

Appendix C – Cultural Resources Sensitivity Assessment



ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL CONSULTANTS

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Connor Tutino
David J Powers and Associates
1736 Franklin Street, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94612

August 12, 2021

RE: Cultural Resources Sensitivity Assessment for 3300 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Dear Mr. Tutino,

A new office project is proposed for 3300 El Camino Real in Palo Alto (Santa Clara County). The project would construct a two-story office building on a 3-acre site, and would include a below grade parking area requiring excavation to 12 feet below grade. The project area is currently a surface parking area. This memorandum discusses the cultural resources sensitivity of the project area based on record search results, review of geological and soil data, and examination of historic maps and aerial photos.

Archaeological Sensitivity

A record search for previously recorded cultural resources was completed at the Northwest Information Center on June 9, 2021 (NWIC #20-2131). No cultural resources are known in the project area. One prehistoric resource, CA-SCL-716 (P-43-000634) is located about 500 feet away. Recorded during a field survey in 1991, CA-SCL-716 includes the typical features of San Francisco Bay area shell middens, including shell, fire-affected rock, mammal and bird bone, ash features, and lithic artifacts.

The project area is flat, and Matadero Creek is located about 160 meters (500 feet) to the southeast. Native soils in the project area are alluvial fan deposits laid down in the Holocene era. They belong to the Cropley Complex, a clayey alluvial fan soil weathered from calcareous shale, but have been extensively modified by urban development (USDA 2021, Witter et al. 2006).

Locations that are flat, within 150 meters of fresh water, and on Holocene-era soils can be considered sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources. These factors, combined with the proximity of a prehistoric habitation site makes the project area highly sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources.

A review of historic USGS maps and aerial photos indicate that the project vicinity was undeveloped before the early 1940s, when a Southern Pacific spur line to Los Altos was constructed about 500 feet northwest of the project area. The building to the south (607 Hansen Way) was constructed circa 1955, and by 1965 the project area was paved to serve as a parking lot (USGS 1955; Aero Services Corporation 1956; Cartwright Aerial Surveys 1965). No indication of historic-era structures or landscape features is evident from historical map and aerial photography coverage. Therefore the project area has low sensitivity for historic-era archaeological resources.

Since the project area is highly sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources, I recommend that ground-disturbing activities for the proposed project should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. This will help to ensure that the project does not affect unique archaeological resources as defined in the CEQA Guidelines (§15064.5).



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Native American Consultation

On May 20, 2021, A/HC sent a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento. The NAHC replied on July 7, 2021, stating that the SLF search was negative, and providing a contact list of tribes for Santa Clara County. On July 13, 2021, the City of Palo Alto initiated consultation with these groups under CEQA (Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and Chapter 532 Statutes of 2014, also known as California Assembly Bill [AB] 52).

Table 1: AB 52 Individuals and Tribes Consulted

Organization or Tribe	Name	Location	Contacted?
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band	Valentin Lopez	Galt, CA	N
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista	Irene Zwierlein	Woodside, CA	N
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan	Ann-Marie Sayers	Hollister, CA	Y
	Kanyon Sayers-Roods	San José, CA	N
Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area	Monica Arellano	Castro Valley, CA	N
The Ohlone Indian Tribe	Andrew Galvan	Fremont, CA	Y
Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	Kenneth Woodrow	Salinas, CA	N
Tamien Nation	Jonathan Wasaka Costillas	Clearlake Oaks, CA	Y
	Quirina Luna Geary	San José, CA	Y

Follow-up emails were sent on July 23, 2021, to all recipients who had not responded, re-transmitting the July 6, 2021 letter and reiterating the invitation to communicate any concerns the recipients might have about cultural resources, sacred lands, or other heritage sites that may be affected by the project. Follow-up calls were made on August 4, 2021.

Three of the seven listed tribes were contacted by phone:

- Andrew Galvan of the Ohlone Indian Tribe recommended that an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor be on site during ground-disturbing activities.
- Ann-Marie Sayers of the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan recommended that an archaeological monitor and a Native American monitor be on site during ground-disturbing activities.
- Quirina Geary of the Tamien Nation stated that she was aware that the project area is sensitive for cultural resources, and requested that the City of Palo Alto enter consultation with the tribe prior to ground disturbing activity. Mr. Costillas of the Tamien Nation was also reached by phone; he requested that consultation requests be directed to Ms. Geary.

Figures, references, record search results, and Native American correspondence appear on the following pages. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this memorandum.

Yours truly,

Daniel Shoup, Principal



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Aero Services Corporation

1956 Flight DDB-1956. Available at:

https://mil.library.ucsb.edu/apcatalog/report/report.php?filed_by=DDB-1956, accessed June 30, 2021.

Bocek, Barbara

1991 Primary Record for CA-SCL-716 / P-43-000634. On file at Northwest Information Center.

Cartwright Aerial Surveys

1965 Flight CAS-65-130. Available at:

https://mil.library.ucsb.edu/apcatalog/report/report.php?filed_by=CAS-65-130, accessed June 30, 2021.

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture)

2021 Web Soil Survey. Available at: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>, accessed July 30, 2021.

USGS (United States Geological Survey)

1899 Palo Alto 15' Quadrangle

1943 Palo Alto 15' Quadrangle

1955 Palo Alto 7.5' Quadrangle

1961 Palo Alto 7.5' Quadrangle

Witter, Robert C., Keith L. Knudsen, Janet M. Sowers, Carl M. Wentworth, Richard D. Koehler, and Carolyn E. Randolph

2006 Maps of Quaternary Deposits and Liquefaction Susceptibility in the Central San Francisco Bay Region, California. USGS Open-File Report 2006-1037. Available at: https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1037/of06-1037_1c.pdf, accessed June 30, 2021.



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