

Appendix D
**Cultural Resources Record Search Summary Near PFE Road,
Walerga Road, Watt Avenue Widening Analysis Area**

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To: Keith Dewey – URS Austin

From: Leroy Laurie – URS San Francisco

Subject: **Cultural Resources Record Search Summary near PFE Road, Walerga Road, Watt Avenue Widening Analysis Area**

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to update a previous cultural resource record search that was conducted on September 19, 2007 by a URS Corporation Archaeologist for the *1990 Dry Creek/West Placer Community Plan* update. The initial record search was conducted to identify previous cultural resource surveys, studies, and site records at the North Central Information Center (File No. PLA-07-87) for six proposed speed reduction treatment location, including a quarter-mile buffer. Records were reviewed in the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Placer County for information on sites of recognized historical significance. This directory, which lists all properties contained in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, the California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976), the California Historical Landmarks (1996), and the California Points of Historical Interest (1992) was reviewed for all federal and state-listed historical resources in or near the speed reduction treatment locations.

Subsequent to the initial cultural resource search, three new elements were added to the proposed project: (1) widening PFE Road from 2 to 4 lanes from Watt Avenue east to Walerga Road, (2) widening Walerga Road¹ from 2 to 6 lanes from Baseline Road south to Sacramento County line, and (3) widening Watt Avenue from 2 to 6 lanes from PFE Road south to the Sacramento County line. These roadway widenings assume a narrow corridor for impact analysis purposes because of the amount of existing road right-of-way, and to minimize the temporary and permanent impact area. All ground disturbance would be within 100 feet of the existing centerline of PFE Road, Walerga Road, and Watt Avenue.

This memo evaluates lists previously documented cultural resources along PFE Road (Watt Avenue east to Walerga Road), Walerga Road (Baseline Road south to the Sacramento County line), and Watt Avenue (PFE Road south to the Sacramento County Line). Mitigation measures are described in this memo that would minimize significant impacts to cultural resources. This memo is intended to be used to inform and support the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project.

¹ Currently, Walerga Road from Baseline Road south to PFE Road is partially a 2-lane road and partially a 4-lane road.

2.0 Analysis Area

The PFE Road, Walerga Road, and Watt Avenue analysis area consists of a linear corridor adjacent to roadways that pass through areas currently used for grazing, as well as numerous existing housing developments (Placer Vineyards, Doyle Ranch, Silver Creek, Morgan Place and Sun Valley Oaks). Elevations in the analysis area range from approximately 75 to 130 feet.

3.0 Methods

On December 15, 2008, a record search was requested for the widening analysis area from the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information Systems at California State University Sacramento, which serves as the regional office for the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The purpose of the record search was to identify any previously recorded cultural resources and/or cultural resource surveys in and/or within a 0.25-mile radius of the analysis area. The requested research included a review of ethnographic and historic literature and maps; federal, state, and local inventories of historic properties; archaeological base maps and site records; and survey report citations on file at the Information Center.

4.0 Results

The results of the record search identify 14 previously documented cultural resources and 12 cultural resource studies within 0.25 miles of the analysis area. Based on the current plotting, only two of the previously documented cultural resources, CA-PLA-75 and P-31-2954, are within 100 feet of the centerline of Walerga Road. Of the 12 cultural resource studies, 11 either cross or include portions of the analysis area.

P-31-2954 is recorded as part of the historic Murray Ranch, which was owned by the Murray family from the 1860s to the early 1920s. When originally recorded, the ranch included the remnants of two barns and a brick cistern. In a subsequent recordation by LSA Associates (2007), only the cistern remained. During this subsequent analysis, the cistern was evaluated as an architectural resource in 2007, and was determined ineligible for listing in the National Register due to a lack of structural integrity.

CA-PLA-75 is recorded as a lithic scatter consisting of flaked stone debitage, battered and ground stone artifacts, and obsidian projectile points and bifacial tool fragments. Obsidian hydration results from three samples taken from the site indicate an occupation range for the site from 2,700 years B.P. to 500 years B.P. (Derr 1993). An update to the site record in 1993 by Cultural Resources Unlimited indicates that any future construction to Walerga Road would potentially impact the site. It also recommends that if widening does take place, then further study of the site is needed. It has not been evaluated for National Register status.

5.0 Potential Impacts

Construction of the proposed project could result in significant impacts to previously documented cultural resources within the analysis area. The analysis area is located in a prehistorically and historically sensitive cultural area, which includes the Dry Creek Drainage. Any ground disturbance associated with the proposed project could potentially disturb and/or destroy previously documented cultural resources, and potentially expose previously undocumented resources.

6.0 Mitigation Measures (Recommended)

This section outlines recommended mitigation measures for cultural resources in the analysis area. The following mitigation measures are proposed based on the results of the previous cultural resource study summarized above. Although portions of the analysis area have been previously surveyed, the coverage is not comprehensive. Prior to any future construction, it is recommended that any areas previously not studied, and any areas studied more than five years ago be subject to archaeological survey. Site specific recommendations are as follows:

P-31-2954 – Previous analysis of P-31-2954 (LSA 2007) has determined that the brick cistern within the Murray Ranch property is ineligible for listing on the National Register. However, the records also indicate that no subsurface archaeological testing has been conducted within the site boundaries, and there is potential for previously undocumented archaeological resources to be present. If it is determined that road construction would impact the site as recorded, then further study is recommended. This would include implementation of a project specific research design and potentially subsurface investigation. In addition, pending archaeological testing, it may be recommended that monitoring of any ground disturbing activities within this site area be conducted by a qualified archaeologist.

CA-PLA-75 – The extent of CA-PLA-75 and its proximity to the analysis area suggest that any future road construction could result in significant impacts to this site. If road widening occurs, then further examination is recommended. This would include the implementation of a project specific research design, with the potential for subsurface investigation. In addition, pending archaeological testing it may be recommended that monitoring of any ground disturbing activities within this site area be conducted by a qualified archaeologist.

7.0 References

Derr, Eleanor H., (1993). Confidential Report: Site Update: CA-PLA-75 (Placer County, Mello Roos Utility District).

LSA Associates (LSA), 2007. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Forms, Appendix to the Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Walerga Road Over Dry Creek Bridge Replacement Project.