

Appendix E: Cultural Resources Memo



August 3, 2012

Terry Vernon, Deputy Director
 Yolo County Department of General Services
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Subject: **Cultural Resource Assessment for Yolo County Environmental Education and Sustainability Park Project, Yolo County, CA**

Dear Terry Vernon:

At the request of Yolo County, Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) has conducted a cultural resource assessment for the proposed project located at two locations; 30475 County Road 104, south of the City of Davis (Grasslands) and at the intersection of Ashley Drive and Woodland Avenue in the City of Woodland (Beamer-Cottonwood). The assessment included a record search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), a request for a search of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File, and a pedestrian survey.

CULTURAL RESOURCE RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

On July 24, 2012, MBA's Senior Project Archaeologist Carrie D. Wills conducted a records search at the NWIC, in Rohnert Park. The record search included the project area and a 0.25-mile radius outside the project boundaries. The record search included current inventories of the National Register of Historic Places (NR), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL), and the California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). We also reviewed the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) for Yolo County to determine if any local resources that have been previously evaluated for historic significance. In addition, archival maps were reviewed for indications of historical structures in the area.

The record search indicated that four studies have been conducted within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area (Table 1).

Table 1: Cultural Resources Reports within 0.25-mile Radius of the Project

Report Number	Author/ Year/ Title
S-14550	Osborn, USACE/1990/ Sacramento Metropolitan Area, Yolo County, California, Cultural Resources Survey Military Transmitter Station
S-22464	Jones & Stokes/1999/Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Williams Communications, Inc. Fiber Optic Cable System Installation Project, Pittsburg to Sacramento, CA
S-02956	True/1977/North Cottonwood St. Extension and County Facility Parking Lots
S-35042	Far Western Anthropological Research Group/ 2008/ Cultural Resources Inventory

<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Author/ Year/ Title</u>
	of Caltrans District 3 Rural Conventional Highways in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties

None of the surveys resulted in the discovery of historically significant resources, features, or structures within the project area or a 0.25-mile radius of the project area.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS SEARCH RESULTS

On August 1, 2012, MBA sent a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento in an effort to determine whether any sacred sites listed on its Sacred Lands File are within the current project area. A response has not been received as of this date. When a response is received, it and any further correspondence or consultation efforts will be added as an addendum.

PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

MBA's Senior Project Archaeologist Carrie D. Wills surveyed the project area on July 31, 2012. The survey consisted of walking 10- to 15-meter transects when possible, walked in a zigzag pattern to ensure proper coverage.

At the Grasslands project area on County Road 104, south of the City of Davis, ground visibility was less than 3% as the area was completely covered with knee-high weedy vegetation and star thistle. The only areas that had ground surface visibility were where rodents had their burrows. There are no structures within the project area and the record search conducted at the NWIC indicates that there are no known historic structures within the proposed project area or a 0.25-mile radius. No prehistoric or historic resources were discovered during the course of the survey at this area.

At the Beamer-Cottonwood project area, the ground surface visibility was fair at 80-90% because the grassy vegetation had been recently mowed. There are no structures within the project area and the record search conducted at the NWIC indicates that there are no known historic structures within the proposed project area or a 0.25-mile radius. No prehistoric or historic resources were discovered during the course of the survey at this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, MBA has assessed the project area for prehistoric and historic resources. No prehistoric or historic resources have been previously recorded within the project area or a 0.25-mile radius. In addition, no prehistoric or historic resources were discovered during the course of the pedestrian survey. Therefore, no further archaeological assessments or evaluations are recommended.

INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES

If areas of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources are encountered during subsurface excavation, ground disturbance work within 100 feet of the discovery shall cease until a qualified archaeologist can determine the significance of the find. The discoveries shall be evaluated for their CR and NRHP eligibility and recommendations made. The identified resources or resource area shall be avoided by project activities during evaluation. The County of Yolo shall require the project applicant to include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. Upon completion of the archaeologist's evaluation, a report shall be prepared documenting the methods

and results, and offering recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the County of Yolo, the Northwest Information Center, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), if required.

If plant or animal fossils are encountered during subsurface excavation activities, ground disturbance work within 100 feet of the discovery shall cease until a qualified paleontologist has determined the significance of the find and provides recommendations. Project personnel shall not collect or remove any paleontological material. If the paleontological resources are found to be significant, the area shall be avoided by project activities. The recommendations of the paleontologist shall be incorporated into construction plans.

If human remains are encountered during excavation activities, ground disturbance work shall stop within 100 feet of the find, and the County Coroner will be notified (Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code). If the coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, he or she will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will be responsible for designating the most likely descendant (MLD), who will be responsible for the ultimate disposition of the remains, as required by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The MLD will make his or her recommendations within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC.

MBA appreciates the opportunity to assist you with this project. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carrie D. Wills at 925.788.9097 or via e-mail at cwills@brandman.com.

Sincerely,



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