Project. An additional 13 sites or structures and 3 isolated artifacts had been recorded within a 0.5-mi radius of the Project area (Table 4).

Table 3 Resources Within the Project Area.

Site No.	Type	Description
P-15-000668/ CA-KER-668	Site	Habitation debris, burials
P-15-000669/ CA-KER-669	Site	Shell scatter with lithics
P-15-001050/ CA-KER-1050	Site	Scatter of animal bone, non-human
P-15-001051/ CA-KER-1051	Site	Lithic and shell scatter
P-15-001052/ CA-KER-1052	Site	Lithic scatter
P-15-002050/ CA-KER-2050H	Site	Southern Pacific Railroad (outside Project)
P-15-002282/ CA-KER-2282	Site	Lithic scatter/mano fragment
P-15-003153/ CA-KER-3153	Site	Lithic scatter
P-15-003154/ CA-KER-3154	Site	Lithic scatter
P-15-003156/ CA-KER-3156	Site	Lithic scatter
P-15-003979/ CA-KER-3979H	Site	Remains of Stevens Railroad Siding (Outside Project)
P-15-004363/ CA-KER-4167	Site	Lithic scatter
P-15-009790	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009791	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009792	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009793	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009794	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009795	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-009796	Isolate	Single flake

Table 4 Resources Within 0.5 miles of Project Area.

Site No.	Type	Description
P-15-003970/ CA-KER-3970/H	Site	Shell bead, lithics, historic glass/ceramics
P-15-003971/ CA-KER-3971	Site	Lithic scatter, possible midden
P-15-004472/ CA-KER-4253	Site	Lithics and cobbles
P-15-004473/ CA-KER-4254	Site	Lithics and cobbles
P-15-004474/ CA-KER-4255	Site	Cobbles and flake
P-15-004515	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-008010	Structure	Gates/Carrier Canal
P-15-011259/	Site	Early 1900s house remains

Site No.	Type	Description
CA-KER-6550H		
P-15-011451	Building	1940s house
P-15-011665	Isolate	Scraper and flake
P-15-011666	Site	Oil wells remains
P-15-012656	Structure	Gathering tanks
P-15-012657/ CA-KER-7123H	Site	Ceramics and glass
P-15-012658	Isolate	Single flake
P-15-012660	Structure	Gathering tanks
P-15-015187	Site	Lithic scatter

As the record search demonstrates, multiple studies, extending back to 1978, have resulted in complete Phase I survey coverage of the James Project area, with Phase II test excavations and determinations of significance conducted on nine of the ten prehistoric/Native American sites. Information about the sites within the Project area, based on these previous studies, is summarized below.

Previous Archaeological Studies of Project Area Sites

In addition to Phase I surveys that had covered the entirety of the James Project area, previous studies include Phase II test excavations and determinations of site significance at nine of the ten recorded prehistoric/Native American sites. The tenth prehistoric/Native American site, CA-KER-4167/P-15-4363, a lithic scatter containing three pieces of debitage, has not been re-identified since it was first recorded, despite efforts in 2012 and 2020. It appears to have been mis-mapped and is located outside of the James Project area.

The Phase II studies of the 9 re-located/extant sites are:

- 1979 test excavation at CA-KER-1051 by Ancient Enterprises;
- Test excavations at the remaining 8 prehistoric sites (CA-KER-668, -669, -1050; -1052, -2282, -3153, -3154, and -3156) by Robert Schiffman in 1993;
- Reanalysis of Schiffman's artifact collection from CA-KER-668 by Clay Singer in 1993 due to controversies concerning the interpretation of the site; and
- Review of the Schiffman versus Singer analyses by David Fredrickson in 1993.

An additional, more thorough Phase II test excavation at the nine sites was completed by W&S Consultants in 2006, although the report is not in the IC records. Their 2006 report is included here as Confidential Attachment B. The 2006 report provides a detailed history of the previous studies, including the controversies surrounding site CA-KER-668, which warrants brief summary here because of its prominence in the history of research for the James Project area.

Site CA-KER-668 was first recorded in 1978 by Chester King and Steve Craig, who interpreted it as a small village located on a low, sandy rise. A man-made oval depression was identified within the site which they interpreted as a dance floor. This contained evidence of a human cremation

and artifacts, including three types of shell beads, flaked stone tools and stone mortar fragments. The site was visited again in 1979 by Joe Simon who confirmed the presence of shell beads and burnt bone within the depression. Schiffman conducted a Phase I survey of the property in 1991. He re-identified the site, expanded the site boundary and noted that the shell beads and stone artifacts originally seen in the depression were missing (most likely looted) by that date. Schiffman conducted a Phase II test at the site in 1993 along with the 7 additional sites on the McCallister Ranch. Excavating within the oval depression, he confirmed the presence of the human cremation. He also observed scattered human remains near a pipeline trench that runs through the site. Schiffman concluded that CA-KER-668 was a cemetery used between AD 500 – 700 and a procurement site dating from AD 1300 – 1850.

Controversy developed over proposed plans to develop the site area, with opposition from the Native American and archaeological communities. Debate also occurred over Schiffman's interpretation of CA-KER-668 as a cemetery and procurement site versus King and Craig's argument for a village. (As noted by W&S Consultants 2006, this substantive debate largely reflected different definitions of "village". Both teams of researchers agreed about the significance of the site.) More important however was concern for the so-called dance floor. The existence of this preserved archaeological feature at the ground surface was acknowledged as very rare in, if not unique for, the region. The presence of human remains was also a matter of great concern. Clay Singer re-analyzed Schiffman's recovered artifact collection to help resolve the question of the nature of the site. David Fredrickson reviewed and adjudicated the differing opinions noting, significantly, that the Schiffman test excavation had not formally defined the site boundary, although Schiffman had argued for the site's significance and preservation. Plans for development of the property apparently languished for over a decade thereafter however.

A subsequent proposal for a housing development on what was then called the McCallister Ranch resulted in a second test excavation of CA-KER-668 by W&S Consultants in 2006, along with the eight other extant prehistoric/Native American sites within the property. This was intended to update the status of the sites, resolve any interpretive or other controversies, and include the local Native American community in the process. A meeting with this community, Kern County Planning, and the involved archaeologists initiated the project. Representatives of the Tejon Indian Tribe, Santa Rosa Rancheria – Tachi Yokuts, Tule River Indian Reservation, Tubatulabal and Kawaiisu tribes, as well as non-affiliated Native Americans, attended the first meeting, at which point a protocol for tribal participation was developed. Tejon, Santa Rosa and Tule River all participated in monitoring for the test excavations. Because there was no debate about the significance of CA-KER-668, the purpose of the 2006 test excavation at that site was primarily to resolve the question of its boundary. This was determined to follow the limits of the low sandy rise, on top of which the man-made depression had originally been identified. Based on a review of the regional ethnographic record, W&S Consultants also suggested that the depression was more likely a large, semi-subterranean house-floor than a dance floor, possibly a chief's house at a permanent village. As the ethnography demonstrated, dance floors in the region were large, open, flat spaces. Cremations, furthermore, often occurred within houses but not necessarily in dance areas. Regardless of interpretation, the preserved condition of this archaeological feature was recognized as unusual and significant.

Results and recommendations of the various Phase II test excavations at all nine of the sites within the Project area, including the 2006 W&S Consultants study, are summarized as follows:

Table 5 Previous Phase II Test Excavations and Determinations of Significance at Project Area Sites

Site	Test Excavation	Results & Recommendations
KER-668	Schiffman 1993	Intact dance floor, human remains, cemetery & procurement site, deposit to 120-cm, AD 500 - 1500, Significant, Preserve in place
	W&S Consultants 2006	Intact house-pit, small village, 270-m (NW-SE) by 785-m (NE-SW), Significant, Preserve in place
KER-669	Schiffman 1993	No subsurface, small surface shell scatter, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	2 pieces of lithic debitage, small surface scatter, no subsurface, all artifacts collected, 40-m in diameter, Not significant
KER-1050	Schiffman 1993	Surface scatter, no subsurface, 2 pieces of animal bone, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	Surface scatter, no subsurface, 3 pieces of debitage, all artifacts collected, 60-m in diameter, Not significant
KER-1051	Ancient Enterprises 1979	Low density subsurface deposit, 2-m deep, Significant, Preserve in place
	W&S Consultants 2006	Subsurface deposit to 1-m, 140 (E-W)-m by 65-m (N-S), Site periodically inundated, Significant, Preserve in place
KER-1052	Schiffman 1993	No surface artifacts or subsurface deposit, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	Low density surface scatter disturbed by plowing, 8 specimens in top 20-cm, no surface artifacts, site area 70 by 35-m, Not significant
KER-2282	Schiffman 1993	2 pieces of lithic debitage, no subsurface deposit, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	Low density surface scatter, surface scatter covers 360-m (NE-SW) by 190-M (NW-SE); 13 artifacts in 100 by 50-m area in localized subsurface deposit at least to 1.3-m, Significant, Preserve in place
KER-3153	Schiffman 1993	2 pieces of debitage & 1 ground-stone fragment, no subsurface deposit, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	Low density surface lithic scatter disturbed by plowing, 60-m in diameter, Not significant

KER-3154	Schiffman 1993	3 pieces of debitage, no subsurface deposit, Not significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	No extant surface artifacts, no subsurface deposit, Not significant
KER-3156	Schiffman 1993	Subsurface deposit to 75-cm, moderate artifact density, Shell beads, Significant
	W&S Consultants 2006	Moderate density subsurface deposit, to 90-cm depth, 90-m (NE-SW) by 35-m (NW-SE), Village/campsite, Possible human burial, Site restricted to small rise, Significant, Preserve in place

As this table illustrates, Schiffman and W&S Consultants concurred on their determinations of significance and recommendations for 8 of the 9 sites, disagreeing only on CA-KER-2282. This difference reflects the fact that Schiffman only excavated a single test pit on that site which failed to find evidence of a subsurface deposit. Five pits were dug by W&S Consultants, exposing a localized subsurface deposit that Schiffman's single test pit missed.

Following completion of the 2006 test excavation, the McCallister Ranch housing development was approved by Kern County. Preservation in place was included as a Condition of Approval for sites CA-KER-668, -1051, -2282 and -3156. The Tejon Indian Tribe conducted a ceremony on CA-KER-668 to honor this agreement. Subsequently the project area was annexed by the City of Bakersfield and the construction of roads and infrastructure as well as a country club, all located to the east of the archaeologically-sensitive area, began. The economic recession of 2008 resulted in the abandonment of the development project, prior to its completion. The southeastern portion of the James Project, representing roughly half of the Project area, area has however been graded with roads and infrastructure in place.

In 2011 and 2012, Three Girls and a Shovel conducted updates on the James Project area, which involved a records search and site visits intended to re-locate and assess the status of the extant sites and isolates (Confidential Attachment B). As noted above, site CA-KER-4167/P-15-4363 could not be re-located in the field with a discrepancy between the recorded UTM coordinates and mapped location of the site noted, suggesting that it had been mis-mapped. Sites CA-KER-668, -1051 and -2282, previously determined significant, were re-identified. Site CA-KER-3156 was within a fenced and protected area at that time due to "biological sensitivity" and was not revisited. (As noted below, based on recent high-accuracy GPS mapping, this site is in fact outside of the James Project area.) Three Girls and a Shovel recommended that CA-KER-668, -1051 and -2282 be fenced and avoided. They also recommended monitoring. The remaining sites and isolates, a number of which fall within the area that was graded for the abandoned housing development, could not be re-located and were assumed to no longer exist.

Geoarchaeological Assessment

The W&S Consultants 2006 test excavation included a geoarchaeological evaluation of the McCallister Ranch sites which is pertinent to the James Project area. CA-KER-668 and -3156 are both located on small, natural, sandy rises. This has contributed to their unusual state of preservation inasmuch as they are elevated above the surrounding flats, which (historically) were periodically flooded by the Kern River, leaving deltaic deposits. This is evident in the soils and stratigraphic profiles from sites CA-KER-1051 and -2282, located on the flats. Both sites effectively have buried archaeological deposits, with some artifacts brought to the surface by plowing. The soils at the sites consist of sandy fluvate with significant proportions of biotite (indicative of fluvial deposition). Artifacts at CA-KER-1051 were visibly shingled, suggesting that the site was periodically (probably seasonally) inundated. The result is that the western portion of the James Project area is sensitive for subsurface archaeological deposits.

This conclusion is confirmed by a Caltrans geoarchaeological study that includes the James Project area (Meyer et al. 2010). This study involved first determining the location and ages of late Pleistocene (>25,000 years old) landforms in Kern County and the southern San Joaquin Valley. These were identified by combining a synthesis of 2,400 published paleontological, soils and archaeological chronometric dates with geoarchaeological field testing. The ages of surface landforms were then mapped to provide an assessment for the potential for buried archaeological deposits. These ages were derived primarily from the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) and the State Soils Geographic (STATSGO) database. A series of maps were created from this information that ranked locations in 7 ordinal classes for sensitivity for buried soils, from Very Low to Very High. This analysis classified the James Project area (and the Kern River Delta in general) as having Very High sensitivity for subsurface sites. It is therefore likely that the Project area could contain additional subsurface archaeological deposits.

NAHC Sacred Lands File Records Search and Tribal Outreach

A Sacred Lands File records search was requested from the NAHC. Their response (Confidential Attachment A) indicated no information in their files on sacred sites or tribal cultural resources within the James Project area. Outreach letters requesting additional information about the Project area were sent to the tribal organizations on the NAHC contact list. Responses were received from the following tribal groups and individuals:

- *Tejon Indian Tribe/Colin Rambo* – email and phone call responses identifying the Project area as sensitive for tribal cultural resources, with specific concern expressed about CA-KER-668. Tejon indicated that they and the Santa Rosa Rancheria – Tachi Yokuts Tribe had discussed the project following receipt of the NOP from the City, and both tribes have requested formal government-to-government consultation. They also provided a map of named ethnographic villages compiled by the Santa Rosa Rancheria cultural office from John P. Harrington's notes and other sources, including accounts of Tachi tribal elders. This identifies the Project area as the general location of the Hometwole/Haluamne Yokuts village named Homochu.

- *San Manuel Band of Mission Indians/Ryan Nordness* – email response indicating that the Project is outside of traditional Serrano Indian territory, with no interest in consulting as a result.
- *Fernandeno Tatavium Band of Mission Indians/Jairo Avila* - email response indicating that the Project is outside of the Fernandeno Tatavium's ancestral tribal boundaries, asking that consultation be deferred to the Tejon Indian Tribe.
- *Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians/Dee Dominguez* – phone call response to express concern about CA-KER-668, which Dominguez had visited during the 1990s with Robert Gomez. Dominguez emphasized the rarity of the preserved dance floor/house pit and said that it was a sacred site.
- *Tubatulabal Tribe of the Kern Valley/Robert Gomez* – email response indicating concern about KER-668, noting that Gomez had been previously involved with advocating for the preservation of the site, which he considers very sensitive, as well as concern over the status of the house pit/dance floor.
- *Northern Chumash Tribe/Mona Tucker* – email response recommending consultation with the Tejon Tribe as the locally appropriate tribe.

The identification of the general James Project area as the site of the historical village of Homochu is confirmed by Latta (1977). According to this author:

“It was at their old village of Homochu, about eight miles northeast of Halua [where the Old Kern River channel entered the Kern Lake slough] that they hosted the southern Yokuts tribes and met the Rising Sun at the end of the five days and nights of dancing, singing and crying—crying toward the Setting (Dying) Sun during their annual Mourning Ceremony” (1977:216-217).

The archaeological evidence from CA-KER-668 and –3156 supports the identification of this general location as the historical village of Homochu. This includes the concentration of habitation deposits within a relatively restricted area; the presence of at least two burials at CA-KER-668, indicating that this location would have been appropriate for a Mourning Ceremony; beads at both sites that are minimally Late Prehistoric in age and indicate coterminous occupation; and the preservation of the house pit/dance floor at CA-KER-668.

As suggested by W&S Consultants (2006), the four site deposits may reflect either seasonal or periodic shifts in village location, due to changing hydrological conditions in this historically swampy locale, or a kind of dispersed rather than nucleated settlement. An indigenous name for this general locality, rather than a specific point on a map, would then have been appropriate toponymically.

2020 Site Reconnaissance

A field reconnaissance of the James Project area was conducted by David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA, and Robert Azpitarte, B.A., on 20 July and 26 August 2020. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to check the current status of extant sites within the Project area and to complete a survey of the off-site Project component locations. The status of four extant prehistoric/Native American sites is as follows:

CA-KER-668 – This site, on a low rise in the former oil field area, was relocated and found to have suffered damage from OHV use, probably since it was revisited in 2012 by Three Girls and a Shovel. A deeply incised dirt road, as much as a meter deep, now runs through the site. The pit house/dance floor has also suffered from motorcycle traffic, with tracks cut into the surface (Figure 3). The site is however largely intact.



Figure 3. Motorcycle tracks within house pit/dance floor depression at CA-KER-668.

CA-KER-1051 – This site is in a plowed field due north of CA-KER-668. Although the site location was identified based on UTM coordinates, no surface evidence of the site was observed. This correlates with the conclusions of the 1979 Ancient Enterprises and 2006 W&S Consultants test excavations, both of which found this site to be primarily a buried subsurface deposit. An intact archaeological deposit is assumed to still be present based on the previous test excavation results.

CA-KER-2282 – The eastern approximately one-quarter of this site had been recorded within the James Project area, along its western boundary. A localized portion of this site within the James Project area was found to have a low-density subsurface deposit in 2006. Three pieces of lithic debitage were identified on the site surface during the 2020 site visit and the subsurface deposit is assumed to still be intact.

CA-KER-3156 – This site was relocated and mapped using a GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy, providing locational precision that was not available when the site was previously recorded and studied. The site was found to be intact but it is in fact outside of the James Project area. It will not be impacted by the proposed Project.

Confirming the results of the earlier Three Girls and a Shovel 2012 study, none of the additional prehistoric/Native American sites that had previously recorded within the James Project area could be relocated. They are assumed to no longer exist.

Phase I Survey, Offsite Project Components

A Phase I survey was conducted of the locations of offsite project components, consisting of connections to existing canals, during the 2020 reconnaissance. A minimum 100-m diameter survey area, accounting for access, laydown and work areas, was examined using 15-m parallel transects at each of the three offsite component locations: at the Kern River, James and Buena Vista canals. Segments of two of these canals constitute cultural resources and were recorded (Confidential Attachment C). Circumstances pertaining to each of the three offsite locations is provided below.

James Canal Offsite Location

Construction of the original James Canal, intended to water lands west of the Old Kern River, began in 1871. It was initially 18-mi in length and was built at a cost of \$16,000. It proved largely unnecessary however and by 1898 the lower reaches of the canal had already been abandoned (Grunsky 1898:49). Examination of the 1929, 1940, 1950, 1954 and 1976 USGS Stevens topographical quadrangles shows that the original canal segment within the James Project area was abandoned between 1950 and 1954.

Based on Google Earth imagery, a new canal was reconstructed between 2006 and 2009 following a different route than the original canal. The current James Canal is thus contemporary/modern in age and origin.

No cultural resources, in the sense of resources that are potentially historical in age, are present in the James Canal offsite Project component area.

Buena Vista Canal/Canfield Lateral Ditch Offsite Location

According to Grunsky (1898:49), the Buena Vista Canal was constructed by the Buena Vista Canal Company in 1875 at a cost of \$26,000. It replaced the use of a delta channel of the Kern River, with associated ditches, which was first put into service before 1870. Google Earth imagery indicates that the Buena Vista Canal, immediately northeast of the offsite Project component where it intersects the Canfield Lateral Ditch, was regularized circa 2006 and no longer follows the original canal route.

The Canfield Lateral Ditch, which parallels Panama Lane on its south side, is a minor lateral off of the Buena Vista Canal, and is thus a component of the larger water conveyance system. The ditch was constructed between 1898 and 1929 to connect the original Buena Vista and James Canals, based on historical USGS topographical quadrangles. It was named after Charles Wellington Canfield (1827 – 1908) who, in 1862, formed a Kern County livestock partnership with William Tracy, the headquarters of which was north of Buttonwillow. In 1874 Canfield established a small townsite south of Panama Lane known as Canfield, and this general location, accordingly, is known as Canfield Ranch. Oil was discovered on the ranch in 1938 and the Canfield Ranch Oil Field was established, which lies to the south and east of the James Project area (Bailey 1967; Pacific Legacy 2006). Based on topographical quadrangles, a levee was constructed on the south side of the Canfield Lateral Ditch between 1950 and 1955.

The alteration of the Buena Vista Canal route has affected the integrity of this water conveyance system (below), though it still constitutes a cultural resource. The segment where the offsite Project component will be located, accordingly, was recorded (Confidential Attachment C), and is evaluated below. No additional cultural resources were identified within this survey area.

Kern River Canal Offsite Location

Although the name “Kern River Canal” has been applied to a variety of different canals, ditches and irrigation companies extending back to the 1870s, the Kern River Canal adjacent to the James Project area was constructed by the Kern County Land (KCL) Company in 1962, and was placed in operation in 1963. Its purpose as a concrete-lined canal was to transport water more efficiently than the unlined Kern River channel to the north, moving it from upstream on the river to farming lands west of Bakersfield. KCL was purchased by Tenneco West, Inc., in 1967. The creation of the lined channel contributed to ground water problems in the City of Bakersfield. The City sued Tenneco in 1970, acquiring their lands, infrastructure and water rights by legal settlement in 1976 for \$18 million (Stetson 1975; Water Resources Department 2003). Notably, the Kern River Canal was constructed independent of the Central Valley Project and the Friant-Kern Canal, which were completed slightly earlier, and was thus not associated with or contributory to the historical CVP development.

The Kern River Canal marginally meets the 50 years criterion for a cultural resource that is historical in age. The segment of this canal within the offsite Project component area accordingly

was recorded and is evaluated below. No other cultural resources were identified within this offsite Project location.

Summary, Eligibility Evaluations and Recommendations

James Project Area

Based on existing records and information, the James Project area has been surveyed in its entirety and Phase II test excavations have been conducted on the identified archaeological sites twice. The previous studies demonstrate that there are currently three extant prehistoric/Native American sites within the James Project area:

- CA-KER-668, a village on a low rise that contains an intact house pit/dance floor, with two human burials identified on site;
- CA-KER-1051, a buried archaeological deposit that is approximately 1-m deep; and
- CA-KER-2282, a mostly buried site, the eastern portion of which extends into the Project area and includes a subsurface deposit about 1.3-m deep.

A fourth extant site, CA-KER-3156, within the original McCallister Ranch footprint, was determined to be outside of the James Project property boundaries. Construction of this Project does not have the potential to adversely impact CA-KER-3156.

The three extant archaeological sites within the James Project area appear to be associated with the historical Hometwole Yokuts village locality known as Homochu. Based on tribal correspondence, these sites are considered significant to the local Native American community. Sites CA-KER-668, -1051 and -2282, further, were determined significant historical resources by Kern County in the 2007 McCallister Ranch Project CEQA EIR, with preservation required to mitigate adverse impacts of that proposed housing development. Sites CA-KER-668, -1051 and -2282 are thus eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under Criterion 4 for their research potential. They may also be eligible under Criterion 1, for their association with historical events that are important to local tribal groups, and they may constitute tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

Offsite Project Component Locations

Intensive Phase I survey at the three offsite project component locations identified two cultural resources: segments of the Buena Vista Canal/Canfield Lateral and the Kern River Canal. The following is a CRHR eligibility evaluation of these two resources:

Buena Vista Canal/Canfield Lateral: This Buena Vista Canal water conveyance system dates from the 1870s, while the Canfield Lateral Ditch was constructed before 1929. The system thus meets the age criterion for CRHR historical resources. The construction of this system was also an important event in the development of irrigated agriculture in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Since that time, however, the Buena Vista Canal has lost its integrity of setting and feeling,

due to the suburbanization of surrounding southwestern Bakersfield and the creation of the Canfield Ranch Oil Field; its materials and workmanship, as a result of improvements to the original dirt canal and wooden structures, replaced by concrete beds and banks and concrete and metal water control structures; and location, stemming from changes in its route immediately adjacent to the James Project components. Although the Canfield Lateral Ditch retains its integrity of location, it has been altered over time with the creation of a levee in the mid-twentieth century, and is a minor lateral, representing a common property type without distinction with respect to workmanship, materials or engineering. The recorded segment of the Buena Vista Canal/Canfield Lateral is therefore recommended as not CRHR eligible under any criteria. The proposed construction of offsite Project components associated with this resource will not have an adverse impact on significant or CRHR-eligible historical resources.

Kern River Canal: This is a 1962 canal that meets the age criterion for CRHR listing. Its construction was not tied to an important event in the recent history of San Joaquin Valley irrigated agriculture such as the development of the Central Valley Project. It was instead built as a stand-alone project by the KCL. The canal is a common property type that is not notable in terms of engineering, workmanship and construction materials; it has no ties to important historical individuals; and historical records about it would provide more information than the resource itself. The proposed alterations to this resource, furthermore, represent standard operations, uses and maintenance that are part of its intended and ongoing purpose. It is recommended as not a significant historical resource, and not CRHR eligible under any criteria. The proposed construction of offsite Project components associated with this resource will not have an adverse impact on significant/CRHR eligible cultural resources.

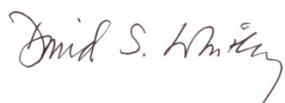
Recommendations

The James Water Storage Project has the potential to result in significant adverse impacts to archaeological sites CA-KER-668, -1051 and -2282. It is recommended that potential impacts to these historical resources be mitigated by fencing and preserving these three sites in place.

Based on the fact that two of these sites represent buried archaeological deposits, the Project also has the potential to disturb currently unknown subsurface archaeological remains. It is recommended that an archaeological monitor be present during grading in the western portion of the Project area, west of the contemporary James Canal, to ensure that additional historical resources are not impacted by Project construction.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David S. Whitley".

David S. Whitley, Ph.D.

Director

Confidential Attachments:

A – IC and NAHC Records and SLF Searches
B – W&S Consultants 2006 and Three Girls & a Shovel 2011 and 2012 Reports
C – DPR Site Records for the Buena Vista Canal/Canfield Lateral & Kern River Canal

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