

Appendix D

Cultural Resources Assessment

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08444.00002.001

Mr. Jim Alves, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
City of Modesto – Water Resources Engineering
1010 Tenth Street, Suites 4500 & 4600
Modesto, CA 95353

Subject: Cultural Resources Letter Report for the City of Modesto Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project, Modesto, Stanislaus County, CA

Dear Mr. Jim Alves:

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has prepared this Cultural Resources Letter Report for the proposed City of Modesto Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project (proposed project). The proposed project would consist primarily of: (1) modification of water supply well field pumping operations, i.e., wellfield optimization, to reduce contaminant levels in raw pumped groundwater; and (2) construction of five managed aquifer recharge (MAR) basins to increase the volume, i.e., recharge, of uncontaminated water within the aquifer system within the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California.

This letter report presents the results of a cultural resources assessment intended to evaluate the potential for the proposed project to significantly impact historical resources. The conclusions and recommendations presented herein are based on data from an archival records search, Native American outreach, and an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of five MAR basins. The Merle Avenue MAR Basin, Well 65 MAR Basin, and Ustach Park MAR Basin are located within the City of Modesto limits. The La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North and Parcel 2 South MAR Basins are located outside City limits; however, the two basins are located within the City's General Plan Boundary and Sphere of Influence (City 2019). The Project would use clean surface water for the MAR basins to improve groundwater sustainability and resiliency. The MAR basins are expected to operate for 20 years (2025 through 2045). The basins' water conveyance structures and site locations are described in more detail below and are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3. All figures are provided in Attachment A.

Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site

The proposed Merle Avenue MAR Basin is 5.50 acres and is located directly south of Merle Avenue on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 085-004-006. The Merle Avenue Site is an existing stormwater retention basin adjacent to Modesto Irrigation District's (MID) Moulton Lateral. Remnants of asphalt paving material exist in the area. The basin is surrounded by residential homes to the north, east, and west and residential homes and the Moulton Lateral to the south. The Merle Avenue Site would include the construction of a water conveyance to the basin by connecting a proposed 12-inch pipeline to an existing storm drain manhole located on the southeastern corner of the site. The proposed pipeline would connect to a proposed canal turnout off the MID Moulton Lateral Canal. The proposed pipeline would begin in the southeastern corner of the site and move southeast, along the Moulton Canal, until it reaches the canal turnout. The construction staging and materials storage area would be located southwest of the basin.

Well 65 MAR Basin Site

The proposed Well 65 MAR Basin is 0.75 acre and is located directly south of Merle Avenue on APN 077-007-021. The Well 65 Site is an existing stormwater retention basin adjacent to MID Moulton Lateral. The basin is surrounded by Orchard Elementary School and an existing water tank to the west, Orchard Elementary School and residential homes to the north, residential homes to the east, and commercial development, residential homes, and the Moulton Lateral to the south. The Well 65 Site would include the construction of a water conveyance to the basin by connecting a proposed 12-inch pipeline to an existing storm drain manhole located on the southeastern corner of the site. The proposed pipeline would connect to a proposed canal turnout off the MID Moulton Lateral Canal. The proposed pipeline would begin in the southeastern corner of the site and move southeast, along the Moulton Lateral Canal, until it reaches the canal turnout. The construction staging and materials storage areas would be located in a previously disturbed area, west of the basin.

Ustach Park MAR Basin Site

The Ustach Park MAR Basin is 3.00 acres and is located at the intersection of Kodiak Drive and Bear Club Lane on APN 077-009-053. The Ustach Park Site is an existing stormwater retention basin. The basin is surrounded by Ustach Park and residential homes to the north, Ustach Middle School to the west, and residential homes to the east and south. The Ustach Park Site would include the construction of a water conveyance to the basin by connecting a proposed 12-inch pipeline to an existing outfall structure located on the northeastern corner of the site. The proposed 12-inch diameter pipeline would begin along the eastern boundary of Ustach Park and move north until it reaches Hillglen Avenue. The pipeline would then move east along Hillglen Avenue until it reaches Roselle Avenue. The pipeline would then move north along Roselle Avenue until it reaches the proposed lift station located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Roselle Avenue and Sylvan Avenue. The proposed lift station would deliver water from the existing MID pipeline to the Ustach Park MAR Basin. The construction staging and materials storage area would be located in an area with an existing storm drainage pump station, southeast of the basin.

La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site

The La Coste Lane Parcel 1 (LCL P1) North MAR Basin is 12.00 acres and is located north of La Coste Lane and west of Frazine Road. The site would be located on APN 014-037-056. The LCL P1 North Site is comprised of fallowed agricultural lands that were formerly irrigated with water from MID Lateral Two. The basin is surrounded by residential homes and agricultural fields to the north and east, the existing LCL Tank and booster pump station, Southwest (SW) Basin, and open space to the west, and Alice Stroud Elementary School and open space to the south. The LCL P1 North Site would include the construction of a water conveyance to the basin by connecting a proposed aboveground, 12-inch pipeline to a proposed outfall structure located on the southwestern corner of the site. The proposed pipeline would connect to a proposed turnout and pump station off the MID Lateral Two. The proposed pipeline would begin on the southwestern corner of the site and move southwest until it reaches the proposed turnout and pump station. The pump station would deliver water from the MID Lateral Two to the LCL P1 North MAR Basin.

La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site

The La Coste Lane Parcel 2 (LCL P2) South MAR Basin is 7.00 acres and is located south of La Coste Lane, east of Norseman Drive, and north of Garst Road. The LCL P2 South Site is comprised of fallowed agricultural lands that were formerly irrigated with water from MID Lateral Number Two. The site would be located on APN 014-037-063. The basin is surrounded by the existing LCL Tank and booster pump station, SW Basin, and open space to the north, agricultural fields to the west, Alice Stroud Elementary School to the east, and agricultural fields, Dan Gonsalves Stadium, and MID Lateral Two to the south. The LCL P2 South Site would include the construction of a water conveyance to the basin by connecting a proposed aboveground, 12-inch pipeline to a proposed outfall structure located on the southeastern corner of the site. The proposed pipeline would connect to a proposed turnout and pump station off the MID Lateral Two. The proposed pipeline would begin in the southeastern corner of the site and move south until it reaches the proposed turnout and pump station. The pump station would deliver water from the MID Lateral Two to the LCL P2 South MAR Basin. The construction staging and materials storage area would be located directly south of the LCL P2 South Site, in an area with fallowed agriculture.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve groundwater sustainability and resiliency by addressing non-point source groundwater contamination from arsenic, nitrate, and uranium in the City and consists primarily of: (1) modification of water supply well field pumping operations, i.e., wellfield optimization, to reduce contaminant levels in raw pumped groundwater; and (2) construction of MAR basins to increase the volume, i.e., recharge, of uncontaminated water within the aquifer system.

The proposed project is located in Section 19 of Township 3 South and Range 10 East, as well as Sections 11, 13, and 14 of Township 3 South and Range 9 East and is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Riverbank* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (Figures 1 and 2 in Attachment A).

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is defined as the geographic area where proposed project activities may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties of prehistoric or historic age, if any such properties exist (Figures 1, 2, and 3; figures are

provided in Attachment A). The approximately 28.25 acres of combined APE for this project includes the area of permanent impacts associated with the proposed project.

ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

On March 23, 2023, an archival records search in support of the proposed project was conducted by the Central Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), located at California State University, Stanislaus. The records search addressed all portions of the APE plus a 0.25-mile radius around the APE (hereafter referred to as the study area). Sources of information examined through this records search included previous survey and cultural resources files; the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility; the OHP Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File; historical topographic maps; and historical aerial photographs.

Previous Studies

The CCIC records search identified six studies that have previously been conducted within 0.25-mile of the APE, but none of these studies included the current APE as part of their survey area. These studies are described briefly in Table 1 below.

Table 1
PREVIOUS STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN 0.25-MILE OF THE APE

Report	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Includes APE?
ST-00933	1980	Rondeau, M. F.	A Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Oakdale-Sylvan Road Widening Project, Stanislaus County, California	Caltrans District 10	No
ST-01644	1980	JHK and Associates	Historic Property Survey Report, Oakdale Road and Sylvan Avenue, Modesto	JHK and Associates, for Caltrans District 10	No
ST-05072	2001	Homsey, J.	Letter Report Regarding the Proposed Cricket Communications Wireless Facility Referred to as Orchard School, Stanislaus County, California (MOD-011-B, Merle Avenue, APN 077-07-21)	ATC Associates, Inc.	No
ST-05783	2005	Billat, L.	New Tower ("NT") Submission Packet, FCC Form 620, Project Name: Beyer, Number: CA-3237B, 2300 E. Briggsmore Avenue, Modesto, Stanislaus County, California	EarthTouch Inc.	No
ST-05864	2005	Losee, C.	Collocation Submission Packet, FCC Form 621, Cota Colima, FS-034-02, 1608 Wisdom Way, Modesto, Stanislaus County	Archaeological Resource Technology	No
ST-08139	2014	Wills, Carrie D. and Cher L. Peterson	Cultural Resources Records Search and Site Visit Results for Verizon Wireless Candidate West Basin, Hillglen Avenue at Ustach Park, Modesto, Stanislaus County, California	Michael Brandman Associates, Inc. for EBI Consulting	No

Previously Documented Resources

The CCIC records search identified one previously recorded cultural resource within 0.25-mile radius of the APE, but no previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the APE itself. The previously recorded cultural resource within 0.25-mile radius of the APE is described in Table 2.

Table 2
PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCE WITHIN 0.25-MILE OF THE APE

Primary	Trinomial	Year	Recorder	Description	In APE?
P-50-002006	CA-STA-000424H	2014	Vallaire, Katie, and Amanda Rose of LSA Associates, Inc.	Burlington Northern & Santa Fe (1996 to present); Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, including railroad line, ancillary buildings, and bridge	No

Resource P-50-002006, also known as the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad line, and associated ancillary buildings and bridge system, is located nearly 0.25-mile east of the La Coste Lane P1 North MAR Basin. When last recorded in 2014, this resource was found ineligible for listing on the NRHP, CRHR, or local designation through survey evaluation. Regardless, the activities associated with the proposed project are not anticipated to impact this resource.

HISTORIC MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic maps and historic aerial photographs were examined to provide an understanding of the APE's historic period land use. Historic topographic maps analyzed included a General Land Office (GLO) Plat Map for Township 3 South Ranges 9 and 10 East from 1854, a Stanislaus County Map from 1906, and USGS Quadrangle Maps for Riverbank from 1953 and 1969. The 19th century GLO maps and 1906 Stanislaus County Map did not show any signs of development within the APE. The USGS Quadrangle Maps from 1953 and 1969 show the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Sites in use as orchards. These maps also depict a few small individual structures in the vicinity of the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site, which were likely ancillary structures associated with agricultural efforts in these areas. A few small structures were also seen in the vicinity of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site within the 1953 and 1969 quadrangle maps.

Historic aerial photographs from 1957, 1967, 1984, 1985, 1998, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 were examined for the five different areas within the project's broader APE. The result of the analyses of these photographs are described separately for each of the five proposed basin improvement locations below.

Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site

Visual analysis of the historic aerial photographs revealed that between 1957 and 1998, the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site area was in agricultural use. As the aerial photographs from these periods reveal individual plants, rather than furrows or rows of indistinguishable plants, it seems likely that the area was used as an orchard. Photographs from 1998 and 2002 reveal that the basin was excavated and constructed sometime between those two years. Sometime between 2002 and 2005, the location of the proposed laydown area south of this basin was cleared and a structure, presumably a pump house

associated with the basin, was installed in the eastern portion of this cleared area. The Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site has remained in this condition since 2005.

Well 65 MAR Basin Site

Visual analysis of the historic aerial photographs revealed that the Well 65 MAR Basin Site area was in use as an agricultural field from 1957 through at least 1967. Sometime between 1967 and 1984, the site area was cleared, and it appears that preparations were made for the area to be converted into a basin. By 1998, the basin took its current form. Sometime between 1985 and 1998, the lots east of the Well 65 MAR Basin Site were developed into a residential neighborhood. Sometime between 1985 and 1998, the lot west of the Well 65 MAR Basin Site was developed into a water treatment facility. The lots north of the Well 65 MAR Basin Site were gradually cleared and developed into a parking lot and park between 1985 and 2005. The Well 65 MAR Basin Site has remained in this condition since 2005.

Ustach Park MAR Basin Site

Visual analysis of the historic aerial photographs revealed that the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site area was in use as an agricultural field from 1957 through 2002. The parcel immediately west of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site area was developed into school grounds sometime between 1985 and 1998. It is also clear from this analysis that the basin was excavated and constructed sometime between 2002 and 2005. During this time period, the area north of the basin was also cleared, and a sidewalk was installed around its perimeter, likely in association with the development of Ustach Park. During these same years, the area immediately east of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site area was developed into a residential neighborhood. Between 2005 and 2009, the lots south of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site area were also developed into residential neighborhoods. These conditions have remained constant in the area since 2009.

La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Sites

Visual analysis of the historic aerial photographs revealed that the La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site area and the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site area were used as agricultural fields between 1957 and 1985. As the aerial photographs reveal individual plants, rather than furrows or rows of indistinguishable plants, it seems likely that the area was used as an orchard. Sometime between 1985 and 1998, the water treatment facility located north of La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site and south/west of the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site was constructed. Around that same time, the La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site fell into disuse as an agricultural area and appears to remain out of use from 1998 and onward. Evidence of the use of the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site as an agricultural field is present in photographs of the area through 2020.

Ultimately, the only signs of development or structures within the vicinity of the APE during the historic period (unrelated to the extant basins in 3 of the 5 locations of the APE) identified through HELIX's historic map and historic aerial photograph analysis consisted of a few individual small structures found within the 1953 and 1969 USGS Quadrangle maps of the project vicinity. These structures were likely used in association with nearby agricultural efforts. Nonetheless, efforts to identify remains associated with such structures was a goal of the pedestrian survey.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

On March 23, 2023, HELIX requested that the NAHC conduct a search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the presence of Native American sacred sites or human remains in the vicinity of the APE. On March 30, 2023, HELIX received a response from the NAHC that indicated the SLF search returned negative results but that the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not necessarily indicate the absence of cultural resources within the project vicinity. As a result, the letter recommended that HELIX reach out to 13 Native American tribal representatives who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project vicinity. The recommended points of contact with Native American Tribes included:

- Gloria Grimes, Chairperson, Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
- Debra Grimes, Cultural Resources Specialist, Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
- A representative of the California Valley Miwok Tribe
- A representative of the California Valley Miwok Tribe/Sheep Rancheria of Me-Wuk
- Timothy Perez, North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Katherine Perez, Chairperson, North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Sandra Chapman, Chairperson, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
- Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist, Tule River Indian Tribe
- Neil Peyron, Chairperson, Tule River Indian Tribe
- Kerri Vera, Environmental Department, Tule River Indian Tribe
- Steven Hutchason, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Wilton Rancheria
- Jesus Tarango, Chairperson, Wilton Rancheria
- Dahlton Brown, Director of Administration, Wilton Rancheria
- Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson, Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band

On May 2, 2023, HELIX sent a letter to each of the tribal representatives listed above to request any information they may possess regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of the APE. As of the submission of this report, HELIX has received only one response, an email from Venesa Kremer of the Wilton Rancheria Cultural Preservation Department, dated May 12, 2023. In her email, Vanesa suggested that the Wilton Rancheria does not have any site records to share, or concerns to share regarding the project moving forward. However, she suggested that the project implement mitigation measures for inadvertent discoveries that might be made during construction. Such measures coincide with the inadvertent discoveries plan recommended by HELIX. All correspondence with the NAHC and Native American Tribal Representatives can be found in Attachment B.

FIELDWORK

Intensive Pedestrian Survey

On April 7 and 14, 2023, HELIX Staff Archaeologist Jentin Joe surveyed the project's APE where construction activities are anticipated to occur. The surveyor used transects spaced 15-meters apart to conduct a systematic investigation of the APE. During the survey, the ground surface of the APE was examined for artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, fire-affected rock, prehistoric ceramics), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a prehistoric cultural midden, soil depressions, and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations, wells) or historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). As the APE consists of five potential basin areas, the five areas are discussed separately below. Representative survey photographs are provided in Attachment C.

Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site

The Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site area was surveyed on April 14, 2023. It was found to consist of a fenced in area with a graveled interior perimeter and steep slopes coming down off this graveled walkway that slopes downward towards the basin. The slopes and interior of the basin are covered in short grasses, which afforded HELIX's surveyor between 20-40 percent ground surface visibility (Photograph 1 in Attachment C). Small standing pools were also observed in the center of the basin. The proposed laydown area southwest of this basin was also examined. It was found to consist of a flat, vacant lot which has likely been graded in the past and is now covered with gravel (Photograph 2 in Attachment C). The proposed water conveyance route, which emanates from the southeastern corner of the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, runs south for approximately 50 meters (m), and then runs east along the Moulton Lateral Canal for approximately 169 m, was also examined. These areas consisted of a cleared, graded, and graveled area on the northern border of the Moulton Lateral Canal. No cultural resources were encountered in association with the survey of the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site area, and the areas associated with the proposed project.

Well 65 MAR Basin Site

The Well 65 MAR Basin Site area was surveyed on April 14, 2023. The basin area was fenced in and has sloped edges on the interior of the fence line leading down to the basin. Most of the basin was covered in short grasses except for a graveled perimeter, paved driveway located in the southeastern corner of the basin, and center and bottom of the basin which consists of exposed dirt, weeds, and a pool of standing water (Photograph 3). Roughly 30-60 percent of the ground surface was visible during the pedestrian survey. Within the center of the basin is another small concrete framed culvert located toward the southwest and a concrete slab style drainage feature located towards the northern end. No cultural resources were encountered within the basin area. The associated laydown area located to the northwest of the basin was also examined and consisted of a cleared, graded, and graveled over area with a fenced in cell tower and water storage silo/pumpstation located to the adjacent southwest (Photograph 4). The planned route of water conveyance from the southeastern corner of the Well 65 Mar Basin Site to the Moulton Lateral Canal was also examined and found to consist of a small area of concrete (associated with the basin driveway) and a small stretch of the cleared, graded, and graveled area on the northern border of the Moulton Lateral Canal. No cultural resources were found in association with this route.

Ustach Park MAR Basin Site

HELIX surveyors examined the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, which was found to consist of a fenced in area with a fairly steep slope on all sides leading down to the basin itself. The basin and its sloped perimeter was found to be almost entirely covered in short grasses, affording roughly 30-60 percent visibility of the ground surface. The center of the basin contained weeds, many of which were dead, and small pools of standing water. A concrete driveway was also found emanating into the floor of the basin from the southeast of the basin (Photograph 5). A concrete framed culvert is located in the northeast corner of the basin and likely used for water flow management associated with the basin (Photograph 6). The Ustach Park Basin Laydown Yard, located to the adjacent southeast of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site was also examined and found to be an entirely paved over and fenced in area with no traces of cultural resources (Photograph 7).

The proposed water conveyance route, which emanates from the northeastern corner of the Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, cuts through Ustach Park to the north, turns east along Hillglen Ave, then left (north) up Roselle Ave and terminates at the corner of Roselle Ave and Sylvan Ave, was also examined, as well as the proposed pump house location at the northeastern corner of Roselle Ave and Sylvan Ave. No cultural resources were found along the route within Ustach Park, and the remainder of the conveyance route was found to lie within already paved roads, sidewalks, and/or developed rights of way. The pumphouse location was found to lie within a grassy field covered in knee high grasses offering 0-20 percent surface visibility. Within the location designated for the pump house, HELIX's surveyor encountered a concrete slab with a metal pole. These elements appeared to be modern in design and may be associated with current water management in the area (Photograph 8).

La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site

The proposed La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site was also examined on April 14, 2023. The field's landform is largely flat with berms bounding the southwest and southeast sides. At the time of survey, it was found to be covered in knee high (and in some places taller) grasses, affording HELIX's surveyor limited visibility (0-20 percent) (Photograph 9). Despite these conditions, HELIX's survey encountered a series of 4 drainage or irrigation maintenance features cutting across the proposed basin area from west to east. This series of drainage/irrigation features is recorded as the "La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features" site on the appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms, copies of which can be found in Attachment D of this report.

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1 consists of an "S" shaped series of cement laid walls, with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements (Photograph 10). From north to south, the cement walls measure 63 inches long, while the whole structure reaches 115 inches (9.58 ft) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum extend approximately 2 ft above the ground surface, although it is clear that they extend further beneath the surface. The two metal valves lie within the spaces of the "S" shaped walls. The metal adjustable valves are of identical design with 24-inch diameter bases and reach a height of 32 inches (2.66 ft) (Photograph 11).

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2 lies 134 ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1 and consists of an irregular series, almost a zig zag, of cement laid walls similar in height and construction materials to those found within Feature 1. Similar to Feature 1, Feature 2 also had two adjustable metal valves/water control elements of similar design and dimensions (Photographs 12 and 13). Overall, the outer (more northern) wall associated with Feature 2 measured 3.42 ft (41 inches) from northwest to southeast, before cutting back due north for 6.42 ft (77 inches) then runs due east for 2.58 ft (31 inches), before cutting to the southeast for approximately 4 ft (48 inches). The inner (more southern) wall measures approximately 2.75 ft (33 inches) running from the southwest to the northeast, before cutting back to the southeast for another 2.75 ft (33 inches). As was the case with Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, it is clear that the walls associated with this feature extend beneath the ground surface. The top of the northwestern most wall of this feature contains an etched inscription of "1961" which is presumably the structure's construction date (Photograph 14).

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3 lies 150 ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2. Like Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3 consists of another "S" shaped series of cement laid walls, running west to east, with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements (Photograph 15). From north to south, the cement walls measure approximately 5.67 ft (68 inches) long, while the whole structure reaches 9.08 ft (109 inches) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum above the ground surface ranges from 2 ft to 5 ft, and it is clear that they extend beneath the ground surface. Like Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, Feature 3 also contains 2 metal adjustable valves, lying within the spaces of the "S" shaped walls. The more western of the two valves is of a slightly different design than the more eastern of the two (which is virtually identical to those found within Features 1 and 2), with the iron cross bar lying closer to the ground, and a shorter handle at the top (Photograph 16). Approximately 10 ft south of Feature 3 lies a horizontally oriented pile of disarticulated cement rubble (Photograph 17). While there is no direct evidence that this rubble is associated with the feature, some form of the relationship cannot be ruled out, as little more is known about the history of the feature. The top of the northwestern most wall of this feature contains an etched inscription of "1954" which is presumably the structure's construction date (Photograph 18).

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4 lies 190 ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3. Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4 consists of a reverse "S" shaped series of cement laid walls running west to east with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements (Photograph 19). Similar to Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, from north to south, the cement walls of Feature 4 measure approximately 5.67 ft (68 inches) long, while the whole structure reaches 9.08 ft (109 inches) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum above the ground surface ranges from 2 ft to 5 ft, and it is clear that they extend beneath the ground surface. The more western of the two valves is of a slightly different design than the more eastern of the two (which is virtually identical to those found within Features 1, 2, and 3), with the iron cross bar lying closer to the ground, and a shorter handle at the top. Approximately 10 ft south of Feature 3 lies a horizontally oriented pile of disarticulated cement rubble (Photograph 20). While there is no direct evidence that this rubble is associated with the feature, some form of the relationship cannot be ruled out, as little more is known about the history of the

feature. The top of the northwestern most wall of this feature contains an etched inscription of “1947” which is presumably the structure’s construction date (Photograph 21).

In addition to the four drainage/irrigation features found within the central eastern portion of La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin, two additional drainage/irrigation features were noted along the southern fence line of the northwestern most portion of La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, just adjacent north to the water treatment facility. These two features were found approximately 215 ft apart with their openings facing to the north. These features were somewhat similar in design to those associated with the Drainage/Irrigation Site in La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, though they were U-shaped in design and possess only 1 metallic drainage valve each (Photographs 22 and 23). These additional drainage features were not found to possess any etchings that might suggest their date of construction, and the smooth cement contours and fully intact nature of these resources also suggest that they might be considerably more recent constructions than those recorded as part of the “La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features” site. There does, however, remain the potential that these additional drainage features are associated with those recorded as part of the site.

La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site

The proposed La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site was examined on April 14, 2023. At the time of survey, the field was found to be a flat parcel and overgrown with tall grasses and knee-high shrubs affording the surveyor relatively poor ground surface visibility (10-30 percent) (Photograph 24). No traces of cultural resources were encountered during the survey of this area. The proposed water conveyance route, intended to emanate from the southwestern corner of the proposed La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, before running along the eastern side of the La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site, and connecting with a proposed water conveyance line which would emanate from the southeastern corner of the La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site, before following a route south to Lateral Number Two, just south of Garst Rd, was also examined, as was the proposed pump house area just to the north of the Lateral Number Two. The proposed pump house area is located just adjacent north of the Lateral Number Two in an area that has been cleared, graded, and graveled over (Photograph 25). No cultural resources were found within any of the areas associated with the proposed La Coste Lane Parcel 2 MAR Basin Site area.

CONCLUSIONS

HELIX’s CCIC records search revealed that six cultural resource studies have been previously conducted within 0.25-mile of the APE, and that none of these studies overlapped with portions of the current APE. This record search also demonstrated that one previously recorded resource has been documented within 0.25-mile of the APE, P-50-002006 (CA-STA-000424H) the Burlington Northern & Sante Fe Railroad. This resource has been recommended as ineligible for listing in NRHP and CRHR and is not anticipated to be affected by the proposed project.

On March 23, 2023, HELIX requested that the NAHC conduct a search of their SLF for the presence of Native American sacred sites or human remains in the vicinity of the proposed project area. On March 30, 2023, HELIX received a response from the NAHC that indicated the SLF search returned negative results but that the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not necessarily indicate the absence of cultural resources within the project vicinity. As a result, the letter recommended that HELIX reach out to 13 Native American tribal representatives who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project vicinity. On May 2, 2023, HELIX sent a letter to each of the tribal representatives

listed above to request any information they may possess regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of the APE. As of the submission of this report, HELIX has received only one response, an email from Vanesa Kremer of the Wilton Rancheria Cultural Preservation Department, dated May 12, 2023. In her email, Vanesa suggested that the Wilton Rancheria does not have any site records to share, or concerns to share regarding the project moving forward. However, she suggested that the project implement mitigation measures for inadvertent discoveries that might be made during construction. Such measures coincide with the inadvertent discoveries plan recommended by HELIX.

On April 7, and 14, 2023, HELIX Staff Archaeologist Jentin Joe surveyed the project's APE where construction activities are anticipated to occur. Using 15-meter transects, the ground surface of all 5 proposed basin areas (Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, Well 65 MAR Basin Site, Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site) as well as the proposed locations for pump houses, water conveyances, and construction laydown areas for the five proposed basin improvement areas were thoroughly inspected.

No signs of cultural resources were encountered within the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, Well 65 MAR Basin Site, Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site and their construction laydown areas. However, within the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site, HELIX's surveyor encountered a series of four drainage or irrigation maintenance features cutting across the proposed basin area from west to east. This series of drainage/irrigation features was recorded as the "La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features" site on the appropriate DPR forms, copies of which can be found in Attachment D of this report. A series of numbers etched into the cement walls on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th drainage/irrigation features (1961, 1954, and 1947, respectively) may well be construction dates for the features, suggesting that these drainage/irrigation features were built during the mid-20th century. From HELIX's pedestrian investigation of these features, it was also clear that the features extended for some distance beneath the ground surface. A pile of cement rubble potentially associated with the drainage/irrigation features was also noted in the vicinity of Feature 3.

In addition to these findings, two smaller and seemingly undated drainage/irrigation features were also located along the southern boundary of the northwestern extent of the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site. Due to the presence of previously unrecorded resources within the La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features which likely date to the early to mid-20th century, and since these features clearly possess intact subsurface components and show signs of potentially consisting of additional, unrecorded components, HELIX recommends that the La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site as culturally sensitive and advises against the demolition of these features until they are formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP and CRHR by a qualified architectural historian, and recommended as ineligible for listing in either of the two registries. Details on how this recommendation might be implemented are provided below.

In addition to the formal evaluation of the "La Coste Field 1 Drainage Irrigation Features" site, HELIX also recommends that a Worker Awareness Training Program as well as an Accidental Discovery of Human Remains and Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources protocols be implemented for any proposed ground disturbing activities that would take place within the Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site, Well 65 MAR Basin Site, Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, and La Coste Lane Parcel 2 South MAR Basin Site. Details on how these recommendations might be implemented are provided below.

Formal Evaluation of the “La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features” Site

Prior to the resource’s demolition, modification, or disturbance through project activities The “La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features” site recorded within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site shall be formally evaluated for its eligibility for listing in the CRHR or NRHP by a Secretary of the Interior Qualified Architectural Historian. The Architectural historian shall record details from the resource on the appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms, take additional measurements of and photographs of the resource (as needed), and conduct additional archival research as necessary (at State and local archives as is deemed necessary) to evaluate the resource against the four criteria of eligibility for listing in the CRHR or NRHP. In the event that the resource is found to be eligible for listing, demolition, alteration of, or modifications to the resource shall be entirely avoided, and project designs shall be altered to ensure that the resource is not impacted by project activities.

Accidental Discovery of Human Remains

Although considered highly unlikely, there is always the possibility that ground-disturbing activities during construction may uncover previously unknown human remains. In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, PRC Section 5097.98 must be followed. Once project-related earthmoving begins and if there is a discovery or recognition of human remains, the following steps shall be taken:

1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the specific location or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the County Coroner is contacted to determine if the remains are Native American and if an investigation of the cause of death is required. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American, the coroner shall contact the NAHC within 24 hours, and the NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the “most likely descendant” of the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains, and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98, or
2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or their authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity either in accordance with the recommendations of the most likely descendent or on the project area in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance:
 - The NAHC is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being notified by the commission;
 - The descendent identified fails to make a recommendation; or
 - The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent, and the mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.

Worker Awareness Training Program

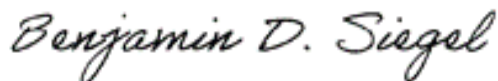
All construction personnel involved in ground-disturbing activities shall be trained in the recognition of possible cultural resources and the protection of such resources. The training will inform all construction personnel of the procedures to be followed upon the discovery of archaeological materials, including Native American burials. Construction personnel will be instructed that cultural resources must be avoided and that all travel and construction activity must be confined to designated roads and areas. The training will include a review of the local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to cultural resources, as well as instructions on the procedures to be implemented should unanticipated resources be encountered during construction, including stopping work in the vicinity of the find and contacting the appropriate environmental compliance specialist.

Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event that cultural resources are exposed during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities shall be halted within 100 feet of the discovery. Cultural resources could consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, wood, or shell artifacts, or features, including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If the resources cannot be avoided during the remainder of construction, the retained archaeologist, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, shall assess the resource, and provide appropriate management recommendations. If the discovery proves to be CRHR- or NRHP-eligible, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted and shall be discussed in consultation with the Lead Agency.

If you have any questions regarding the approach, methodology, results, or conclusions of this CRA, please do not hesitate to contact me at BenS@helixepi.com.

Sincerely,



Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Figures
- Attachment B – Native American Correspondence
- Attachment C – Representative Site Photographs
- Attachment D – DPR Forms

Letter to Mr. Jim Alves
August 22, 2023

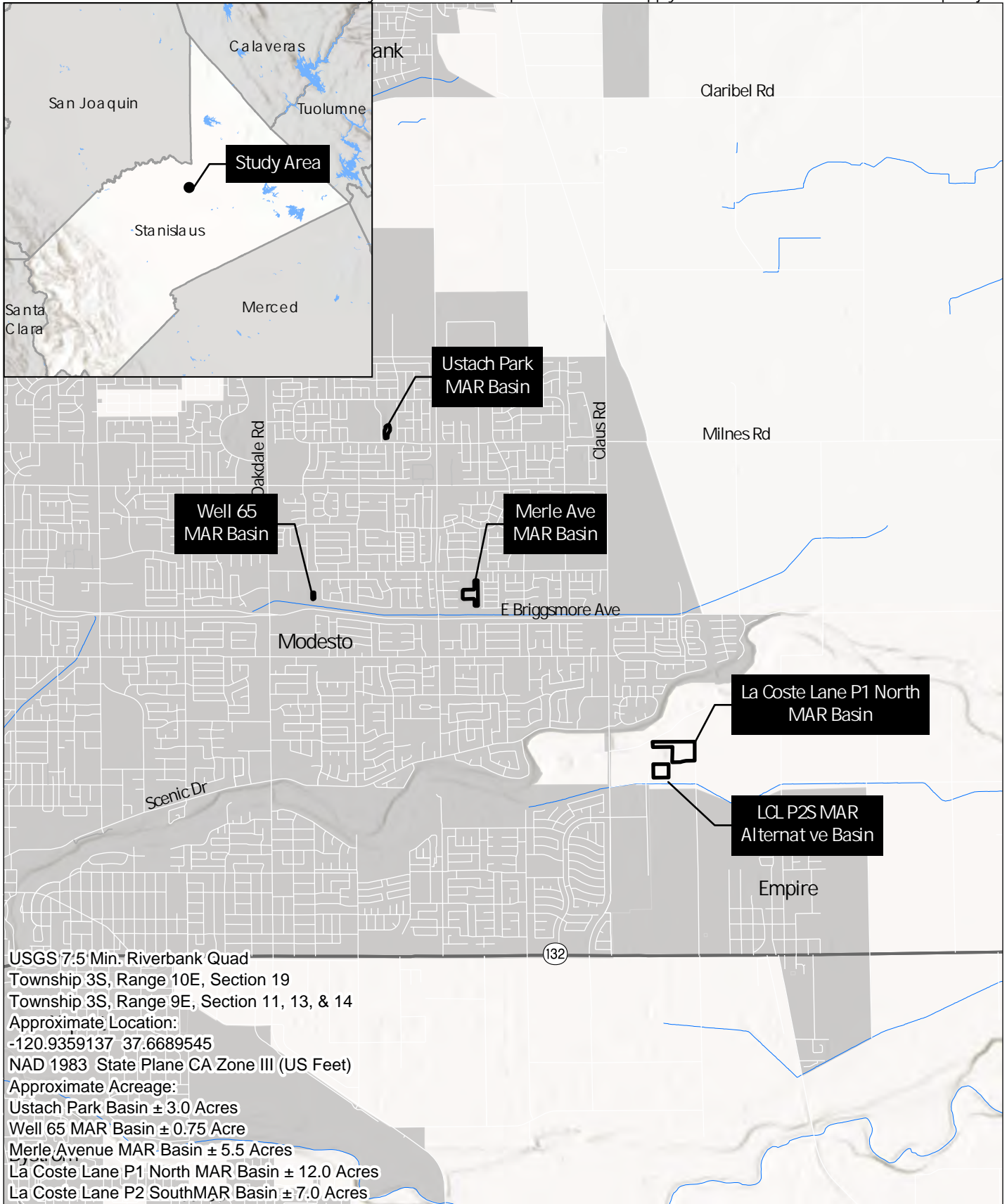
REFERENCES

City of Modesto. 2019. City of Modesto General Plan. Adopted March 5. Available at: <https://www.modestogov.com/2069/General-Plan>. Accessed March 2023.

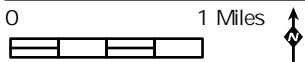
NETROnline. 2023. Historic Aerials. Electronic resource, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>. Accessed April 26, 2023.

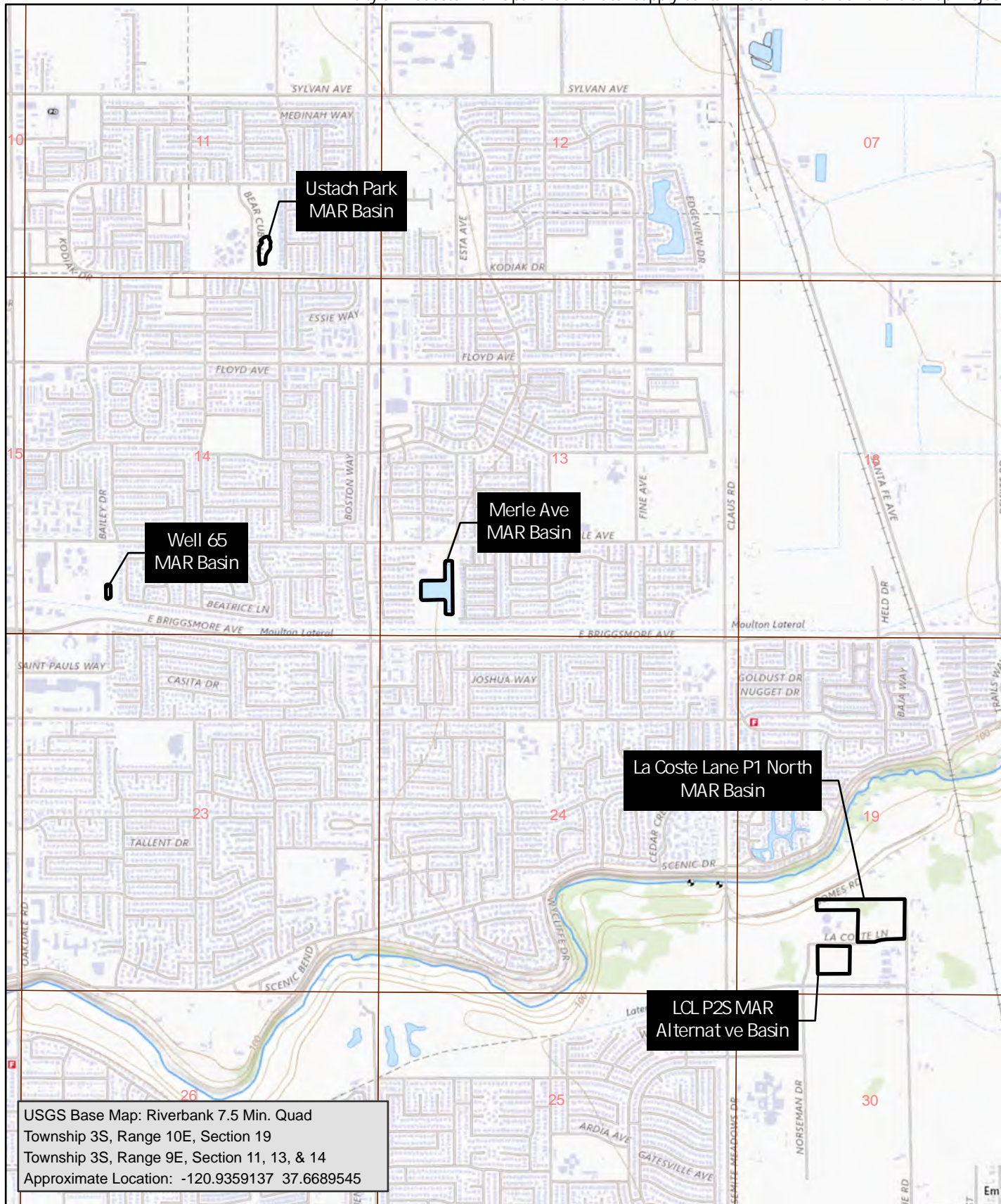
Attachment A

Figures

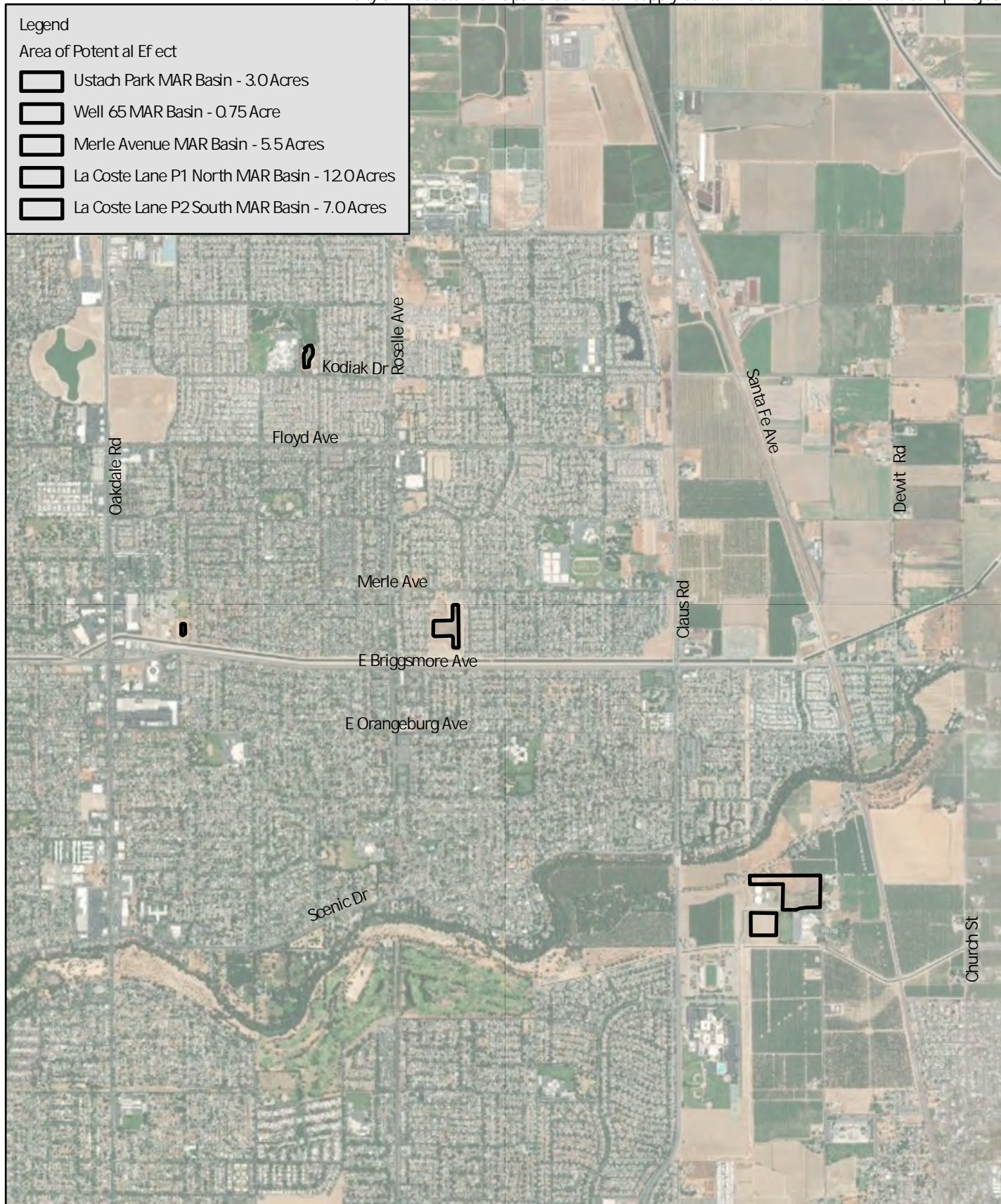


Source: Base Map Layers (Esri, USGS, NGA, NASA)





Source: USGS, The National Map, 2021



Attachment B

Native American Correspondence

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



May 3, 2023

Dahlton Brown, Director of Administration
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Director Brown,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

The Project would construct five managed aquifer recharge (MAR) basins and the associated water conveyance in the City of Modesto in order to increase the volume of uncontaminated water within the aquifer system. The proposed basins include: a Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site (an existing stormwater basin of 5.5 acres would be improved and expanded on the southern side of Merle Ave on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 085-004-006 with 3.5 acres of the existing basin needing 6 inches of soil removed), a Well 65 MAR Basin Site (expanding an existing stormwater basin on the south side of Merle Ave on APN 077-007-021 with 0.25 acre of existing basin needing 3 inches of soil removed) a Ustach Park MAR Basin Site (a stormwater retention basin of 3.0 acres at the intersection of Kodiak Dr and Bear Club Ln, on APN 077-009-053, with 1.6 acres of existing basin needing 6 inches of soil removed), a La Coste Ln P1 North MAR Basin Site (at a fallow agricultural field, 12 acres in size, located north of La Coste Ln and west of Franzie Rd, with 3 inches of soil removal anticipated); and a La Coste Ln P2 South MAR Basin Site (at a fallow agricultural site 7 acres in size, located south of La Coste Ln, east of Norseman Dr and north of Garst Road, with 3 inches of soil removal for 4.5 acres of the site anticipated).

The Project Area(s) are depicted on the attached map. They are located within portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, and 19 of Township 3 South, Ranges 9 and 10 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, and is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Riverbank, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

If there are sensitive resources on or near the proposed project location that could be impacted by project development activities, please advise us accordingly. Please note that this request is for informational purposes only. If you have any information, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed project, please feel free to contact me directly at bens@helixepi.com or over the phone at 404-312-5883.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin D. Siegel".

Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
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May 3, 2023

Sandra Chapman, Chairperson
Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
P.O. Box 186
Mariposa, CA 95338

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Chairperson Chapman,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Siegel

Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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May 3, 2023

Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Joey Garfield,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Siegel

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HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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May 3, 2023

Debra Grimes, Cultural Resources Specialist
Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
P.O. Box 1015
West Point, CA 95255

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Debra Grimes,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel

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May 3, 2023

Gloria Grimes, Chairperson
Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
P.O. Box 899
West Point, CA 95255

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Chairperson Grimes,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel

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Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
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May 3, 2023

Steven Hutchason, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Steven Hutchason,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
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May 3, 2023

Katherine Perez, Chairperson
North Valley Yokuts Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA 95236

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Chairperson Perez,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Siegel

Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



May 3, 2023

Timothy Perez
North Valley Yokuts Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA 95236

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Timothy Perez,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

The Project would construct five managed aquifer recharge (MAR) basins and the associated water conveyance in the City of Modesto in order to increase the volume of uncontaminated water within the aquifer system. The proposed basins include: a Merle Avenue MAR Basin Site (an existing stormwater basin of 5.5 acres would be improved and expanded on the southern side of Merle Ave on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 085-004-006 with 3.5 acres of the existing basin needing 6 inches of soil removed), a Well 65 MAR Basin Site (expanding an existing stormwater basin on the south side of Merle Ave on APN 077-007-021 with 0.25 acre of existing basin needing 3 inches of soil removed) a Ustach Park MAR Basin Site (a stormwater retention basin of 3.0 acres at the intersection of Kodiak Dr and Bear Club Ln, on APN 077-009-053, with 1.6 acres of existing basin needing 6 inches of soil removed), a La Coste Ln P1 North MAR Basin Site (at a fallow agricultural field, 12 acres in size, located north of La Coste Ln and west of Franzie Rd, with 3 inches of soil removal anticipated); and a La Coste Ln P2 South MAR Basin Site (at a fallow agricultural site 7 acres in size, located south of La Coste Ln, east of Norseman Dr and north of Garst Road, with 3 inches of soil removal for 4.5 acres of the site anticipated).

The Project Area(s) are depicted on the attached map. They are located within portions of Sections 11, 13, 14, and 19 of Township 3 South, Ranges 9 and 10 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, and is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Riverbank, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

If there are sensitive resources on or near the proposed project location that could be impacted by project development activities, please advise us accordingly. Please note that this request is for informational purposes only. If you have any information, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed project, please feel free to contact me directly at bens@helixepi.com or over the phone at 404-312-5883.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin D. Siegel".

Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



May 3, 2023

Representative of the California Valley Miwok Tribe
14807 Avenida Central
La Grange, CA 95329

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Representative,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Siegel

Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
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1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



May 3, 2023

Representative of the California Valley Miwok Tribe
Sheep Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of CA
P.O. Box 395
West Point, CA 95255

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Representative,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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May 3, 2023

Jesus Tarango, Chairperson
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Chairperson Tarango,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel

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Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
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May 3, 2023

Kerri Vera
Environmental Department
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Kerri Vera,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
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May 3, 2023

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Have Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

08444.00002.001

Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Dear Chairperson Woodrow,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) is preparing a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) located in the City of Modesto (City), Stanislaus County, California. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Lands File returned negative results, and the NAHC has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Benjamin D. Siegel, M.A., M.A., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Project Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

From: [Venesa Kremer](#)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:17 PM
To: [Ben Siegel](#)
Subject: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project
Attachments: [Mitigation Measures for Inadvertant Discoveries.pdf](#)

May 12, 2023

RE: City of Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project

Hello Ben-

Wilton Rancheria has received notice of the above-mentioned project. Currently, we have no site records to share and no concerns with this project moving forward. However, I am attaching our mitigation measures for inadvertent discoveries for you to please add to your future construction plan. Please reach back out to us if you have any questions or concerns or in the event of a tribally related discovery during construction. Thank you for your time and consideration of our tribal concerns. Appreciatively,

Venesa Kremer

Lead Monitor

Cultural Resources Assistant

Wilton Rancheria- Cultural Preservation Department

Tel: 916.683.6000 ext.2023

9725 Kent St. Elk Grover CA 95624

vkremer@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

cdp@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov



Mitigation Measures for Inadvertent Discoveries

If potential tribal cultural resources (TCRs), archaeological artifacts, other cultural resources, articulated, or disarticulated human remains are discovered during construction activities, all work will cease within 100 feet of the find (based on the apparent distribution of the resources. Examples of potential cultural materials include but are not limited to midden soils, artifacts, chipped or worked stone, baked clay, shell, or bone.)

A Native American Representative from the federally recognized, Wilton Rancheria will assess the significance of the find and make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment if necessary. Culturally appropriate treatment that preserves or restores the cultural qualities and integrity of a Tribal Cultural Resource may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, construction monitoring of any further activities by a tribal representative, and or returning the objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts.

Wilton Rancheria does not consider curation of TCRs to be appropriate or respectful and requests that materials not be permanently curated, unless specifically requested by the Tribe.

If any human remains are discovered during construction activities, the County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted immediately. Upon determination by the County Coroner that the remains are Native American in origin, the Native American Heritage Commission will assign the Most Likely Descendant(s) (MLD) who will work the project proponents to define proper treatment and disposition.

After review of the find and consultation with the MLD, the authority to proceed may be accompanied by the addition of development requirements which provide for protection and preservation of the site and/or additional measures necessary to address the sensitive and unique nature of the site. All treatment recommendations made by the tribe and other cultural resources specialists will be documented in the confidential portion of the project record. Work in the area(s) of the cultural find may only proceed after authorization from the lead agency in coordination with the Tribe.

Please reach out to the tribe by using the contact information listed below. We appreciate your compliance and understanding in our endeavors to protect and preserve our tribal cultural resources.

Venesa Kremer

Cultural Resource Assistant

Lead Monitor

Wilton Rancheria- Cultural Preservation Department

Tel: 916.683.6000 ext. 2023

vkremer@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

cpd@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

March 30, 2023

Ben Siegel
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

Via Email to: BenS@helixepi.com

Re: Trihydro/Modesto Groundwater Recharge Project, Stanislaus County

Dear Mr. Siegel:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF 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.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. 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. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
[VAVANT]

COMMISSIONER
[VACANT]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

Attachment C

Representative Site Photographs

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com

HELIX
Environmental Planning



Photograph 1 – Overview of Merle Basin, from Northwest, facing Southeast.



Photograph 2 – Overview of Merle Basin Laydown Area, from Northwest, facing Southeast



Photograph 3 – View of Well 65 Mar Basin, taken from Southeast, facing Northwest



Photograph 4 – View of Well 65 Mar Basin Laydown Area, taken from Northwest corner, facing Southwest



Photograph 5 – Overview Ustach Park MAR Basin Site, from Northwest corner, Facing Southeast



Photograph 6 – View of Concrete Framed Culvert in Northeast Corner of Ustach Park MAR Basin, taken from Northwest Corner, facing East.



Photograph 7 – View of Proposed Laydown Area for Ustach Park MAR Basin, facing South



Photograph 8 – View of Concrete Slab within Proposed Pumphouse Area for Ustach Park Mar Basin, facing Southeast



Photograph 9 – Overview of La Coste Field 2, from Northeast corner, facing Southwest



Photograph 10– Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from Southwest, facing Northeast



Photograph 11 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from Northwest, facing Southeast



Photograph 12 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from Southwest, Facing Northeast



Photograph 13 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from Northwest, Facing Southeast



Photograph 14 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, Closeup of Top of Northwest Wall, Facing Northwest



Photograph 15 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from Northwest, Facing Southeast



Photograph 16 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, from North, Facing South



Photograph 17 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, showing Rubble Pile to South, from Southeast, Facing Northwest



Photograph 18 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, within La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North Mar Basin, Closeup of Top of Northwest Wall, from South, Facing North



Photograph 19 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4, from Northwest, Facing Southeast



Photograph 20 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4, from Southwest, Facing Northwest



Photograph 21 – Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4, Closeup of Top of Northwest Wall, from South, Facing North



Photograph 22 – Additional Drainage/Irrigation Feature #1 from North, Facing South



Photograph 23 – Additional Drainage/Irrigation Feature #2 From North, Facing South



Photograph 24 – Overview of proposed La Coste Field 2 Basin Area, from Northeast corner, facing Southwest



Photograph 25 – View of Proposed Pumphouse Area for La Coste Field 1 and 2 Basin Areas

Attachment D

DPR Forms

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 7

*Resource Name or #: La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Stanislaus County

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverbank

Date: 1987 T 3S ; R 10E ; NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 19 ; M.D.

B.M.

c. Address: La Coste Ln

City: Modesto

Zip: 95357

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; 684039 mE/ 4169655 mN (G.P.S.) 37.655629 - 120.91.3655

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:

Resource is within a field, accessible from La Coste Lane. Field is referred to as La Coste Lane Parcel 1 North MAR Basin Site.

*P3a. **Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) The resource consists of a series of 4 similar drainage/irrigation features, spanning from west to east within the central portion of a former orchard/agricultural field. The cement walls of 3 the 4 features have dates etched into them, presumably construction dates. Feature 2 has "1961" etched into it, Feature 3, has "1954", and Feature 4 has "1947".

Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1 consists of an S shaped series of cement laid walls, with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements. From north to south the cement walls measure 63 inches long, while the whole structure reaches 115 inches (9.58 ft) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum, extend approximately 2ft above the ground surface, although it is clear that they extend for some while long beneath the surface. The two metal valves lie within the spaces of the S shaped walls. The metal adjustable valves are of identical design, with 24 inch diameter bases, and reach a height of 32 inches (2.66 ft). See continuation sheet for additional details.

*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) AH2 Foundations/structure pads, AH6. Water conveyance system, AH16. Other

*P4. **Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
View of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4, from Southwest, facing Northwest, Taken 4/14/23, Photo # 621

*P6. **Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. **Owner and Address:**
City of Modesto
1010 10th Street 4th Floor, Modesto, CA 95354

*P8. **Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. 1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130, Folsom, CA 95630

*P9. **Date Recorded:** 4/14/23

*P10. **Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive pedestrian survey

*P11. **Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Cultural Resources Letter Report for the Modesto Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project, Modesto, Stanislaus County, CA

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Page 2 of 7

*Resource Name or #: La Coste Field 1 Drainage/Irrigation Features

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length: 209 m (W/E) b. Width: 6 m (S/N)

Method of Measurement: Paced Taped Visual estimate Other: GPS points

Method of Determination (Check any that apply.): Artifacts Features Soil Vegetation Topography

Cut bank Animal burrow Excavation Property boundary Other (Explain):

Reliability of Determination: High Medium Low Explain: quite possible that additional associated features and debris are located beneath the ground surface in the vicinity of the recorded features

Limitations (Check any that apply): Restricted access Site limits incompletely defined

Disturbances Vegetation Other (Explain):

A2. Depth: None Unknown Method of Determination: intensive pedestrian survey

*A3. Human Remains: Present Absent Possible Unknown (Explain):

*A4. Features (Number, briefly describe, indicate size, list associated cultural constituents, and show location of each feature on sketch map.):
4 features in total, see primary form and continuation sheet for details on the 4 Drainage/Irrigation features associated with this site.

*A5. Cultural Constituents (Describe and quantify artifacts, ecofacts, cultural residues, etc., not associated with features.):
No artifacts were found at the ground surface in relationship with the 4 recorded features

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? No Yes (If yes, attach Artifact Record or catalog and identify where specimens are curated.)

*A7. Site Condition: Good Fair Poor (Describe disturbances.): features are relatively stable, but somewhat disarticulated around the edges, rubble piles close to feature 3 might be associated with drainage/irrigation features but it is unclear from pedestrian survey. Features show signs of rain based weathering

*A8. Nearest Water (Type, distance, and direction.): Channelized water way (Lateral Number Two) 1000 ft to the south, Dry Creek 1,200 ft to northwest of site

*A9. Elevation: 107 ft amsl

A10. Environmental Setting (Describe culturally relevant variables such as vegetation, fauna, soils, geology, landform, slope, aspect, exposure, etc.): Vegetation: knee to chest high grasses Landform: flat level field Slope: none discernable, flat land Aspect: none, flat area Soils: few native soils were visible due to high grasses, however, small patches of visible soil were a light brown sandy loam

A11. Historical Information:

*A12. Age: Prehistoric Protohistoric 1542-1769 1769-1848 1848-1880 1880-1914 1914-1945

Post 1945 Undetermined Describe position in regional prehistoric chronology or factual historic dates if known:

The cement walls of 3 the 4 features have dates etched into them, presumably construction dates. Feature 2 has "1961" etched into it, Feature 3 has "1954", and Feature 4 has "1947".

A13. Interpretations (Discuss data potential, function[s], ethnic affiliation, and other interpretations):

Based on the presumed dates of construction (gleaned from the dates etched on 3 of the 4 features), it seems likely that these features were installed to be used in conjunction with the the orchard/agricultural field developed and maintained on the property throughout the early to mid 20th century.

A14. Remarks:

A15. References (Documents, informants, maps, and other references): none

A16. Photographs (List subjects, direction of view, and accession numbers or attach a Photograph Record.): Modesto Municipal Groundwater Improvement Project Photo File, kept on servers at HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

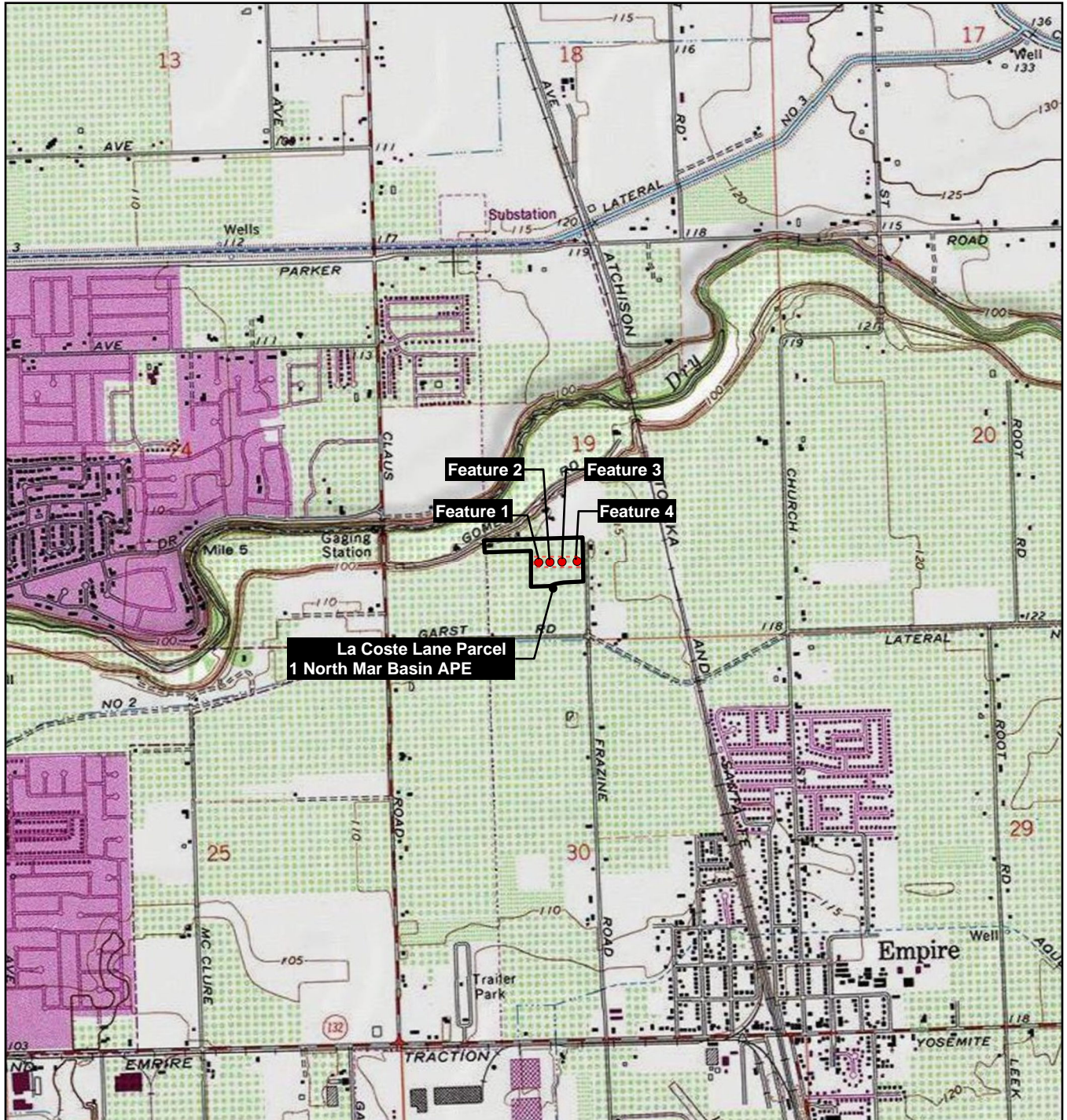
*A17. Form Prepared by: HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc

Date: 4/14/23

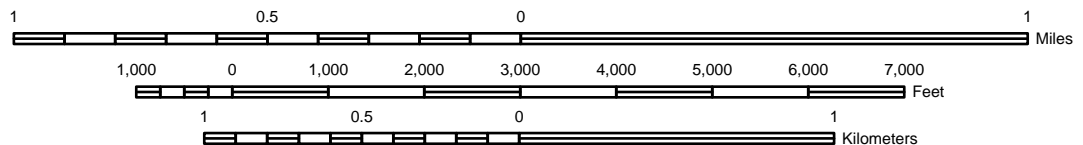
Affiliation and Address: HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc 1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130

Folsom, CA 95630

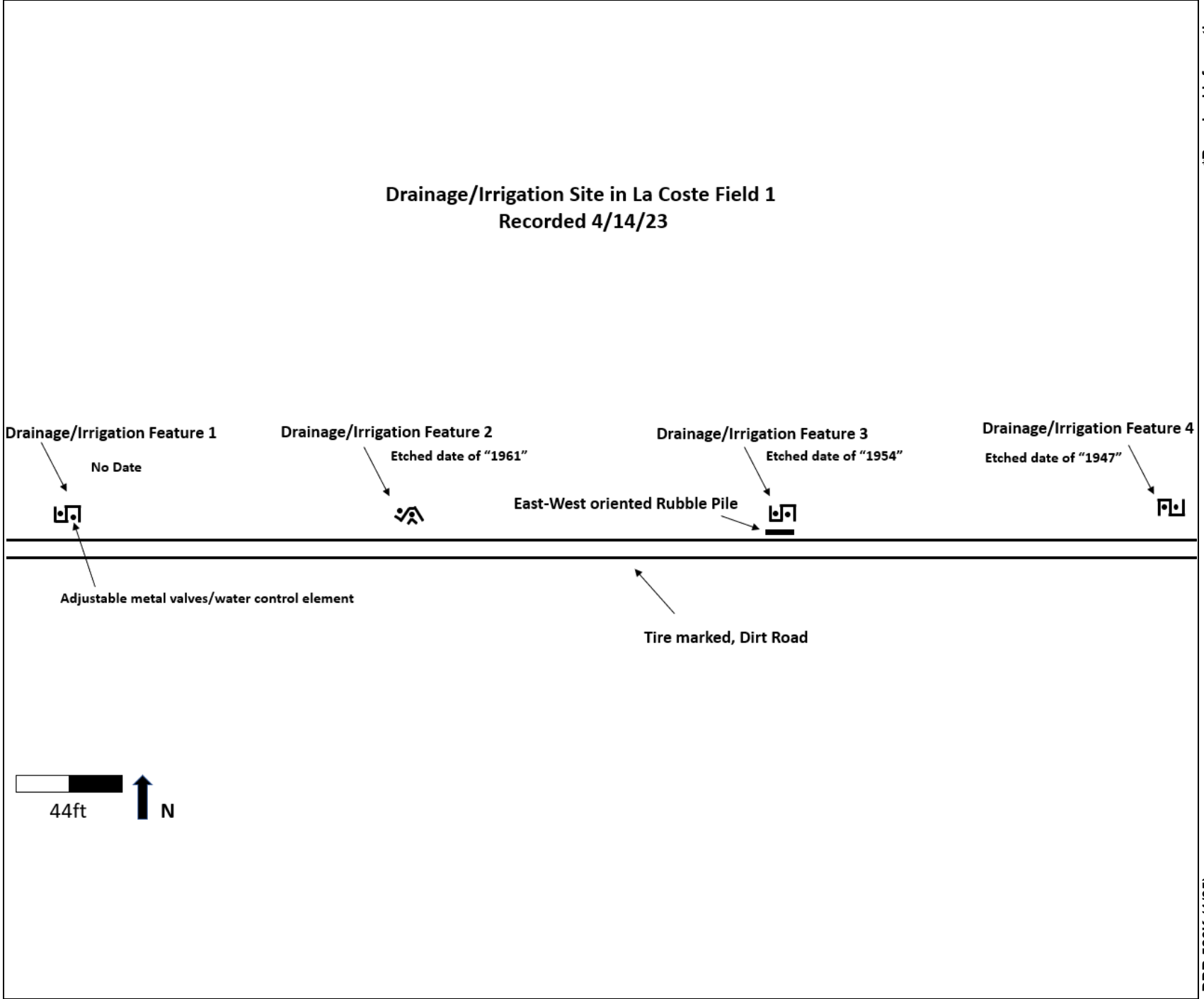
LOCATION MAP



SCALE 1:24,000



TRUE NORTH



*Recorded by: HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

*Date: 4/14/23

Continuation

Update

134 ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, lies Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2 which consists of an irregular series, almost a zig zag, of cement laid walls, similar in height and construction materials to those found within Feature 1, and similarly to Feature 1, also had two adjustable metal valves/water control elements of similar design and dimensions. Overall the outer (more northern) wall associated with feature 2 measured 3.42 ft (41 inches) from northwest to southeast, before cutting back due north for 6.42 ft (77 inches) then runs due east for 2.58 ft (31 inches), before cutting to the southeast for approximately 4ft (48 inches). The inner (more southern) wall measures approximately 2.75 ft (33 inches) running from the southwest to the northeast, before cutting back to the southeast, for another 2.75 ft (33 inches). As was the case with Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, it is clear that the walls associated with this feature extended beneath the ground surface. The top of northwestern most wall of this feature, contains an etched inscription of "1961" which is presumably the structure's construction date.

150ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2 lies Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3. Like Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3 consists of another "S" shaped series of cement laid walls, running west to east, with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements. From north to south the cement walls measure approximately 5.67 ft (68 inches) long, while the whole structure reaches 9.08 ft (109 inches) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum above the ground surface ranges from 2ft to 5ft, and it is clear that they extend beneath the ground surface. Like Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1 Feature 3 also contains 2 metal adjustable valves, lying within the spaces of the S shaped walls. The more western of the two valves is of a slightly different design than the more eastern of the two (which is virtually identical to those found within Features 1 and 2), with the iron cross bar lying closer to the ground, and a shorter handle at the top. Approximately 10ft south of Feature 3 lies a horizontally oriented pile of disarticulated cement rubble). While there is no direct evidence that this rubble is associated with the feature, some form of the relationship cannot be ruled out, as little more is known about the history of the feature. The top of northwestern most wall of this feature, contains an etched inscription of "1954" which is presumably the structure's construction date.

190ft to the east of the eastern extent of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3 lies Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4. Drainage/Irrigation Feature 4 consists of a reverse "S" shaped series of cement laid walls, running west to east, with two adjustable metal valves/water control elements. Similar to Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, from north to south the cement walls of Feature 4 measure approximately 5.67 ft (68 inches) long, while the whole structure reaches 9.08 ft (109 inches) from west to east. The height of these walls at their maximum above the ground surface ranges from 2 ft to 5 ft, and it is clear that they extend beneath the ground surface. The more western of the two valves is of a slightly different design than the more eastern of the two (which is virtually identical to those found within Features 1, 2, and 3), with the iron cross bar lying closer to the ground, and a shorter handle at the top. Approximately 10ft south of Feature 3 lies a horizontally oriented pile of disarticulated cement rubble. While there is no direct evidence that this rubble is associated with the feature, some form of the relationship cannot be ruled out, as little more is known about the history of the feature. The top of northwestern most wall of this feature, contains an etched inscription of "1947" which is presumably the structure's construction date.

La Coste Field1 Drainage/Irrigation Features



View of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 1, from Southwest, facing Northeast, Taken 4/14/23, Photo # 583



View of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 2, from Southwest, facing Northeast, Taken 4/14/23, Photo # 597

La Coste Field1 Drainage/Irrigation Features



View of Drainage/Irrigation Feature 3, from Northwest, facing Southeast, Taken 4/14/23, Photo # 616