

APPENDIX B.2

**FOREST RANCH PROGRAMATIC EIR
HERITAGE RESOURCE STUDY
FORESTHILL, CALIFORNIA**

BY

**SUSAN LINDSTRÖM, PH.D.
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST
P.O. BOX 3324
TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA 96160**

PREPARED FOR

**QUAD KNOPF
ONE SIERRAGATE PLAZA, SUITE 270C
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95678**

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PROJECT LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE

The Forest Ranch project is a planned residential and recreational development on 2615 acres located north and east of the Community of Foresthill, Placer County (Figure 1). It falls within Township 14 North, Range 11 East, Section 30 and Township 14 North, Range 10 East, sections 22-27 and 34-35, Foresthill 7.5 Quadrangle M.D.M. (Figure 2). It is the intent of the county and the applicant that the EIR be prepared in somewhat parallel fashion with the EIR for the Foresthill Community Plan Update and presented as an alternative to adoption of the Community Plan as proposed. With the adoption of the proposed General Plan amendment and rezoning requests, the Forest Ranch project includes the following elements: 2213 residential units; an 18-hole golf course and associated recreational facilities; five acres for office and professional use; a 100-unit recreational vehicle park; and equestrian center. Approximately 1128 acres (43% of the project area) is set aside as open space to protect sensitive habitats and slopes and to provide project buffering. Major infrastructure improvements involve a wastewater treatment facility, water system, and road improvements (Figure 3).

At this programmatic level of the EIR, information gathered for the heritage resource component is non-specific and limited to a records search of the existing archaeological inventory and initial contact and consultation with members of the local Native American community, the historical society and heritage personal with the Tahoe National Forest Foresthill Ranger District. Archaeological fieldwork was limited to a cursory drive through the project area in the company of the project sponsor, president of the Foresthill Divide Historical Society, and members of the Todd Valley Maidu-Miwok Cultural Foundation. No archaeological field reconnaissance was conducted.

SETTING

A discussion of the physical and cultural background of the Forest Ranch project area is excerpted from the overview provided by Lindström (2000) for the Foresthill Community Plan project. Lindström's overview draws heavily from contexts presented in the "Historical, Architectural, and Archaeological Resources of Placer County, California (Terhorst and Gerike 1992) and in work by Baker (2000), Baker and Shoup (1992), and Baker, Shoup and Brack (1993) associated with the Highway 124 Project. Further information is taken from Carlson's (1986) ethnographic overview and Markley and Henton's (1985) prehistoric overview of the Tahoe National Forest. Details regarding the physical and cultural setting of the Foresthill Divide are found in these sources and will not be repeated here in the text or in the references cited section.

PHYSICAL SETTING

The Forest Ranch project is located on the Foresthill Divide, a long northeast-trending ridge system separating the North and Middle Forks of the American River. As one of the major east-west ridge systems of the north-central Sierra Nevada, the Divide would have provided relatively easy access for prehistoric populations moving east and west over the crest. However, the steep canyons and rugged terrain to the north and south of the Divide may

have been a barrier to travel and trade. Prehistoric ridge top village sites may have been preferable to village locales along streams. Ridges were also the preferred locales for Euroamerican settlements and ranchlands.

The rocks underlying the Divide are part of the Mother Lode Belt and include slates and shales of the Mariposa Formation. The flat ridge of the Foresthill Divide is formed by a complex system of Tertiary channels capped by lavas that are included within the Mehrten Formation and categorized as andesite mud-flows. The underlying ancient Tertiary river channels contain auriferous deposits that were the focus of hydraulic and drift mining for gold by incoming Euroamericans. The complex geology of the Foresthill Divide region also provided a variety of stone for prehistoric tool manufacture, including slate and schist, chert, and igneous and metamorphic materials.

The Mediterranean climate of the Foresthill Divide is characterized by hot summers and cool winters, with most precipitation falling during the winter as rain. The North and Middle Forks of the American River form the major hydrological features; fresh water sources are relatively abundant on top of the Divide. Rivers cut steep canyons up to 1000 feet below the top of the Divide that presented major obstacles for both prehistoric and historic populations traveling off of the Divide.

The project area spans an elevation range roughly between 2500 and 3400 feet and encompasses several major life zones that gradually change with increasing altitude. Mountain ridges are colonized by mixed forests, oaks, shrubs, grasslands, and meadows--habitat for diverse faunal resources. The rich array of plants and animals were of subsistence and economic importance to both aboriginal inhabitants and incoming Euroamericans.

PREHISTORY AND THE NATIVE AMERICAN PERIOD

Clear boundary determinations for Native American residents along the Foresthill Divide are confounded by the complete disruption of aboriginal cultures by early Euroamericans and of traditional practices involving inter-group trade, politics, marriage, and ritual. The Foresthill Divide lies firmly within the traditional territory of the Hill Nisenan (or Southern Maidu), a Penutian speaking group that inhabited the west-central Sierra Nevada. (Beales 1933; Levey 1978; Littlejohn 1928). After historic contact, Northern Miwok, also Penutian speakers, may have resided here; Northern Miwok currently live on the Divide. The Hill Nisenan held territory in the foothill and mountainous portions of the Yuba, Bear and American rivers, and the lower drainages of the Feather River. The Hill Nisenan recognized three divisions within their group based on slight linguistic and cultural differences. The Foresthill people belonged to one of the subgroups with its "center of influence" at Auburn.

Environmental phenomena such as springs and drainages, unique geological outcrops, and different land surface exposures with variable slopes created extreme variety in the accompanying plant and animal communities upon which aboriginal populations depended. Like most hunters and gatherers, vegetable foods formed the subsistence baseline, although they used a wide range of plant and animal species. Generally, the least productive time of

the year for the Hill Nisenan was late winter-early spring. Hill Nisenan caught salmon during spring runs up the North and Middle Forks of the American Rivers and their tributaries. Throughout the summer, groups gathered nuts and seeds, roots, berries, fungi, and greens. Expeditions to hunt large game took place within the higher elevations during the fall. Acorns became available in massive quantities in the autumn. Acorn eating is the hallmark of California Indians and they were the primary staple for those groups who inhabited the western foothills of the Sierra.

Areas encompassed by the project area were occupied on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, with higher elevations being inhabited at various times of the year by smaller groups that made seasonal movements in order to procure economic resources as they became available. Villages were usually placed on ridge tops and on large flats along major streams. Permanent villages are represented archaeologically by culturally enriched and darkened soils (or "midden") which contain artifacts, charcoal, organic debris, and/or house pit and dance house depressions. Villages hosted important social gatherings and religious ceremonies. Dances to celebrate seasonal events and honor ancestors and deities were held in large semi-subterranean roundhouses. (The Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation is currently constructing a new roundhouse near Foresthill.) Hill Nisenan villages consisted of from four to 12 separate dwellings, housing a nuclear or polygamous family. Larger social organizations, called "tribelets", were formed by several villages uniting under a single chief. Tribelet boundaries were marked by natural ridges between streams.

Land use patterns, known from Nisenan protohistoric times, are generally consistent with interpretations derived from numerous archaeological investigations within the Placer County (and a few excavations on the Foresthill Divide). The archaeological record indicates a shift from sparsely populated hunting-based societies in earlier times to growing populations with increasing reliance on plant foods by the time of historic contact. Also, paleoclimates may have been warmer and drier in the past, allowing for year-round occupation of the higher elevations. Occupation along the Divide may extend earlier than 5000 years ago and continue up to the time of historic contact. Between about 7000 and 5000 years ago, during the Early Archaic Period, climates were warmer and drier and drying lowlands may have prompted human populations to travel to upland resource zones where prehistoric economies incorporated seed processing and fishing, as well as hunting. During the Middle Archaic period, dating from about 5000 to 1300 years ago, climates became moister and, with a return to more optimal living conditions, population densities increased. More intensive prehistoric use of the Foresthill Divide by mixed-mode foragers/collectors began during this period. The Late Archaic period, about 1300 years ago to historic contact, has been equated with the Nisenan culture, as described in ethnographic accounts written by early anthropologists. This period is marked by an overall drying trend, with cool and moist episodes alternating with extended severe drought. Throughout the Lake Archaic, prehistoric populations continued to increase.

The largest available body of ethnographic data on the Nisenan was collected between the 1890s to the 1930s. Most of this information was gathered after aboriginal populations had been substantially reduced and the process of acculturation was well underway. Nisenan

territory encompassed the heartland of one of the most important mineral resource zones in the western United States, the Sierra Nevada Mother Lode. By the 1850s Euroamericans had permanently occupied their territory and changed traditional lifeways. Mining, lumbering, grazing, commercial fishing, tourism, and the growth of settlements disrupted traditional Indian relationships to the land. As hunting, fishing, and gathering wild foods were no longer possible, they were forced into dependency upon the Euroamerican settlers.

Little is known about the period of initial contact on the Divide between Indians and Euroamericans. Resistance to white incursions occurred, mostly in the form of Indian raids upon the stock and camps in desperate attempts to find food. Disruption of subsistence patterns, starvation, disease, and violence resulted in a severe decline in Native populations and abandonment of villages. The Federal Government's Indian "relocation" policies in California were set in motion during the 1850s with the creation of rancherias and reservations. Nisenan either stayed on reservations or rancherias and married into their own or into other Indian tribes, or became assimilated into the dominant Euroamerican society. Nonetheless, reports of early anthropologists and census records indicate that some Nisenan remained in their home places. Nisenan recall place names for several village locations on the Divide and in the project vicinity (Littlejohn n.d.; 1928): *Hem'hem* near Yankee Jim's and *O'pok pok* at Todd's Valley, etc. A Nisenan cemetery is located in the Spring Garden/Todd Valley area and continues to be used and maintained. Today, significant numbers of Nisenan are dispersed throughout many Sierran foothill communities. On the Foresthill Divide, interest in maintaining traditional ways is reflected in the revival of dances, basketry skills and new construction for a ceremonial roundhouse near Todd's Valley. The Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation has been established within the last seven years and the group is in the process of gaining official tribal recognition from the U.S. government (Brown, Drone, Portrius, Suehead, and Zellner personal communication 2002). Members conduct monthly meetings. The group is committed to preserving their heritage and reestablishing their presence and traditional practices on the Divide. Miwok-Maidu plant managers are actively involved in harvesting plants of traditional importance and are concerned about the disappearance of oak stands with their prized acorn crop.

HISTORIC PERIOD

Gold Rush Period (1848-1859)

A few months after John Marshall's gold discovery in January of 1848 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, Claude Chana found gold in Placer County in Auburn Ravine near Ophir. Thousands of gold seekers soon arrived and within a few years settlements were permanently established in Placer County. The first prospecting along the Foresthill Divide was confined to the shallow placers along gravel bars and the beds of running streams where younger Quaternary stream deposits eroded the gold-bearing gravels laid down in earlier times. These shallow deposits were initially mined by a variety of simple surface hand mining techniques that involved the basic principle of agitating gold-bearing gravel in water-filled containers. Early gold extraction devices include gold pan, rocker, long tom, and sluice box.

Older Tertiary Gravels, such as those formed by the ancestral American River that drains the Foresthill Divide, were laid down by larger and slower Sierra Nevada rivers with gradual slopes. These huge deposits of ancient, loosely cemented gold-bearing gravels are more deeply buried and required more sophisticated techniques in their extraction. One method, ground sluicing, employed gravity flows of water aided by pick and shovel to break up deposits. Hydraulicking was a more powerful form of ground sluicing, using water under pressure to dislodge and direct gold-bearing deposits into sluices where gold was trapped. "Coyoting" and later, more elaborate drift mining techniques, both employed horizontal or vertical excavations sunk into the ground to reach the gold bearing gravels.

The majority of mining on the Foresthill Divide was accomplished by drift mining, using an adit and/or a shaft to reach the gold-rich ancient river channel lying deep under the ridge. Gold was "accidentally" discovered within the deep river gravels below Foresthill after a landslide exposed nuggets of gold in the debris. By 1857, there were 25 drift operations in the area, most tunnels entering into the gravel deposits from the east side of the Divide.

To accommodate simple mining techniques and to keep pace with the innovations of increasingly more sophisticated and powerful hydraulic methods, which demanded enormous volumes of water, an elaborate system of ditches, flumes and storage reservoirs was put in place. Financial backing requiring larger capital reserves prompted the development of ditch companies that directed their water delivery and storage facilities to major diggings. Ditches and flumes headed in high elevation reservoirs and wound their way down mountainsides.

Placer mines far outnumbered quartz lode mines on the Foresthill Divide. The "Mother Lode" is the popular name for the main quartz vein that is associated with the intrusion of the Sierra Nevada batholith. This single lode is split into a number of seams that underlie the quartz lode region within western and central Placer County. These gold-quartz veins occur along contacts between granite and metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, volcanics and deeply weathered serpentinite. These and other hardrock sources were tapped by excavating tunnels with drills and dynamite in order to follow gold bearing quartz veins. Rock was transported out of the tunnels on ore carts and then transferred to stamp mills where the rock was crushed to release the gold ores from the surrounding material. The pulverized ore was then treated to remove impurities.

After the discovery of gold along the Foresthill Divide at Birds' Store in 1850, communities quickly sprang up around the mines. By 1850, wagons traveled up onto the Divide, following old Indian trails, and pioneered the main travelway that became today's Foresthill Road (Forest Highway 124). Foresthill (California Historical Landmark No. 399) was established in the fall of 1850 by M. Fannan, James Fannan and R.S. Johnson as a small trading post. By 1852, Foresthill became the business and transportation center of the Divide and survives as the only remaining viable community.

Throughout this early gold rush period, logging, agriculture, and transportation were adjuncts in support of the mining industry. Many migrants who flocked to the county had

no intention of working the mines, but rather of working the miners, an equally lucrative prospect with burgeoning populations needing shops and services, food and clothing, transportation, and building materials.

Sawmills immediately sprang up around mining camps to supply lumber for mine timbering and building materials for the growing settlements. The mills at Foresthill and Todd Valley were in operation in the 1850s.

The growth of gold rush era camps and towns stimulated the development of transportation systems based on supplying mines and camps with needed mail, express and provisions. By the 1850s, the route along the current Forest Highway 124 was established as the main travelway between Auburn and the Foresthill Divide. The original road undoubtedly followed an earlier Native American trail.

A heterogenous population composed of people from every corner of the world crowded into the Sierra mining districts, as reflected in the ethnic names assigned to some of the earliest camps in along the Foresthill Divide. Native Americans played an important and little acknowledged part in the earliest period of the gold rush. Immigrants from Hawaii, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere were initially welcomed because of their knowledge of mining techniques, but anti-foreign feelings hampered their economic opportunities in Placer County and many groups were gradually forced out of the mines altogether into other economic pursuits. The mingling of these different ethnic groups and nationalities has produced a unique cultural collage from which the heritage of the Foresthill Divide is drawn.

Post-Gold Rush Period (1859-present)

The years following 1859 are marked by technological changes that prompted a shift in the organization and financial arrangements of the mines. The era of the self-sufficient, itinerant prospector with pick and shovel gave way to a system based increasingly on cooperation between groups of miners and ultimately to the miner as wage earner employed by large multidivisional corporations tied to the national and world economy. National and foreign capitalists, initially investing only in mining, now poured their money into logging, transportation and water development, enterprises that paralleled mining interests. The period after 1859 can also be characterized by a change in settlement patterns, away from the "boom-bust" camp structure common to the early mining frontier, and the growth of a more mature, stable, and diversified economy and social structure that were not based on mining alone.

The beginning of this period was heralded by a drop in the county's mining economy, as mining in the American River basins was curtailed by the exodus of miners and capitalists to the Comstock rush of 1859-1865. By the late 1860s, the Placer County mines were again productive. Until 1884, when the hydraulic mines were restrained from dumping their tailings into the streams, the largest hydraulic mines in the world were operated here, providing the county's largest source of gold.

From the turn of the century to 1917, statewide gold production statewide rose. With the restrictions imposed on hydraulic mining, lode mining, drift mining and gold dredging supplied the principal sources of gold. Inflation following World War I caused the continual decline of gold production until the early 1930s when the prices increased during the depression years; gold output in the state was nearly as high as it had been during the gold rush. Thousands of urban unemployed rushed to the Sierran gold fields to prospect with pan and rocker. The revival of mining infused communities along the Foresthill Divide with new life and stimulated non-mining industries such as logging and agriculture. Many mines were shut down during World War II and reopened soon afterward, but with decreasing productivity. Gradually outside investment capital was funneled away from mining into California agriculture and real estate. The Placer County gold mining industry has not since recovered.

Foresthill's timber industry sustained the community after the decline of mining operations. However, the local timber industry was unable to compete with similar operations along the route of the transcontinental railroad. The onset of World War II prompted an increase in lumber production on the Foresthill Divide, as wartime demand stimulated the harvest of remaining large stands along the Divide.

As with lumber and other county industries, farm production for outside markets came after 1859. Along the Foresthill Divide, agriculture/ranching centered on the ridge tops and on orchard crops, hay production, and seasonal stocking of cattle.

The late 19th century brought a surge of interest and appreciation of wilderness recreation and forest lands increasingly became the relocation focus for retirees during the 20th century. The Tahoe National Forest promoted the recreational potential of its lands, which were enhanced by Civilian Conservation Corps crews between 1933 and 1943. Within the last few decades, recreational interest in the region has dramatically increased. This interest is accompanied by a rise in incoming residents who desire to live in an aesthetically pleasing and historically rich area. The enhancement and interpretation of selected historic sites and buildings have boosted community economies throughout the Foresthill Divide in the form of recreational tourism.

METHODS

Research entailed a general literature review and formal records search of prehistoric and historic sources concerning the Forest Ranch project. A car tour of portions of the project area was conducted in the company of the project sponsor, the president of the Foresthill Divide Historical Society, and four members of the Todd Valley Maidu-Miwok Cultural Foundation. No on-the-ground archaeological field survey was performed.

DATA SOURCES

In order to determine previously recorded heritage resources in the project area, archaeological site records, held at the archaeological inventory for the North Central

Information Center (NCIC), California State University at Sacramento (CSUS) were reviewed. The NCIC maintains records of archaeological sites inventoried in Placer County, including the Foresthill Divide. Basic heritage resource inventories reviewed at this facility include: the *National Register of Historic Places* (through current volume), the *State of California Historic Landmarks and Points of Historic Interest* (through current listings), *Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Resources of Placer County* (12/1992), *Foresthill Divide Historic Resources Survey* (4/20/1991), *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Placer County* (1/13/00), *Survey of Surveys-A Summary of California Historical and Archaeological Research Surveys* (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1989), *California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility for Placer County* (1/28/00), and *Caltrans Bridge Survey* (10/31/89). Other local histories and secondary sources consulted are listed in the references cited section of this report and in Lindström (2000).

To complete this review of archaeological site records and survey reports, contacts with a variety of public and private agencies were also initiated. These included the Tahoe National Forest Foresthill Ranger District (Nolan Smith, District Archaeologist, personal communication 2002), the Foresthill Divide Historical Society (Gerda Percival, President, personal communication 2002) and the Native American Heritage Commission. The counsel of representatives of the local Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation was sought, in order to determine known areas of Native American cultural ecology and history and management concerns over traditional tribal lands within the project area. As part of this consultation, the president of the Foresthill Divide Historical Society (Gerda Percival) and five members of the group (Fern Brown, Marge Drone, Leon Portrius, Levina Suehead, and Bridget Zellner), along with project sponsor, Doug Ryan, participated in a car tour of more accessible portions of the project.

PRIOR HERITAGE RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological investigations on the Foresthill Divide, or in western Placer County in general, are limited. Important archaeological sites have been studied within the Highway 124 corridor and the proposed Auburn Dam Project area. Other minor archaeological excavations have been conducted on the Tahoe National Forest at elevations generally above 3500 feet and outside the project area. Recorded sites on the Divide indicate a long time sequence of use; however, there have been few excavations to provide details and in-depth information.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COVERAGE

A records search (NCIC File No. PLA-02-64) at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) at California State University at Sacramento (CSUS) disclosed that the project area has been subject to archaeological coverage by registered professional foresters (RPF) as part of timber harvest plans or THPs (Ferrier 1997; Funk 1996, 1997, 2000; Garcia 1995; Stewart 1993, 1994; Tate 1995). Prior archaeological coverage is shown on Figure 4. Archaeological coverage strategies, which range from complete to cursory examinations, have not been consistently presented in these archaeological reports, however. The

California Division of Forestry (CDF) forest practice rules require RPFs to submit archaeological reports within 30 days of a THP approval. These reports are then reviewed and “spot” field inspected by CDF archaeologists and copies of the final report are filed with the appropriate information centers (e.g., NCIC-CSUS). RPFs are para-professional archaeologists and conduct archaeological surveys during the course of their timber stand evaluations. Consequently, the thoroughness of the ground surface inspection and the quality of reporting are variable and reports are evaluated on an individual basis.

KNOWN HERITAGE RESOURCES

Prehistoric Resources

No Native American resources have been inventoried within the Forest Ranch project.

Historic Resources

RFPs Funk (1996, 1997, 2000) and Stewart (1993, 1994) and Tate (1995) have recorded a total of 27 historic resources within the project area, including 10 mine ditches, five mine shafts, six mine tunnels, two mine ponds, one mine “glory hole”, two house sites, and a portion of the Foresthill town dump. Archaeological site location maps contained within these THP reports also show a number of roads and landforms (mining?). These resources are unnumbered and not keyed to heritage resource descriptions. Their historic status is unknown.

Heritage Resource Sensitivity

Some idea of expected heritage resource sensitivity serves as a general guide to advanced planning by providing a means of estimating the probable likelihood of sites occurring within a given area proposed for development. Sensitivity ratings indicate the degree of probability of finding sites in a specific project area and the relative number and types of sites expected. In this way, project sponsors can anticipate, at the outset, the extent to which heritage resources may become an issue for consideration later on.

Heritage resource sensitivity predictions for the Foresthill Divide Community Plan area, of which this project is a part, are presented in Lindström (2000). Archaeological expectations have been derived from the collective results of many archaeological surveys in similar environments throughout the region and incorporate the obvious correlation between heritage themes, archaeological site locations and basic environmental variables (water, level ground, etc.). According to heritage resource location criteria detailed in Lindström (2000), the Forest Ranch project area is highly sensitive to contain Euroamerican historic resources and moderately sensitive to contain Native American resources. It is likely that future intensive and systematic archaeological surveys of the project area would yield more heritage resources than have been previously identified.

Confidentiality

In order to prevent vandalism and unauthorized artifact collecting and to protect landowners from trespass, the locations of heritage resources are kept confidential. California Code Section 6254.10 exempts archaeological site information from the California Public Records Act, which requires that public records be open to public inspection. Location information is restricted and is not circulated as part of public documents but is used for planning purposes only. Known archaeological site locations within the Forest Ranch project area are plotted on the map in the attached confidential appendix.

Traditional Native American Values

In addition to archaeological resources, the Forest Ranch project contains resources of traditional value to contemporary Native Americans (Brown, Drone, Portrius, Suehead, and Zellner personal communication 2002). On a tour of the project area with members of the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation, a number of issues and concerns surfaced, ones that should be taken into consideration during future project planning.

Plant and Animal Resources

During the on-site tour, a number of native plants of importance to Maidu and Miwok plant specialists were identified (acorn, willow, mushrooms, willow, hazelnut, etc.). Harvest and management of these plants are important to maintaining traditional subsistence and utilitarian practices. Members of the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation are concerned about the environment and the future of the Foresthill Divide. They want to preserve their traditional cultural knowledge, ancestral prehistoric sites, and native plant and animal resources.

Access

The importance of maintaining ties to their traditional land base and social network by using the remaining resources in traditional ways is a prevailing theme. Local Native Americans lament the loss of significant plant resources and access to landscapes. They acknowledge the importance of using and honoring a resource to maintain its vitality, and of spiritual responsibility to the land. This preliminary study has indicated that continued visitation on ancestral lands and to archaeological sites is effective in prompting individual recall on everything from childhood experiences and memories to traditional skills, life works, and legends. Access into portions of the project area is important to accomplish these goals.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The integrity of the unique and varied heritage resources of Foresthill Divide is being diminished daily by natural deterioration and the processes and the pressures of growth. A variety of federal and state laws and local ordinances have been passed in the last few decades that are designed to protect archaeological resources. Several California public resource codes make it illegal to damage objects of historical or archaeological interest on public or private lands or to disturb human remains, including those in archaeological sites. It is illegal to possess remains or artifacts taken from Native American graves and the

Native American Heritage Commission must be consulted whenever Native American graves are found.

HERITAGE RESOURCE EVALUATION CRITERIA

CEQA criteria of significance [Section 15064.5] are one means of determining whether a site is a historical resource. The criteria are modeled upon guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). For the purposes of CEQA, a significant heritage resource is one which:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- 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; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In general, CEQA provides protection to "historical resources" and to "archaeological resources" that are "important" and/or "unique." An "important archaeological resource" must meet one or more of the above CEQA criteria. A "unique archaeological resource" must qualify under one of the first three CEQA criteria [Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g)]. Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, which is part of CEQA, provides additional guidelines for the designation and additional protection of heritage resources classified as "historical resources." Resources that must be treated as "historical" are:

- Those resources listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources;
- Those resources presumed to be historical in the absence of a preponderance of evidence indicating otherwise and that may be included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k);
- Those resources deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(g); and/or
- Those heritage resources that an agency, going beyond the minimum call of statutory duty, has freely chosen to consider "historical."

Significant heritage resources are also acknowledged on a number of local registers. Eligibility criteria for the heritage registers generally incorporate the basic tenants of criteria established in the National Register and the California Register. However, these criteria have been modified in order to include a broader range of resources that better reflect the history of California at the local level. For example, the State Historic Landmark Program and the Point of Historic Interest Program also recognize buildings, sites, and objects of local or statewide importance.

IMPACTS AND IMPACT MITIGATION

IMPACTS

If a heritage resource is determined significant, effects of a project on the heritage property should be assessed. CEQA addresses the significance of impacts on historical and unique archaeological resources in Section 15064.5. A property is impacted (or effected) if the project will diminish the integrity of a property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, or the quality of data suitable for scientific analysis. In particular, the archaeological remains left by region's ancestral Native Americans require respectful treatment, along with the continued incorporation of contemporary Native American opinions, knowledge and sentiments into the planning process.

Several potential project-related effects are most likely to occur within the Forest Ranch area. These impacts may result from the disturbance or destruction of prehistoric or historic archaeological sites during project ground disturbance activities, and/or general changes in land use that may affect the integrity of the setting of heritage properties by introducing incompatible visual or audible elements into the setting of a potentially significant resource. In addition, indirect impacts due to increased public access into an area containing a site could result in vandalism. Of further concern are potential impacts to natural resources of importance to contemporary Native Americans, such as traditional plants.

MITIGATION OF IMPACTS

Once it has been determined that a project may adversely effect a potentially significant heritage property, appropriate mitigation measures should be implemented and carried out. A means to monitor mitigation must also be identified. Prior to the property's modification or destruction, field-related mitigation activities should be implemented in consultation with appropriate federal, state and local agencies and Native American group. Consideration and discussion of mitigation measures proposed to minimize significant impacts are contained in CEQA Section 15126.4. Mitigation measures can include project modification designed to protect and/or avoid a site. In lieu of project modification, a data recovery program can involve archival research, photo documentation and mapping, removal of a historic feature, collection of artifacts, recordation of features, test excavations, larger scale excavations, or some combination of these tasks. Interpretive development of heritage remains is another form of impact mitigation that enhances not only public education and enjoyment, but greatly augments the local economy. Other more project-specific mitigation measures are listed below.

- 1) An archaeological field survey incorporating a systematic mixed reconnaissance strategy should be conducted by professional archaeologists. At a minimum, project areas subject to project ground disturbance should be examined. Work should be conducted according to the guidelines established by the State of California, Office of Historic Preservation. Artifacts, features and sites encountered should be formally recorded on State of California archaeological forms. Findings should be presented in a final report summarizing the natural and cultural setting and detailing the prefield and field methods employed, survey

results, potential heritage resource significance, project impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.

2) Further archaeological investigations should be conducted in consultation with the Foresthill Divide Historical Society. The society is committed to preserving the history of the Foresthill Divide. The unique history of the Divide, along with its recreational potential, are viewed as critical elements in the economic well being of the community and quality of life for its residents. In so doing, there is concern that future developments on the Divide are careful not to alter the historic "flavor" of the area. The historical society wishes to be consulted regarding future development issues on the Divide in order to insure preservation of remaining heritage resources and monitor new development.

3) Future archaeological work should be conducted in consultation with the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation. The project sponsor is to be commended for his cooperation and involvement in the initial on-site tour and interview. This has opened the door for further interactive studies, affirming the role of local Maidu and Miwok people as partners in the interpretation of their own archaeological past.

3) As part of an effort to sustain traditional cultural practices, portions of the project area may be set-aside for the harvest and management of traditional plants by Maidu and Miwok traditionalists. Additional work may involve an ethnobotanical survey, combining the skills of a project ethnobotanist and a Native American plant specialist to locate and document traditional plant populations and to identify attributes sought and cultured by Maidu and Miwok collectors. Maidu and Miwok involvement in project revegetation efforts is also warranted.

4) To insure the integrity of traditional plant resources and enhance their Native management, issues such as the application of herbicides, controlled burning, and dust abatement should be considered in consultation with members of the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation.

5) Access to portions of the Forest Ranch project area is important to maintaining ties to their aboriginal land base and social network by using the remaining resources in traditional ways and dialog between the project sponsor and the local Native American community should continue.

6) To affirm the role of local Maidu and Miwok people as partners in the interpretation of their own archaeological past, a representative of local Native American interests should be formally retained as a Native American consultant on future archaeological field surveys.

Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Off-Site Mitigation

To address cumulative impacts to Native American sites on the Foresthill Divide, in general, and the Forest Ranch project, in particular, off-site mitigation measures to address the more

generalized needs and concerns of local Native Americans should be considered in exchange for mitigation measures aimed at heritage resources located within the project area. Such measures might address: (a) the preservation and interpretation of aboriginal archaeological sites outside the project area; (b) access to and management of plant collecting and hunting areas outside the project area; and (c) enhancement of other on-going cultural projects in which the Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation is engaged.

Interpretation

For millennia, Native Americans have resided on the Foresthill Divide and visited the project area. For over a century and a half, Euroamericans have influenced historic events here. New-comers to the area who plan to visit or take residence in the Forest Ranch planned community should be aware of the past, not only as a matter of public education but also to enrich their personal association with the area. Installation of interpretive signs and panels, the designation of natural-cultural parks, and the establishment of heritage demonstration sites are just a few of the many avenues of interpretation for residents and visitors to Forest Ranch.

Interpretation of the rich heritage resource base present within the Forest Ranch project area may become a key creative component of a program to mitigate potential project impacts to significant heritage resources. Viewed as a marketing opportunity, rather than a constraint, heritage values can be used as an organizing theme for the planned community. Residents of the Foresthill Divide and tourists alike expect a high-quality residential and recreational experience that is enhanced by the region's unique and fascinating past; visitors and residents to Forest Ranch can anticipate the same. In these efforts, the Forest Ranch development can be recognized as a steward of local heritage that celebrates cultural diversity and human ingenuity. Forward planning that incorporates the selective preservation and interpretation of a portion of the heritage resource base within the project area can not only foster public enjoyment and education but can go far to augment the development's marketing success and economy.

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FIGURES

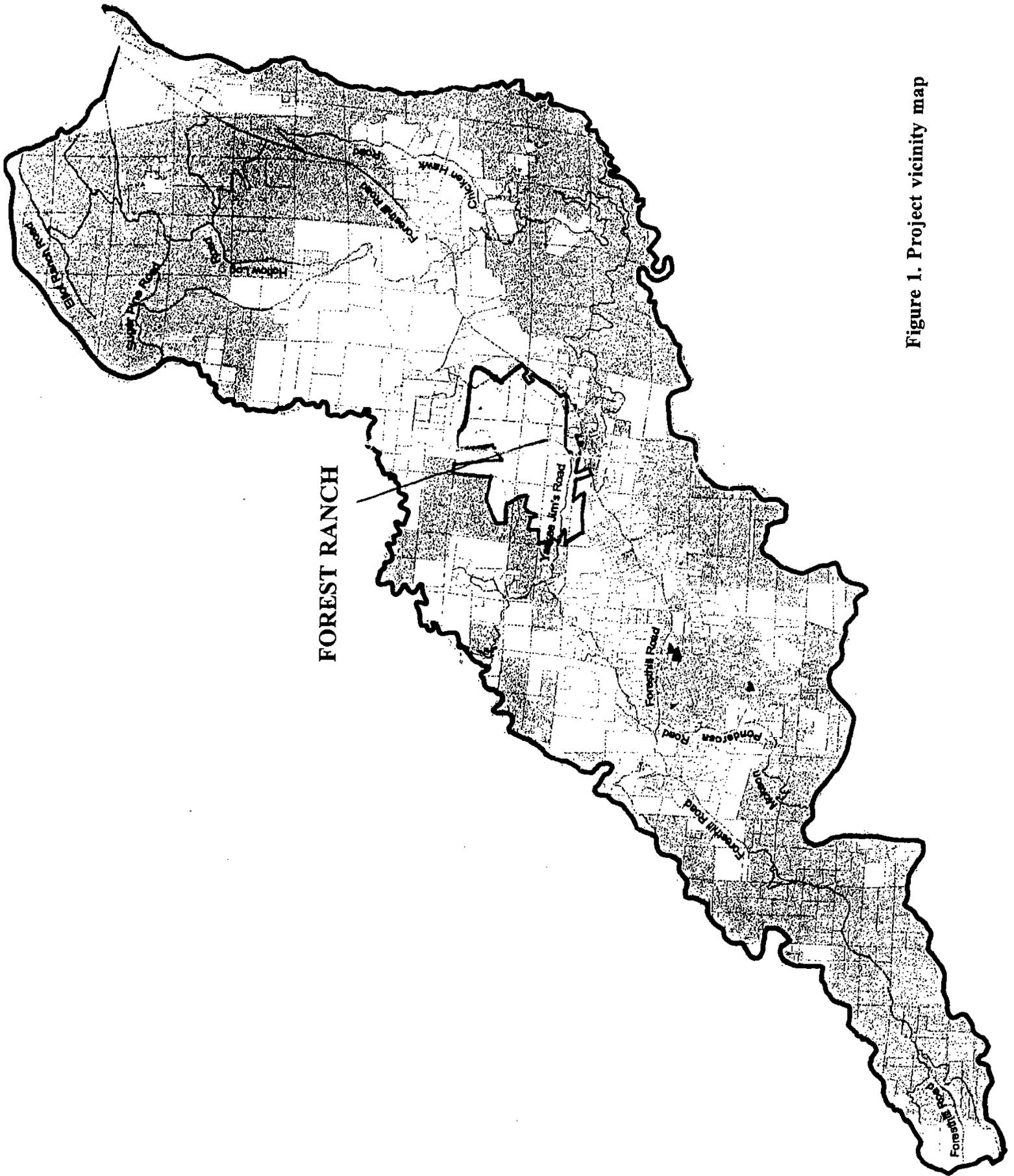


Figure 1. Project vicinity map

FOREST RANCH

PROPOSED ZONING PLAN
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 26, 2001



LAND DESIGNATIONS

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	10/26/01	INITIAL PLAN
2	11/15/01	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
3	12/10/01	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
4	01/08/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
5	02/05/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
6	03/04/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
7	04/02/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
8	05/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
9	06/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
10	07/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
11	08/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
12	09/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
13	10/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
14	11/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
15	12/01/02	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
16	01/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
17	02/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
18	03/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
19	04/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
20	05/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
21	06/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
22	07/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
23	08/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
24	09/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
25	10/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
26	11/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
27	12/01/03	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
28	01/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
29	02/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
30	03/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
31	04/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
32	05/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
33	06/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
34	07/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
35	08/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
36	09/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
37	10/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
38	11/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
39	12/01/04	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
40	01/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
41	02/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
42	03/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
43	04/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
44	05/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
45	06/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
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50	11/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
51	12/01/05	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
52	01/01/06	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
53	02/01/06	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
54	03/01/06	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
55	04/01/06	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
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63	12/01/06	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
64	01/01/07	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
65	02/01/07	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
66	03/01/07	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
67	04/01/07	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
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83	08/01/08	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
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85	10/01/08	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
86	11/01/08	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
87	12/01/08	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
88	01/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
89	02/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
90	03/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
91	04/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
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93	06/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
94	07/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
95	08/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
96	09/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
97	10/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
98	11/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
99	12/01/09	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN
100	01/01/10	REVISIONS TO ZONING PLAN

Figure 3. Project site plan

PREPARED BY
HARVEY'S
 Site Planning, Inc.
 1000 N. Main Street
 Suite 100
 Colusa, CA 95926
 (916) 392-1111
 www.harveysiteplanning.com

CORRESPONDENCE

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 (916) 653-4082
 Fax (916) 657-5390



January 9, 2002

Mr. Dean Prigmore
 Placer County Planning Department
 11414 B Avenue
 Auburn, California 95603

PLACER COUNTY
 DATE
 RECEIVED

JAN 10 2002 DP

RE: SCH# 2001122105 Forest Ranch

Dear Mr. Prigmore:

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the above mentioned NOP. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

1. Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
 - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
3. Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
 - A Sacred Lands File Check.
 - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures.
4. Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5 (e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-4038.

Sincerely,

Debbie Pilas-Treadway
 Debbie Pilas-Treadway
 Environmental Specialist III

CC: State Clearinghouse

Susan Lindström, Ph.D.
Archaeologist

P.O. Box 3324
14931 Denton
Truckee, CA 96160
916-587-7072
FAX 916-587-7083

August 1, 2002

Debbie Pilas-Treadway
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento CA 95814
916-653-4082 (657-5390 fax)

Dear Ms. Pilas-Treadway;

I have been retained by Quad-Knopf to conduct background research for the Forest Ranch EIR. The planning area encompasses approximately 2000 acres along the Foresthill Divide between the North and Middle Forks of the American River (see enclosed map). At this generalized stage of planning, no specific project particulars are proposed.

I have met with members of the Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation and toured them through the project area. I also wish to bring this project to your attention and invite your opinions, knowledge and sentiments regarding any potential concerns for traditional Native American lands within this project area. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any additional information regarding this area.

Sincerely,



Susan Lindström
Consulting Archaeologist

Enclosure

DATE: August 8, 2002

TO: Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation
P.O. Box 1490
Foresthill CA 95631
530-367-3893

FROM: Susan Lindström, Consulting Archaeologist
Box 3324, Truckee CA 96160
530-587-7072 (587-7083 fax)

RE: Forest Ranch Programatic EIR

As some of your members are aware, I have been retained by Quad-Knopf to conduct background research for the Forest Ranch EIR. The planning area encompasses approximately 2000 acres along the Divide between the North and Middle Forks of the American River (see enclosed map). At this generalized stage of planning, no specific projects are proposed.

I toured the project area with Fern Brown, Marge Drone, Leon Portrius, Levina Suehead, and Bridget Zellner of the Todds Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation on June 22nd to discuss potential concerns within the project area. Again, I wish to bring this project to your attention and invite your opinions, knowledge and sentiments regarding any potential concerns for traditional Native American lands within this project area. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any additional information regarding this area. Should you choose to correspond, I would be happy to addend your letter to the final report to Placer County.

Sincerely,



Susan Lindström
Consulting Archaeologist

Enclosure