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October 15, 2026

Stefan Galvez-Abadia
California High-Speed Rail Authority

Via Email to: ***gilroy_wye@hsr.ca.gov***

Re: 2009022083, Gilroy to Central Valley Wye Project Segment of the San Jose to Merced Project Section, Merced, San Benito, and Santa Clara County

To Whom It May Concern:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has received the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) includes a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. To determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are tribal cultural resources within the project area.

Consultation with California Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project should occur as early as possible. Early consultation will assist in developing a plan for protecting tribal cultural resources and avoiding inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains.

For a list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with your project area, or for any questions or additional information regarding tribal consultation, please contact me at joshua.nowakowski@nahc.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Joshua Nowakowski

Joshua Nowakowski
Cultural Resources Analyst

cc: State Clearinghouse