Appendix E
Phase I Archaeological Survey Report and
Phase II Archaeological Survey Report
PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT
FOR THE
RIVER WEST, LEWIS S. EATON TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Submitted To:
David K. Young
Senior Project Planner
URS Corporation
Planning and Environmental Department
30 River Park Place West, Suite 80
Fresno, CA 93720

Submitted By:
Sarah E. Johnston, M.A.
J&R Environmental Services
17900 Auberry Road
Clovis, CA 93619

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Approximately 300 acres
USGS Fresno North 7.5’ Quadrangle
T.12S R.20E, Sections 21, 28, 29, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian
CA-FRE-980
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

J&R Environmental Services personnel conducted a Phase I Archaeological Investigation for the proposed River West-Lewis S. Eaton Trail Extension Project, located on land administered by the San Joaquin River Conservancy in Fresno County, California. The investigation was undertaken to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which mandates that public agencies determine whether a project will have a significant impact on important historical resources (Title 14 CCR §15064). The investigation consisted of archival research and an archaeological pedestrian field survey of approximately 300 acres on the south bank of the San Joaquin River between Spano Park and Highway 41. The study area encompasses the project area for the Proposed Project, and four project alternatives that offer variations in trail routes and parking facilities (Marks June 4, 2014). The proposed construction for all alternatives will involve minimal excavation (< one meter deep).

The pre-survey archival research resulted in the identification of one previously recorded archaeological site (CA-FRE-980) within the study boundaries. The 1979 site record describes the site as “Remnants of a probable permanently occupied village consisting of surface debris that includes, a light obsidian waste flake scatter, fire cracked rock, burned bone, and shell…Subsurface artifacts and features may exist below the plow zone” (Peck and Crist, 1979). Dense grass cover and years of agricultural disturbance obscured the surface archaeological evidence and prevented the relocation of the site during the 2014 pedestrian survey.

In order to relocate and protect site CA-FRE-980 from potential disturbance related to project implementation, limited vegetation removal and subsurface testing is recommended. If site CA-FRE-980 is relocated within the project’s area of direct impact (ADI) and found to qualify as a historical resource (Title 14 CCR §15064.5[a][1]-[3])), then mitigation measures need to be devised to bring project impacts below the level of significance (Title 14 CCR §15126.4).

Aside from the recommended treatment for site CA-FRE-980, no further cultural resources investigation is recommended for this undertaking unless project plans undergo changes that include any area not previously surveyed for cultural resources. If unanticipated buried cultural resources are encountered during any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., trail construction, excavation), work should be halted or diverted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
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I  INTRODUCTION

Between June 25-27, 2014 archaeologist Sarah Johnston and archaeological technician Justin Brady of J&R Environmental conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey within the project limits located on the south bank of the San Joaquin River between State Route 41 and Spano Park (Figure 1). The area surveyed encompasses the entire project study area (excluding ponds) for the proposed River West Eaton Trail Extension Project (Figure 2).

The project involves extending the Lewis S. Eaton Trail, a multiple use trail, by 2.5 miles, and building ancillary features such as picnic tables, parking lots, landscaping, and restrooms. The project will provide for low impact recreation on the site, primarily consisting of hiking, bicycling, fishing and nature observation, consistent with the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan (Marks, June 4, 2014). The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine the presence or absence of cultural material within the project study area.

Prior to the field survey, J&R Environmental conducted a records search (RS#14-236) and literature review at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System, located at California State University, Bakersfield. The record search encompassed a ½ mile buffer around the project area to identify previous archeological investigations and archaeological resources within the project vicinity. A summary of the records search findings is provided within the report under “Sources Consulted.”

J&R Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento to determine if sacred sites occurred in the project vicinity and to obtain a list of potentially affected Native American Tribal Communities and individuals. The commission provided a list of 12 tribal contacts, whom were contacted by letter, in addition to email (when address provided) and follow-up phone calls. A summary of contacts with the Native American community is provided within the report under “Sources Consulted” and in Appendix D--Native American Correspondence and Log.

One previously recorded prehistoric site (CA-FRE-980), a habitation site with sparse surface evidence including fire cracked rock, obsidian flakes, shell, and carbon flecks was identified in the course of the record search portion of the investigation. The pedestrian survey of the location provided in the 1979 site record failed to relocate the site. It is likely that subsurface archaeological deposits associated with site CA-FRE-980 still exist within the project area, but are hidden by dense grass growth and prior agricultural disturbance. If construction is proposed in the vicinity of the recorded site (within 100 feet), limited vegetation removal and subsurface testing is recommended to aid in the relocation and protection of the site. Cultural Resources findings and recommendations are provided in the report under “Study Findings and Conclusions.”
II REGULATORY CONTEXT

CEQA requires public agencies to consider project impacts on archaeological or historical sites deemed to be "historical resources." Under CEQA, a substantial adverse change in the significant qualities of a historical resource is considered a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of CEQA, a "historical resource" is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (Title14 CCR §15064.5[a][1]-[3]). Historical resources may include, but are not limited to, "any object, building, 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" (PRC §5020.1[j]).

The eligibility criteria for the California Register are the definitive criteria for assessing the significance of historical resources for the purposes of CEQA (Office of Historic Preservation n.d.). Generally, a resource is considered "historically significant" if it meets one or more of the following criteria for listing on the California Register:

(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 (PRC §5024.1[c]).

III PROJECT LOCATION/DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Fresno County, California within portions of sections 21, 28, and 29 of Township 12S, Range 20E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. The project area is depicted on the USGS Fresno North 7.5 minute series Topographic Map (Figure 1). The project study area encompasses approximately 300 acres on the south side of the San Joaquin River west of the State Route 41 crossing. Survey acreage excluded the extensive ponds that cover much of the south half of the project area. The entire project area, excluding the ponds was examined at 20-30 meter transect intervals (Figure 3).

PROJECT STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

The Project Study Area (PSA) encompasses approximately 300 acres on the Fresno side of the San Joaquin River between SR 41 and Spano Park. The PSA is delineated on the
west by the San Joaquin River channel and on the east by the steep river bluff (west of Audubon Drive). Most of the study area consists of open space that includes agricultural fields and several large manmade ponds formed from past gravel mining operations. A private parcel of 20 acres labeled on the Fresno North USGS map as the Circle M Ranch, is situated within the project area, but is segregated on the site by barbed wire fencing. The PSA includes all of the areas of direct impact (ADI) for the proposed project and four proposed alternatives, as of the date of this report. Based on the description of the proposed project, most construction and project activities will be confined to the upper three feet of the ground surface (Marks June 4, 2014). The PSA is depicted in Figure 2.

**Project Description**

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is proposing to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail from State Route 41 downstream to Spano Park, within approximately 300 acres of the San Joaquin River Parkway. The multi-use trail would be extended on the south side of the San Joaquin River by 2.5 miles. The 22-foot-wide trail would consist of a 12-foot wide paved surface, a parallel 8-foot wide hard natural surface for equestrian use and a 2-foot buffer. The route of the trail extension will follow the alignment as seen in Figure 4 “Proposed Project.” Other trail alignments including a “commuter trail alignment” and a “river’s edge trail alignment” are considered in the four Alternatives to the Proposed Project. The trail would provide opportunities for hiking, equestrian use, bicycling, fishing, and nature observation, consistent with the 1997 San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.

The proposed improvements of the project are described below. A complete description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives is provided in two memoranda by Melinda Marks, Executive Officer of the San Joaquin River Conservancy dated June 4, 2014 and June 17, 2014.

There will be a controlled vehicle entrance and a 50-stall parking lot adjacent to SR 41. Access to the parking lot will be provided by the Perrin Avenue freeway under-crossing. The parking lot will include up to 3 horse trailer stalls, potable water and a two-vault accessible restroom. A second single vault accessible restroom will be provided along the trail extension near the Spano Park stairway.

A wide staircase with bicycle guides may be constructed from Spano Park to the trail below. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the proposed trail would be provided at three locations: Spano Park, West Riverview Drive, and Churchill Avenue.

The Bluff Trail, an existing neighborhood trail is located on the Perrin Canal Bench, along the eastern edge of the project area. A proposed 12-foot wide trail will connect the Bluff Trail to the proposed Eaton Trail extension. The connecting trail will be constructed on the steep bluff slope.

The trail will be landscaped at intervals with native vegetation for habitat enhancement and shade. Vegetation creating shade and visual buffers will be established at the parking
lot. Landscaping will be irrigated until vegetation is permanently established. Picnic tables, benches, and wildlife observation areas will be provided along the trail at various locations. Unimproved hiking paths to the river bank will be connected to the main trail. The paths may be widened to 6 feet and overlaid with gravel. These paths would not be landscaped. No structures would be constructed within the State Designated Floodway.

Project Alternatives

In addition to the proposed project described above, The San Joaquin River Conservancy will be evaluating four alternatives. The alternatives are:

1. Added Parking: In this alternative an additional controlled vehicle entrance and a public 40-stall parking lot between the H pond and E pond will be provided. A paved road from W. Riverview Drive to the parking lot will provide access. This parking area would not accommodate horse trailers. The added parking could be approved in combination with the proposed or alternative trail alignments.

2. Commuter Trail Alignment: In this alternative, the multi-use trail would be aligned about 300 feet from the base of the bluff. The trail alignment as described in the proposed project description would not be constructed; however, all other amenities described in the proposed project, including the proposed parking lot, landscaping and restrooms will be provided, and the additional parking as described in Alternative 1 may be provided.

3. River’s Edge Trail Alignment: In this alternative the multi-use Trail would be aligned on the river’s edge in the more southerly portion of the site, and remain as proposed in the northerly portion of the site. All other amenities described in the proposed project, including the parking lot, landscaping and restrooms will be provided, and the additional parking as described in Alternative 1 may be provided.

4. No Parking: In this alternative no public parking or trailering would be provided on-site. The Trail would be constructed on the proposed or alternative trail alignments. All 4 entrances would be walk-in/bicycle-in only. All amenities other than the entrance station and parking landscaping described in the proposed project would be provided.

IV SOURCES CONSULTED

RECORDS SEARCH

A Records Search (RS#14-236) covering a half-mile radius surrounding the project area was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) Part of the California Historical Resource Information System, located at California State
University, Bakersfield on June 24, 2014. Review of SSJVIC holdings included
archaeological survey reports and site records, listings of the National Register of
Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Places (CRHP), California
Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

The record search indicated that several studies were conducted in and adjacent to the
project area over the past 40 years (Appendix E). The study area was completely
surveyed for archaeological resources approximately 35 years ago (Peck and Crist, 1979)
and had been partially surveyed in the past two years (Brady, 2013). Two previously
recorded cultural resources (prehistoric Site CA-FRE-980 and the Perrin Ditch) were
identified in the project APE.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS

In July, 2014 J&R Environmental contacted Mr. Dave Singleton of the Native America
Heritage Commission in Sacramento to conduct a sacred lands inventory and to request a
list of Native American contacts with traditional ties to the project area. Mr. Singleton
replied that a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory failed to indicate the presence
of Native American traditional sites/places within the project study area. He provided a
list of 12 Native American tribal contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources
in or near the project area (Singleton July 1, 2014). The 12 tribal contacts were written
via letter and email (where email addresses were available) to elicit general concerns
regarding the proposed project and to identify specific sites that may hold special
concerns for them. Follow up telephone calls were placed with messages left if the
contact was not reached. These contacts do not constitute formal consultation under
CEQA or NEPA. Appendix D contains a log of contacts and responses.

V BACKGROUND

NATURAL SETTING

[The following sections on vegetation and fauna are adapted from Brady (2011)]

The project area lies within the Lower Sonoran Zone, which is west and not part of the
Sierra Nevada. The Greater Central Valley (mainly the Lower Sonoran Zone) community
is characterized by flat terrain with elevations ranging from 300-400 feet at the north and
south ends and 50 feet at the center (Storer and Usinger 1963:26).

The Lower Sonoran plant community is part of the California biotic province (Munz and
Keck 1959:11) The dominant species of tree are the Fremont cottonwood (Populous
fremontii), California sycamore (Platanus racemosa), valley oak (Quercus lobata), and
willow (Salix), which is found along stream beds or near springs (Chesemore and
Latimer 180). Scott Larsen, a biologist noted that along the San Joaquin River and most
ponds is scarlet wisteria (Sesbania punicea), a very aggressive invasive shrub (Personal
Communication 2011).
Fauna common to the area include wood duck (Aix sponsa), coyote (Canis latrans), and California quail (Lophortyx californicus). Other fauna common to the project area include Stellar’s jay (Cyanocitta stelleri), the horned lark (Eremophila alpestris), the yellow-tailed magpie (Pica nutalli), and the Desert Cottontail rabbit (Sylvilagus audubonii) (Ingles 1965, Storer and Usinger 1963, Verner and Boss 1980).

**SOILS**

The University of California Davis Agriculture and Natural Resources Soilweb (2014) (http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/gmap/) lists the two main soils types in the project area as Grangeville Series Soils in the north half of the project area and Hesperia Series Soils in the south half of the project area. Grangeville Series Soils are classified as Mollisols and Hesperia Soils are classified as Entisols:

“**Mollisols** (from Latin mollis, "soft") are the soils of grassland ecosystems. They are characterized by a thick, dark surface horizon. This fertile surface horizon, known as a mollic epipedon, results from the long-term addition of organic materials derived from plant roots. **Entisols** are soils of recent origin. The central concept is soils developed in unconsolidated parent material with usually no genetic horizons except an A horizon. All soils that do not fit into one of the other 11 orders are Entisols. Thus, they are characterized by great diversity, both in environmental setting and land use.”

Given the nature of these soils, it is possible that cultural resources have become buried in the past. Meyer et al (2010) confirms the potential for buried archaeological deposits in the project area. Meyer analyzed the Archaeological Sensitivity for the San Joaquin Valley based on 1) the distribution and age of geological deposits present on the modern ground surface, 2) distance to water, and 3) landform slope. The soils in the project area date between 2000 years to 150 years B.P. and have a very high to moderately high likelihood of having buried deposits.

**ETHNOHISTORY**

The Yokuts occupied virtually all of the San Joaquin Valley and the surrounding foothills. Kroeber (1976) classified the Yokuts into 12 groups and two divisions: Foothill and Valley (Brady 2011). Their homeland included the entire San Joaquin Valley from the mouth of the San Joaquin River to the foot of Tehachapi Pass. In addition, they occupied adjacent lower slopes or foothills of the Sierra Nevada, up to an altitude of a few thousand feet, from Fresno River south, but “nowhere to the north of that stream” (Kroeber 1976:475).

During the prehistoric period a number of Yokuts groups occupied the floodplains south of the San Joaquin River from Little Dry Creek to Herndon (Sycamore). These groups
included the Pitkachi and Wakichi Yokuts. The Hoyima and Dumna inhabited the north side of the San Joaquin River opposite the project area (Kroeber 1976:484).

The project area was principally occupied by the Pitkachi, whom Kroeber (1976:484) said “received their appellation from an evil-smelling salt or alkali of the same name that they used to gather or prepare.” The Pitkachi occupied villages at Kohou, near Herndon, at Weshiu, on a slough, and at Gewachiu downstream from Herndon (Kroeber 1976: 484, Plate 47). No occupation sites are mentioned in the immediate vicinity of the project area.

Yokuts groups were organized politically into small tribes, each with its own distinctive name, dialect, settlements, and recognized territories. Permanent wintering areas often occurred around major watercourses, such as the San Joaquin or Kings River. Away from these areas, they used temporary campsites to take advantage of the seasonal resource procurement cycle (Brady 2011).

According to Kipps (1982):

“Foothill Yokuts settlements were noted for their lack of organization or patterned layout, contrasting with the highly structured Valley Yokuts villages...The kinds of structures built by Foothill Yokuts included two kinds of conical dwellings, a flat shaded or ramada, a sweat house and a hemispherical shade (grinding booth).

The major unit of social organization was the patrilineal lineage. Each lineage had its own symbol or totem which was believed to impart to the members of the lineage strength and wisdom (Gayton 1945:415). Some examples of totems were Eagle, Falcon, Dove, Crow, Bear, and Rattlesnake...The tribal offices, especially that of chief and messenger, were passed within the same lineage from father to son. Chiefs were the preeminent officials. Each tribe had several chiefs, usually one per village. Tribal policies were made by a council of chiefs. A chief was obliged to contribute to the seasonal round of ceremonies, feed the poor, and offer hospitality to visitors. The messenger was the right-hand-man of the chief, and saw to the execution of the chief’s orders (Spier 1978:482).

In the euphemistic jargon of that age, the Northern Foothill Yokuts were “dislocated drastically by the Mariposa Battalion in 1851” (Gayton 1948:153). Today, although some Foothill Yokuts may be residents of the Tule River Indian Reservation, most live in hamlets or isolated dwellings scattered throughout their traditional territories (Spier 1978:483). The closest Native American community to the project area is the Table Mountain Rancheria...”
PREHISTORY

(This section is adapted from a report authored by Lloyd, Baloian, and Baloian [2005:6-7]).

In contrast to the numerous archaeological excavations in the south-central Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills, there has been little archaeological work done in the central San Joaquin Valley generally or in the project vicinity specifically. The closest excavations to the project area include investigations at Hidden Reservoir (Fenenga 1973), approximately 13 miles northwest; Buchanan Reservoir (Eastman Lake) (King 1976; Moratto 1972), 25 miles northwest; and along Highway 168 at CA-FRE-1671 (Moratto 1988), approximately 20 miles east. Prehistoric sequences developed from these excavations provide a fairly clear understanding of culture change during the last 2,000 to 3,000 years; however, archaeological investigations in the Tulare Lake and Buena Vista Lake localities, south of the Project vicinity, suggest the people occupied the San Joaquin Valley as early as 11,000-12,000 years ago (Fredrickson and Grossman 1977; Riddell and Olson 1969).

Because there has been very little archaeological excavation in the immediate project vicinity, it is unclear whether the cultural phases identified in the adjacent foothills or southern valley extend[s] to this area.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the valley’s initial occupants settled mostly in lakeshore and streamside environments and used the foothills seasonally. Early (“Paleoindian”) sites are typified by fluted points, stemmed dart points, and flaked stone crescents. The Middle and late Holocene witnessed mobile hunters and gatherers. As compared with their predecessors, Archaic groups utilized a broad resource base, including both large and small game and hard seeds. Manos, milling slabs, mortars, and pestles are common in Archaic assemblages, as are atlatl dart points. Favorable climatic conditions between 3000 and 3500 years ago instigated widespread settlement along the Sierran west slope. The late Holocene witnessed various technological and social changes, including the adoption of the bow and arrow, expansion of trade, increasing use of acorns, and improved food storage techniques. As populations grew, social relations became more complex. Violence among many Sierran and foothill groups was common as economic stress and social instability became more pronounced during a period of xeric climates between A.D. 450 and 1250. Thereafter, new levels of population growth were achieved resulting in part from movement of new Sierran groups. By circa 1600-1700 most groups claimed the territories that would identify them ethnographically.

These late Holocene (circa 1000 B.C. and A.D. 1850) adaptations occurred at various times throughout the south-central Sierra and foothill regions. The prehistoric sequence developed from careful excavations at Eastman Lake divides these events into three phases:

“the Chowchilla Phase (circa 800 B.C.-A.D. 550), the Raymond Phase (A.D. 550-1500), and the Madera Phase (A.D. 1500-1850) (Moratto 1972). To summarize: Chowchilla Phase occupation (now dated circa 800 B.C.-A.D. 550) of the...
Buchanan Reservoir locality was centered at a few main villages along the Chowchilla River. Large, socially complex populations exploited local resources and actively traded with their neighbors. After circa A.D. 550, however, both population size and social complexity diminished; local Raymond Phase settlement was sporadic, violence was common and trade was disrupted. Then, after circa A.D. 1500, scores of small settlements were established, and these maintained social ties with the revitalized older centers. The Madera Phase, with its village community organization and distinctive economic patterns, represents the late prehistory of the Southern Sierra Miwok” (King 1976) [Moratto 1984:323].

Several archaeological sites have been recorded in the immediate Project vicinity. In addition to sites located along the San Joaquin River, many small processing stations and temporary camps have been found along seasonal channels near the lower foothills (Meighan and Dillion 1987) suggesting a pattern of widespread use of this area during the late Holocene (McGuire et al. 1992). The San Joaquin River supplied an abundance of salmon during the fall and spring (Baumhoff 1963:169, 174, Table 5) and the numerous granite outcroppings along the river and smaller tributaries provided grinding surfaces to process acorns, a staple of the California Indian diet. Until more extensive archaeological work can be done, interpretations regarding prehistoric land use in the project vicinity are speculative.

HISTORY

Early History

[The following section is adapted from Brady (2011)]

José Joaquin Moraga made the earliest documented Spanish colonial-era visit to what is now Madera County in 1776, when he was dispatched to evaluate California's interior. Upon entering the San Joaquin Valley from the north, Moraga traveled as far south as Madera County. Thirteen years later, Color Sergeant Gabriel Moraga, the son of José Joaquin Moraga, crossed the San Joaquin River and explored what became the Dos Palos and Chowchilla areas of Madera County. Eventually Moraga turned east toward the Sierra Nevada, reaching the Mariposa area (Clough 1968:9).

As early as 1820, explorers, trappers and soldiers traveled through parts of Madera County, continuing such activities through the Gold Rush period. However, it was John C. Fremont who provided the earliest record of trails through Madera County as part of his expedition into California. Between April 4-6, 1844, Fremont progressed through the valley from the north, with his party fording Bear Creek in Merced County by raft and from there proceeding southward. Eventually they followed the San Joaquin River and camped along its banks. On April 6, the Fremont expedition crossed the river at "Gravelly Ford, west of where SR 145 today crosses the river" (Hoover et. al. 1966).

The 1850 discovery of gold in what became eastern Madera County brought miners to the area. Communities such as Coarsegold, Fine Gold, and Cassidy's Bar, began to dot the
Sierra Nevada foothills. Population centers eventually shifted to the valley floor as gold played out and when railroad tracks were first laid, in the early 1870s. Families began to farm the fertile lands in southern Madera and Fresno Counties as irrigation colonies were established.

PROJECT AREA SPECIFIC HISTORY

F.M. Lane Ranch

[The following section on the F.M. Lane Ranch is adapted from Brady (2011)]

Joseph P. Lane parlayed the earnings from his Stockton liquor business in the 1850s to become one of the state’s prominent stockmen. His family settled in southern Madera County in 1870 and acquired over 7,000 acres of San Joaquin River terrace near what is now known as Lane’s Bridge, just east of the study area (Guinn 1905:1262-1263).

The earliest ownership of the property within the current project study area was by Frank M. Lane, one of five children of Joseph P. and Ann Mary Lane. According to one author Vandor 1919:834-38) Frank M. Lane owned 90 acres, of which the study area was part. Professionally, Mr. Lane was a teacher and later a principal at Washington Grammar School. He was interested in raising grain and alfalfa, which he presumably practiced on his farm in the project area, as well as 240 acre parcel approximately 1 mile east of the project area. Mr. Lane retained ownership of his 90-acre farm through 1935 (Brady 2011).

Spano River Ranch

[The following section on the Spano River Ranch is adapted from Brady (2013)]

In the 1960’s the Lane Property was part of river bottom land purchased by Oscar Spano. According to Stan Spano, his late father Oscar purchased most of the land during the early 1960’s. About ninety percent of the ranch was located on the Fresno side of the river. According to a 2003 Fresno Bee article by George Hostetter, the ranch was dedicated to cattle and cotton. Sparse evidence of Spano-era agriculture remains in the project area, including a wooden livestock chute, an abandoned mechanical grader, and portions of the irrigation system, which pumped water from the San Joaquin River.
During the later 1960s, Oscar Spano sought to develop a residential tract on the land, but met with great resistance from the County of Fresno. In 2003, Stan Spano sold two-thirds of the ranch to the San Joaquin River Conservancy. The California State Lands Commission purchased the remainder of the ranch. The total cost was approximately $10 million. The family retained ownership of a 20-acre parcel in the middle of the former ranch, designated on the USGS Fresno North Map as “The Circle M Ranch.” The 20 acre parcel is currently dedicated to pasture land and a 1970s residence and ancillary buildings are located in the southwest corner of the property. In the summer of 2014, a new residential structure was being built on the property.
Photo No. 2. Farm Grader—Spano Ranch

Photo No. 3. Irrigation System—Spano Ranch
**E.B. Perrin and the Perrin Canal**

*This section is adapted from Mikesell (1995)*

Dr. Edward Burt (E.B.) Perrin was one of the most ambitious and successful land developers in California during the late 19th Century. He was born in Alabama in 1839 and served as a physician in the Confederate Army for the duration of the Civil War. After the war ended, he gave up medicine to pursue a career as an investor and land developer. In 1864, he married Anne Tremlet Herndon, for whom the community of Herndon is named.

Although E.B. Perrin bought and sold land throughout California and Arizona, his principle focus was on Fresno County between Fresno and the Fresno-Madera County line. According to H.H. Bancroft, Dr. Perrin came to California specifically to buy up land in advance of the railroad, which was most active in the San Joaquin Valley in the late 1860s, reaching what would be the city of Fresno in 1872. Perrin bought more than 130,000 acres in Fresno County, the bulk of it north and northwest of Fresno. Perrin sold much of this land in 1869 to Mr. Theo Kearney, a sale which gave Dr. Perrin the operating capital to make improvements to the rest of his land, including construction of the Perrin Ditch.

Perrin recognized the value of irrigation water as a prerequisite for large-scale land subdivision and sale. He organized the Upper San Joaquin Irrigating Canal Company in 1878 and began construction in 1882 of the Upper San Joaquin Canal or Perrin Ditch. The canal was designed to be about 16 miles long, extending from the massive headgates below Millerton, hung along the bluffs on the south side of the San Joaquin River, ending somewhere in the vicinity of Herndon, probably within the modern Riverside Country Club. The canal was designed to be 41/2-feet-deep, with a bed width of 25 feet and a top width of 42 feet, however, the actual dimensions of the canal were not uniform.
1891 Map of the Project Area, showing the Frank Lane Ranch and the Perrin Ditch (David Rumsey Map Collection).

The Perrin canal was large by the engineering standards of the day, but not the largest ditch in Fresno County in the 1880s. Its most notable engineering features were that it was fully artificial, without access to natural sloughs, and in fact required a weir across the full width (estimate 900 feet) of the San Joaquin River. These characteristics proved to be the undoing of the project, which was abandoned in 1887 because of problems with the weir and because the long artificial channel failed. The canal was never put into service, apparently because the system failed and because Perrin and his partners were either unwilling or unable to spend the money to fix it.

The remnants of the Perrin Ditch are still visible on the bluff, below the Bluffs housing subdivision on the southeastern periphery of the project area (Photo 4). In 1995, historian Steven Mikesell evaluated the Perrin Ditch’s historic significance and assessed the condition of the ditch at five locations within the project area. Although the contours of the ditch bed can still be seen at several locations, the ditch has lost its integrity of design and setting to the extent that it is no longer eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (Mikesell 1995: 20-23).
Sand and Gravel Extraction

The following section on Sand and Gravel Extraction is adapted from Brady (2011).

Stewart and Nuss, a concrete, paving and general construction firm, was founded in 1918 by Charles W. Stewart (1887-1984) and Claude Edward Nuss (1889-1957; Keeler 1993, California Death Index, 1940-1997). The firm helped build various public and private developments during its existence. Stewart and Nuss opened an excavation and processing plant in 1936, near the intersection of the San Joaquin River and Highway 99, where gravel, sand and rock was plentiful. At that time, the firm boasted:

“It is the most modern and up-to-date plant on the Pacific Coast...With our modern equipment and facilities we are capable of handling excavating, grading, and oiling jobs of any size and can furnish truck-mixed concrete in any quantities that will meet the most rigid specifications” (Stewart and Nuss, 1936).

A year after Nuss died in 1957, Stewart sold the business to Rice Brothers Inc. of Marysville and Lodi, another concrete and gravel enterprise. Jesse Rice took over as principal of the business, reorganizing it but retaining the familiar corporate name (“The Fresno Bee,” 1970). By 1961, the old deposits downstream had been mined out and the company began to work the areas west of the San Joaquin River-Highway 41 intersection, on the Fresno County side, within the project area (Coyle 1963).

Stewart and Nuss continued operations on Sycamore Island Ranch with little fanfare. In
1988, to meet new environmental regulations, it installed a closed-gravel-washing system to keep silt from building up in the river (“Water Recycling: A Wringing Success,” 1991). Also, to comply with the California Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, the company was further obligated to rebuild the island’s foliage, and plant seven trees per acre in areas where excavations were complete (Lopez, 1989).

By the late 1990s, the Sycamore Island plant—like its downriver precursor—was playing out and winding down operations (Nax 1996). Major corporate changes came to Stewart and Nuss during the same era. Sold to the Monolith Portland Cement Company, Monolith was eventually purchased in turn by CBR Cement Corporation of San Mateo in 1989 (Morris-Versaw, 1989). CBR’s parent firm, SA Cimenteries CBR of Belgium, was later acquired by Heidelberg Cement of Germany in stages during the 1990s (“Heidelberger Zement AG,” n.d.). Though its ownership is now wholly foreign, and its immediate parent company is known as Calaveras Material Inc., Stewart and Nuss has retained the same local name it has used ever since its founding (Nax1997).

The Sycamore Island gravel works was purchased by the San Joaquin River Conservancy, a State of California agency, for $6.6 million (Fontana 2006). The acquisition was intended to help preserve and restore the San Joaquin River. Sycamore Island joined a series of properties set aside for that purpose, together forming a twenty-two-mile-long parkway down the San Joaquin River which stretches from Friant Dam to Highway 99 (San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, n.d.).

The traces left by Stewart and Nuss gravel extraction are now mostly apparent in the south half of the project area where large excavation-created ponds, introduced vegetation, and mounded earth dominate the landscape. The northern half of the property, although studied for gravel mining in 1979 (Peck and Crist, 1979) shows no evidence of gravel extraction. The predominant impacts in the northern half of the project area are from agricultural plowing and grading.

FIELD METHODS

Prior to the field work, a survey strategy was developed based on the culturally-modified landscape within the project study area (refer to Figure 3). The natural landscape has been heavily modified as a result of farming and gravel extraction. Over the last 100-plus years, the land has been graded, plowed, dredged and leveled as a result of gravel and sand extraction. Large ponds and seasonally dry pits are scattered throughout the project area. According to the Records Search, the entire project area was previously surveyed for cultural resources in 1979 by Peck and Crist. In the intervening 35 years, many changes to the landscape and the cultural resources it contains have occurred. In order to make an accurate assessment of the project area, a new pedestrian survey was completed to update the 1979 survey.

Between June 25 and 27, 2014, a pedestrian survey of the project study area was conducted by staff of J&R Environmental Services to determine if cultural resources were present. The land surface was carefully searched for any evidence of aboriginal
utilization or habitation, soil discoloration, artifacts and features (bedrock mortars, rock rings, hunting blinds, etc.), or remnants of human activities dating to the historic period (can and bottle scatters, house foundations, machinery, etc.).

Survey methods included complete, intensive-level coverage with parallel transects at intervals of 20-30 meters and a reconnaissance-level sampling strategy. Complete coverage was employed throughout the entire project study area. In addition, portions of the San Joaquin River’s south bank, just outside the periphery of the project area were sampled, due to potential sensitivity for prehistoric sites. Areas most likely to be associated with historic activities, such as ranching, were also closely examined in the study area. Anticipated evidence of historic activity included can dumps, backfilled privies, and collapsed wood structures.

Ground visibility throughout the entire project area was poor due to dense grasses and heavy brush. The only areas where ground visibility was excellent were on roads, trails and disturbed areas devoid of dense vegetation. At frequent intervals during the survey, grasses were pushed aside to expose the surface area. Numerous animal burrows and ground squirrel dens offered some of the best views of the ground surface and immediate subsurface.

**STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**STUDY FINDINGS**

The archaeological investigation identified two previously recorded cultural resources— the historic Perrin Ditch and a prehistoric habitation site (CA-FRE-980). Both cultural resources were identified by the archival records search. The Perrin Ditch was previously evaluated and is ineligible to the California Register of Historic Resources. Prehistoric site CA-FRE-980 was originally recorded by Peck and Crist in 1979, but due to dense grass cover and prior agricultural disturbance, the 2014 pedestrian survey failed to relocate the site. Both the Perrin Ditch and site CA-FRE-980 are discussed below.

Aside from a few small fragments of historic ceramic and metal that lacked association or context, no cultural resources were found in the course of the pedestrian survey. More recent evidence of farming—an abandoned grader, a wooden livestock chute, and irrigation system most likely associated with the 1960s Spano Ranch are noted above in “Project Area Specific History.”

*The Perrin Ditch*

The historic Perrin Ditch was recorded along the eastern edge of the project area by historian Stephen Mikesell in 1995. The Perrin ditch was built in the 1880’s to bring water for irrigation and development from the San Joaquin River below Millerton to the community of Herndon. Portions of the ditch are still visible on the bluff on the east side of the project area (Photo 5). Mikesell evaluated the ditch for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, under the most applicable criteria B and C, but found that the
ditch no longer retains sufficient integrity to warrant National Register listing (Mikesell 1995:20). National Register criteria B and C correspond with two criteria for the California Register of Historical Resources—(2) *Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.* and (3) *Embody 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.* The Perrin Ditch does not qualify as a Historical Resource under (Title14 CCR §15064.5[a][1]-[3]), and requires no further treatment prior to project approval.

![Photo No. 5 The Perrin Ditch Cut looking Northeast in Project Area (June 2014)](image)

**Prehistoric Site CA-FRE-980**

Site CA-FRE-980 is a small (20 meter x 20 meter) prehistoric habitation site that was described in the original 1979 site record as consisting of fire cracked rock, obsidian flakes, shell, and carbon flecks. The 1979 site location map shows the site very close to the area of direct impact (ADI) of the proposed Eaton Trail route as depicted in the plans for the “Proposed Project” and the “River’s Edge Trail Alignment” (Figures 5 and 7, and Appendix C). The 1979 site record also noted dense vegetation, disturbance of the upper 40 centimeters of soil, and the likelihood of buried cultural deposits based on soils and topography (Peck and Crist 1979). Recent excavations in similar San Joaquin Valley contexts (Holocene floodplains adjacent to stream courses) show that prehistoric sites with sparse surface evidence can extend as much as 1–3 meters below the surface and date to 7000 years B.P. (Becker 2003; Bethard and Basgall et al. 2000).
Although the 2014 pedestrian survey did not relocate archaeological site CA-FRE-980, it is likely that subsurface archaeological deposits associated with the site still exist in the project area, but are obscured by dense grass growth and prior agricultural disturbance. If site CA-FRE-980 has integrity and research potential, it may be a historical resource and would require protection and/or mitigation of significant effects as described in Title 14 CCR 15064.5. In order to determine if site CA-FRE-980 still exists and would be affected by the proposed project, subsurface archaeological testing is recommended.

If subsurface testing shows that site CA-FRE-980 is within the project’s ADI and qualifies as a historical resource, then mitigation measures should be devised to bring project impacts below the level of significance. Preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological sites (Title 14 CCR §15126.4).

**Potential Impacts by Alternative (Table 1)**

The trail alignments in the Proposed Project and three of the four project alternatives (Alternatives 1, 3, and 4) potentially conflict with site CA-FRE-980. Construction and use of the 22-foot wide trail and buffer in these alignments could impact buried archaeological deposits in the upper three feet of the site (Figures 5, 6, 8, and 9). Only the trail alignment in Alternative 2—Bluff Trail (Figure 7) is sufficiently distant from the documented location of site CA-FRE-980 to minimize the possibility of impacts resulting from construction and use of the trail. Although the Alternative 2 trail alignment is adjacent to the historic Perrin Ditch, the Ditch was previously determined to be ineligible to the California Register of Historic Places and does not require protection under CEQA.

The project description provides for different combinations of the four alternatives and trail alignments. A summary of conflicts by Alternative and Trail Alignment is provided in Table 1.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

If a project alternative that conflicts with site CA-FRE-980 is selected in the EIR process, then subsurface testing (Extended Phase I) is recommended to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits in the area of direct impact (ADI). A summary of site conflicts and recommended actions by Alternative and Trail Alignment is provided in Table 1. If subsurface testing shows that site CA-FRE-980 is within the project’s ADI and qualifies as a historical resource, then mitigation measures should be devised to bring project impacts below the level of significance. Preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological sites (Title 14 CCR §15126.4). A flowchart for identifying and resolving cultural resources impacts and typical mitigation measures for CEQA projects is provided in Appendix F.

Aside from the subsurface testing recommended for site CA-FRE-980, no further cultural resources investigation is required for the undertaking unless project plans undergo changes that include any area not previously surveyed for cultural resources. If unanticipated buried cultural resources are encountered during any project-related
ground-disturbing activities (e.g., trail construction, excavation), work should be halted or diverted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

**TABLE 1  IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY ALTERNATIVE AND TRAIL ALIGNMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Trail Alignment</th>
<th>Historical Resource Conflict</th>
<th>Finding</th>
<th>Potential Adverse Impacts</th>
<th>Recommended Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Project</td>
<td>Proposed Trail Route CA-FRE-980</td>
<td>Site is Potentially Significant/boundaries unknown</td>
<td>Trail Construction and Use</td>
<td>Conduct subsurface testing to determine boundaries of site; Re-design trail to avoid site by min.100ft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 1 (Added Parking)</td>
<td>Proposed or River’s Edge Trail Route CA-FRE-980</td>
<td>Site is Potentially Significant/boundaries unknown</td>
<td>Trail Construction and Use</td>
<td>Conduct subsurface testing to determine boundaries of site; Re-design trail to avoid site by min.100ft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 1 (Added Parking)</td>
<td>Bluff Trail None N/A None None</td>
<td>None N/A None None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 2</td>
<td>Bluff trail None N/A None None</td>
<td>None N/A None None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 3</td>
<td>River’s Edge Trail CA-FRE-980</td>
<td>Site is Potentially Significant/boundaries unknown</td>
<td>Trail Construction and Use</td>
<td>Conduct subsurface testing to determine boundaries of site; Re-design trail to avoid site by min.100ft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 4 (No Parking)</td>
<td>Proposed or River’s Edge Trail Route CA-FRE-980</td>
<td>Site is Potentially Significant/boundaries unknown</td>
<td>Trail Construction and Use</td>
<td>Conduct subsurface testing to determine boundaries of site; Re-design trail to avoid site by min.100ft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt 4 (No Parking)</td>
<td>Bluff Trail None N/A None None</td>
<td>None N/A None None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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1977  Topographic Map: Lane’s Bridge, California, 7.5-minute Quadrangle.

1978  Topographic Map: Fresno North, California, 7.5-minute Quadrangle

Vandor, Paul E.

APPENDIX A

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Sarah Johnston meets the Secretary of Interior’s Guidelines for Archaeology. She has over 25 years experience leading archaeological investigations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1969 and the California Environmental Qualiy Act of 1970 for federal, state, and private agencies in California and Nevada. She holds an M.A., from California State University, Fresno and a B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento.

Justin Brady has 10 years experience as an archaeological research assistant and field technician for J&R Environmental Services and other archaeological consulting firms in Central California. He graduated from the Willow International Center (Redly College) and will be attending CSU-Fresno in Spring 2015, working on his B.A. in Anthropology.
APPENDIX B
MAPS
FIGURE 1

River West Eaton Trail Extension Project
T 12S R. 20 E Sections 21, 28, 29
Fresno County, CA
USGS Fresno North Quadrangle
Figure 2
River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project
Project Study Area Map
Fresno County
T. 12S R. 20E Sections 21, 28, 29
6/23/2014
FIGURE 3  Project Study Area and Coverage Map.

Figure 3
River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project
Coverage Map
Fresno County
T. 12S R. 20E Sections
21, 28, 29
6/23/2014
Survey Coverage
FIGURE 4 Approximate Location of Site CA-FRE-980. Based on Peck and Crist (1979)
FIGURE 5  PROPOSED PROJECT
FIGURE 6   ALTERNATIVE 1 ADDED PARKING
FIGURE 7  ALTERNATIVE 2--BLUFF TRAIL
FIGURE 8 ALTERNATIVE 3—RIVER’S EDGE TRAIL
FIGURE 9  ALTERNATIVE 4—NO PARKING
APPENDIX C

SITE RECORD—CA-FRE-980

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Site</td>
<td>CA-FRE-980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Map U.S.G.S. Fresno North 7(\frac{1}{2}) Quad, 1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. County</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Township 12S, Range 13E, Section 21, NE 4 of SW 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. UTM Grid</td>
<td>11/250900/4084120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Location, Topography Proceed N from Fresno on Hwy 41 2(\frac{1}{2}) miles past its intersection with Herndon Ave. Take dirt access road to the west until a house is reached. The site exit in a leveled and plowed terraced field 320 m at a direction of 225(^\circ) from the house.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Contour Elevation</td>
<td>270 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Other site designations</td>
<td>Temp RCF-3-26-79-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Owner</td>
<td>Stanley Spano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Address</td>
<td>6629 North Blackstone Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Present tenant</td>
<td>Vacant - used for irrigated pasture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Description of site</td>
<td>Remnants of a probable permanently occupied village consisting of surface debris that includes; a light obsidian waste flake scatter, fire cracked rock, burned bone, and shell. Small carbon flecks were also noted in the soil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Area</td>
<td>20 m N-S, 20 m E-W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Depth unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Vegetation, Fauna, ecological zone</td>
<td>Riparian Valley Grassland. Vegetation includes oak, cottonwood and various grasses. Dominant fauna in the area includes various aquatic birds and rodents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Nearest water</td>
<td>San Joaquin River lies 185 m N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Surrounding Soil</td>
<td>Brown sandy loam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Site Soil</td>
<td>Brown sandy loam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Previous excavation</td>
<td>None noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Cultivation-logging</td>
<td>The area has been plowed and leveled; present land use is for cattle grazing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Construction (buildings, roads, etc.)</td>
<td>Hwy 41 lies 320 m E, sand and gravel facility and property lines 400 m W. Residential home is located 320 m to the NE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Erosion</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Possibility of destruction high</td>
<td>area to be incl in sand and gravel extraction operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Features (burials, house pits, etc.)</td>
<td>None noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Artifacts</td>
<td>A few obsidian waste flakes, fire cracked rock, shell fragments and burned bone were noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Remarks, drainage</td>
<td>The site has been severely disturbed due to previous plowing and leveling. Subsurface artifacts and features may exist below the plow zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Published references</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Sketch map</td>
<td>Attached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Photos</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Recorded by</td>
<td>B. Peck / M. Crist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Date</td>
<td>3-26-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Continuation Sheet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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## APPENDIX D
### NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE AND LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Contact Method</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorrie Planas, Choinumni Tribe</td>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>None to date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Brown, Chowchilla Tribe of</td>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yokuts</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Marquez, Chairman, Cold</td>
<td>Mail/follow up phone call</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs Rancheria of Mono</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalo Franco Cultural Coordinator,</td>
<td>Mail/follow up phone call</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa Tachi Rancheria</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Bill, Chairman, Sierra</td>
<td>Mail/phone call</td>
<td>Does not wish to consult</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Native American Coalition</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Pennell, Cultural Resources</td>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>None date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hutchins Kipp, Chairperson</td>
<td>Mail and Email</td>
<td>Requested to be informed if cultural resources were found.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Ledger SR, Chairperson</td>
<td>Mail and Email/follow up phone call</td>
<td>None to date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Smith, Cultural resource</td>
<td>Mail and Email</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ledger, Asst. Cultural</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resource Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandy Marine, Board Chairperson</td>
<td>Email and Mail/follow up phone call</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Goode, Chairperson</td>
<td>Email and Mail/follow up phone call</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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Phase I Archaeological Survey Report
River West--Lewis S Eaton Trail Extension
NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE

To: ds_nahc <ds_nahc@pacbell.net>
Sent: Mon, Jun 30, 2014 6:07 pm
Subject: Sacred Files and Native American Contact List request: River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project, Fresno County

Dear Mr. Singleton, below is my request for a Sacred Sites Files Search and Native American Contact List. Call me at 559-438-5330 if you have any questions. Thanks.

June 30, 2014

From: Sarah E Johnston
J & R Environmental Services
7126 N Carruth Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711

To: Mr. David Singleton
Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95619

Re: Phase I Archaeological Survey of the River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project for the San Joaquin River Conservancy

Project: River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project
Lead Agency: San Joaquin River Conservancy
County: Fresno
USGS 7.5 Min Quad: Fresno North
T. 12S R. 20E, Sections 21, 28, & 29 mdbm

Company: J & R Environmental
Contact Person: Sarah E Johnston, M.A. Project Archaeologist
Street Address: 7126 N. Carruth Ave, Fresno, C 93711
Phone: 559-438-5330
Email: sdernhelm@aol.com

Project Description:

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is proposing to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail from State Route 41 downstream to Spano Park, within a 300+ acre portion of the San Joaquin River Parkway. The trail would be extended on the south side of the San Joaquin River by about 2.5 miles. The 22-foot-wide trail would consist of a 12-foot wide paved surface, a parallel 8-foot wide hard natural surface and a 2-foot buffer. The
trail would provide opportunities for hiking, equestrian use, bicycling, fishing, and nature observation, consistent with the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.

Depending on the selected alternative, the proposed project would also build one or two vehicle parking lots (up to 50 stalls), 2-3 accessible vault toilets, wildlife observation areas, picnic tables, unpaved access trails, and irrigated landscape plantings to provide shade within the project area.

J & R Environmental Services will conduct an archaeological survey on the project area indicated on the enclosed map. We are requesting a Sacred Land Files Search and a list of Native American contacts with knowledge of or interest in the project area. If you have any questions or need further information regarding this project, please feel free to call me at 559-438-5330, or by email at sdernhelm@aol.com.

Sincerely,
Sarah E. Johnston, M.A.
Cultural Resource Management

2 Enclosures (maps)
July 1, 2014

Ms. Sarah E. Johnson, M.A.
J & R ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
7126 North Carruth Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711

Sent by U.S. Mail
No. of Pages: 4

RE: Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contacts list for the “River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project (for the San Joaquin River Conservancy);” located in northern Fresno County, California

Dear Ms. Johnson:

A record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional sites/places of the Project site(s) or ‘areas of Potential effect’ (APEs), submitted to this office. However, there are Native American cultural resources in adjacent USGS sections. Note also that the absence of archaeological features, Native American cultural resources does not preclude their existence at the subsurface level.

In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3rd 604), the Court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources impacted by proposed projects, including archaeological places of religious significance to Native Americans, and to Native American burial sites.

When the project becomes public, please inform the Native American contacts as to the nature of the project (e.g. residential, renewable energy, infrastructure or other appropriate type). Attached is a list of Native American tribes, Native American individuals or organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the proposed project area (APE). As part of the consultation process, the NAHC recommends that local government and project developers contact the tribal governments and Native American individuals on the list in order to determine if the proposed action might impact any cultural places or sacred sites. If a response from those listed on the attachment is not received in two weeks of notification, the NAHC recommends that a follow-up telephone call be made to ensure the project information has been received.
California Government Code Sections 65040.12(e) defines 'environmental justice' to provide "fair treatment of people...with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." Also, Executive Order B-10-11 requires that state agencies "consult with Native American tribes, their elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments, in order to provide meaningful input into...the development of legislation, regulations, rules and policies on matter that may affect tribal communities."

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (918) 373-3715.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachments
Native American Contacts
Fresno County California
July 1, 2014

Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
Elizabeth Hutchins Kipp, Chairperson
P.O. Box 337 / 37302
Auberry, CA 93602
lkipp@bsmation.com
(559) 855-4003
(559) 855-4129 Fax

Sierra Nevada Native American Coalition
Lawrence Bill, Interim Chairperson
P.O. Box 125
Dunlap, CA 93621
(559) 338-2354

Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
Robert Marquez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 209
Tollhouse, CA 93667
(559) 855-5043
(559) 855-4445 Fax

Choinummi Tribe; Choinummi/Mono
Lorrie Planas
2736 Palo Alto
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 338-2354

North Fork Mono Tribe
Ron Goodale, Chairperson
13366 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93619
r.w gode911@hotmail.com
(559) 299-3728 Home
(559) 355-1774 - cell

Table Mountain Rancheria
Bob Penrell, Cultural Resources Director
P.O. Box 410
Frant, CA 93266
(559) 325-0351
(559) 217-9718 - cell
(559) 325-0394 FAX

Dunlap Band of Mono Historical Preservation Soc
Mandy Marine, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Dunlap, CA 93621
(559) 325-0394 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.
Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7090.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 1097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 1097.80 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project (for the San Joaquin River Conservancy); located in Fresno County, California for which a Sacred Lands file search and Native American Contacts list were requested.
J&R Environmental Services

KIPP CORRESPONDENCE

July 16, 2014

To: Ms. Elizabeth Hutchins Kipp, Chairperson
Big Sand Rancheria of Mono Indians
P.O. Box 337/37302
Auberry, CA 93602

From: Sarah E Johnston,
Cultural Resources Manager
J & R Environmental Services
7126 N Carruth Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711


Dear Chairman Kipp,

We are seeking your input regarding the development of a public recreational trail along the San Joaquin River in Fresno County. The Native American Heritage Commission gave us your name as the representative of a potentially affected tribal community.

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is proposing to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail from State Route 41 downstream to Spanso Park, within a 400 acre portion of the San Joaquin River Parkway. The trail would be extended on the south side of the San Joaquin River by about 2.5 miles. The 22-foot-wide trail would consist of a 12-foot wide paved surface, a parallel 8-foot wide hard natural surface and a 2-foot buffer. The trail would provide opportunities for hiking, equestrian use, bicycling, fishing, and nature observation, consistent with the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan.

Depending on the selected alternative, the proposed project would also build one or two vehicle parking lots (up to 50 stalls), 2-3 accessible vault toilets, wildlife observation
areas, picnic tables, unpaved access trails, and irrigated landscape plantings to provide shade within the project area.

J & R Environmental Services will conduct an historic/archaeological survey in the project area indicated on the enclosed map. If you have any questions or information about the trail project, please submit them to me by email sdenhelm@aol.com or by phone at 559-438-5330.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Sarah E. Johnston, M.A.
Cultural Resource Management
J&R Environmental Services
Ph 559-438-5330

Enclosure (map)
From: Liz Kipp <LKipp@bsmation.com>
To: sdenhelm <sdenhelm@aol.com>; Council <Council@bsmation.com>
Subject: Re: Consultation_River West Eaton Trail Extension Project in Fresno_San Joaquin River
Date: Tue, Jul 22, 2014 3:41 pm

Sarah, thank you for contacting Big Sandy Rancheria on the Phase I Historic Property Survey of the River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project for the San Joaquin River Conservancy in Central Fresno County, CA. Currently, BSR has no information which we can provide to this project. We do request that if at anytime, there is any cultural resources identified or disturbed, that BSR be notified immediately.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth D. Hutchins-Kipp
Big Sandy Rancheria
Tribal Chairperson
559-374-0066

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 17, 2014, at 11:53 PM, "sdenhelm@aol.com" <sdenhelm@aol.com> wrote:

July 16, 2014

To: Ms. Elizabeth Hutchins Kipp, Chairperson
Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
P.O. Box 33737302
Auberry, CA 93602

From: Sarah E Johnston,
Cultural Resources Manager
J & R Environmental Services
7126 N Carruth Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711

APPENDIX E
RECORD SEARCH RESULTS—SSJVIC RS#14-236

Previous Historic Property Studies within ½ mile of the Project Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCIC NO.</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Jon L. Brady, J&amp;R Environmental Services</td>
<td>Phase I Archaeological Investigation Site Plan for a 20-acre parcel APN 401-021-27S, City of Fresno, Fresno County, CA</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Jon L. Brady, J&amp;R Environmental Services</td>
<td>Historic Property Survey Report for the River-West Madera Master Plan Project, Madera County, CA</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>00384</td>
<td>Kathleen L. Cursi, B.A.</td>
<td>Archaeological Reconnaissance for the Riverpark Properties, Fresno County, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00629</td>
<td>Billy J. Peck and Michael Crist</td>
<td>An Archaeological Reconnaissance for Stewart and Nuss, Inc. Sand and Gravel Expansion—Fresno County, CA</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00630</td>
<td>Ann S. Peak</td>
<td>Archaeological Assessment of the Stewart &amp; Nuss, Inc. Sand and Gravel Plant Expansion, Fresno County, CA</td>
<td>1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>00805</td>
<td>Lawrence E. Weigel</td>
<td>Archaeological Survey Report for a Proposed Route Adoption Study Audubon Drive to Route 145.</td>
<td>1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>00851</td>
<td>Don Wren, R.W. Greenwood, Associates</td>
<td>Strachan Reconnaissance P.M. No 4900 (Leland McCarthy Property)</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01572</td>
<td>California Department of Transportation, District 6</td>
<td>Corridor Study and Route Adoption in Northern Fresno County and Southern Madera County</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>01819</td>
<td>Jones and Stokes</td>
<td>Cultural Resources inventory and Evaluation Report for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust Jensen River Ranch Restoration Project, Fresno County, CA</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02473</td>
<td>Archaeological Resources Technology</td>
<td>Cultural Resources Investigation for Clearwire CA-FNO2022 “Pinedale Water Tank” 685 West Alluvial Avenue, Fresno City and County, CA</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>02592</td>
<td>Margaret Kress</td>
<td>San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island Pond Isolation (PIT 46E) Project</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAP OF PREVIOUS SURVEY

USGS LANE’S BRIDGE 7.5 MINUTE SERIES
USGS FRESNO NORTH 7.5 MINUTE SERIES
APPENDIX F

CULTURAL RESOURCES FLOWCHART FOR CEQA PROJECT

Conduct Phase I Identification—archival research and field survey

Cultural Resources found/high potential for Buried Archaeological deposits

Conduct Extended Phase I testing to determine presence or absence and extent of buried archaeological deposits

No buried deposits found in the ADI or buried deposits can be avoided—document

Buried deposits are found within ADI and cannot be avoided

Conduct Phase II testing to determine significance of site (historical resource)

Site does not qualify as historical resource—document

Site qualifies as Historical Resource

Assess Significance of Effects to historical resources

Potential effects are significant

Potential effects are less than significant—document

Resolve significant effects prior to decision (see Table 2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Typical Measures Applied to Reduce Impacts to Below Significant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>Avoidance, Archaeological Open Space Easement, Data Recovery, Temporary Fencing, Site Capping, Staging Area Limitation for Construction Activities, Curation of Archaeological Collections*, Cultural Impact Fee, Grading Monitoring (incl Native American Monitor), Excavation Agreement between developer and tribe(s), Public Displays/Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table adapted from County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Cultural Resources--Archaeological and Historic Resources (2007). Department of Planning and Land Use, Department of Public Works. (http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/docs/Cultural_Guidelines.pdf)
PALM BLUFFS RIVER ACCESS:
ADDENDUM TO THE
PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT FOR
THE RIVER WEST/LEWIS S. EATON TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

View of San Joaquin River bluff looking northeast from project area

Submitted To:
David K. Young
AECOM
Planning and Environmental Department
1360 East Spruce Avenue #101
Fresno, CA 93720

Submitted By:
J&R Environmental Services
17900 Auberry Road
Clovis, CA 93619

November 15, 2015

USGS Fresno North 7.5’ Quadrangle
T.12S R.20E Section 29 & 32, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

J&R Environmental Services conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the project study area (PSA) for the Palm Bluffs River Access Project at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Nees Avenue in northwest Fresno, California in October 2015. The new project is an addendum to the proposed River West/Lewis S. Eaton Trail Extension Project that was originally surveyed for historical resources in August 2014. Portions of 12 parcels have been added to the project to provide access for bicyclists and pedestrians (including access for adults with disabilities under ADA) to the proposed trail below the bluff on the San Joaquin River.

An archaeological investigation was undertaken to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which mandates that public agencies determine whether a project will have a significant impact on important historical resources (Title 14 CCR §15064). The investigation for the additional PSA was conducted as an addendum to the original investigation entitled Phase I Archaeological Survey Report: River West, Lewis S. Eaton Trail Extension Project, Fresno County, California (August 28, 2014). The archival search was updated for the new PSA and a new Sacred Files inquiry was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), otherwise the background information provided in the original 2014 survey report has been incorporated by reference in this addendum.

The archaeological survey of the PSA was negative. No archaeological sites or built-environment resources with the potential for being historical resources were identified within the addendum study area. The project as proposed would not affect historical resources. No further cultural resources investigation is required for the undertaking unless project plans undergo changes that include any area not previously surveyed for cultural resources. If unanticipated buried cultural resources are encountered during any project-related ground-disturbing activities (e.g., trail construction, excavation), work should be halted or diverted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
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<th>Page</th>
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<td>B—Maps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C—Native American Correspondence and Contacts Log</td>
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</table>
The City of Fresno is proposing to provide river access for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as parking, restrooms and lighting at the Spano Landfill near the intersection of Palm and Nees in northwest Fresno, California. The new facilities would be an addendum to the original scope of work for the River West/Lewis S. Eaton Trail Extension Project, located on the San Joaquin River (Figures 1-3). The project study area (PSA) for the original Trail Extension Project was surveyed for historical resources by J&R Environmental Services in August 2014 (Figure 1).

The City of Fresno Department of Public works is considering five new alternatives for river access to the Lewis S. Eaton Trail as described in the May 2015 report titled *Palm Bluffs River Access Feasibility Study Report* (Blair, Church, & Flynn, 2015). The PSA is located in Township 12S Range 20 East, Sections 29 & 32, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian and encompasses portions of the twelve parcels listed in Table 1.

In October 2015 J&R Environmental conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the PSA for the Palms Bluffs River Access project. The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to identify any historical resources within the PSA that would be affected by the proposed project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcel APN</th>
<th>Owner</th>
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<tr>
<td>402-030-63S</td>
<td>SOB Enterprises</td>
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<td>402-030-67S</td>
<td>SOB Enterprises</td>
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<td>405-340-18S</td>
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<td>405-340-19S</td>
<td>SOB Enterprises</td>
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<td>405-340-17S</td>
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<td>402-030-43</td>
<td>SOB Enterprises</td>
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<td>402-030-70</td>
<td>New Generation Group LP</td>
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<td>405-530-85</td>
<td>Park Place Holdings LP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402-030-52ST</td>
<td>FMFCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402-030-47ST</td>
<td>City of Fresno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405-340-04</td>
<td>C&amp;A Farms LLC “Richter Site”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior to the 2014 field survey, J&R Environmental conducted a records search (RS#14-236) and literature review at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System, located at California State University, Bakersfield. The record search encompassed a ½ mile buffer around the project area to identify previous archeological investigations and archaeological resources within the project vicinity. A summary of the records search findings is provided within the original report and below under Section IV Sources Consulted.
J&R Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento to determine if known sacred sites occurred in the project vicinity and to obtain a list of potentially interested Native American Tribal Communities and individuals. The commission provided a list of 12 tribal contacts, whom were contacted by letter, in addition to email (when address provided) and follow-up phone calls. A summary of contacts with the Native American community was provided within the original report and in Appendix D--Native American Correspondence and Log. An updated sacred lands file request with a map of the new PSA for the Palm Bluffs River Access Addendum was sent to the NAHC in November 2015 (Attachment 2).

II REGULATORY CONTEXT

CEQA requires public agencies to consider project impacts on archaeological or historical sites deemed to be "historical resources." Under CEQA, a substantial adverse change in the significant qualities of a historical resource is considered a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of CEQA, a "historical resource" is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (Title14 CCR §15064.5[a][1]-[3]). Historical resources may include, but are not limited to, "any object, building, 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" (PRC §5020.1[j]).

The eligibility criteria for the California Register are the definitive criteria for assessing the significance of historical resources for the purposes of CEQA (Office of Historic Preservation, n.d.). Generally, a resource is considered "historically significant" if it meets one or more of the following criteria for listing on the California Register:

(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 (PRC §5024.1[c]).
III PROJECT STUDY AREA

The Project Study Area (PSA) encompasses approximately 25 acres on the Fresno side of the San Joaquin River northwest of the intersection of Palm and Nees Avenues. The PSA is delineated on the north by the San Joaquin River channel and on the south by the parking lots and buildings of the Palm and Nees shopping center on the top of the San Joaquin River Bluff. Most of the PSA consists of open space with evidence of modern human activity—landfill, sand and gravel extraction, grading, and road construction. Two areas affected by an old underground fire are designated on the project maps. Based on the description of the five proposed project alternatives, most construction and project activities will be confined to the upper three feet of the ground surface (Blair, Church, & Flynn, 2015). The PSA is depicted in Figure 2.

Photo No. 1. View of project area looking south to shopping center.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Five alternatives on four sites were considered. These alternatives are summarized in Table 2 (below) and in Appendix D of the May 2015 Palm Bluffs River Access Feasibility Study Report.”
Table 2. Project Alternatives and Effects to Historical Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Number</th>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Description of Proposed Construction</th>
<th>Parcel No.</th>
<th>Effects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Access and Parking Lot</td>
<td>405-530-85, 405-340-19S, 405-340-17S</td>
<td>No Historical Resources Affected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Access Road, Parking Lot, Retaining wall</td>
<td>405-530-85, 405-340-19S, 405-340-17S</td>
<td>No Historical Resources Affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ADA Access Ramp and parking Lot</td>
<td>405-340-04, 405-340-17S, 405-340-19S</td>
<td>No Historical Resources Affected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV SOURCES CONSULTED

RECORDS SEARCH

A Records Search (RS#14-236) covering a half-mile radius surrounding the project area was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) Part of the California Historical Resource Information System, located at California State University, Bakersfield on June 24, 2014. Review of SSJVIC holdings included archaeological survey reports and site records, listings of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Places (CRHP), California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

The record search indicated that several studies were conducted in and adjacent to the project area over the past 40 years (Appendix E of original report). The study area was completely surveyed for archaeological resources approximately 35 years ago (Peck and Crist, 1979) and had been partially surveyed in the past three years (Brady, 2013). The only cultural resource identified within the PSA was the Perrin Ditch, built in 1882. The Perrin Ditch was evaluated by architectural historian Stephen Mikesell in 1995 and found to be ineligible to the California Register of Historical Resources or the National Register of Historic Places (see Section V, below).
NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS

In July, 2014 J&R Environmental contacted Mr. Dave Singleton of the Native America Heritage Commission in Sacramento to conduct a sacred lands inventory and to request a list of Native American contacts with traditional ties to the project area. Mr. Singleton replied that a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional sites/places within the project study area. He provided a list of 12 Native American tribal contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the project area (Singleton July 1, 2014). The 12 tribal contacts were written via letter and email (where email addresses were available) to elicit general concerns regarding the proposed project and to identify specific sites that may hold special concerns for them. Follow up telephone calls were placed with messages left if the contact was not reached. These contacts do not constitute formal consultation under CEQA or NEPA.

An updated sacred lands file request with a map of the new PSA for the Palm Bluffs River Access Addendum was sent to the NAHC in November 2015. No response has been received to date.

V BACKGROUND

NATURAL AND CULTURAL SETTING [please refer to J & R Environmental (2014)]

HISTORY

E.B. Perrin and the Perrin Canal
[This section is adapted from Mikesell (1995)]

Dr. Edward Burt (E.B.) Perrin was one of the most ambitious and successful land developers in California during the late 19th Century. He was born in Alabama in 1839 and served as a physician in the Confederate Army for the duration of the Civil War. After the war ended, he gave up medicine to pursue a career as an investor and land developer. In 1864, he married Anne Tremlet Herndon, for whom the community of Herndon is named.

Although E.B. Perrin bought and sold land throughout California and Arizona, his principle focus was on Fresno County between Fresno and the Fresno-Madera County line. According to H.H, Bancroft, Dr. Perrin came to California specifically to buy up land in advance of the railroad, which was most active in the San Joaquin Valley in the late 1860s, reaching what would be the city of Fresno in 1872. Perrin bought more than 130,000 acres in Fresno County, the bulk of it north and northwest of Fresno. Perrin sold much of this land in 1869 to Mr. Theo Kearney, a sale which gave Dr. Perrin the operating capital to make improvements to the rest of his land, including construction of the Perrin Ditch.
Perrin recognized the value of irrigation water as a prerequisite for large-scale land subdivision and sale. He organized the Upper San Joaquin Irrigating Canal Company in 1878 and began construction in 1882 of the Upper San Joaquin Canal or Perrin Ditch. The canal was designed to be about 16 miles long, extending from the massive headgates below Millerton, hung along the bluffs on the south side of the San Joaquin River, ending somewhere in the vicinity of Herndon, probably within the modern Riverside Country Club. The canal was designed to be 4 1/2-feet-deep, with a bed width of 25 feet and a top width of 42 feet; however, the actual dimensions of the canal were not uniform.

The Perrin canal was large by the engineering standards of the day, but not the largest ditch in Fresno County in the 1880s. Its most notable engineering features were that it was fully artificial, without access to natural sloughs, and in fact required a weir across the full width (estimate 900 feet) of the San Joaquin River. These characteristics proved to be the undoing of the project, which was abandoned in 1887 because of problems with the weir and because the long artificial channel failed. The canal was never put into service, apparently because the system failed and because Perrin and his partners were either unwilling or unable to spend the money to fix it.

Photo No. 2. View of bluff at south end of PSA, below Spano landfill.

The remnants of the Perrin Ditch are still visible on the bluff, below the Bluffs housing subdivision east of the project area. In 1995, historian Steven Mikesell evaluated the Perrin Ditch’s historic significance and assessed the condition of the ditch at five locations within the project area. Although the contours of the ditch bed can still be seen at several locations, the ditch has lost its integrity of design and setting to the extent that it is no longer eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (Mikesell 1995: 20-23).
VI FIELD METHODS

Prior to the field work, a survey strategy was developed based on the culturally-modified landscape within the PSA (refer to Figure 3). The natural landscape has been heavily modified as a result of refuse disposal and gravel extraction. Over the last 100-plus years, the land has been graded, plowed, dredged and leveled as a result of gravel and sand extraction. Large ponds and seasonally dry pits border the project area on the north.

In October 2015, a pedestrian survey of the project study area was conducted by staff of J&R Environmental Services to determine if historical resources were present. The land surface was carefully searched for any evidence of aboriginal utilization or habitation, soil discoloration, artifacts and features (bedrock mortars, rock rings, hunting blinds, etc.), or remnants of human activities dating to the historic period (can and bottle scatters, house foundations, machinery, etc.). GIS survey information was documented using a Garmin 62STC handheld gps device.

Survey methods included complete, intensive-level coverage with parallel transects spaced at intervals of 20-30 meters. Intensive coverage was employed in the portion of the project study area (Figure 2) that was not previously covered by the original 2014 River West/Lewis S Eaton Trail Extension Project, as well as the area of direct impact (ADI) of the five proposed alternatives. The survey coverage is depicted in Figure 3.
Ground visibility within the project area was good to moderate due to sparse grass cover and grading. At frequent intervals during the survey, grasses were pushed aside to expose the ground surface. Numerous animal burrows and ground squirrel dens offered some of the best views of the ground surface and immediate subsurface.

VII STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STUDY FINDINGS

The archaeological investigation identified no historical resources. The Perrin Ditch apparently ran through the project vicinity in the past (1891 map, above), but no evidence of the ditch survives in the PSA. Furthermore, the Perrin Ditch was previously evaluated and is ineligible to the California Register of Historic Resources (Mikesell 1995: 20-23). Aside from a few small fragments of historic ceramic and concrete that lacked association or context, no cultural resources were found in the course of the pedestrian survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No historical resources were found within the PSA of the five alternatives for the Palm Bluffs River Access project. The project would have no effect on historical resources. No further cultural resources investigation is required for the undertaking unless project plans undergo changes that include any area not previously surveyed for cultural resources. If unanticipated buried cultural resources are encountered during any project-related ground-disturbing activities (e.g., trail construction, excavation), work should be halted or diverted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
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1978  Topographic Map: Fresno North, California, 7.5-minute Quadrangle

Vandor, Paul E.  
APPENDIX A

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Sarah E Johnston meets the Secretary of Interior’s Guidelines for Archaeology. She has over 25 years experience leading archaeological investigations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1969 and the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 for federal, state, and private agencies in California and Nevada. She holds an M.A., from California State University, Fresno and a B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento.

Jon L. Brady meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Guidelines for archaeology and architectural history. Mr. Brady holds a B.A. in both Political Science and Anthropology and an M.A. in History (with an emphasis on Historical Archaeology) from California State University, Fresno. Mr. Brady has worked as a consulting archaeologist and historian over the last thirty-four years working with both Section 106 and CEQA compliance documents. He has also taught at the community college level in California over the last sixteen years as an adjunct instructor. Courses taught include Ancient Civilizations, Modern European History, U.S. History, Political Science, Cultural Anthropology, and Field Methods in Archaeology.

Justin Brady has 10 years experience as an archaeological research assistant and field technician for J&R Environmental Services and other archaeological consulting firms in Central California. He graduated from the Willow International Center (Reedly College) and will be attending CSU-Fresno in Spring 2015, working on his B.A. in Anthropology.
APPENDIX B
MAPS
FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION

Palm Bluffs River Access/River West, Lewis S Eaton Trail Extension Project (Addendum)
Archaeological Survey
T 12S R. 20 E Sections 29 & 32
Fresno County, CA
USGS Fresno North Quadrangle

11/15/2015
FIGURE 2—Project Study Area Map
Figure 3 Archaeological Survey Coverage Map

Palm Bluffs River Access/River West, Lewis S Eaton Trail Extension Project (Addendum)

October 10, 2015
APPENDIX C
NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE (2015)
Date: 11/1/2015

From: Sarah E Johnston
      J & R Environmental Services
      7126 N Carruth Ave.
      Fresno, CA 93711

To: Katy Sanchez Associate Gov’t Analyst
    Native American Heritage Commission
    1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
    West Sacramento, CA 95619

Re: Addendum for Archaeological Survey of the River West, Eaton Trail Extension
    Project for the San Joaquin River Conservancy (lead agency for CEQA)

Project: River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project
Lead Agency: San Joaquin River Conservancy
County: Fresno
USGS 7.5 Min Quad: Fresno North
T. 12S R. 20E, NW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 32 mdbm

CEQA ONLY PROJECT

Company: J & R Environmental
Contact Person: Sarah E Johnston, M.A. Project Archaeologist
Street Address: 7126 N. Carruth Ave, Fresno, CA 93711
Phone: 559-438-5330
Email: sdernhelm@aol.com

Project Description:

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is proposing to amend the original scope of work for
the Lewis S Eaton Trail to add ADA access and parking on a new area covering
approximately 15 acres above the San Joaquin River in northwest Fresno, CA (Figures 1-
3). We contacted the NAHC about the original project by email on June 30, 2014.

J & R Environmental Services will conduct an archaeological survey on the “new parcel”
project area indicated on the enclosed maps. We are requesting a Sacred Land Files
Search and a list of Native American contacts with knowledge of or interest in the project
area. If you have any questions or need further information regarding this project, please feel free to call me at 559-438-5330, or by email at sdernhelm@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Johnston, M.A.
Cultural Resource Management
J & R Environmental Services

3 Attachments (maps)