# CLASS III INVENTORY/PHASE I SURVEY, SELMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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# **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

An intensive Class III cultural resources inventory/Phase I survey was conducted for the Selma Development Project (Project), Fresno County, California. ASM Affiliates (ASM) conducted this study, with Peter A. Carey, M.A., RPA, serving as Principal Investigator. The study was undertaken to assist with compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA).

A records search of site files and maps was conducted on 17 January 2023 at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield. These investigations determined that a very small portion of the study area had previously been surveyed (ASM Affiliates, 2017) and that no sites were known to exist within it. Ten studies have been conducted within 0.5-mile (mi) radius of the Project APE and twelve resources had been previously recorded within 0.5-mil radius of the Project APE.

The Class III inventory/Phase I survey fieldwork was conducted on 3 February 2023 with parallel transects spaced at 15-meter (m) intervals walked along the approximately 37.4-acre (ac) study area. No historical resources or properties were discovered within the project area. Based on these results, the Selma Development Project does not have the potential to result in significant impacts or adverse effects to historical resources or historic properties.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

ASM was retained by Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc. to conduct an intensive Class III inventory/Phase I cultural resources survey for the Selma Development Project. This is located in the City of Selma, Fresno County, California (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to assist with compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA. The investigation was conducted, specifically, to ensure that significant impacts or adverse effects to historical resources or historic properties do not occur as a result of project construction.

This current study included:

- A background records search and literature review to determine if any known cultural resources were present in the project zone and/or whether the area had been previously and systematically studied by archaeologists;
- An on-foot, intensive inventory of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) to identify and record previously undiscovered cultural resources and to examine known sites; and
- A preliminary assessment of any such resources found within the subject property.

Peter A. Carey, M.A., RPA, served as Principal Investigator and ASM Assistant Archaeologist Maria Silva, B.A., conducted the fieldwork.

This document constitutes a report on the Class III inventory/Phase I survey. Subsequent chapters provide background to the investigation, including historic context studies; the findings of the archival records search; Native American consultation; a summary of the field surveying techniques employed; and the results of the fieldwork. We conclude with management recommendations for the APE.

#### 1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located in Selma, Fresno County, California. Selma is located approximately 16-mi southeast of Fresno and 8-mi west of Reedley. The Kings River runs north-south through Reedley and is thus also about 8-mi west of the Project.

#### 1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND APE

The proposed Project is a mixed-use residential and commercial development project along the eastern limits of Selma, Fresno County, California. The Selma Development project will be conducted in several phases. The project is expected to contain the following land uses: 3.35-ac for public park areas, 5.95-ac for 150 Senior Living residential units, 5.95-ac for 150 affordable multi-family residential units, 11.5-ac for 300 market-rate multi-family residential units, 8.30-ac for commercial uses; including retail, fast food (with drive-thrus) & hospitality, 2.35-ac for public and private streets. The total APE for the proposed project is 37.4 acres.

The APE for the project is defined as the area of potential ground surface disturbance resulting from project construction and use. It includes construction/grading, lay-down and work areas. The

horizontal APE is 37.4-ac. The vertical APE, consisting of the maximum depth of potential grading and earth disturbance, is 2-ft.

#### 1.3 REGULATORY CONTEXT

## 1.3.1 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is applicable to discretionary actions by state or local lead agencies. Under CEQA, lead agencies must analyze impacts to cultural resources. Significant impacts under CEQA occur when "historically significant" or "unique" cultural resources are adversely affected, which occurs when such resources could be altered or destroyed through project implementation. Historically significant cultural resources are defined by eligibility for or by listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). In practice, the federal NRHP criteria (below) for significance applied under Section 106 are generally (although not entirely) consistent with CRHR criteria (see PRC § 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852 and § 15064.5(a)(3)).

Significant cultural resources are those archaeological resources and historical properties that:

- (A) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- (B) Are associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- (C) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values; or
- (D) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Unique resources under CEQA, in slight contrast, are those that represent:

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 available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC § 21083.2(g)).

Preservation in place is the preferred approach under CEQA to mitigating adverse impacts to significant or unique cultural resources.

#### 1.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act Section 106

NHPA Section 106 is applicable to federal undertakings, including projects financed or permitted by federal agencies regardless of whether the activities occur on federally managed or privately-

owned land. Its purpose is to determine whether adverse effects will occur to significant cultural resources, defined as "historical properties" that are listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The criteria for NRHP eligibility are defined at 36 CFR § 60.4 as follows:

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 construction, 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.

There are, however, restrictions on the kinds of historical properties that can be NRHP listed. These have been identified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as follows:

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- (b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- (c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life.
- (d) A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- (e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

- (f) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- (g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance. (http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html)

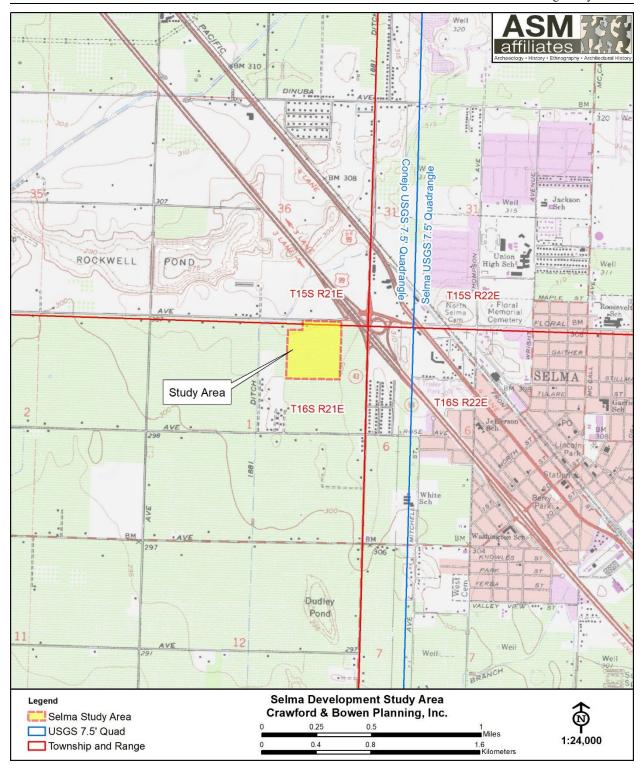


Figure 1. Location of Selma Development Project, Fresno County, California.

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# 2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

# 2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The study area is located at about 305-ft elevation on the open flats of the San Joaquin Valley, about 14-mi south of Fresno. Prior to the appearance of agriculture, starting in the nineteenth century, this location would have been prairie grasslands, grading into riparian environments and marshlands further south toward the north bank of Tulare Lake (Preston 1981). The study area and immediate surroundings have been urbanized and/or farmed and grazed for many years and no native vegetation is present. Perennial bunchgrasses such as purple needlegrass and nodding needlegrass most likely would have been the dominant plant cover in the study area prior to cultivation. Currently, the study area consists of commercial and residential properties surrounded by vineyards.

According to the geoarchaeological model developed by Meyer et al. (2010), the study area has a very low to moderate potential for buried archaeological deposits. Buried sites and cultural resources are therefore considered to be possible within the APE.

#### 2.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Penutian-speaking Yokuts tribal groups occupied the southern San Joaquin Valley region and much of the nearby Sierra Nevada. Ethnographic information about the Yokuts was collected primarily by Powers (1971, 1976 [originally 1877]), Kroeber (1925), Gayton (1930, 1948), Driver (1937), Latta (1977), and Harrington (n.d.). For a variety of historical reasons, existing research information emphasizes the central Yokuts tribes who occupied both the valley and particularly the foothills of the Sierra. The northernmost tribes suffered from the influx of Euro-Americans during the Gold Rush and their populations were in substantial decline by the time ethnographic studies began in the early twentieth century. In contrast, the southernmost tribes were partially removed by the Spanish to missions and eventually absorbed into multi-tribal communities on the Sebastian Indian Reservation (on Tejon Ranch), and later the Tule River Reservation and Santa Rosa Rancheria to the north, as well as other reservations in the foothills and Sierras. The result is an unfortunate scarcity of ethnographic detail on valley tribes, especially in relation to the rich information collected from the central foothills tribes where native speakers of the Yokuts dialects are still found. Regardless, the general details of indigenous life-ways were similar across the broad expanse of Yokuts territory, particularly in terms of environmentally influenced subsistence and adaptation and with regard to religion and belief, which were similar everywhere.

Following Kroeber (1925: Plate 47), the study area most likely lies in Apiachi (Apiche in Latta [1977:163]) territory. The principal village for this group was *Wohui* (*Wohue* in Latta [1977:163]) on the north bank of Murphy Slough, approximately 20-mi southwest of the APE.

Most Yokuts groups, regardless of specific tribal affiliation, were organized as a recognized and distinct tribelet; a circumstance that almost certainly pertained to the tribal groups noted above. Tribelets were land-owning groups organized around a central village and linked by shared territory and descent from a common ancestor. The population of most tribelets ranged from about 150 to 500 peoples (Kroeber 1925).

Each tribelet was headed by a chief who was assisted by a variety of assistants, the most important of whom was the *winatum*, a herald or messenger and assistant chief. A shaman also served as religious officer. While shamans did not have any direct political authority, as Gayton (1930) has illustrated, they maintained substantial influence within their tribelet.

Shamanism is a religious system common to most Native American tribes. It involves a direct and personal relationship between the individual and the supernatural world enacted by entering a trance or hallucinatory state (usually based on the ingestion of psychotropic plants, such as jimsonweed or more typically native tobacco). Shamans were considered individuals with an unusual degree of supernatural power, serving as healers or curers, diviners, and controllers of natural phenomena (such as rain or thunder). Shamans also produced the rock art of this region, depicting the visions they experienced in vision quests believed to represent their spirit helpers and events in the supernatural realm (Whitley 1992, 2000).

The centrality of shamanism to the religious and spiritual life of the Yokuts was demonstrated by the role of shamans in the yearly ceremonial round. The ritual round, performed the same each year, started in the spring with the jimsonweed ceremony, followed by rattlesnake dance and (where appropriate) first salmon ceremony. After returning from seed camps, fall rituals began in the late summer with the mourning ceremony, followed by first seed and acorn rites and then bear dance (Gayton 1930:379). In each case, shamans served as ceremonial officials responsible for specific dances involving a display of their supernatural powers (Kroeber 1925).

Subsistence practices varied from tribelet to tribelet based on the environment of residence. Throughout Native California, and Yokuts territory in general, the acorn was a primary dietary component, along with a variety of gathered seeds. Valley tribes augmented this resource with lacustrine and riverine foods, especially fish and wildfowl. As with many Native California tribes, the settlement and subsistence rounds included the winter aggregation into a few large villages, where stored resources (like acorns) served as staples, followed by dispersal into smaller camps, often occupied by extended families, where seasonally available resources would be gathered and consumed.

Although population estimates vary and population size was greatly affected by the introduction of Euro-American diseases and social disruption, the Yokuts were one of the largest, most successful groups in Native California. Cook (1978) estimates that the Yokuts region contained 27 percent of the aboriginal population in the state at the time of contact; other estimates are even higher. Many Yokut descendants continue to live in Fresno County, either on tribal reservations, or in local towns and communities.

#### 2.3 PRE-CONTACT ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The southern San Joaquin Valley region has received much less archaeological attention than other areas of the state. In part, this is because the majority of California archaeological work has concentrated in the Sacramento Delta, Santa Barbara Channel, and central Mojave Desert areas (see Moratto 1984). Although knowledge of the region's prehistory is limited, enough is known to determine that the archaeological record is broadly similar to south-central California as a whole (see Gifford and Schenk 1926; Hewes 1941; Wedel 1941; Fenenga 1952; Elsasser 1962; Fredrickson and Grossman 1977; Schiffman and Garfinkel 1981; Rosenthal et al. 2007). Indeed, Gifford and Schenk (1926) were the first to identify the similarity between southern San Joaquin Valley prehistory and the archaeological record along the Santa Barbara Channel, a specific observation that was analytically verified more recently by Siefkin (1999). This circumstance, overlooked by some subsequent researchers, has resulted in confusion in the literature due to the application of the Sacramento Delta chronology on the local archaeological record, where it has never really fit. Based on these sources and this observation, the general prehistory of the region can be outlined in south-central California terms, as follows.

Initial occupation of the region occurred at least as early as the *Paleoindian Period*, or prior to about 10,000 years before present (YBP). Evidence of early use of the region is indicated by characteristic fluted and stemmed points found around the margin of Tulare Lake, in the foothills of the Sierra, and in the Mojave Desert proper. Both fluted and stemmed points are particularly common around lake margins (e.g., Wallace and Riddell 1993), suggesting a terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene lakeshore adaptation similar to that found throughout the far west at the same time. Little else is known about these earliest peoples at this point, however, in part because the locations of their recorded sites occur in lakeshore contexts that have experienced repetitive transgressive and regressive shorelines, resulting in mixed archaeological deposits.

Substantial evidence for human occupation of California first occurs during the Early Holocene, roughly 7500 to 4000 YBP. This period is known as the *Early Horizon*, or alternatively as the Early Millingstone along the Santa Barbara Channel. In the south, populations concentrated along the coast with minimal visible use of inland areas. Adaptation emphasized hard seeds and nuts with tool-kits dominated by mullers and grindstones (manos and metates). Little evidence for Early Horizon occupation exists in most inland portions of the state with (again) the exceptions being along lakeshores, partly due to a severe cold and dry paleoclimatic period occurring at this time. Regardless of specifics, Early Horizon population density was low with a subsistence adaptation more likely tied to plant food gathering than hunting.

Environmental conditions improved dramatically after about 4000 YBP during the *Middle Horizon* (or Intermediate Period). This period known climatically as the Holocene Maximum (circa 3800 YBP) and was characterized by significantly warmer and wetter conditions than previously experienced. Archaeologically, it was marked by large population increase and radiation into new environments along coastal and interior south-central California and the Mojave Desert (Whitley 2000). In the Delta region to the north, this same period of favorable environmental conditions was characterized by the appearance of the Windmiller culture, which exhibited a high degree of ritual elaboration (especially in burial practices) and perhaps even a rudimentary mound-building tradition (Meighan, personal communication 1985). Along with ritual elaboration, Middle Horizon

times experienced increasing subsistence specialization, perhaps correlating with the appearance of acorn processing technology. Penutian speaking peoples (including the Yokuts) are also hypothesized to have entered the state roughly at the beginning of this period and, perhaps to have brought this technology with them (cf. Moratto 1984). Likewise it appears the so-called "Shoshonean Wedge" in southern California or the Takic speaking groups that include the Gabrielino/Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Kitanemuk, may have moved into the region at this time, rather than at about 1500 YBP as first suggested by Kroeber (1925).

Evidence for Middle Horizon occupation of interior south-central California is substantial. For example, in northern Los Angeles County along the upper Santa Clara River, to the south of the San Joaquin Valley, the Agua Dulce village complex indicates occupation extending back to the Intermediate Period, when the population of the village may have been 50 or more people (King et al. n.d.). Similarly, inhabitation of the Hathaway Ranch region near Lake Piru, and the Newhall Ranch near Valencia, appears to date to the Intermediate Period (W&S Consultants 1994). To the west, little or no evidence exists for pre-Middle Horizon occupation in the upper Sisquoc and Cuyama River drainages; populations first appear there at roughly 3500 YBP (Horne 1981). The Carrizo Plain, the valley immediately west of the San Joaquin, experienced a major population expansion during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007), and recently collected data indicates the Tehachapi Mountains region was first significantly occupied during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2006). A parallel can be drawn to the inland Ventura County region where a similar pattern has been identified (Whitley and Beaudry 1991), as well as the western Mojave Desert (Sutton 1988a, 1988b), the southern Sierra Nevada (W&S Consultants 1999), and the Coso Range region (Whitley et al. 1988). In all of these areas a major expansion in settlement, the establishment of large site complexes, and an increase in the range of environments exploited appear to have occurred sometime roughly around 4,000 years ago. Although most efforts to explain this expansion have focused on local circumstances and events, it is increasingly apparent this was a major southern California-wide occurrence and any explanation must be sought at a larger level of analysis (Whitley 2000). Additionally, evidence from the Carrizo Plain suggests the origins of the tribelet level of political organization developed during this period (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007). Whether this same demographic process holds for the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the study area, is yet to be determined.

The beginning of the *Late Horizon* is set variously at 1500 and 800 YBP, with a consensus for the shorter chronology. Increasing evidence suggests the importance of the Middle-Late Horizon transition (A.D. 800 to 1200) in the understanding of south-central California. This corresponds to the so-called Medieval Climatic Anomaly, a period of climatic instability that included major droughts and resulted in demographic disturbances across much of the west (Jones et al. 1999). It is also believed to have resulted in major population decline and abandonments across south-central California, involving as much as 90 percent of the interior populations in some regions including the Carrizo Plain (Whitley et al. 2007). It is not clear whether site abandonment was accompanied by a true reduction in population or an agglomeration of the same numbers of people into fewer but larger villages. What is clear is that Middle Period villages and settlements were widely dispersed across the landscape; many at locations that lack contemporary evidence of fresh water sources. Late Horizon sites, in contrast, are typically located where fresh water was available during the historical period, if not currently.

The Late Horizon then can be best understood as a period of recovery from a major demographic collapse. One result is the development of regional archaeological cultures as the precursors to ethnographic Native California; suggesting that ethnographic life-ways recorded by anthropologists extend at least 800 years into the past.

The position of southern San Joaquin Valley prehistory relative to patterns seen in surrounding areas is still somewhat unknown. The presence of large lake systems in the valley bottoms can be expected to have mediated some of the desiccation seen elsewhere. But, as the reconstruction of Soda Lake in the Carrizo Plain demonstrates (see Whitley et al. 2007) environmental perturbations had serious impacts on lake systems too. Identifying certain of the prehistoric demographic trends for the southern San Joaquin Valley, and determining how these trends (if present) correlate with those seen elsewhere, is a current important research objective.

#### 2.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Spanish explorers first visited the San Joaquin Valley in 1772, but its lengthy distance from the missions and presidios along the Pacific Coast delayed permanent settlement for many years, including during the Mexican period of control over the Californian region. In the 1840s, Mexican rancho owners along the Pacific Coast allowed their cattle to wander and graze in the San Joaquin Valley. The Mexican government granted the first ranchos in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley in the early 1840s, but these did not result in permanent settlement. It was not until the annexation of California in 1848 that the exploitation of the southern San Joaquin Valley began (Pacific Legacy 2006).

The discovery of gold in northern California in 1848 resulted in a dramatic increase of population, consisting in good part of fortune seekers and gold miners, who began to scour other parts of the state. After 1851, when gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in eastern Kern County, the population of the area grew rapidly. Some new immigrants began ranching in the San Joaquin Valley to supply the miners and mining towns. Ranchers grazed cattle and sheep, and farmers dry-farmed or used limited irrigation to grow grain crops, leading to the creation of small agricultural communities throughout the valley (Caltrans 2007).

After the American annexation of California, the southern San Joaquin Valley became significant as a center of food production for this new influx of people in California. The expansive unfenced and principally public foothill spaces were well suited for grazing both sheep and cattle (Boyd 1997). As the Sierra Nevada gold rush presented extensive financial opportunities, ranchers introduced new breeds of livestock, consisting of cattle, sheep and pig (Boyd 1997).

With the increase of ranching in the southern San Joaquin came the dramatic change in the landscape, as non-native grasses more beneficial for grazing and pasture replaced native flora (Preston 1981). After the passing of the Arkansas Act in 1850, efforts were made to reclaim small tracts of land in order to create more usable spaces for ranching. Eventually, as farming supplanted ranching as a more profitable enterprise, large tracts of land began to be reclaimed for agricultural use, aided in part by the extension of the railroad in the 1870s (Pacific Legacy 2006).

Following the passage of state wide 'No-Fence' laws in 1874, ranching practices began to decline, while farming expanded in the San Joaquin Valley in both large land holdings and smaller, subdivided properties. As the farming population grew, so did the demand for irrigation. Settlers began reclamation of swampland in 1866, and built small dams across the Kern River to divert water into the fields. By 1880, 86 different groups were taking water from the Kern River. Ten years later, 15 major canals provided water to thousands of acres in Kern County.

During the period of reclaiming unproductive land in the southern San Joaquin Valley, grants were given to individuals who had both the resources and the finances to undertake the operation alone. One small agricultural settlement, founded by Colonel Thomas Baker in 1861 after procuring one such grant, took advantage of reclaimed swampland along the Kern River. This settlement became the City of Bakersfield in 1869, and quickly became the center of activity in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and in the newly formed Kern County. Located on the main stage road through the San Joaquin Valley, the town became a primary market and transportation hub for stock and crops, as well as a popular stopping point for travelers on the Los Angeles and Stockton Road. The Southern Pacific Railroad reached the Bakersfield area in 1873, connecting it with important market towns elsewhere in the state, dramatically impacting both agriculture and oil production (Pacific Legacy 2006).

Three competing partnerships developed during this period which had a great impact on control of water, land reclamation and ultimately agricultural development in the San Joaquin Valley: Livermore and Chester, Haggin and Carr, and Miller and Lux, perhaps the most famous of the enterprises. Livermore and Chester were responsible, among other things, for developing the large Hollister plow (three feet wide by two feet deep), pulled by a 40-mule team, which was used for ditch digging. Haggin and Carr were largely responsible for reclaiming the beds of the Buena Vista and Kern lakes, and for creating the Calloway Canal, which drained through the Rosedale area in Bakersfield to Goose Lake (Morgan 1914). Miller and Lux ultimately became one of the biggest private property holders in the country, controlling the rights to over 22,000 square miles. Miller and Lux's impact extended beyond Kern County, however. They recognized early-on that control of water would have important economic implications, and they played a major role in the water development of the (http://www.mariposaresearch.net/santaclararesearch/SCBIOS/hmiller.html). They were also embroiled for many years in litigation against Haggin and Carr over control of the water rights to the Kern River. Descendants of Henry Miller continue to play a major role in California water rights, with his great grandson, George Nickel, Jr., the first to develop the concept of water banking, thus creating a system to buy and sell water (http://exiledonline.com/californiaclass-war-history-meet-the-oligarch-family-thats-been-scamming-taxpayers-for-150-years-andcounting/).

The San Joaquin Valley was dominated by agricultural pursuits until the oil boom of the early 1900s, which saw a shift in the region, as some reclaimed lands previously used for farming were leased to oil companies. Nonetheless, the shift of the San Joaquin Valley towards oil production did not halt the continued growth of agriculture (Pacific Legacy 2006). The Great Depression of the 1930s brought with it the arrival of great number of migrants from the drought-affected Dust Bowl region, looking for agricultural labor. These migrants established temporary camps in the valley, staying on long past the end of the drought and the Great Depression, eventually settling in towns such as Bakersfield where their descendants live today (Boyd 1997).

The city of Fresno (originally "Fresno Station"), located approximately 16-mi northwest of the study area and the county seat for Fresno County, was founded in 1872 and incorporated in 1885. It was initially developed as a railway station along the Central Pacific Railroad, but quickly expanded with the development of irrigation in the region. Farmers saw success with the cultivation of wheat, grapes, and cattle. Eventually, Fresno County became one of the most agriculturally-rich counties in the United States (https://www.fresno.gov/darm/historic-preservation/history-of-fresno/).

According to the 2010 U.S. Census the census-designated community of Selma, like many outlying communities of Fresno, is largely focused on agriculture. Jobs in farming employ over one-fifth of residents and the community is mostly surrounded by vineyards, miscellaneous orchards, and other commercial crops (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk#).

#### 2.5 RESEARCH DESIGN

## 2.5.1 Pre-Contact Archaeology

Previous research and the nature of the pre-contact archaeological record suggest two significant NRHP themes, both of which fall under the general Pre-Contact Archaeology area of significance. These are the Expansion of Pre-Contact Populations and Their Adaptation to New Environments; and Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions.

The Expansion of Pre-Contact Populations and Their Adaptation to New Environments theme primarily concerns the Middle Horizon/Holocene Maximum. Its period of significance runs from about 4,000 to 1,500 YBP. It involves a period during which the prehistoric population appears to have expanded into a variety of new regions, developing new adaptive strategies in the process.

The Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions theme is partly related to the Holocene Maximum, but especially to the Medieval Climatic Anomaly. The period of significance for this theme, accordingly, extends from about 4,000 to 800 YBP. This theme involves the apparent collapse of many inland populations, presumably with population movements to better environments such as the coast. It is not yet known whether the southern San Joaquin Valley, with its system of lakes, sloughs and swamps, experienced population decline or, more likely, population increase due to the relatively favorable conditions of this region during this period of environmental stress.

The range of site types that are present in this region include:

- Villages, primarily located on or near permanent water sources, occupied by large groups during the winter aggregation season;
- Seasonal camps, again typically located at water sources, occupied during other parts of the year tied to locally and seasonally available food sources;

- Special activity areas, especially plant processing locations containing bedrock mortars (BRMs), commonly (though not exclusively) near existing oak woodlands, and invariably at bedrock outcrops or exposed boulders;
- Stone quarries and tool workshops, occurring in two general contexts: at or below naturally occurring chert exposures on the eastern front of the Temblor Range; and at quartzite cobble exposures, often on hills or ridges;
- Ritual sites, most commonly pictographs (rock art) found at rockshelters or large exposed boulders, and cemeteries, both commonly associated with villages; and
- A variety of small lithic scatters (low density surface scatters of stone tools).

The first requisites in any research design are the definition of site age/chronology and site function. The ability to determine either of these basic kinds of information may vary between survey and test excavation projects, and due to the nature of the sites themselves. BRM sites without associated artifacts, for example, may not be datable beyond the assumption that they post-date the Early Horizon and are thus less than roughly 4,000 years old.

A second fundamental issue involves the place of site in the settlement system, especially with respect to water sources. Because the locations of the water sources have sometimes changed over time, villages and camps are not exclusively associated with existing (or known historical) water sources (W&S Consultants 2006). The size and locations of the region's lakes, sloughs and delta channels, to cite the most obvious example, changed significantly during the last 12,000 years due to major paleoclimatic shifts. This altered the area's hydrology and thus prehistoric settlement patterns. The western shoreline of Tulare Lake was relatively stable, because it abutted the Kettleman Hills. But the northern, southern and eastern shorelines comprised the near-flat valley floor. Relatively minor fluctuations up or down in the lake level resulted in very significant changes in the areal expression of the lake on these three sides, and therefore the locations of villages and camps. Although perhaps not as systematic, similar changes occurred with respect to stream channels and sloughs, and potential site locations associated with them. This circumstance has implications for predicting site locations and archaeological sensitivity. Site sensitivity is then hardest to predict in the open valley floor, where changes in stream courses and lake levels occurred on numerous occasions.

Nonetheless, the position of southern San Joaquin Valley prehistory relative to the changing settlement and demographic patterns seen in surrounding areas is still somewhat unknown (cf. Siefkin 1999), including to the two NRHP themes identified above. The presence of large lake systems in the valley bottoms can be expected to have mediated some of the effects of desiccation seen elsewhere. But, as the reconstruction of Soda Lake in the nearby Carrizo Plain demonstrates (see Whitley et al. 2007), environmental perturbations had serious impacts on lake systems too. Identifying certain of the prehistoric demographic trends for the southern San Joaquin Valley, and determining how these trends (if present) correlate with those seen elsewhere, is another primary regional research objective.

Archaeological sites would primarily be evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, research potential.

# 2.5.2 Historical Archaeology: Native American

Less research has been conducted on the regional historical archaeological record, both Native American and Euro-American. For Native American historical sites, the ethnographic and ethnohistoric periods in the southern San Joaquin Valley extended from first Euro-American contact, in AD 1772, to circa 1900, when tribal populations were first consolidated on reservations. The major significant historic NRHP themes during this period of significance involve the related topics of Historic-Aboriginal Archaeology, and Native American Ethnic Heritage. More specifically, these concern the Adaptation of the Indigenous Population to Euro-American Encroachment and Settlement, and their Acculturation to Western Society. These processes included the impact of missionization on the San Joaquin Valley (circa 1800 to about 1845); the introduction of the horse and the development of a San Joaquin Valley "horse culture," including raiding onto the coast and Los Angeles Basin (after about 1810); the use of the region as a refuge for mission neophyte escapees (after 1820); responses to epidemics from introduced diseases (especially in the 1830s); armed resistance to Euro-American encroachment (in the 1840s and early 1850s); the origins of the reservation system and the development of new tribal organizations and ethnic identities; and, ultimately, the adoption of the Euro-American society's economic system and subsistence practices, and acculturation into that society.

Site types that have been identified in the region dating to the ethnographic/ethnohistoric period of significance primarily include villages and habitations, some of which contain cemeteries and rock art (including pictographs and cupules). Dispersed farmsteads, dating specifically from the reservation period or post-1853, would also be expected. The different social processes associated with this historical theme may be manifest in the material cultural record in terms of changing settlement patterns and village organization (from traditional nucleated villages to single family dispersed farmsteads); the breakdown of traditional trading networks with their replacement by new economic relationships; changing subsistence practices, especially the introduction of agriculture initially via escaped mission neophytes; the use of Euro-American artifacts and materials rather than traditional tools and materials; and, possibly, changing mortuary practices.

Inasmuch as culture change is a primary intellectual interest in archaeology, ethnographic villages and habitations may be NRHP eligible under Criterion D, research potential. Rock art sites, especially pictographs, may be eligible under Criterion C as examples of artistic mastery. They may also be eligible under Criterion A, association with events contributing to broad patterns of history. Ethnographic sites, further, may be NRHP eligible as Traditional Cultural Properties due to potential continued connections to tribal descendants, and their resulting importance in traditional practices and beliefs, including their significance for historical memory, tribal- and self-identity formation, and tribal education.

For Criteria A, C and D, eligibility requires site integrity (including the ability to convey historical association for Criterion A). These may include intact archaeological deposits for Criterion D, as well as setting and feel for Criteria C and A. Historical properties may lack physical integrity, as normally understood in heritage management, but still retain their significance to Native American tribes as Traditional Cultural Properties if they retain their tribal associations and uses.

# 2.5.3 Historical Archaeology: Euro-American

Approaches to historical Euro-American archaeological research relevant to the region have been summarized by Caltrans (1999, 2000, 2007, 2008). These concern the general topics of historical landscapes, agriculture and farming, irrigation (water conveyance systems), and mining. Caltrans has also identified an evaluation matrix aiding determinations of eligibility. The identified research issues include site structure and land-use (lay-out, land use, feature function); economics (self-sufficiency, consumer behavior, wealth indicators); technology and science (innovations, methods); ethnicity and cultural diversity (religion, race); household composition and lifeways (gender, children); and labor relations. Principles useful for determining the research potential of an individual site or feature are conceptualized in terms of the mnemonic AIMS-R, as follows:

- 1. Association refers to the ability to link an assemblage of artifacts, ecofacts, and other cultural remains with an individual household, an ethnic or socioeconomic group, or a specific activity or property use.
- 2. *Integrity* addresses the physical condition of the deposit, referring to the intact nature of the archaeological remains. In order for a feature to be most useful, it should be in much the same state as when it was deposited. However, even disturbed deposits can yield important information (e.g., a tightly dated deposit with an unequivocal association).
- 3. *Materials* refers to the number and variety of artifacts present. Large assemblages provide more secure interpretations as there are more datable items to determine when the deposit was made, and the collection will be more representative of the household, or activity. Likewise, the interpretive potential of a deposit is generally increased with the diversity of its contents, although the lack of diversity in certain assemblages also may signal important behavioral or consumer patterns.
- 4. Stratigraphy refers to the vertically or horizontally discrete depositional units that are distinguishable. Remains from an archaeological feature with a complex stratigraphic sequence representative of several events over time can have the added advantage of providing an independent chronological check on artifact diagnosis and the interpretation of the sequence of environmental or sociocultural events.
- 5. *Rarity* refers to remains linked to household types or activities that are uncommon. Because they are scarce, they may have importance even in cases where they otherwise fail to meet other thresholds of importance (Caltrans 2007:209).

For agricultural sites, Caltrans (2007) has identified six themes to guide research: Site Structure and Land Use Pattern; Economic Strategies; Ethnicity and Cultural Adaptation; Agricultural Technology and Science; Household Composition and Lifeways; and Labor History. Expected site types would include farm and ranch homesteads and facilities, line camps, and refuse dumps. In general terms, historical Euro-American archaeological sites would be evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, research potential. However, they also potentially could be eligible under Criteria A and B for their associate values with major historical trends or individuals. Historical landscapes might also be considered.

Historical structures, which are most likely to be pertinent to the current study area, are typically evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criteria A and/or B, for their associate values with major historical trends or individuals, and C for potential design or engineering importance.

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# 3. ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

#### 3.1 ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

In order to determine whether the study area had been previously surveyed for cultural resources, and/or whether any such resources were known to exist on any of them, an archival records search was conducted by the staff of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (IC) on 17 January 2023. The records search was completed to determine: (i) if prehistoric or historical archaeological sites had previously been recorded within the study areas; (ii) if the project area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists prior to the initiation of this field study; and/or (iii) whether the region of the field project was known to contain archaeological sites and to thereby be archaeologically sensitive. Records examined included archaeological site files and maps, the NRHP, Historic Property Data File, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the California Points of Historic Interest. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands files were also searched to determine whether tribal cultural resources are present.

According to the IC records search (Confidential Appendix A), one previous study had been completed within the APE (Table 1). No cultural resources were identified as a result of that study. An additional ten surveys had been completed within 0.5-mi of the APE (Table 2), resulting in fourteen cultural resources being recorded within the 0.5-mi radius of the Project.

An investigation conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on 20 January 2023 indicated that no tribal cultural resources were known to exist within the Selma Development Project APE. Outreach letters were also sent to tribal organizations on the NAHC contact list. A response from the Dunlap and the Mono Indians on 23 February 2023 who did not request consultation and who recommended that the Tachi Yokuts, Table Mountain Rancheria, Tule River Indian Reservation, or the Traditional Choinumni Tribe be contacted. An additional response, from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe deferred to the more local tribes in the area. No additional tribal responses were received from the NAHC contact list.

Table 1. Survey Reports within the APE

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
FR-00565	1992	1 /	Cultural Resources Investigations of the Proposed Selma Northwest Growth Area Expanded Initial Study, Fresno County, California

Table 2. Survey Reports within the 0.5-mi of the APE

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
FR-00135	1995	B. Hatoff, B. Voss, S. Waechter, V. Benté & S. Wee/ Woodward-Clyde Consultants	Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project
FR-00465	1980	D.M. Varner & J.E. Kamplain/CSU Fresno	Archaeological Reconnaissance for Tamkin Subdivision, Selma, Fresno County, California

#### 3. Archival Records Search

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
FR-00573	1991	K. Nissen & M. Kennedy/California Dept of Transportation	Negative Archaeological Survey Report for a Project to Widen Route 43 South of Selma
FR-01820	2001	E.H. Derr & R.K. Brown/ Brown & Mills, Inc.	Historical and Cultural Resource Assessment for a Proposed Telecommunications Facility, Selma, Site CV-613-01, 3350 Floral Avenue, Fresno County, California
FR-01950	2003	J.L. Brady/ J & R Environmental Services	Historic Property Survey for the Proposed Villa Rose Apartment Complex, Selma, California
FR-01972	2002	S.L. Matthews/ Tetra Tech/KCM, Inc.	Proposed Telecommunications Tower, Antennae's and Equipment Facility for Verizon Wireless/Crown Castle Located in Selma, Fresno County, California
FR-01996	2003	J.L. Brady/ J & R Environmental Services	Archaeological Survey Report for the Home Depot Project: APN No.'s 348-190-49S, and 348-190-37S, Selma, California
FR-02287	2006	C. Arrington, B. Bass, J. Brown, C. Corey, & K. Hunt/SWCA Environmental Consultants	Nextel Communications Wireless Telecommunications Services Facilities, Fresno County
FR-02422	2007	R.J. Wlodarski/ Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team	A Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the Proposed Rockewell Specific Plan Project: A 251 Acre Site Located at the Northeast Corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue Within the City Selma, Fresno County, California
FR-02451	2011	R. Windmiller/ Individual consultant	Golden State Corridor Project Cultural Resources Assessment Fresno County, California

Table 3. Resources within 0.5-mi of the APE

Resource	Type	Description
P-10-003930	Structure	Historic Railway
P-10-005189	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005190	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005191	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005192	Building	Historic Residence/agricultural
P-10-005196	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005298	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005299	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005300	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005301	Building	Historic Residence
P-10-005989	Site	Historic Cellar, Landscaping, Well
P-10-006098	Object	Historic Monument

Based on the records search results, the study area appears to have low archaeological sensitivity.

# 4. METHODS AND RESULTS

# 4.1 FIELD METHODS

An intensive Class III inventor/Phase I survey of the Selma Development Project study area was conducted by ASM Assistant Archaeologist Maria Silva, B.A., on 3 February 2023. The field methods employed included intensive pedestrian examination of the ground surface for evidence of archaeological sites in the form of artifacts, surface features (such as bedrock mortars, historical mining equipment), and archaeological indicators (e.g., organically enriched midden soil, burnt animal bone); the identification and location of any discovered sites, should they be present; tabulation and recording of surface diagnostic artifacts; site sketch mapping; preliminary evaluation of site integrity; and site recording, following the California Office of Historic Preservation Instructions for Recording Historic Resources and the BLM 8100 Manual, using DPR 523 forms. Parallel survey transects spaced at 15-m apart were employed for the inventory.

The APE and immediate surroundings have been urbanized and/or farmed and grazed for many years and no native vegetation is present. The APE was mostly devoid of native vegetation and predominantly covered by introduced grasses; however, patches of Russian thistle, saltbush, and a small stand of planted oak trees were noted within the APE. Transect spacing was narrowed in areas of denser vegetation to ensure maximum coverage. Ground surface at the time of the survey was generally clear of vegetation, facilitating the survey. A low density of seasonal grasses was noted along throughout the Project APE. In places where vegetation cover density was high, special attention was paid to rodent burrow spoils and other open areas to ensure adequate survey coverage. Overall, conditions in the field were adequate for a Class III inventory/intensive Phase I survey.

#### **4.2 SURVEY RESULTS**

The Selma Development Project APE is located in an agricultural field with both commercial and residential areas of Selma nearby (Figure 2). The APE has been previously plowed and disturbed. Although ASM attempted to survey a 50-ft buffer around the proposed APE, surrounding private property that could not be investigated and that will not be affected by the project limited the actual survey area.

No historical or archaeological resources of any kind were identified within the Selma Development Project APE. Light modern refuse (e.g., plastics, tarping, Styrofoam) and industrial debris (e.g., tires, concrete fragments, PVC piping) was noted throughout the Selma Development Project at the time of the survey (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Overview of the Selma Development APE, looking south-southeast.



Figure 3. Overview of the Selma Development APE, looking west-northwest. Note light scatter of modern debris.

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# 5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive Class III archaeological inventory/Phase I survey was conducted for the Selma Development Project, located in Selma, Fresno County, California. A records search was conducted on 17 January 2023 by the staff at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield. This indicated that one previous survey conducted in 1992 had covered a small portion of the APE on the north end and that no cultural resources were known to exist within it. The records search indicated that no cultural resources were identified as a result of that study. An additional ten surveys had been completed within 0.5-mi of the APE, resulting in fourteen cultural resources being recorded within the 0.5-mi radius of the Project.

Outreach based on NAHC investigations indicated that no tribal cultural resources were known to exist within the Selma Development Project APE. A response from the Dunlap and the Mono Indians did not request consultation and recommended that the Tachi Yokuts, Table Mountain Rancheria, Tule River Indian Reservation, or the Traditional Choinumni Tribe be contacted. An additional response, from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe deferred to the more local tribes in the area. No additional tribal responses were received from the NAHC contact list.

The Phase I survey fieldwork was conducted on 3 February 2023, with parallel transects spaced at 15-meter intervals walked across the proposed Project APE, totaling approximately 37.4-ac. No historical or archaeological resources of any kind are present within the study area.

#### 5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

No historical or archaeological resources are present with the Project APE. The Selma Development Project, therefore, does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts or effects to significant historical resources or historic properties. A finding of No Historic Properties Affected is recommended. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are encountered during project construction or use, however, it is recommended that an archaeologist be contacted to assess the discovery.

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# A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR SELMA CASITAS OFFSITE UTILITIES, CITY OF SELMA CALIFORNIA

#### Submitted to:

Crawford and Bowen Planning, Inc. 113 N. Church Street, Suite #302 Visalia, California 93291

# **Keywords:**

Conejo 7.5' Quadrangle, City of Selma, California Environmental Quality Act

# Submitted by:

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#### **Author:**

Scott M. Hudlow

June 2024

#### **Management Summary**

At the request of Crawford and Bowen Planning, Inc., a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was conducted on an approximate .75 miles of right-of-way, located along E. Rose Avenue and South Fancher Street in the City of Selma, California. The Phase I Cultural Resource Survey consisted of an archaeological survey and a cultural resource record search.

No cultural resources were identified. No further work is required. If archaeological resources are encountered during the course of construction, a qualified archaeologist should be consulted for further evaluation.

If human remains or potential human remains are observed during construction, work in the vicinity of the remains will cease, and the remains will be treated in accordance with the provisions of State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. The protection of human remains follows California Public Resources Codes, Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99.

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## 1.0 Introduction

At the request of Crawford and Bowen Planning, Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates conducted a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for proposed offsite utility improvements between S. Fancher Street and E. Rose Avenue. The approximate .75 mile right-of-way is in three sections in the City of Selma, California. This project is being undertaken in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with the City of Selma responsible as Lead Agency to implement CEQA. The Phase I Cultural Resource Survey consisted of a pedestrian survey and a cultural resource record search.

CEQA is a California statute passed in 1970. Governor Ronald Reagan signed it into law, after the federal government passed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CEQA institutes a statewide policy of environmental protection. CEQA does not directly regulate land uses, but instead requires state and local agencies within California to follow a protocol of analysis and public disclosure of environmental impacts of proposed projects and, in a departure from NEPA, adopt all feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. CEQA makes environmental protection a mandatory part of every California state and local agency's decision making process.

CEQA was signed into law in 1970, in a time of increasing public concern for the environment. The statute required that for any public project, the government must conduct an environmental study to examine what impacts the project might have on things like air/water quality, noise, transportation, biological resources, or cultural resources, and generate an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documenting the impacts as well as any potential and planned mitigations. In 1972, state courts interpreted a public project as a development project that needed government approval.

In 1969, NEPA passed into law. It is similar to CEQA in that both statutes set forth a policy of environmental protection, and a protocol by which all agencies in their respective jurisdictions make environmental protection part of their decision making process. NEPA is narrower in scope than CEQA. NEPA applies only to projects receiving federal funding or approval by federal agencies, while CEQA applies to projects receiving any form of state or local approval, permit, or oversight. Thus, development projects in California funded only by private sources and not requiring approval by a federal agency would be exempt from NEPA; but would likely be subject to CEQA.

The CEQA statute, California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq., codifies a statewide policy of environmental protection. According to CEQA, state and local agencies must give consideration to environmental protection in regulating public and private activities and should not approve projects for

which feasible and environmentally superior mitigation measures or alternatives exist.

CEQA mandates actions that all state and local agencies must do to advance this policy. Specifically, for any project under CEQA's jurisdiction with potentially significant environmental impacts, agencies must identify mitigation measures and alternatives by preparing an Environmental Impact Report and must approve projects with feasible mitigation measures and the environmentally superior alternative. The California Natural Resources Agency promulgates the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Title 14 § 15000 et seq., which detail the protocol by which state and local agencies must comply with CEQA requirements. CEQA originally applied to only public projects, but California Supreme Court interpretation of the statute, as well as later revisions, expanded CEQA's jurisdiction to nearly all projects within California, including those proposed by private businesses and individuals. § 21002.1 states "Each public agency shall mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment of projects that it carries out or approves whenever it is feasible to do so." For private projects, CEQA applies when a discretionary government permit or other entitlement for use is necessary.

The lead agency, the City of Selma, is responsible for conducting the CEQA review and has final approval of the project. The City of Selma is also responsible for coordinating with the project applicant, public, and associated agencies during the CEQA process.

# 2.0 Project Location

The project area is in the City of Selma, California. The three sections of right-of-way are located in the NE ¼ of Section 1, T.16S., R.21E., Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, as displayed on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Conejo 7.5-minute quadrangle map (Figure 1). The proposed offsite utility right-of-way is in three sections. The first section is along South Fancher Street, at the south intersection of South Fancher Street and E. Floral Avenue. The second section is along South Fancher Street between Stillman Street and E. Rose Avenue. The third section is along E. Rose Avenue between Stillman Street and S. Highland Avenue (Highway 43) in the City of Selma, California.

## 3.0 Record Search

A record search of the project area and the environs within one half-mile was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. Scott M. Hudlow conducted the record search, RS# 24-256, on May 31, 2024. The record search revealed that eight cultural resource surveys have been conducted within one half-mile of the project area. No previous surveys have addressed the parcel in question. Ten cultural resources are located within one half-mile of the current project area; each is a historic structure.

One house is located adjacent to the project area (Appendix II). No cultural resources have previously identified within the current project area.

## 4.0 Environmental Background

The project area is located at elevations between 300 and 305 feet above mean sea level in the Great Central Valley, which is composed of two valleys-the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley. These right-of-ways are located within the Kings River delta. These right-of-ways are denuded of vegetation, due to their nature as farm and county roads. However, these roads proceed through orchards. No native vegetation survives (Figures 2-4).

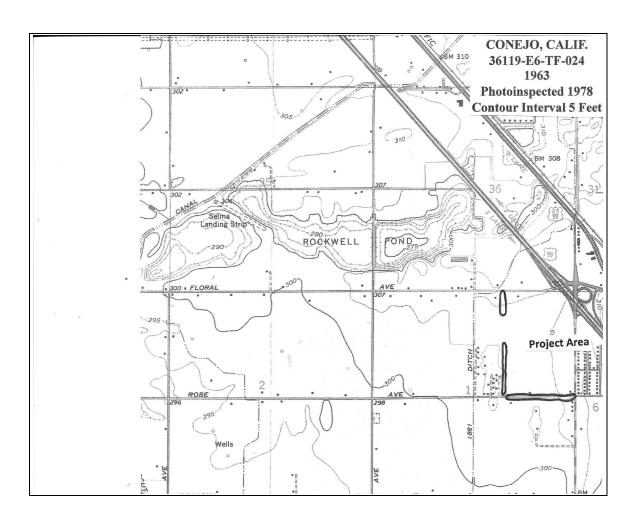
# 5.0 Prehistoric Archaeological Context

A limited amount of archaeological research has been conducted in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Thus, consensus on a generally agreed upon regional cultural chronology has yet to be developed. Most cultural sequences can be summarized into several distinct time periods: Early, Middle, and Late. Sequences differ in their inclusion of various "horizons," "technologies," or "stages." A prehistoric archaeological summary of the southern San Joaquin Valley is available in Moratto (Moratto 1984).

Despite the preoccupation with chronological issues in most of the previous research, most suggested chronological sequences are borrowed from other regions with minor modifications based on sparse local data.

The following chronology is based on Parr and Osborne's Paleo-Indian, Proto-Archaic, Archaic, Post-Archaic periods (Parr and Osborne 1992:44-47). Most existing chronologies focus on stylistic changes of time-sensitive artifacts such as projectile points and beads rather than addressing the socioeconomic factors, which produced the myriad variations. In doing so, these attempts have encountered similar difficulties. These cultural changes are implied as environmentally determined, rather than economically driven.

Paleo-Indians, whom roamed the region approximately 12,000 years ago, were highly mobile individuals. Their subsistence is assumed to have been primarily big game, which was more plentiful 12,000 years ago than in the late twentieth century. However, in the Great Basin and California, Paleo people were also foragers who exploited a wide range of resources. Berries, seeds, and small game were also consumed. Their technology was portable, including manos (Parr and Osborne 1992:44). The paleo period is characterized by fluted Clovis and Folsom points, which have been identified throughout North America. The Tulare Lake region in Kings County has yielded several Paleo-Indian sites, which have included fluted points, scrapers, chipped crescents, and Lake Mojave-type points (Morratto 1984:81-2).



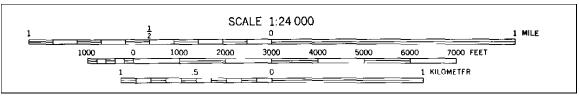


Figure 1
Project Area Location Map

The Proto-Archaic period, which dates from approximately 11,000 to 8,000 years ago, was characterized by a reduction in mobility and conversely an increase in sedentism. This period is classified as the Western Pluvial Lake Tradition or the Proto-Archaic, of which the San Dieguito complex is a major aspect (Moratto 1984: 90-99; Warren 1967). An archaeological site along Buena Vista Lake in southwestern Kern County displays a similar assemblage to the San Dieguito type site. Claude Warren proposes that a majority of Proto-Archaic southern California could be culturally classified as the San Dieguito Complex (Warren 1967). The Buena Vista Lake site yielded manos, millingstones, large stemmed and foliate points, a mortar, and red ochre. During this period, subsistence patterns began to change. Hunting focused on smaller game and plant collecting became more integral. Large stemmed, lancelote (foliate) projectile points represents lithic technology. Millingstones become more prevalent. The increased sedentism possibly began to create regional stylistic and cultural differences not evident in the paleo period.

The Archaic period persisted in California for the next 4000 years. In 1959, Warren and McKusiak proposed a three-phase chronological sequence based on a small sample of burial data for the Archaic period (Moratto 1984:189; Parr and Osborne 1992:47). It is distinguished by increased sedentism and extensive seed and plant exploitation. Millingstones, shaped through use, were abundant. Bedrock manos and metates were the most prevalent types of millingstones (Parr and Osborne 1992:45). The central valley began to develop distinct cultural variations, which can be distinguished by different regions throughout the valley, including Madera County.

In the Post-Archaic period enormous cultural variations began manifesting themselves throughout the entire San Joaquin Valley. This period extends into the contact period in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sedentary village life was emblematic of the Post-Archaic period, although hunting and gathering continued as the primary subsistence strategy. Agriculture was absent in California, partially due to the dense, predictable, and easily exploitable natural resources. The ancestral Yokuts have possibly been in the valley for the last three thousand years, and by the eighteenth century were the largest pre-contact population, approximately 40,000 individuals, in California (Moratto 1984).

## 6.0 Ethnographic Background

The Yokuts are a Penutian-speaking, non-political cultural group. Penutian speakers inhabit the San Joaquin Valley, the Bay Area, and the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Yokuts are split into three major groups, the Northern Valley Yokuts, the Southern Valley Yokuts, and the Foothill Yokuts.

The southern San Joaquin Valley in the Fresno area was home to the Yokuts tribelet, Choinumne. The tribelet had approximately 500 people, had a special name for themselves, and spoke a unique dialect of Yokuts. Land was owned collectively, and every group member enjoyed the right to utilize

food resources. The Choinumne occupied the west bank of the Kings River, south of Dry Creek (Latta 1999).

The Southern Valley Yokuts had a mixed economy emphasizing fishing, hunting, fowling, and collecting shellfish, roots, and seeds. Fish were the most



Figure 2
Project Area, Segment #1, View to the South

prevalent resource and was a productive activity throughout the entire year. Fish were caught in many different manners, including nets, conical basket traps, catching with bare hands, shooting with bows and arrows, and stunning fish with mild floral toxins. Geese, ducks, mud hens and other waterfowl were caught in snares, long-handled nets, stuffed decoys, and brushing brush to trick the birds to fly low into waiting hunters. Mussels were gathered and steamed on beds of tule. Turtles and dogs were consumed (Wallace 1978:449-450).

Wild seeds and roots provided a large portion of the Yokuts' diet. Tule seeds, grass seeds, fiddleneck, alfilaria were also consumed. Acorns, the staple crop for many California native cultures, were not common in the San Joaquin Valley. Acorns were traded into the area. Land mammals, such as rabbits, ground squirrels, antelope and tule elk, were not taken often (Wallace 1978:450).

The Yokuts occupied permanent structures in permanent villages for most of the year. During the late and early summer, families left for several months to gather seeds and plant foods, shifting camp locations when changing crops. Several different types of fiber-covered structures were common in Yokuts settlements. The largest was a communal tule mat-covered, wedge-shaped

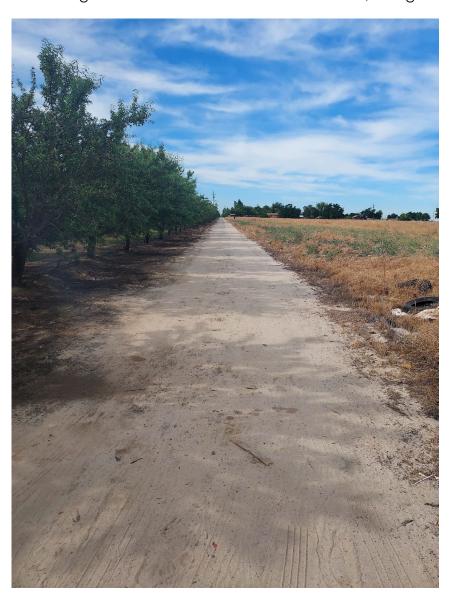


Figure 3
Project Area, Segment #2, View to the South

structure, which could house upward of ten individuals. These structures were established in a row, with the village chief's house in the middle and his messenger's houses were located at the ends of the house row. Dance houses and assembly buildings were located outside the village living area (Nabokov and Easton 1989:301).

The Yokuts also built smaller, oval, single-family tule dwellings. These houses were covered with tall mohya stalks or with sewn tule mats. Bent-pole ribs that met a ridgepole held by two crotched poles framed these small houses. The Yokuts also built a cone-shaped dwelling, which was framed with poles tied together with a hoop and then covered with tule or grass. These cone-shaped dwellings were large enough to contain multiple fireplaces (Nabokov and Easton 1989:301). Other structures included mat-covered granaries for storing food supplies, and a dirt-covered, communally owned sweathouse.

Clothing was minimal, men wore a breechclout or were naked. Women wore a narrow-fringed apron. Cold temperatures brought out rabbitskin or mud hen blankets. Moccasins were worn in certain places; however, most people went barefoot. Men wore no head coverings, but women wore basketry caps when they carried burden baskets on their heads. Hair was worn long. Women wore tattoos from the corners of the mouth to the chin; both men and women had ear and nose piercings. Bone, wood or shell ornaments were inserted (Wallace 1978:450-451).

Tule dominated the Yokut's material culture. It was used for many purposes, including sleeping mats, wall coverings, cradles, and basketry. Ceramics are uncommon to Yokuts culture as is true throughout most California native cultures. Basketry was common to Yokuts culture. Yokuts made cooking containers, conical burden baskets, flat winnowing trays, seed beaters, and necked water bottles. Yokuts also manufactured wooden digging sticks, fire drills, mush stirrers, and sinew-backed bows. Knives, projectile points, and scraping tools were chipped from imported lithic materials including obsidian, chert, and chalcedony. Stone mortars and pestles were secured in trade. Cordage was manufactured from milkweed fibers, animal skins were tanned, and awls were made from bone. Marine shells, particularly olivella shells, were used in the manufacture of money and articles of personal adornment. Shells were acquired from the Chumash along the coast (Wallace 1978:451-453).

The basic social and economic unit was the nuclear family. Lineages were organized along patrilineal lines. Yokuts fathers transmitted totems, particular to each paternal lineage, to each of his children. The totem was an animal or bird that no member would kill or eat and that was dreamed of and prayed to. The mother's totem was not passed to her offspring; but was treated with respect. Families sharing the same totem formed an exogamous lineage. The lineage had no formal leader nor did it own land. The lineage was a mechanism for transmitting offices and performing ceremonial functions. The lineages formed two moieties, East and West, which consisted of several different lineages.

Moieties were customarily exogamous. Children followed the paternal moiety. Certain official positions within the villages were associated with certain totems. The most important was the Eagle lineage from which the village chief was appointed. A member of the Dove lineage acted as the chief's assistant. He supervised food distribution and gave commands during ceremonies. Another hereditary position was common to the Magpie lineage, was that of spokesman or crier.



Figure 4
Project Area, Segment #3, View to the West

# 7.0 Historical Overview

Fresno County was settled in the 1850s, soon after California joined the United States after the passage of the Compromise of 1850. The Compromise of

1850 allowed California to join the Union as a free state even though a major portion of the state lied beneath the Missouri Compromise line; and was potentially subject to southern settlement and slavery. Americans had long been visiting and working in California prior to the admission of California into the Union.

The Spanish moving north from Baja California into Alta California began European settlement of California 1n 1769. Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan friar founded Mission San Diego de Alcala, beginning California active European settlement. However, Spanish mission efforts were focused on California's coastal regions. Spanish exploration of the San Joaquin Valley region begins in the 1770s. In 1772, Pedro Fages arrived in the San Joaquin Valley searching for army deserters. Father Francisco Garces, a Franciscan priest, soon visited the vicinity in 1776. The Spanish empire collapsed in 1820, all of Spain's former Central and South American colonies became independent nations. As a result, California became Mexican territory. California stayed in Mexican hands until the Mexican-American War. Mexican California remained a coastal society with little interest in settling in California's hot, dry interior valleys.

American exploration of the San Joaquin Valley begins in the 1820s with Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, and Joseph Walker looking for commercial opportunities. The United States government began exploring California in the 1830s. Soon, the Americans will be searching for intercontinental railroad routes to link the eastern and western halves of the continent.

The defeat of the Mexicans during the Mexican-American War and the subsequent discovery of gold will drastically alter the complicated political realities of the west. The Mexican-American War was ostensible fought to settle a boundary dispute with the Mexicans over the western boundary of the newly-annexed state of Texas, which had fought a successful rebellion against the Mexican Army in the mid-1830s. The Republic of Texas was an independent country for nine years until Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845. One major outcome of the Mexican-American War was that Mexico rescinded its claims to much of the American southwest. In 1848 these territories were folded into the United States, including California.

In January 1848, the discovery of gold in Coloma, California changed the settlement of California, forever. In the summer of 1848, when the gold strike was publicly announced, the overnight settlement of California began. The Mexican population of California was small and limited to the coasts and a few of southern California's interior valleys. A sizable native population settled the remainder of California; Fresno County was Yokuts territory. The Gold Rush tipped the balance of native communities throughout California, as many of California's natives were decimated.

In 1856, Fresno County was created from the northern half of Tulare County. The first county seat was at Millerton. Anthony Easterby established a

wheat farm in 1867 in what would become Fresno. By 1871, he created an irrigation system and in 1872, the Central Pacific Railroad established a nearby rail stop. By 1885, Fresno had grown to the point that it incorporated as a city.

While farmers were settling the valley, cattle ranchers, timber mill operators, and resort operators settled the heavily timbered highlands of the southern Sierra Mountains. Road builders, such as John Jordan, opened the mountains, following native (Yokuts) trails into the mountains. By 1865, timber mills were found in the general vicinity, and were responsible for opening areas for settlement and for providing lumber to fuel the local economy. Cattle ranchers and shepherds grazed their animals throughout the region until 1903, when the laws changed.

As access to the San Joaquin Valley was secured via new and better roads, the mountains opened to permanent settlements. Small towns were established, such as Springville. Avon M. Coburn founded Springville in 1890. Coburn established a box factory and sawmill along the Tule River, near where Bear Creek empties into the middle fork of the Tule River. Springville flourished connecting the Tule River valley to the San Joaquin Valley via the wagon road to Porterville, which had been established in 1864.

As the areas to the west grew, the need for steady economic power arose. Albert Wishon, a local real estate agent, convinced the new (1895) San Joaquin Power Company, (later the San Joaquin Light and Power Company), which later merged with Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1930, to build a hydroelectric dam on the Tule River in 1900. The pack road east of Springville was upgraded to a wagon road, and Camp Wishon was established as a construction camp, located below the Doyle Ranch. Construction on the power plant began in 1904. The power plant not only provided reliable power to the San Joaquin Valley to the west, but also opened areas to the east.

#### 8.0 Field Procedures and Methods

On June 2, 2024, Scott M. Hudlow (for qualifications see Appendix I) conducted a pedestrian archaeological survey of the entire proposed project area. Hudlow surveyed in both east/west and north/south transects along the entire right-of-way.

## 9.0 Report of Archaeological Findings

No cultural resources were identified.

# 10.0 Management Recommendations

At the request of Crawford and Bowen Planning, Inc., a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was conducted on an approximate .75 miles of right-of-way, located along E. Rose Avenue and South Fancher Street in the City of Selma,

California. The Phase I Cultural Resource Survey consisted of an archaeological survey and a cultural resource record search.

No cultural resources were identified. No further work is required. If archaeological resources are encountered during the course of construction, a qualified archaeologist should be consulted for further evaluation.

If human remains or potential human remains are observed during construction, work in the vicinity of the remains will cease, and the remains will be treated in accordance with the provisions of State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. The protection of human remains follows California Public Resources Codes, Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99.

## 11.0 References

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1967 "The San Dieguito Complex: A Review and Hypothesis" American Antiquity 32(2): 168-185.

Appendix I

## Scott M. Hudlow

1405 Sutter Lane Bakersfield, California 93309 (661) 834-9183

## **Education**

The George Washington University M.A. American Studies, 1993 Specialization in Historical Archaeology and Architectural History

University of California, Berkeley B.A. History, 1987 B.A. Anthropology, 1987 Specialization in Historical Archaeology and Colonial History

#### **Public Service**

3/94-12/02 Historic Preservation Commission. City of Bakersfield, Bakersfield, California 93305.

7/97-12/01 Newsletter Editor. California History Action, newsletter for the California Council for the Promotion of History.

## **Relevant Work Experience**

8/96- Adjutant Faculty. Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, California, 93305. Teach History 17A, Introduction to American History and Anthropology 5, Introduction to North American Indians.

Owner, Sole Proprietorship. Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates. 1405 Sutter Lane, Bakersfield California 93309. Operate small cultural resource management business. Manage contracts, respond to RFP's, bill clients, manage temporary employees. Conduct Phase I archaeological and architectural surveys for private and public clients; including the cultural resource survey, documentary photography, measured drawings, mapping of structures, filing of survey forms, historic research, assessing impact and writing reports. Evaluated archaeological and architectural sites and properties in lieu of their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places in association with Section 106 and 110 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

Full resume is available upon request.

Appendix II

# Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
FR-00565		1992	Napton, L. Kyle	Cultural Resources Investigations of the Proposed Selma Northwest Growth Area Expanded Initial Study, Fresno County, California	Claifornia State University, Stanislaus	
FR-00573	Caltrans - 06-FRE-43 PM 7.9/9.3 CU 253 EA 34356K	1991	Nissen, Karen and Kennedy, Michael	Negative Archaeological Survey Report for a Project to Widen Route 43 South of Selma	California Department of Transportation	
FR-01820	Submitter - Site No. CV-613-01	2001	Derr, Eleanor H. and Brown, R. Keith	Historical and Cultural Resource Assessment for a Proposed Telecommunications Facility, Selma, Site No. CV-613-01, 3350 Floral Avenue, Fresno County, California	Brown & Mills, Inc.	
FR-01950		2003	Brady, Jon L.	Historic Property Survey for the Proposed Villa Rose Apartment Complex, Selma, California	J&R Environmental Services	
FR-01972		2002	Matthews, Steven L.	Proposed Telecommunications Tower, Antennae's and Equipment Facility for Verizon Wireless/Crown Castle Located in Selma, Fresno County, California	Tetra Tech/KCM, Inc.	
FR-01996		2003	Brady, Jon L.	Archaeological Survey Report for the Home Depot Project: APN No.'s 348-190-49S, and 348-190-37S, Selma, California	J&R Environmental Services	
FR-02422		2007	Wlodarski, Robert J.	A Phase 1 Archaeological Study for the Proposed Rockewell Specific Plan Project: A 251 Acre Site Located at the Northeast Corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue Within the City Selma, Fresno County, California	Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team	
FR-02452		2011	Windmiller, Ric	Golden State Corridor Project Cultural Resources Assessment Fresno County, California	Individual Consultant	

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#### **Resource List**

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Туре	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-10-005189		Resource Name - Preciado House	Building	Historic	HP02	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005190			Building	Historic	HP02	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005191		Resource Name - Chau Residence; Resource Name - Hughes Residence	Building	Historic	HP02	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005192		Resource Name - Samra House; Resource Name - Porter Forkner Tenat House	Building	Historic	HP02; HP30	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005193		Resource Name - Piona Ranch; Resource Name - Gordon/Tiesler House	Building	Historic	HP02; HP06	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005196		Resource Name - Porter House	Building	Historic	HP02	1991 (Aaron A. Gallup, Caltrans)	
P-10-005298		Resource Name - Grumbles Property; Resource Name - Western 1/2 of Lots 18-21 Block 5 of 1887 Baird Addition	Building	Historic	HP02	2003 (Jon L. Brady, J & R Environmental Services)	
P-10-005299		Resource Name - Grumbles Property; Resource Name - Block 5 of 1887 Baird Addition	Building	Historic	HP02	2003 (Jon L. Brady, J & R Environmental Services)	
P-10-005300		Resource Name - Grumbles Property; Resource Name - Baird Addition	Building	Historic	HP02	2003 (Jon L. Brady, J & R Environmental Services)	
P-10-005301		Resource Name - Grumbles Property; Resource Name - Lots 16 & 17 of Block 5 of the Bairds Addition to the Selma	Building	Historic	HP02	2003 (Jon L. Brady, J & R Environmental Services)	