

**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY AND EFFECTS ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
MERITAGE HOMES PLACER GREENS PROJECT,  
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared For:

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6124 Shadow Lane  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle: Citrus Heights 1992

Cultural Resources Survey; P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67) not relocated; Placer County

March 27, 2015

**Archaeological and other heritage resources can be damaged or destroyed through uncontrolled public disclosure of information regarding their location. This document contains sensitive information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites that should not be disclosed to the general public or unauthorized persons.**

**Information regarding the location, character, or ownership of a cultural resource is exempt from the California Public Record Act under Government Code Section 6254.10.**

## ABSTRACT

**Purpose and Scope:** Natural Investigations Company, LLC (Natural Investigations) was retained by Meritage Homes to provide cultural resources services for a proposed residential project on 45 acres in southwestern Placer County. The proposed project is located on the south side of PFE Road and east of Antelope North Road.

The services performed by Natural Investigations include literature and Sacred Lands File searches, pedestrian survey of the 45-acre Area of Potential Effects (APE), and a project effects assessment. The study was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in anticipation of the requirement for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**Dates of Investigation:** The literature search was completed by Natural Investigations at the North Central Information Center on February 20, 2015, and a Sacred Lands File search by the Native American Heritage Commission on March 10, 2015. The Commission indicated their search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands or traditional cultural properties within the immediate project vicinity. Natural Investigations conducted an intensive-level pedestrian survey within the APE on February 25, 2015.

**Investigation Constraints:** A 0.88-acre area with dense undergrowth and brambles along a tributary of Dry Creek was not surveyed. The field survey was also constrained by poor ground visibility due to the density of vegetation coverage within a majority of the APE.

**Findings of the Investigation:** Prior cultural work includes one previous study that included a portion of the APE and five additional studies within a 0.25-mile search radius but outside the APE. One prehistoric archaeological site (P-31-000193; CA-PLA-67) previously recorded within the APE was not relocated during the current survey. No other prehistoric or historic-era archaeological or historic-era built environment resources were identified or recorded during the survey of the APE or previously recorded outside the APE within the search radius.

**Recommendations:** Due to the poor ground visibility, archaeological and Native American monitoring of ground-disturbing activity is recommended in native soils/sediments within a 100-foot (30-meter) radius of prehistoric site P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67) and the 0.88-acre area that was not surveyed. It is also recommended that worker cultural awareness training is conducted before the start of any ground disturbance for the project. In the event cultural resources are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate area must be halted and a qualified archaeologist notified, who will then evaluate the resource and consult with Placer County and any other relevant regulatory agency, as appropriate.

**Disposition of Data:** This report will be filed with Meritage Homes; the North Central California Information Center, California State University, Sacramento; and Natural Investigations Company, Citrus Heights, California. All field notes and other documentation related to the study are on file at the Citrus Heights office of Natural Investigations.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Natural Investigations Company, LLC (Natural Investigations) was retained by Meritage Homes to provide cultural resources services for the company's proposed single-family residential project in southwestern Placer County approximately 0.5 mile west of the Roseville city limits. The proposed 45-acre project is located on the south side of PFE Road and east of Antelope North Road.

Placer County is the State Lead Agency for the project and is responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is anticipated to be required and the project would be considered a federal undertaking, this study was also completed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The cultural resources services by Natural Investigations include a literature search, a Sacred Lands File search, an intensive-level pedestrian survey of the 45-acre Area of Potential Effects (APE), and a project effects assessment with this report.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed residential Placer Greens project is located in the southeastern corner of the Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan Area, on the south side of PFE Road and east of Antelope North Road. The primary entries to the project are currently proposed to be located along Antelope North Road. The 45-acre single-family residential project is proposed to include 110 lots averaging 6,000 square feet. Its unique features include a tributary to Dry Creek, running south to north along the eastern boundary of the property. This wetland area and associated oak woodland will be avoided and preserved as a 15.8-acre open space area. A 2.2-acre public park is also proposed in the approximate center of the property, with a landscaped trail/buffer running north/south along Antelope North Road.

## **AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)**

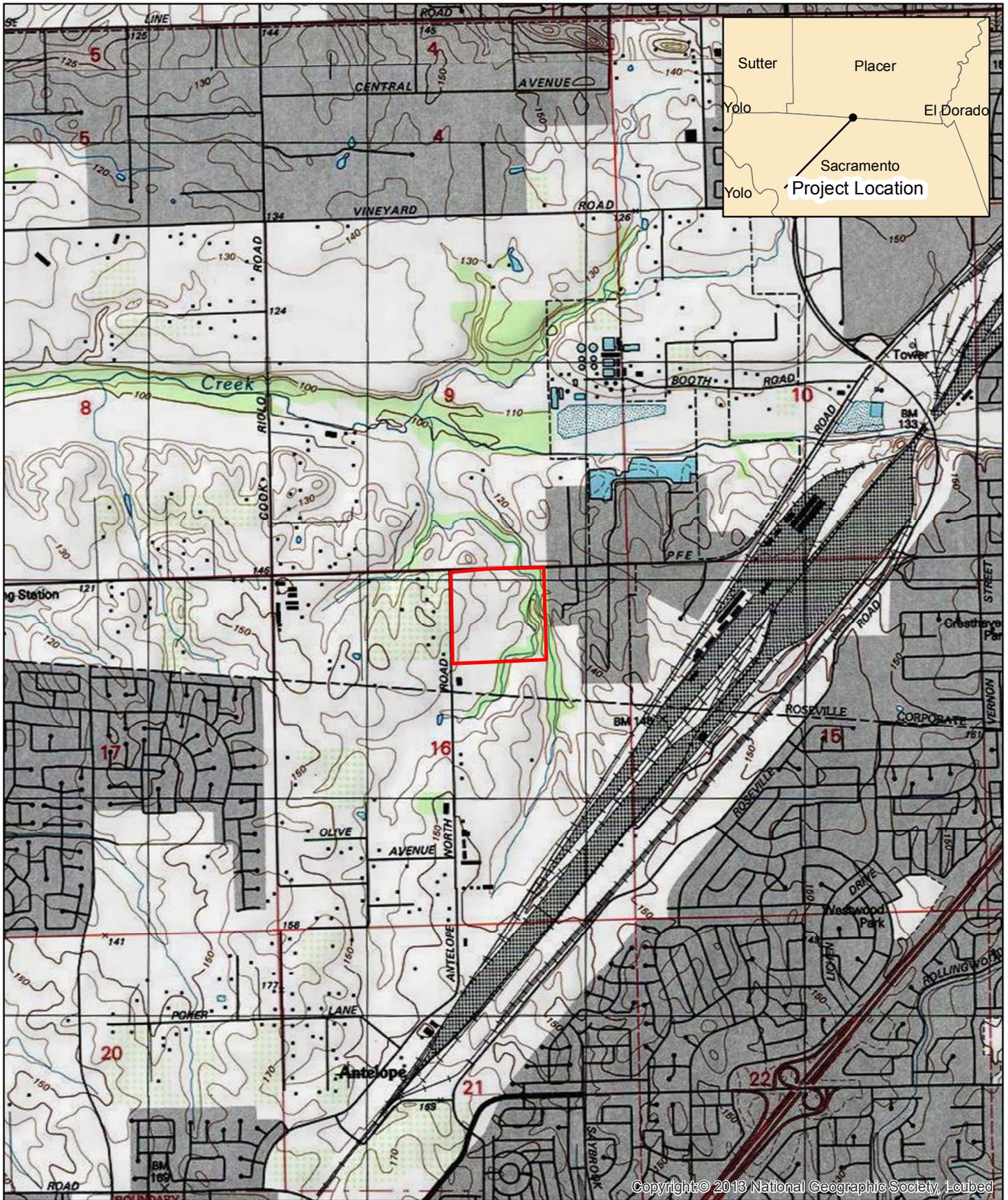
The APE within which the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project may have an effect on cultural resources totals 45 acres. The APE is located in Sections 9 and 16 of Township 10 North, Range 6 East, as depicted on the 1992 Citrus Heights USGS 7.5-minute topographic map (Mount Diablo Base and Meridian) (Figure 1).

## **REGULATORY SETTING**

### **Federal Regulations**

The current study was completed under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended) (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). Cultural resources are considered during federal undertakings chiefly under Section 106 of the NHPA through one of its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800 (Protection of Historic Properties), as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native Americans are considered under Section 101(d)(6)(A) of NHPA.

# Project Location Map

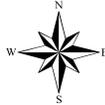


 APE

1:24,000

0 0.5 1 Kilometers

0 0.5 1 Miles



Placer Greens Project  
Figure 1



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Section 106 of the NHPA (16 United States Code [USC] 470f) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings (36 CFR 800.1). Under Section 106, the significance of any adversely affected cultural resource is assessed and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce any impacts to an acceptable level. Significant cultural resources are those resources that are listed in, or are eligible for listing on the NRHP per the criteria listed at 36 CFR 60.4 (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 2000) below.

The quality of *significance* in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess *integrity* of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:

- A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of installation, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Impacts to significant cultural resources that affect the characteristics of any resource that qualify it for the NRHP are considered a significant effect on the environment. Impacts to significant cultural resources from the proposed Project are thus considered significant if the Project physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource, changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource which contribute to its significance, or introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

### **State Regulations**

The current study was completed under the provisions of CEQA. Section 21083.2 of the statute and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines provide instructions for a lead agency to consider the effects of Projects on historical resources and cultural resources. A *historical resource* is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1), a resource included in a local register of historical resources (PRC Section 15064.5[a][2]), or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant (PRC Section 15064.5[a][3]).

PRC Section 5024.1 requires evaluation of historical resources to determine their eligibility for listing in the CRHR. The purpose of the register is to maintain listings of the State's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected from substantial adverse change. The criteria for listing resources in the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with previously established federal criteria for listing in the NRHP.

According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1–4), as well as Section 15064.5(a)(3)(A–D) of the revised CEQA guidelines, a resource is considered historically significant if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

- 1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- 2. It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

3. It 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
4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In order to be listed in the CRHR, historical resources must meet at least one of the significance criteria. Resources that do not meet any of these criteria are viewed as not significant. In addition to meeting at least one of the significance criteria, historical resources must possess the quality of *integrity* (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Historic resources must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance.

Impacts to significant cultural resources from a proposed Project are considered significant if the Project physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource, changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource that contribute to its significance, or introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

Under CEQA, if an archaeological site is not a historical resource but meets the definition of a *unique archaeological resource* as defined in PRC Section 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section. PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archeological resource to mean an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best example available of its type
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Should a site qualify as a unique archaeological resource, it is protected under CEQA. If it can be demonstrated that a Project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Sections 21083.2[a], [b], and [c]). If the agency determines the site does not qualify, then the site merits no further consideration.

## **REPORT PREPARATION**

### **Archaeological Staff Qualifications**

Nancy E. Sikes, Ph.D. was the Principal Investigator for this cultural resources project and co-authored this report with Cindy Arrington, M.S., and Phil Hanes. Dr. Sikes and Ms. Arrington each have more than 15 years of archaeological experience in California and exceed all requirements of the Secretary of Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (36 CFR Part 61; National Park Service 1983). Mr. Hanes, who performed the pedestrian survey with Ms. Arrington, has a B.A. and over nine years of experience in California archaeology.

## **Report Format**

The format of this report follows the *Archaeological Resource Management Reports: Recommended Contents and Format* by the Office of Historic Preservation (1990).

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project is located within the lower Sacramento Valley, within the northern half of the Central Valley geomorphic province. The sedimentary geologic formations in the Central Valley province vary in age from Jurassic (199 to 144 million years ago) to Quaternary (200 million years ago to present) (Norris and Webb 1990). Review of recent geologic mapping prepared by Gutierrez (2011) indicates the project vicinity is underlain by the alluvial sediments of the Pleistocene-age Turlock Formation. To the north, the Dry Creek drainage is underlain by Late Pleistocene-age Modesto Formation alluvial deposits.

Soils within the APE are Cometa-Fiddymet series complex sandy loams that formed in alluvium or material weathered from consolidated sediments of mixed rock sources (California Soil Resource Lab 2015; Soil Survey Staff 2015). These moderately deep soils are typically well-drained with slow permeability and an increasing clay content with depth. An argillic (Bt) horizon is present in both series. In Fiddymet soils, the Bt horizon overlies a duripan (Bqm horizon), with the depth to the duripan ranging from 28 to 40 inches. A paralithic contact (Cr horizon) immediately underlies the duripan in the Fiddymet series. In the Cometa series, a weakly stratified C horizon at a depth of 27 to 60 inches underlies the Bt horizon.

The proposed project is located within the lower reaches of the Dry Creek watershed, within the Sacramento River Basin. Due to the expanse of its 101 square-mile watershed and coupled with irrigation runoff, Dry Creek presently flows year-round. Historically, maps indicate flow was intermittent. Located less than 0.5 mile north of PFE Road, the creek's summer flow consists primarily of irrigation return and excess flow, with some groundwater discharge (Placer County Planning Department 1990:102). The creek presently flows some 15 miles southwestward to the Sacramento River via the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal. The eastern portion of the APE includes part of two unnamed northward-flowing tributaries of Dry Creek that converge near the northeastern corner of the APE. Historically, Dry Creek and its tributaries have an extensive record of flooding, especially in the Roseville area, which has generally occurred from October through April (Placer County 2011:12-13).

The project region is characterized by hot, dry summers and warm, moist winters. Annual precipitation in this region averages 25 inches, with most of the rain falling between November and April. High winter temperatures reach approximately 57 degrees Fahrenheit, with summer temperature highs of around 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The current Mediterranean climate is dryer and hotter than the conditions present at the time of California's initial occupation (Major 1988).

Located in the eastern extent of the Sacramento Valley west of the Sierra Nevada foothills, the proposed project area has gently rolling terrain, falling from west to east, and lies at an elevation of 145 to 113 feet (34–44 meters) above mean sea level (msl). The landscape in the project vicinity has undergone substantial change and is best characterized as a suburban residential setting. Although some undeveloped areas occur east of Antelope North Road and north of PFE Road to either side of the Dry Creek drainage, high and low density residential developments are located west of Cook Riolo Road, to the east in the City of Roseville, and south of the Placer-Sacramento County line in the Antelope community. An industrial complex and a trucking company border the APE to the east and south, while the Roseville railroad yard and Interstate 80 lie 0.5 mile and 1.8 miles east of the APE.

The project vicinity was historically characterized by vegetation communities near permanent drainages, such as Dry Creek, including grasslands, oak savannah/oak woodlands, riparian scrub/forest along drainages, with grasslands and oak woodlands in valley foothill areas to the east. Seasonal wetlands would have commonly occurred within the grassland habitat areas. This mosaic of ecological communities would have provided a very productive environment. Based on the ethnographic descriptions of the Nisenan who historically occupied this region, their hunting-gathering economy was supported by a variety of large and small mammals, edible plant species, fish, and waterfowl (Kroeber 1925, 1929; Wilson and Towne 1978).

## **CULTURAL SETTING**

### **PREHISTORIC OVERVIEW**

A recent summary by Rosenthal et al. (2007) of the prehistory of California's Sacramento Valley, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and San Joaquin Valley is based on a compilation of previous research (e.g., Heizer and Fenenga 1939; Heizer 1949; Fredrickson 1973, 1974, 1994; Moratto 1984). As devised by Rosenthal and others, and with the timeframes adjusted for modern calibration curves for radiocarbon dates, the chronological sequence for the Central Valley is: Paleo-Indian (11,500–8550 cal [calibrated] B.C.), Lower Archaic (8550–5550 cal B.C.), Middle Archaic (5550–550 cal B.C.), Upper Archaic (550 cal B.C.–cal A.D. 1100), and Emergent or Late Prehistoric Period (cal A.D. 1100–Historic Contact).

There is little evidence of the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods in the Central Valley (Rosenthal et al. 2007:151; Dillon 2002). As shown by geoarchaeological studies (e.g., Meyer and Rosenthal 2008; Rosenthal and Meyer 2004a, 2004b; White 2003), large segments of the Late Pleistocene landscape throughout the central California lowlands have been buried or removed by periodic episodes of deposition or erosion. Periods of climate change and associated alluvial deposition occurred at the end of the Pleistocene (approximately 9050 cal B.C.) and at the beginning of the early Middle Holocene (approximately 5550 cal B.C.). Earlier studies had also estimated that Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic sites along the lower stretch of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River drainage systems had been buried by Holocene alluvium up to 33 feet (10 meters) thick that was deposited during the last 5,000 to 6,000 years (Moratto 1984:214). The formation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta began during the early Middle Holocene (Atwater and Belknap 1980; Goman and Wells 2000). After approximately 1,000 cal B.C. during the Late Holocene, there were renewed episodes of alluvial fan and floodplain deposition (Rosenthal et al. 2007:155-156).

The archaeological evidence that is available for the Paleo-Indian Period is comprised primarily by basally thinned, fluted projectile points. These points are morphologically similar to the well-dated Clovis points found elsewhere in North America. In the Central Valley, only three archaeological localities (Woolfsen Mound [CA-MER-215] in Merced County, Tracey Lake in San Joaquin County, and Tulare Lake basin in Kings County) contain fluted points, which were recovered at each from remnant features of the Pleistocene landscape.

In the Central Valley, the Lower Archaic Period is mainly represented by isolated finds as the early landscape was buried by natural alluvial fan and floodplain deposition (Rosenthal et al. 2007:151-152). Cultural material dating to this period has been found at only one site in the Central Valley proper. CA-KER-116 is located in today's Kern County on the ancient shoreline of Buena Vista Lake. Stratified cultural deposits at the site have yielded a stemmed projectile point, chipped stone crescents, and the remains of fish, birds, and shellfish. Although abundant milling slabs and handstones have been recovered from Lower Archaic Period foothill sites in eastern Contra Costa County (CA-CCO-637; Meyer and

Rosenthal 1998) and Calaveras County (Skyrocket site CA-CAL-629/630; LaJeunesse and Pryor 1996), no milling tools or plant remains have been found at the valley floor site.

The cultural framework within the greater project region subsequent to the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods is further divided into three regionally based “patterns.” Specific to the Central Valley prehistory and the current project region, the regionally based patterns defined by Fredrickson (1973, 1974) are the Windmill, Berkeley, and Augustine. The patterns mark changes in distinct artifact types, subsistence orientation, and settlement patterns, which began circa 5,550 cal B.C. and lasted until historic contact in the early 1800s. They were initially identified at three archaeological sites: the Windmill site (CA-SAC-107) near the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County; the West Berkeley site (CA-ALA-307) on the east side of the Bay in Alameda County; and the Augustine site (CA-SAC-127) in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. In general, the patterns conform to three temporal divisions: Middle Archaic Period/Windmill Pattern, Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern, Late Prehistoric Period/Augustine Pattern.

### **Middle Archaic Period/Windmill Pattern (5550–550 cal B.C.)**

For the first 3,000 years of the Middle Archaic, archaeological sites on the valley floor are relatively scarce, in part due natural geomorphic processes, unlike the foothills where a number of buried sites have been found (Rosenthal et al. 2007:153). On the valley floor, sites are more common after 2550 cal. B.C. The archaeological record in the valley and foothills indicates the subsistence system during this period included a wide range of natural resources (e.g., plants, small and large mammals, fish, and waterfowl) that indicate people followed a seasonal foraging strategy (Fredrickson 1973; Heizer 1949; Ragir 1972; Moratto 1984). Some researchers (e.g., Moratto 1984:206) suggest populations may have occupied lower elevations during the winter and shifted to higher elevations in the summer. Others (e.g., Rosenthal et al. 2007:153) also suggest there was increasing residential stability along Central Valley river corridors during the Middle Archaic.

Excavations at Windmill Pattern sites have yielded abundant remains of terrestrial fauna (deer, tule elk, pronghorn, and rabbits) and fish (sturgeon, salmon, and smaller fishes). Projectile points with a triangular blade and contracting stems are common at Windmill Pattern sites. A variety of fishing implements such as angling hooks, composite bone hooks, spears, and baked clay artifacts, which may have been used as net or line sinkers, are also relatively common. The points are classified within the Sierra Contracting Stem and Houx Contracting Stem series (Justice 2002:266, 276). The presence of milling implements (grinding slabs, handstones, and mortar fragments) indicate acorns or seeds were an important part of the Middle Archaic diet (Moratto 1984:201; Rosenthal et al. 2007:153, 155). In the foothills, pine nut and acorn remains have been recovered from sites in Fresno (CA-FRE-61) and Calaveras (CA-CAL-629/630 and CA-CAL-789) counties.

The variety of artifacts recovered from Windmill Pattern sites includes shell beads, ground and polished charmstones, and bone tools, as well as impressions of twined basketry. Baked clay items include pipes, discoids, and cooking “stones” as well as the net sinkers. Burials in cemetery areas, which were separate from habitation areas, were accompanied by a variety of grave goods. The presence of an established trade network is indicated by the recovery of *Olivella* shell beads, obsidian tools, and quartz crystals. Obsidian sources during the Middle Archaic included quarries in the North Coast Ranges, eastern Sierra, and Cascades (Rosenthal et al. 2007:153, 155).

### **Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern (550 cal B.C.–cal A.D. 1100)**

Better understood than any of the preceding periods (Rosenthal et al. 2007:155-157), the Upper Archaic is characterized by a shift over a 1,000-year period to the more specialized, adaptive Berkeley Pattern.

Excavated archaeological sites signal an increase in mortars and pestles, as well as archaeobotanical remains, accompanied by a decrease in slab milling stones and handstones. Archaeologists generally agree mortars and pestles are better suited to crushing and grinding acorns, while milling slabs and handstones may have been used primarily for grinding wild grass grains and seeds (Moratto 1984:209-210). The proportional change indicates a shift during the Berkeley Pattern to a greater reliance on acorns as a dietary staple (Fredrickson 1974:125; Moratto 1984:209; Wohlgemuth 2004). Innovations such as new types of shell beads, charmstones, bone tools, and ceremonial blades are additional evidence of the more specialized technology present during this period.

The artifact assemblage in Berkeley Pattern sites demonstrates that populations continued to exploit a variety of natural resources. In addition to seeds and acorns, hunting persisted as an important aspect of food procurement (Fredrickson 1973:125-126). Large, mounded villages that developed around 2,700 years ago in the Delta region included accumulations of habitation debris and features, such as hearths, house floors, rock-lined ovens, and burials (Rosenthal et al. 2007:156-157). The remains of a variety of aquatic resources in the large shell midden/mounds that developed near salt or fresh water indicate exploitation of shellfish was relatively intensive.

Berkeley Pattern artifact assemblages are also characterized by *Olivella* shell beads, *Haliotis* ornaments, and a variety of bone tool types. Mortuary practices continue to be dominated by interment, although a few cremations have been discovered at sites dating to this period. Trade networks brought obsidian toolstone to the Central Valley from the North Coast Ranges and the east side of the Sierra Nevada Range.

### **Late Prehistoric Period/Augustine Pattern (cal A.D. 1100–Historic Contact)**

The comprehensive archaeological record for the Emergent or Late Prehistoric Period in the Central Valley shows an increase in the number of archaeological sites associated with the Augustine Pattern in the lower Sacramento Valley/Delta region, as well as an increase in the number and diversity of artifacts (Moratto 1984:211-214; Rosenthal et al. 2007:157-159). The Emergent Period was shaped by a number of cultural innovations, such as the bow and arrow and more elaborate and diverse fishing technology, as well as an elaborate social and ceremonial organization. Dart and atlatl technology was effectively replaced by the introduction of the bow and arrow. Additionally, the cultural patterns typical of the Augustine Pattern as viewed from the archaeological record are reflected in the cultural traditions known from historic period Native American groups (Rosenthal et al. 2007:157).

The faunal and botanical remains recovered at Emergent Period archaeological sites indicate the occupants relied on a diverse assortment of mammals, fish, and plant parts, including acorns and pine nuts. Hopper mortars, shaped mortars and pestles, and bone awls used to produce coiled baskets are among the variety of artifacts recovered from Augustine Pattern sites. The toolkit during this period also included bone fish hooks, harpoons, and gorge hooks for fishing, as well as the bow and arrow for hunting. Small, Gunther barbed series Projectile points have been found at sites dating to the early part of the period, while Desert-side notched points appear later in the period (Rosenthal et al. 2007:158). The Stockton serrated arrow point also appears in archaeological assemblages dating to this period and in some parts of the lower Sacramento Valley, Cosumnes Brownware is present. The appearance of ceramics during this period is likely a direct improvement on the prior baked clay industry.

During the Late Prehistoric Period, numerous villages, ranging in size from small to large, were established along the valley floor sloughs and river channels and along the foothills sidestreams. House floors or other structural remains have been preserved at some sites dating to this period (e.g., CA-CAL-1180/H, CA-SAC-29, CA-SAC-267) (Rosenthal et al. 2007:158). The increase in sedentism and population growth led to the development of social stratification, with an elaborate social and ceremonial

organization. Examples of items associated with rituals and ceremonials include flanged tubular pipes and baked clay effigies representing animals and humans. Mortuary practices changed to include flexed burials, cremation of high-status individuals, and pre-interment burning of offerings in a burial pit (Fredrickson 1973:127-129; Moratto 1984:211). Currency, in the form of clamshell disk beads, also developed during this period together with extensive exchange networks.

In her Master's thesis, which was completed in 1966, Patti Palumbo (now Johnson) focused on the archaeology of the Dry Creek drainage. She analyzed artifacts from 32 prehistoric archaeological sites between Rio Linda on the west and Roseville on the east. Palumbo concluded four of the sites were permanent village sites with well-developed middens, each of which was located at the eastern extent of her study area. She classified the remainder as temporary occupation sites since there was little or no accumulation of habitation debris except for milling implements, projectile points, cores, or other miscellaneous artifacts (Palumbo 1966). Diagnostic artifacts found at the Dry Creek sites (e.g., shell beads, projectile points) indicate occupation occurred mainly during the Late Prehistoric Period. One of the village sites (CA-PLA-41) is mapped adjacent to the main Dry Creek channel in the southeast quadrant of Section 9 northeast of and approximately one half mile from the present APE. One of the temporarily occupied sites along Dry Creek (CA-PLA-67) is located within the APE for the proposed project.

## **ETHNOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**

The project is located in lands historically occupied by the Nisenan (also known as the Southern Maidu) (Kroeber 1925, 1929; Wilson and Towne 1978). Prior to Euro-American contact, Nisenan territory included the southern extent of the Sacramento Valley, east of the Sacramento River between the North Fork Yuba River and Cosumnes Rivers on the north and south, respectively, and extended east into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Range. Neighboring groups included the Plains Miwok on the south, Southern Patwin to the west across the Sacramento River beyond the Yolo Basin, and Konkow and Maidu to the north. Three Maidu languages, Konkow, Maidu, and Nisenan are regarded as a subgroup of Penutian stock. Ethnographers have also distinguished three Nisenan dialects (Northern Hill, Southern Hill, and Valley) (Kroeber 1925:393).

Ethnographic Nisenan established central villages and smaller satellite villages along the main watercourses in their territories (Kroeber 1925:831; Moratto 1984:172-173; Wilson and Towne 1978:388-389). Valley Nisenan villages were generally on low, natural rises along streams and rivers or on gentle, south-facing slopes and Hill Nisenan villages on ridges and large flats along major streams. The semi-permanent or winter villages, as well as seasonally occupied campsites were used at various times during the seasonal round of subsistence activities associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering plant resources. Historically, a Nisenan village known as *Pitsokut* or *Pich-u-gut* was located in the Roseville area, and may have been at the location of a prehistoric site recorded along Dry Creek (Kroeber 1925:394, Plate 37; Palumbo 1966:9).

Village population varied and is reported as ranging from 15 to over 500 individuals with the number of residences ranging from 40 to 50 in larger villages, and only three to seven in smaller villages (Kroeber 1925:831; Maloney 1944; Wilson and Towne 1978:388). Traditional village structures included semi-subterranean or aboveground conical, circular, or dome-shaped houses, as well as acorn granaries, winter grinding houses, ceremonial or dance houses, and sweathouses. Nisenan mortuary practices included cremation and burial in a separate cemetery area (Wilson and Towne 1978:392).

Like the majority of Native Californians, the Nisenan relied on acorns as a staple food, which were collected in the fall and then stored in granaries (Wilson and Towne 1978:389-390). These seasonally

mobile hunter-gatherers also relied on a wide range of abundant natural resources that were available in their territories. Large and small mammals, such as pronghorn antelope, deer, tule elk, black bears, cottontails, and jackrabbits, among other species, were hunted by individuals or by communal groups. Game birds, waterfowl, and fish, particularly salmon, were also important components of the Nisenan diet. In addition to acorns, plant resources included pine nuts, buckeye nuts, hazelnuts, fruits, berries, seeds, and underground tubers.

Similar to other California Native American groups, the Nisenan employed a variety of tools, implements, and enclosures for hunting and collecting natural resources (Wilson and Towne 1978:389-392). The bow and arrow, snares, traps, nets, and enclosures or blinds were used for hunting land mammals and birds. For fishing, they made canoes from tule, balsa, or logs, and used harpoons, hooks, nets, and basketry traps. To collect plant resources, the two groups used sharpened digging sticks, long poles for dislodging acorns and pinecones, and a variety of woven tools (seed beaters, burden baskets, and carrying nets).

Foods were processed with a variety of tools, such as bedrock mortars, cobblestone pestles, anvils, and portable stone or wooden mortars that were used to grind or mill acorns and seeds (Wilson and Towne 1978:389-390). Additional tools and implements included knives, anvils, leaching baskets and bowls, woven parching trays, and woven strainers and winnowers. Prior to processing, the acorns were stored in the village granaries.

The Nisenan and neighboring groups participated in an extensive east-west trade network between the coast and the Great Basin (Wilson and Towne 1978:391). From coastal groups marine shell (*Olivella* and abalone) and steatite moved eastward, while salt and obsidian traveled westward from the Sierras and Great Basin. Basketry, an important trade item, moved in both directions.

The traditional culture and lifeways of the Nisenan who inhabited the fertile plains between Sacramento and the Sierra foothills, were disrupted beginning in the early 1800s. Although Spanish explorers entered Nisenan territory as early as 1808, there is no record of the forced movement of Nisenan to the missions (Wilson and Towne 1978:396). During the Mexican period, native peoples were affected by land grant settlements and decimated by foreign disease epidemics that swept through the densely populated Central Valley. An epidemic that swept the Sacramento Valley in 1833 caused the death of an estimated 75 percent of the Valley Nisenan population, wiping out entire villages (Cook 1955:322).

In the heart of Nisenan territory, the discovery of gold in 1848 at Sutter's Mill on the American River near Coloma had a devastating impact on the remaining Nisenan, as well as other groups of Native Americans in the Central Valley and along the Sierra Nevada foothills (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:296). By 1850, with their lands, resources and way of life being overrun by the steady influx of non-native people during the Gold Rush, surviving Nisenan retreated to the foothills and mountains or labored for the growing ranching, farming, and mining industries (Wilson and Towne 1978:396). Nisenan descendants reside on the Auburn, Berry Creek, Chico, Enterprise, Greenville, Mooretown, Shingle Springs, and Susanville rancherias, as well as on the Round Valley Reservation (BIA 2015; California Indian Assistance Program 2011).

## **HISTORIC OVERVIEW**

### **Spanish, Mexican, and American Periods**

Post-contact history for the State of California generally is divided into three specific periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Although there were brief visits by Spanish, Russian, and British explorers from 1529 to 1769, the

beginning of Spanish settlement in California occurred in 1769 at San Diego. Between 1769 and 1823, 21 missions were established by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order along the coast between San Diego and San Francisco. The Spanish expeditions into the Central Valley in 1806 and 1808 led by Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga explored along the main rivers, including the American, Calaveras, Cosumnes, Feather, Merced, Mokelumne, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus. He is said to have named the lower Sacramento River and the valley region “Sacramento” (“the Holy Sacrament”) (Hoover et al. 2002:301). In 1813, Moraga led another expedition in the lower portion of the Central Valley and gave the San Joaquin River its name (Hoover et al. 2002:369). The abundance of wildlife, such as waterfowl, fish, and fur-bearing animals, within or along the banks of the rivers attracted immigrants to this region. The last Spanish expedition into California’s interior was led by Luis Arguello in 1817 and traveled up the Sacramento River, past the future site of the city of Sacramento to the mouth of the Feather River, before returning to the coast (Beck and Haase 1974:18, 20; Gunsky 1989:3-4).

After the end of the Mexican Revolution (1810–1821) against the Spanish crown, the Mexican Period is marked by an extensive era of land grants, most of which were in the interior of the state, as well as by exploration by American fur trappers west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Most of the land grants to Mexican citizens in California (*Californios*) were in the interior since the Mexican Republic sought to increase the population away from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish settlements had been concentrated. The largest land grants in the Sacramento Valley were awarded to John Sutter who had become a Mexican citizen. In 1839, he founded a trading and agricultural empire called New Helvetia that was headquartered at Sutter’s Fort near the divergence of the Sacramento and American rivers in today’s City of Sacramento (Hoover et al. 2002). Only a small portion of the 48,839-acre New Helvetia land grant was located in Sacramento County; the majority was located in today’s Sutter and Yuba counties on the east and west sides of the Feather River (Beck and Haase 1974:28).

The first American trapper to enter California, Jedediah Smith, explored along the Sierra Nevada in 1826 and in 1827, he entered the Sacramento Valley, traveling along the American and Cosumnes rivers. In 1827, Smith also traveled through the San Joaquin Valley. Other trappers soon followed, including employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1832 (Hoover et al. 2002:370). Between 1830 and 1833, and again in 1837, diseases introduced by the non-indigenous explorers, trappers, and settlers, as well as relocation to the missions, military raids, and settlement by non-native groups, decimated native Californian populations, communities, and tribes in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys (Cook 1955).

The American Period was initiated in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), and California became a territory of the United States. Gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill on the American River in Coloma the same year, and by 1849, nearly 90,000 people had journeyed to the gold fields. In 1850, largely as a result of the Gold Rush, California became the thirty-first state. Four years later, the bustling boomtown of Sacramento became the state capital. In contrast to the economic boom and population growth that enabled statehood, the loss of land and territory (including traditional hunting and gathering locales), malnutrition, starvation, and violence further contributed to the decline of indigenous Californians in the Central Valley and all along the Sierra Nevada foothills (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:296; Gunsky 1989).

### **Local History**

Placer County was organized in 1851 from parts of neighboring Sutter and Yuba counties, and named after its principal economy at that time, placer mining (Hoover et al. 2002:271). The City of Auburn, one of the earliest mining towns in California (first known as Woods Dry Diggings, then North Fork Dry Diggings), was designated the seat of justice when the county was created. Auburn continues to be the county seat today.

The earliest settlers in the general project vicinity arrived in the late 1840s, as miners poured into the region in search of placer deposits. By the mid-1850s the area was sparsely settled and dotted with small-scale ranches. By the mid-1860s, the construction and development of the railroad industry played a significant role in the region's development. The tracks of the Central Pacific Railroad (later Southern Pacific Railroad [SPRR]) reached Roseville and Rocklin in 1864 (Hoover et al. 2002:277). Roseville prospered as a principal rail head that provided the frontier towns with goods and services. When the SPRR moved its major locomotive terminal from Rocklin to Roseville in 1908, that town expanded to one of the largest railroad centers in the country.

The presence of the railroad also contributed to the growth of Placer County's agricultural industry, mainly fruits and nuts, since the rail line provided access to a large market east of the Sierra Nevada (Lardner and Brock 1924:228-237). Incorporated in 1906, the Pacific Fruit Express Company (PFE) was a joint SPRR and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) enterprise (Online Archive of California 2009). The company operated a number of ice plants and docks, as well as car and repair shops throughout the west, and shipped produce in ice refrigerated railcars. The first units of the Pacific Fruit Express Ice Plant were erected in 1909, and by 1920, it was known as the world's largest artificial ice plant (Placer County 2007a). The name of present-day PFE Road is derived from the company, which is now a UPRR subsidiary.

The first Dry Creek School was established in 1876 at the southeast corner of today's intersection of PFE Road with Cook Riolo Road approximately one-half west of the proposed project (Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District 2014-15). The one-room schoolhouse opened 20 years after the U.S. government granted 1,920 acres to the state in 1856 for school purposes, including all of Section 16 of Township 10 North, Range 6 East, under the California Enabling Act of 1853.

To the south of the proposed project, the town of Antelope on the SPRR route between Sacramento and Roseville in north-central Sacramento County was initially settled in the 1860s by many of the transcontinental railroad workers. The area west of the tracks remained rural with scattered residences between the railroad and PFE Road until significant growth occurred during the 1980s. The Antelope Community Plan and the East Antelope Specific Plan were adopted in 1985 and 1995, respectively, and together include capacity for over 13,000 residential units between Dry Creek on the west and the railroad on the east (Sacramento County Planning Department 1995). The northern border of the community is the Sacramento-Placer county line.

Immediately north of the Sacramento-Placer county line is the Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan Area, which includes the proposed project. The approximately 9,200-acre plan area is bounded by Baseline Road on the north, Sutter County to the west, Sacramento County to the south, and the City of Roseville to the east (Placer County Planning Department 1990). Since the Community Plan was adopted in 1990, a separate Placer Vineyards Specific Plan was approved in 2007 for the 5,230 acres west of Dry Creek (Placer County 2007b). The Specific Plan area thus excludes the proposed project. As indicated in the two plans, the primary land use in the area has historically been agricultural, with rice lands, vineyards, orchards, grazing land, and areas devoted to field crops, and some areas lying fallow for decades. While some neighboring land uses in the area include agricultural grazing, farming, and large rural-residential lots, the Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan Area is "distinctly different" from the more urbanized communities of Roseville and Antelope (Placer County Planning Department 1990:119).

Within the APE for the proposed Placer Greens project, the earliest available aerial photographs show the land was plowed for row crops by 1947 (NETR 2009-15). The 1947 aerial also shows crop rows on nearby properties and a large orchard on the land west of Antelope North Road. Cultivated fields are also depicted on either side of Dry Creek northeast of and outside the APE in Section 9 on the 1856 Government Land Office (GLO) Plat for Township 10 North, Range 6 East. Although the unnamed

precedents to today’s PFE and Antelope North roads are shown on the 1911 Antelope (1:31,650) USGS map, the land within the APE remains undeveloped with no buildings or structures.

## PRE-FIELD RESEARCH

### LITERATURE SEARCH METHODS

A cultural resources literature search was conducted by Natural Investigations Archaeologist Cindy Arrington at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Sacramento, on February 20, 2015. The records search was conducted to determine if prehistoric or historic cultural resources were previously recorded within the APE, the extent to which the APE had been previously surveyed, and the number and type of cultural resources within a 0.25-mile radius of the APE. The archival searches of the archaeological and historical records, national and state databases, and historic maps included:

- National Register of Historic Places: listed properties
- California Register of Historical Resources
- Historic Property Data File (HPDF) and Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (ADOE) for Placer County (2012)
- California Inventory of Historical Resources (1976 and updates)
- California Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates)
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates)
- 1856 Government Land Office (GLO) Plat for Township 10 North, Range 6 East
- 1911 Antelope (1:31,650) USGS quadrangle
- 1951 and 1967 Citrus Heights USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles

### LITERATURE SEARCH RESULTS

#### Prior Studies

The records search at the NCIC indicates six prior studies have been completed within the 0.25-mile search radius (Table 1). One of these previous studies included a portion of the APE; namely, Patti Palumbo Master’s thesis on her archaeological survey of Dry Creek (NCIC No. 251). The six investigations were completed between 1963 and 2009.

<b>NCIC Report No.</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Author and Year</b>	<b>Within APE</b>
251	Dry Creek: An Archaeological Survey and Site Report (Master's Thesis, Sacramento State College) (now California State University, Sacramento)	Patti J. Palumbo 1966	Partially within
658	An Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Antelope Industrial Park, Sacramento County, California	Eleanor H. Derr 1981	No
3024	East Antelope Specific Plan; Parkway Greens Rezone and Tentative Subdivision Map, Draft Environmental Report	Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment 1994	Adjacent on south
6254	Cultural Resources Survey of Haight Nursery Expansion, Placer County, California	Par & Associates 1988	No

**Table 1. Prior Studies within a 0.25-Mile Radius of the APE**

<b>NCIC Report No.</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Author and Year</b>	<b>Within APE</b>
8247	Cultural Resources Survey for the Coulter Tentative Parcel Map Project, Antelope Community, Sacramento and Placer Counties, California	SWCA Environmental Consultants 2007	No
10424	PG&E Line 123 Pipeline Replacement Project, Cultural Resources Assessment	Insignia Environmental 2009	No

### **Previously Recorded Resources**

The records search at the NCIC indicates one prehistoric archaeological site (P-31-000193, CA-PLA-67) has been previously recorded within the current APE. No other cultural resources have been previously documented within the quarter-mile search radius.

**P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67):** Recorded in 1961 by J. B. Mott, the site consists of a surface scatter of slab milling stones, handstones, bowl mortars, pestles, cooking stones, one grooved hammerstone or weight, and one drilled “balance stone” on the west side of a branch of Dry Creek. No projectile points, features, or burials were observed or recorded. The site is also described in Patti Palumbo’s Master’s thesis (1966, field identification #31-67) as one of the temporarily occupied archaeological sites located along Dry Creek. Palumbo states that only two artifacts, one mano and one pestle, were found during the survey by herself and Mott in 1965. Additional cultural items (“a few mortars, pestles, and metates”) that were previously scattered about the area had been collected by the property owners and “set about their residence” (Palumbo 1966:98). There was no water in the Dry Creek tributary when the site was recorded in March of 1961, and Mott concluded it was not an important site since water was not available year-round.

In addition to artifact collection, previous disturbance to CA-PLA-67 included agricultural plowing. The site record by Mott indicates the McBride family owned the property since at least 1871, and that artifacts were plowed up over the “entire ranch,” but most were found in the area designated as a site on the sketch map. A notation on the sketch map indicates the McBride Ranch was located approximately 3 miles southwest of Roseville, near the town of Antelope.<sup>1</sup> The site record states the land was owned in 1961 by A. T. McBride, and shows his residence located not far south of the site off Antelope North Road (sketch map has no scale). At the time of the 1965 survey by Palumbo and Mott, the area had not been cultivated “for many years” (Palumbo 1966:98).

### **SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**

Natural Investigations contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 17, 2015, requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File for traditional cultural resources within or near the APE. The reply from the NAHC, dated March 10, 2015, states that the search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands or traditional cultural properties in the immediate vicinity.

By letter dated March 9, 2015, Natural Investigations contacted each of the 13 Native American tribes or individuals provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage

<sup>1</sup> Thomas and Emma McBride married in 1879 and then moved to their 640-acre ranch, which was headquartered in Antelope (Placer County Genweb 2015). Arthur T. McBride was the eldest of four children born on the ranch. He sired five children, one of whom was Arthur T. McBride, Jr. McBride owned the land on which the site was mapped in 1961 and occupied the residence south of the site and outside the APE.

sites that might be impacted by the proposed project. If no response was received, follow-up telephone calls were made on March 23, 2015. To date, the following responses have been received from the contact list, and several messages have been left on voice mail.

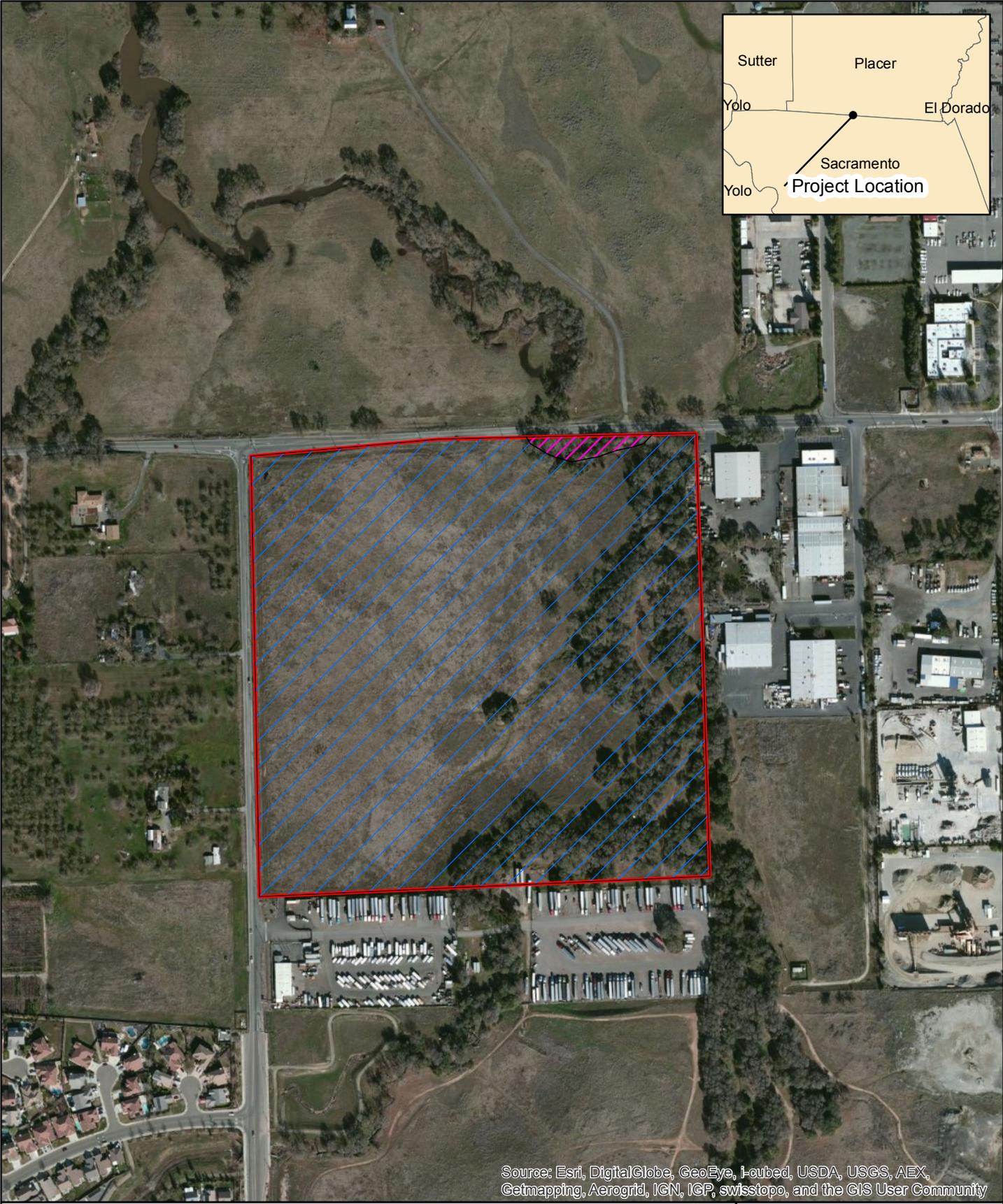
- Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Judith Marks: Ms. Marks responded via email on March 16, 2015, that the tribe has resources in the project vicinity and requests to monitor. Advised Ms. Marks via return email on the same day that we would keep them apprised of the project for monitoring efforts.
- Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Pamela Cubbler: Ms. Cubbler was copied on emails from and to Judith Marks on March 16, 2015.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Herron Olanio, Vice Chairperson: Mr. Olanio was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Daniel Fonseca, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO): Mr. Fonseca was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- T-si Akim Maidu, Don Ryberg, Chairperson: Mr. Ryberg was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- T-si Akim Maidu, Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson: Ms. Moon was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- T-si Akim Maidu, Grayson Coney, Cultural Director: Mr. Coney was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson: Mr. Whitehouse was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Jason Camp, THPO: Mr. Camp was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee: Mr. Guerrero was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.
- Rose Enos: On March 23, 2015, Ms. Enos indicated her primary concern is if burials are discovered during construction or ground-disturbing activities that she be contacted immediately.
- April Wallace Moore: Ms. Moore was unavailable on March 23, 2015; left voice mail.

All correspondence and a tracking record are included as Appendix A.

## **FIELD METHODS**

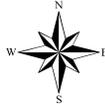
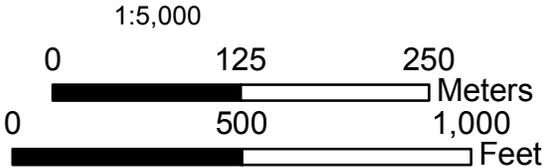
An intensive-level pedestrian survey within the APE was conducted by Natural Investigations archaeologists Cindy Arrington and Phil Hanes on February 25, 2015. Survey transects were spaced at intervals no greater than 15 meters. Except for a 0.88-acre area shown on Figure 2, the entire APE was carefully examined for the presence of cultural resources. This 0.88-acre area (545-foot long by 70-foot wide) along the northern APE boundary on the south side of PFE Road was not accessible for survey due to the density of the undergrowth and brambles along the Dry Creek tributary.

# Survey Coverage Map



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

-  Surveyed
-  Unsurveyable
-  APE



Placer Greens Project  
Figure 2



NATURAL  
INVESTIGATIONS  
COMPANY

All visible ground surface within the APE was examined for cultural material (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, or fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., postholes, foundations), or historic-era debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances (e.g., unpaved paths, cutbanks, animal burrows, etc.) were visually inspected. A series of surface scrapes to improve ground visibility were accomplished with a handheld trowel within and near the mapped location of the prehistoric archaeological site (P-31-000193, CA-PLA-67) previously recorded within the APE.

A digital camera was used to take photographs of the project area, showing ground surface visibility and items of interest. A handheld Trimble *GeoXT* global positioning system (GPS) unit with sub-foot accuracy was used to record locational data. Soil color was recorded using a Munsell® color chart.

## **FINDINGS**

### **SUMMARY**

No prehistoric or historic-era archaeological, ethnographic, or historic-era built environment resources were identified or recorded during the survey within the APE.

Prehistoric archaeological site P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67) previously recorded within the APE for the proposed project was not relocated during this survey. Ground visibility in the area of the site, which was mapped in 1961 as west of a Dry Creek tributary, was poor (less than two percent) due to the presence of dense grasses and several inches of oak leaf duff. Additional details are provided below.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SURVEYED AREA**

Open grassland dominates the majority of the APE with two unnamed northward-flowing Dry Creek tributaries along the eastern edge of the 45-acre property. Aerial photographs show the open grassland was formerly used for agriculture. Crop rows are visible on the 1947 aerial, the earliest available (NETR 2009-15), but may have been established earlier considering the unnamed precedents to today's PFE and Antelope North roads are shown on the 1911 Antelope (1:31,650) USGS map. The historic aerials also indicate the fields were left fallow after 1964. The two tributaries converge near the northeastern corner of the APE and then flow north through a box culvert under PFE Road to the main Dry Creek channel less than 0.5 mile to the north.

Except for three areas that have been graded and paved or graveled as parking areas associated with the industrial complex and trucking company bordering the APE, the land remains undeveloped with no buildings or structures. Approximately 1 acre combined, two of the parking areas are along the southern edge and one area along the eastern edge of the APE.

Ground visibility in the surveyed fallow field/open grassland area ranged from poor to good (< 2 to 50 percent), with an average visibility of approximately five percent. The grassland has dense weedy annual species, including ripgut grass, wild oat, ryegrass, spikeweed, and star thistle (Photograph 1). This grassland area, approximately 31 acres, is relatively flat, with gentle sloping from west to east. The area has been disked in the past, though does not appear to have been done recently. Several discrete modern trash piles were scattered about the open area, including an industrial cooling unit, a fiberglass tub and plastic tubing, and a car engine (Photograph 2). A relatively dense amount of paper and plastic litter was also found along the southern, western, and northern boundaries. In addition, there is a small group of

mature oak trees near the center of the fallow field/grassland. A moderate amount of debris (mattress, plastic sheeting, clothing, litter, etc.) associated with an abandoned homeless camp was present beneath the oak canopy.



Photograph 1. Overview of fallow fields/open grassland (view to northeast)



Photograph 2. Modern auto engine debris (plan view)

The approximate eastern third of the APE is dominated by the two Dry Creek tributaries. Vegetation cover includes annual grasses, brambles, and willows that choke the drainages, and by mature and young oak woodland along the banks (Photographs 3 and 4). Both tributaries contained flowing water at the time of this survey. The drainages are depicted in the same configurations as present-day on historic aerials (1947 and later) and maps (1911 Antelope, 1957 and 1967 Citrus Heights topographic quadrangles). The maps and aerials also confirm the drainage remained undisturbed by the bordering agricultural land use in the APE and neighboring properties to the south, east, and north.



Photograph 3. Overview of Dry Creek tributary (view to southeast)



Photograph 4. Oak woodland along Dry Creek tributaries (view to southeast)

The vegetated banks of the tributaries varied from mainly steep slopes to a comparatively vertical inclines (Photographs 3 and 5). Due to the density of the vegetation, ground visibility along the banks of the Dry

Creek tributaries was poor (2-10 percent). In the northeastern portion of the APE, the drainages were also littered with modern debris (tires, plastic, 55-gallon drums, car parts, glass bottles, and clothes) on the slopes and in the water. There are also numerous dirt paths leading to several abandoned homeless camps, which have large amounts of debris (clothes, sleeping bags, tents, mattresses, discarded food bottles and containers) scattered under the oak trees near the water. Near the southeast corner of the APE, there is an abandoned 1965 GMC truck on the western side of the bank (Photograph 6).



Photograph 5. Dry Creek tributary vertical bank (view to east)



Photograph 6. Abandoned 1965 GMC truck by Dry Creek tributary (view to north)

Both banks of the Dry Creek tributaries along the eastern third of the APE were carefully examined for the presence of cultural resources, including bedrock mortars, milling slicks, and any bedrock features, but none were identified. Multiple animal burrows present throughout the APE were also examined for cultural constituents. No archaeological resources were identified within the areas accessible for survey.

Soils are a brown sandy loam (5YR 5/3 moist) consistent with the Cometa-Fiddymont series complex. Wildlife observed during the survey included ground squirrels, black-tailed jack rabbits, chickens, wild turkeys, feral cats, a pheasant, Mallard ducks, and a large variety of migratory songbirds.

### **PREHISTORIC SITE P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67)**

P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67) was recorded in 1961 as a surface scatter of milling implements, cooking stones, one hammerstone, and one drilled “balance stone” on the west side of a Dry Creek tributary. The area was resurveyed in 1965 and only one mano and one pestle were found at what is described as a temporary occupation site (Palumbo 1966:98). The additional cultural items that had been previously scattered about the area and described in the 1961 site record had been collected by the property owners. In addition to artifact collection, CA-PLA-67 was previously disturbed by agricultural plowing. The site record states that artifacts had been plowed up over the ranch owned by the McBride family since 1871. At the time of the 1965 survey by Palumbo and Mott, the area had not been cultivated “for many years” (Palumbo 1966:98). This is consistent with the aerial photographs reviewed for the current study, which indicate the fields in the APE have been left fallow since 1964.

The site is mapped within the northeast corner of the APE west of the Dry Creek tributary and within the oak woodland. This portion of the APE was carefully examined, including by a series of surface scrapes to increase ground visibility, but no surface manifestation of the prehistoric site was located. Ground

visibility in the area of the site was poor (less than two percent) due to the presence of dense grasses and several inches of oak leaf duff.

An updated California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) series 523 form for the site will be prepared and filed with the NCIC after completion of construction monitoring of ground-disturbing activities, as recommended below.

## **DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS**

### **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

As mandated by NHPA Section 106, federal agencies must take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on such properties [36 CFR 800.1(a)]. Likewise, CEQA regulations state that “a Project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a Project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC Section 21084.1). “Substantial adverse change” means “demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired” [PRC Section 5020.1(q)].

If a cultural resource is determined eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, the provisions of Section 106 and CEQA require the lead agency to determine whether or not the proposed undertaking will have an effect, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1-2), upon that historic property or will result in a “substantial adverse change” to the historical resource as defined under PRC Section 21084.1.

According to federal regulations, “*Effect* means alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register” (36 CFR 800.16[i]). The criteria of adverse effect listed at 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1) are:

“an adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property’s eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.”

According to CEQA regulations, “a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC Section 21084.1). “Substantial adverse change” means “demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired” (PRC Section 5020.1(q)).

## **DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS**

There are no historic properties or historical resources present within the APE surveyed for the proposed project. Therefore, no historic properties or historical resources will be affected by implementation of the proposed project.

## **SENSITIVITY FOR DISCOVERY OF BURIED RESOURCES**

Considering the results of the literature search, local ethnographic settlement and subsistence patterns, and the prehistory and history of the area, the APE is considered highly sensitive for buried prehistoric or ethnohistoric cultural resources. The sensitivity for buried historic-era archaeological resources is considered low. One prehistoric site was recorded in the APE on the west side of two Dry Creek tributaries that flow northward on the eastern portion of the property. The main Dry Creek channel and an associated prehistoric village site are less than one half mile distant, and additional prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded along Dry Creek in the greater project vicinity in Placer County.

During the prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic periods, Native Americans established temporary resource gathering or processing camps or permanent settlements near fresh water sources. Watered locations also provided habitat for large and small game, waterfowl, and fish. Review of historic aerials and maps indicate the Dry Creek tributaries in the APE retain their historic configurations. In addition, the Nisenan who historically occupied this region relied on acorns as a staple food, and the oak woodland on the property today is undoubtedly similar to historic woodlands along Dry Creek. The milling implements recorded at the prehistoric site on the property are evidence of processing acorns or seeds for consumption. Although previously documented cultural material was limited to surface scatters, intact, buried cultural features or deposits may be present within additional areas within the APE that have not been previously heavily disturbed by agricultural land use or graded parking areas.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Prehistoric Site P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67)**

P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67) is a small, poorly defined, prehistoric site with a surface scatter of mainly milling implements that had been uncovered by plowing and artifact collection 50 years ago. Although no surface evidence of the site was found during the current survey and any prehistoric remains within the APE may be disturbed by agricultural land use and deposited in a secondary context away from their original location, setting and associations, monitoring during ground-disturbing activities within 100 feet (30 meters) of the recorded boundaries of this site is recommended. Monitoring by a qualified archaeologist would ensure any subsurface discoveries are protected, with any damage to such resources minimized, would ensure the resources are documented and evaluated, and would reduce the potential for adverse environmental impacts should significant discoveries occur.

### **Construction Monitoring and Unanticipated Discoveries**

Monitoring by a qualified archaeologist of ground-disturbing activities is recommended within the APE: (1) within 100 feet (30 meters) of the recorded boundaries of prehistoric site P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67); and (2) within the approximately 0.88-acre area that was covered with brambles in the northeastern corner along the Dry Creek tributary. The monitor shall meet the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology* (36 CFR Part 61; National Park Service 1983). Should cultural resources be encountered during construction or ground-disturbing activities connected with this project when an archaeological monitor is not present, work in the area must be halted within a 100-foot radius of the find and a qualified archaeologist (pursuant to the *Standards* at 36 CFR Part 61) shall be notified immediately to evaluate the resource(s) encountered. In the event of a discovery, ground-disturbing activities will halt within a 100-foot (30-meter) radius of the find to evaluate eligibility, assess effects, and potentially remove the find with consultation and approval by Meritage Homes and the relevant regulatory agencies (Placer County, USACE, State Historic Preservation Officer [SHPO], or any other relevant regulatory agency) of appropriate treatment measures.

Within this area, prehistoric and ethnohistoric materials might include flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, fire-affected rock, basketry, culturally modified animal bone, fishing implements, or soil darkened by cultural activities (midden). Historic-era materials might include agricultural or irrigation remnants, metal, glass, cans, or ceramic artifacts or debris.

### **Native American Monitor**

It is recommended that local Native American tribes or groups that have responded to the request for information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed project be apprised of the construction schedule and be afforded the opportunity to provide a tribal monitor at their discretion for construction or ground-disturbing activity in native soils or sediments within 100 feet (30 meters) of the recorded boundaries of prehistoric site P-31-000193 (CA-PLA-67).

### **Worker Cultural Awareness Training**

Natural Investigations further recommends that prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities, qualified archaeologists conduct a short awareness training session for all construction workers and supervisory personnel. The course would explain the importance of, and legal basis for, the protection of significant archaeological resources. Each worker would also learn the proper procedures to follow in the event cultural resources or human remains/burials are uncovered during construction activities, including work curtailment or redirection and to immediately contact their supervisor and the archaeological monitor. It is recommended that this worker education session include visuals of artifacts (prehistoric and historic) that might be found in the project vicinity, and that it take place on the construction site immediately prior to the start of construction.

### **Inadvertent Discoveries**

In the event that cultural resources, including human remains, are inadvertently discovered during project activities, work must be halted in that area within 100 feet (30 meters) of the find until a qualified archaeologist (36 CFR Part 61) can assess the significance of the find. Construction activities could continue in other areas. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted and would be discussed in consultation with Meritage Homes, and Placer County, USACE, or any other relevant regulatory agency.

### **Human Remains**

Procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains on non-federal lands in California have been mandated by Health and Safety Code §7050.5, PRC §5097.98 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15064.5(e) (CEQA). According to the provisions in CEQA, should human remains be encountered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the burial must cease, and any necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area must be taken. The Placer County Coroner will be immediately notified. If the Coroner determines the remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). Further actions will be determined, in part, by the desires of the MLD. The MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the NAHC of the discovery. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the MLD's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC.

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**APPENDIX A:  
Sacred Lands File Search**

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STATE OF CALIFORNIAEdmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100  
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
Fax (916) 373-5471



March 10, 2015

Cindy Arrington  
Natural Investigations Company  
6124 Shadow Lane  
Citrus Heights, CA 9562

Sent by Fax: (916) 848-3511  
Number of Pages: 3

Re: Placer Greens Project, Placer County.

Dear Ms. Arrington,

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Sanchez".

Katy Sanchez  
Associate Government Program Analyst

PS> On your letter head, your zip code is not complete.

**Native American Contact List  
Placer County  
March 10, 2015**

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Hermo Olanio, Vice Chairperson

P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682      Maidu

holanio@ssband.org

(530) 676-8010 Office

(530) 676-8033 Fax

Rose Enos

15310 Bancroft Road              Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603              Washoe

(530) 878-2378

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson

10720 Indian Hill Road              Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603              Miwok

(530) 883-2390 Office

(530) 883-2380 Fax

T' si-Akim Maidu

Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson

P.O. Box 1246                      Maidu  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 274-7497

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson

P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682      Maidu

nfonseca@ssband.org

(530) 676-8010 Office

(530) 676-8033 Fax

T' si-Akim Maidu

Grayson Coney, Cultural Director

P.O. Box 1316                      Maidu  
Colfax, CA 95713

akimmaidu@att.net

(530) 383-7234

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee

10720 Indian Hill Road              Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603              Miwok

mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com

(530) 883-2364 Office

(530) 883-2320 Fax

April Wallace Moore

19630 Placer Hills Road  
Colfax, CA 95713

(530) 637-4279

Nisenan - So Maidu  
Konkow  
Washoe

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 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Placer Greens Project, Placer County.

**Native American Contact List  
Placer County  
March 10, 2015**

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Daniel Fonseca, Cultural Resource Director  
P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle                      , CA 95682      Maidu  
(530) 676-8010 Office  
  
(530) 676-8033 Fax

T' si-Akim Maidu  
Don Ryberg, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1246                      Maidu  
Grass Valley , CA 95945  
(530) 274-7497

Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe  
Judith Marks  
1068 Silverton Circle              Miwok  
Lincoln                      , Ca 95648      Maidu  
(916) 434-7876  
(916) 759-8693

Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe  
Pamela Cubbler  
P.O. Box 734                      Miwok  
Foresthill                      , Ca 95631      Maidu  
(530) 320-3943  
(530) 367-2093 home

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Jason Camp, THPO  
10720 Indian Hill Road              Maidu  
Auburn                      , CA 95603      Miwok  
jcamp@auburnrancheria.com  
(916) 316-3772 Cell  
(530) 883-2390  
(530) 888-5476 - 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 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Placer Greens Project, Placer County.



**Native American Contact Tracking Sheet  
Meritage Homes –Placer Greens Project  
Placer County, CA**

<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Date Letter Sent</b>	<b>Date of Follow Up</b>	<b>Comments/Concerns/ Recommendations</b>
Rose Enos 15310 Bancroft Road Auburn, CA 95603 530-878-2378	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Spoke with Ms. Enos and her primary concern is if during construction (ground disturbing activities) burials are uncovered, she wishes to be contacted immediately.
April Wallace Moore 19630 Placer Hills Road Colfax, CA 95713 530-637-4279	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Ms. Moore was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if she had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
T-si Akim Maidu Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson P.O. Box 1246 Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-274-7497	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Ms. Moon was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if she had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
T-si Akim Maidu Don Ryberg, Chairperson P.O. Box 1246 Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-274-7497	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Ryberg was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
T-si Akim Maidu Grayson Coney, Cultural Director P.O. Box 1316 Colfax, CA 95713 530-383-7234	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Coney was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
United Auburn Indian Community Of the Auburn Rancheria Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee 10720 Indian Hill Road Auburn, CA 95603 530-883-2390	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Guerrero was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
United Auburn Indian Community Of the Auburn Rancheria Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson 10720 Indian Hill Road Auburn, CA 95603 530-883-2390	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Whitehouse was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.



<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Date Letter Sent</b>	<b>Date of Follow Up</b>	<b>Comments/Concerns/ Recommendations</b>
United Auburn Indian Community Of the Auburn Rancheria Jason Camp, THPO 10720 Indian Hill Road Auburn, CA 95603 530-883-2390	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Camp was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Herron Olanio, Vice Chairperson PO Box 1340 Shingle Springs, CA 95682 530-676-8010	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Olanio was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson PO Box 1340 Shingle Springs, CA 95682 530-676-8010	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Nicholas Fonseca was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Daniel Fonseca, THPO PO Box 1340 Shingle Springs, CA 95682 530-676-8010	March 9, 2015	March 23, 2015	Mr. Daniel Fonseca was unavailable, but a voicemail was left asking if he had any concerns or questions regarding the project to please call or email our office.
Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe Pamela Cubbler P.O. Box 734 Foresthill, CA 95631 530-320-3943	March 9, 2015	March 16, 2015	Ms. Cubbler was copied on the email from Ms. Marks regarding the Tribes concern about nearby resources. Ms. Cubbler was also copied on the return email (3/16/15).
Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe Judith Marks 1068 Silverton Circle Lincoln, CA 95648 916-434-7876	March 9, 2015	March 16, 2015	Received an email (attached) from Ms. Marks stating that Colfax-Todds Valley has resources in the vicinity of the project and are requesting to monitor. An email was returned (3/16/15) to Ms. Marks stating that we received their concern and would keep them apprised of the project for monitoring efforts.

**From:** [Judy Marks](#)  
**To:** [cindy@naturalinvestigations.com](mailto:cindy@naturalinvestigations.com)  
**Cc:** [Pamela Cubbler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Assemblage & Placer Greens Project  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 1:26:57 PM

---

Good day Cindy,

Thank you for the correspondence regarding the project near Sacramento County (North Antelope Road) and Placer County (Placer Greens) lines for a multi-residential home sites.

I am writing to let you know that we have cultural resources in the close vicinity which are of great concern and request to monitor this project should it continue.

Please feel free to contact me at any time and thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Marks  
(916) 759-8693  
MLD/Tribal Monitor for Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe