

Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project Fresno County, California

Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna

Prepared By



Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, CA 93711

Prepared For

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

P.O. Box 1058
Riverdale, CA 93656

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USGS Riverdale 7.5' quadrangle, T 17S, R 19E, Sec. 24; 3086 W. Mt. Whitney Ave.

26.99-acre study area; 21.51-acre Project area; 19.94 acres surveyed

Resources: Riverdale High School Stadium (P-10-007687), Restroom Facility (P-10-007686), and Pump Building (P-10-007685); P-10-007683

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

At the request of Riverdale Joint Unified School District (RJUSD), Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) completed a cultural resource study for the proposed Riverdale High School Improvement Project in the city of Riverdale in Fresno County, California. The proposed improvements include renovating the existing historic-era athletic stadium, constructing new athletic fields, replacing an existing pole barn, and making other improvements to associated facilities within a portion of the Riverdale High School property (Project). The original Project was 26.99-acres; however, during the development of this report, it was reduced to 21.51-acres. Therefore, we have identified the larger 26.99-acres as the study area, and the smaller 21.51-acres as the Project area. As there are recorded cultural resources within the study area and field technicians surveyed the larger property, we have retained some of this information pertinent to the Riverdale High School for thorough documentation. Additionally, although this report documents the conditions and findings of the entire study area, CEQA compliance is only necessary for the 21.51-acre Project area.

As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process, RJUSD requested a cultural resource study be conducted to determine if historical resources are present within the Project area that could be impacted by the proposed improvements. To assist the RJUSD in fulfilling their responsibility under CEQA, Æ conducted a cultural resource study to identify whether there are historical resources (i.e., cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources [CRHR]) within the Project area.

For this study, Æ conducted a records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS); desktop research to better understand the history of land use in the Project area; an intensive pedestrian survey of the study area and the Project area to identify archaeological and built environment cultural resources; and an evaluation of four historical built environment resources for listing in the CRHR. Æ was able to access 19.94 acres, or 92.71 percent, of the Project area. RJUSD conducted Native American consultation with local tribes and individuals under Assembly Bill 52; Æ did not conduct additional tribal outreach for the Project.

The SSJVIC records search revealed one previously recorded nonextant historic-era resource (Riverdale Ditch; P-10-007056) within the Project area and three previously recorded historic-era resources within a 0.5-mile search radius. Additionally, there have been five studies previously conducted within the Project area and four previous studies within the 0.5-mile radius.

Æ conducted an archaeological and built environment pedestrian survey of the Project area on April 25, 2025. Æ's archaeologist identified an isolated artifact scatter (P-10-007683) containing historic-era glass and ceramic fragments and a complete precontact handstone on a berm of imported soils adjacent to the stadium. Isolated artifacts, by definition, are not eligible for listing in the CRHR because they lack historic association and context.

Æ's architectural historians initially identified four potentially historic-era built environment resources within the Project area, and one potentially historic-era built environment resource

within the study area. These include the Riverdale High School Stadium (P-10-007687), pump building, concession stand, agricultural barn, and restroom facility. Although, the restroom facility is outside of the Project area, Æ included the building in this inventory to facilitate future development at Riverdale High School. Two of these resources were confirmed not to be of historic age: the concession stand and the agricultural barn. Æ recorded three historic built environment resources and the isolated artifact scatter on the appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523-series forms. Æ evaluated the historic-era built environment resources for CRHR-eligibility and concluded that they do not possess the required historical significance to qualify for listing. As such, they do not qualify as historical resources per CEQA.

Although Æ concludes there are no historical resources within the Project area, the isolated sparse scatter of debris (P-10-007683) was found on the berm containing imported soils of unknown origin and age. Because it is not certain if the spoils came from within the Project area or outside, Æ recommends specific mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate significant impacts on historical resources, should they be discovered during Project implementation. In addition, RJUSD's Assembly Bill 52 consultation with the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe resulted in measures to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to potential Tribal Cultural Resources. All mitigation measures are listed in Section 6.2.

Additionally, if human remains are uncovered during construction, the Project operator shall immediately halt work within 100 feet of the find, contact the Fresno County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e)(1). If the remains are identified on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits to be those of a Native American person, then the California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the county coroner notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of discovery. The Native American Heritage Commission will then identify the Most Likely Descendant, who will be afforded the opportunity to recommend treatment of the ancestral human remains.

Field notes, maps, and a complete set of photographs from the current study are on file at Æ's office in Fresno, California. A copy of the final version of this report will be submitted to the SSJVIC of the CHRIS at California State University, Bakersfield.

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1

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Riverdale Joint Unified School District (RJUSD), Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) completed a cultural resource study for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project (Project) in the city of Riverdale, Fresno County, California (Figure 1-1). Riverdale High School is in the southeast quarter of Section 24 of Township 17 South, Range 19 East, as depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1954 Riverdale, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1-2). The 21.51-acre Project area is at 3086 W. Mount Whitney Ave., Assessor's Parcel Numbers 053-130-12T and 053-130-82T, northwest of the intersection of West Mount Whitney and South Marks avenues (Figure 1-3).

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RJUSD proposes a series of improvements in three phases to Riverdale High School. While development of each phase may shift depending on available funding, the following are currently proposed. The initial phase will renovate the Riverdale High School Stadium, reconstruct a parking lot, and expand the existing stormwater basin on the northern side of the school campus to the south. Plans for Phase 2 include demolition of the existing agricultural barn facilities and construction of three new multi-use athletic fields. In Phase 3, a new small bathroom building and a new agricultural barn will be constructed (Figure 1-4). Improvements to a section of South Hazel Avenue is also proposed and a sidewalk and additional parking will be added east of South Hazel Avenue.

The original Project was 26.99-acres; however, during the development of this report, it was reduced to 21.51-acres. Therefore, we have identified the larger 26.99-acres as the study area, and the smaller 21.51-acres as the Project area.

1.2 REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Project is subject the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with guidelines for implementation codified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq. CEQA mandates that public agencies, in this case the RJUSD, consider the impacts of discretionary projects on the environment, including cultural resources. If a project has potential to cause substantial adverse change in the characteristics of an important cultural resource or "historical resource" through demolition, destruction, relocation, alteration, or other means, then the project is judged to have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]). Historical resources are buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, precontact, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance and is listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Where substantial adverse change is unavoidable and the historical resource cannot be preserved in an undisturbed state, the lead agency shall require mitigation measures to minimize substantial adverse changes to the resource's significance (Public Resource Code [PRC] 21083.2[c]). It is further stipulated that the "lead agency shall ensure that any adopted measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse changes are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures" (14 CCR 15064.5[b][4]).



Figure 1-1 Project vicinity in Fresno County, California.

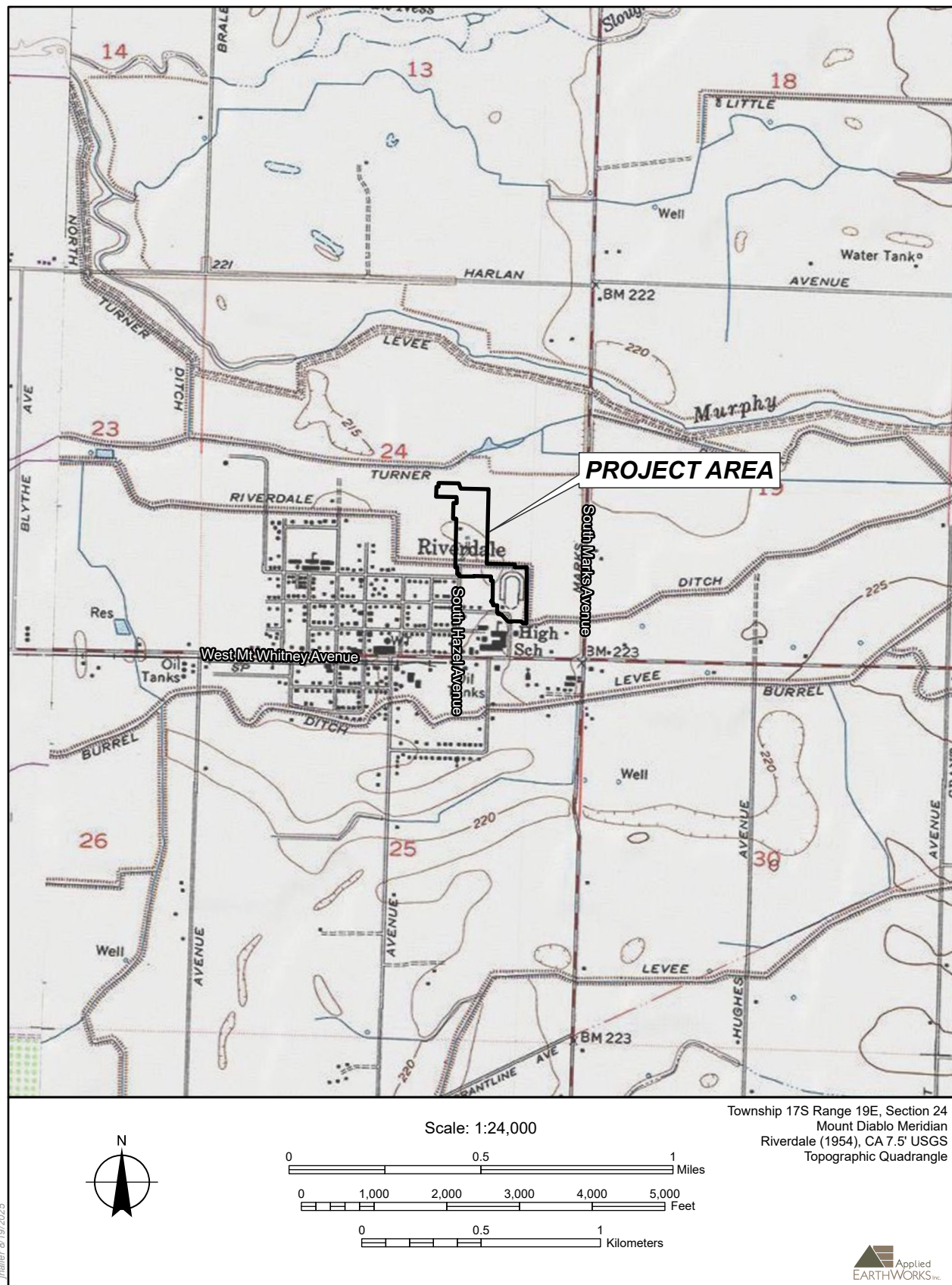


Figure 1-2 Project location on USGS Riverdale 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.



Figure 1-3 Aerial view of the Project area.

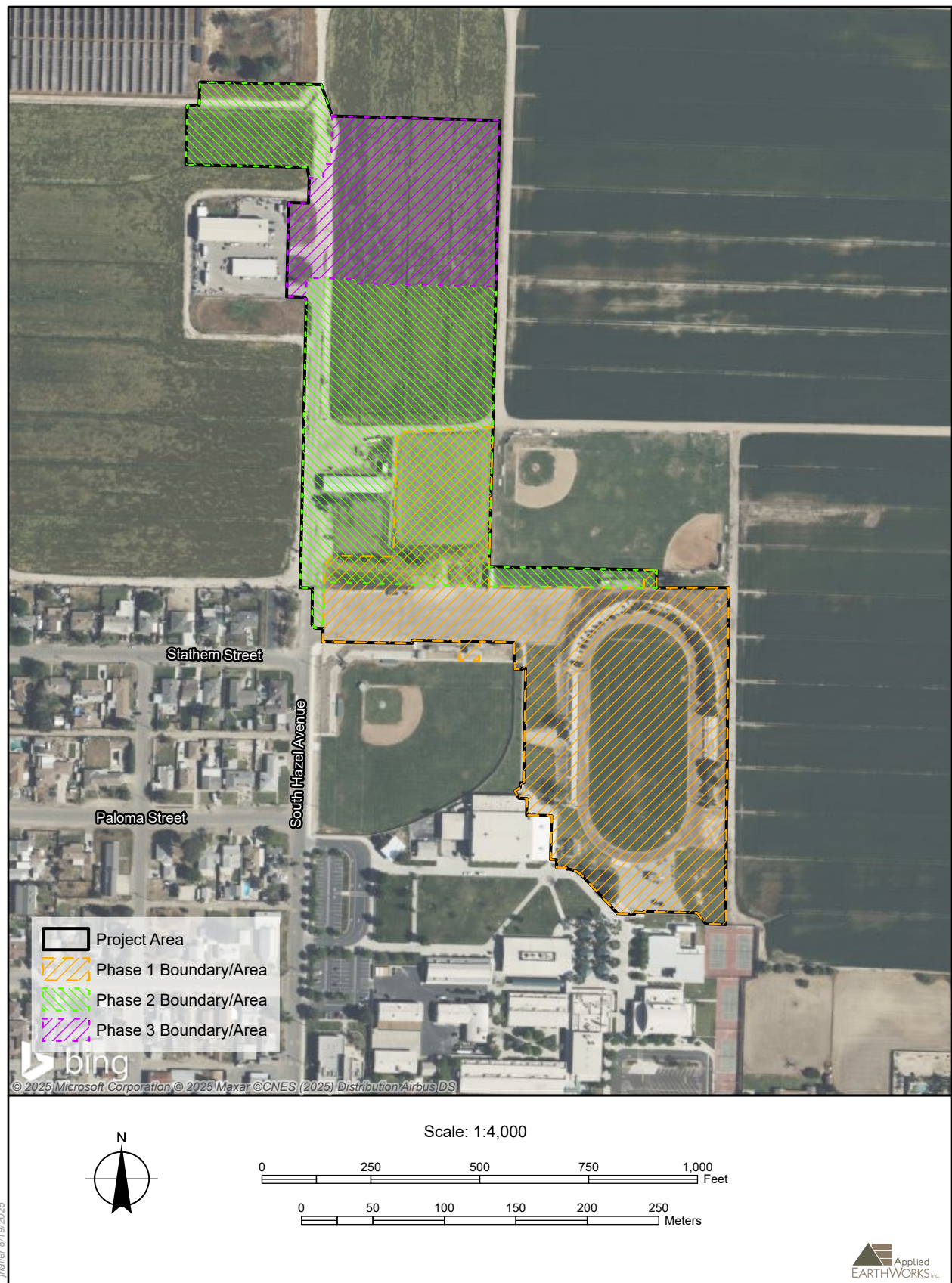


Figure 1-4 Riverdale High School Improvement Proposed Phases.

For the purposes of this report, a cultural resource is defined as a precontact or historical (i.e., 45 years old or older) archaeological site or a historical building, structure, or object. The importance or significance of a cultural resource depends on whether it qualifies for inclusion in the CRHR. Cultural resources determined eligible for the CRHR are called “historical resources,” and the determination of eligibility is based on a set of significance criteria (14 CCR 15064.5[a]).

It is worth noting here that, as defined at PRC Section 21074(a), a tribal cultural resource (TCR) is a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object that is of cultural value to a California Native American tribe and is either listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR or included in a local register of historical resources. TCRs should be identified by the Native American community that identifies, manages, and/or takes responsibility for the resource and are, therefore, not included in the identification and assessment efforts of this cultural resource study. TCRs and any other resource determined significant by a Native American community should be identified as part of the RJUSD’s tribal outreach responsibilities under Assembly Bill 52, if any are present.

1.3 PROJECT PERSONNEL

Æ Managing Principal Anna Hoover (M.S., Registered Professional Archaeologist [RPA] 28576661) served as principal investigator and project manager, providing quality assurance, quality control for the project, and technical oversight. Principal Architectural Historian Carlos van Onna (M.A.) oversaw all built environment tasks. Associate Anthropologist Nicole Saenz (M.S.) co-authored the report. Staff Anthropologist Justin Tidd (B.A.) conducted the archaeological pedestrian survey. Staff Architectural Historian Sophia Lynch (B.A.) conducted the built environment pedestrian survey, conducted archival research, and co-authored this report. Associate Architectural Historian Cheyenne Good-Peery (B.A.) co-authored this report and prepared California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523-series forms for the built environment resources. Æ Principal Archaeologist Emerita Mary Baloian (Ph.D., RPA 15189) reviewed this document for consistency and technical accuracy. Qualifications of key personnel are provided in Appendix A.

1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report was prepared in accordance with the California Office of Historic Preservation’s *Archaeological Resource Management Reports: Recommended Contents and Format* (Office of Historic Preservation 1990). This document consists of seven chapters. Following this introduction, Chapter 2 describes the environmental and cultural context of the Project area. Chapter 3 presents the methods used for archaeological and built environment background research and pedestrian surveys, while Chapter 4 discusses the results of the records search, background research, and archaeological and built environment surveys. Chapter 5 presents an evaluation of identified historic-era built environment resources. Finally, Chapter 6 contains a summary and provides mitigation recommendations. A complete list of references cited is in Chapter 7. Appendix A contains resumes of key personnel. Appendix B presents the records search results, and Appendix C contains DPR forms for the newly identified cultural resources as well as an update form for the previously recorded, but no longer extant, Riverdale Ditch.

Field notes, maps, and a complete set of photographs from the current study are on file at Æ's office in Fresno, California. A copy of the final version of this report will be submitted to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at California State University, Bakersfield.

2 SETTING

This chapter describes the natural environment within the Project and surrounding area. It also provides a summary of precontact history and previous archaeological investigations as well as an ethnographic overview. The chapter concludes with an overview of the history of the region and provides specific information about the Project area that provides a context for evaluation of the significance of the cultural resources recorded.

2.1 ENVIRONMENT

The Project is in the San Joaquin Valley, the southern half of an elongated trough called the Great Valley. The Great Valley is a 50-mile-wide lowland that extends approximately 500 miles south from the Cascade Range to the Tehachapi Mountains (Norris and Webb 1990). The Great Valley is divided by two prominent hydrologic features, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, which drain into San Francisco Bay. Between the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, the Great Valley served as a shallow marine embayment containing numerous lakes, primarily within the San Joaquin Valley (Norris and Webb 1990). As a result, the upper levels of the Great Valley floor are composed of alluvium and flood materials. Below these strata are layers of marine and nonmarine rocks, including claystone, sandstone, shale, basalt, andesite, and serpentine. Waters began to diminish about 10 million years ago, eventually dwindling to the drainages, tributaries, and small lakes that exist today (Hill 1984).

The San Joaquin Valley makes up the Great Valley's lower half. It is bounded by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the north, the mountains of the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, and the Tehachapi Mountains to the south. The San Joaquin Valley comprises two distinct hydrologic subbasins: the San Joaquin and the Tulare. The San Joaquin Subbasin is drained by the San Joaquin River. The Tulare Subbasin has no regular surface outlet; it was formed by the merging of alluvial fans from the Kings River to the east and Los Gatos Creek to the west (Cone 1911). The Tulare Subbasin rivers—the Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern—flowed into the subbasin forming large inland lakes. The Tulare Lake basin lies approximately 30 miles south of the Project. This seasonal lake was extremely shallow and expanded horizontally across the flat landscape as it filled with winter and spring runoff. Its broad but shallow dimensions resulted in wide fluctuations of the lake's shoreline during both precontact and historical times. As it filled beyond its natural alluvial barriers, water was channeled down the Fresno Slough into the San Joaquin River. Tulare Lake was the largest naturally occurring lake in California as recently as 1920 (Norris and Webb 1990). The size of the lake was gradually reduced by historical development of irrigation systems and reclamation of waters draining from the Kings River and other sources. Today the lake only exists in times of flooding, and the deep reserve of groundwater is tapped for private and public use.

Agriculture also spurred the replacement of native plants and animals with domesticated species. Common native plants include white, blue, and live oaks as well as walnut, cottonwood, willow, and tule. Also prominent is bulrush and cattail, various grasses, flowers, and saltbrush. The previously swampy valley floor once provided a lush habitat for a variety of animals. Large mammals include mule deer, tule elk, pronghorn, grizzly and black bears, and mountain lions

(Preston 1981). Other mammals noted are the gray wolf, valley coyote, bobcat, gray and kit foxes, and rabbits. Birds in the area include American osprey, redwing blackbird, marsh hawk, willow and Nuttall woodpeckers, western meadowlark, and quail. The lakes, rivers, and streams throughout the vicinity provide habitat for anadromous and freshwater fish, including Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, Sacramento perch, rainbow trout, thick-tailed chub, and Sacramento sucker (Preston 1981).

2.2 PRECONTACT

The San Joaquin Valley precontact record is among the least understood of all regions in California. Reconstruction of past cultural patterns has been stymied by two key factors: geomorphology and human activity (Dillon 2002; Siefkin 1999). The valley floor that encompasses the Project area has been inundated with thick alluvial deposits resulting from granitic and sedimentary outflow from the San Joaquin and Kings rivers, particularly during mass flood events. This pattern has continued for millennia and has resulted in the burial of early- to mid-Holocene archaeological sites, estimated to be buried at depths up to 10 meters along the lower stretches of the San Joaquin Valley drainage systems (Meyer et al. 2010; Onken 2019). Thus, compared to other regions in the state, there is a paucity of research and a related lack of data from which to build a complete understanding of past human behavior specific to the Central Valley.

Nevertheless, available data for sites in valley lacustrine environs help identify key cultural changes within the Project area and near vicinity. The summary of cultural traits presented below is based on a review of San Joaquin Valley lacustrine, riverine, and valley floor site data discussed in Rosenthal et al. (2007). Cultural periods and accompanying dates, given as calibrated calendar years (cal B.C. or A.D.) and calibrated radiocarbon years (cal B.P.) are summarized in Table 2-1 and are based on Rosenthal et al. (2007), Moratto (1984), McGuire and Garfinkel (1980), and Fredrickson's chronologies (Fredrickson 1973, 1974).

Table 2-1
Central Valley Chronological Framework

Period	Calibrated Years B.C./A.D.	Calibrated Years B.P.	Common Cultural Patterns Specific to Southern San Joaquin Valley Basin ^a
Paleoindian	11,550–8550 B.C.	13,500–10,500	Basally thinned and fluted projectile points; human bone may be fragmented
Lower Archaic	8550–5550 B.C.	10,500–7500	Wide-stemmed, crescent, “humpies,” atlatl and Pinto points; ground stone often absent or low frequency; freshwater mussel, fish, waterfowl, artiodactyl; human bone may be fragmented
Middle Archaic	5550–550 B.C.	7500–2500	Emergence of extended trade and exchange networks, including obsidian from the east side of the Sierra Nevada; <i>Olivella biplicata</i> shell beads include rectangular grooved; acorn and nut as well as diversified land mammal bone; extended burials common, with sophisticated grave offerings; year-round occupations

Table 2-2 (continued)
Central Valley Chronological Framework

Period	Calibrated Years B.C./A.D.	Calibrated Years B.P.	Common Cultural Patterns Specific to Southern San Joaquin Valley Basin ^a
Upper Archaic	550 B.C.– A.D. 1100	2500–950	Patterns of Late Middle Archaic Period continue, unlike the northern valley; emergence of specialized technologies, including bone tools and ritual/decorative items; obsidian bifacial rough-outs and ceremonial blades appear; polished and ground stone plummets; saucer and saddle-shaped <i>Olivella biplicata</i> beads, <i>Haliotis</i> ornaments; terrestrial and aquatic diet; extended burials continue
Emergent Occupation	A.D. 1100– Historic	950–Historic	Many archaic patterns disappear; the bow and arrow emerge between A.D. 1000 and 1300, replacing dart and atlatl; Panoche side-notched and Cottonwood points; mortar and pestle abundant; fish bone dominates with diverse terrestrial bone assemblages; emergence of local shell bead production sites

a - Archaeological data specific to foothill and mountain sites of the southern San Joaquin Valley are excluded, see Rosenthal et al. (2007) for details specific to Delta, Sacramento Valley, and foothill cultures.

The Paleoindian Period (11,500–8550 cal B.C.) is represented by ephemeral lacustrine sites dominated by atlatl dart and spear projectile points. The ancient shores of Tulare Lake, roughly 20 kilometers south of the Project area, has yielded numerous early projectile point styles, including fluted Clovis-like specimens associated with human occupation dating to the Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene transitions 11,000 or more years ago (Riddell and Olsen 1969). Specifically, excavations at the Witt Site (CA-KIN-32) on the southwest shore, contains fluted projectile points as well as a procession of later types, suggesting continual occupation of the basin until historic contact (Fenenga 1993; Moratto 1984). The Tulare lakeshore has also yielded various scrapers, flaked stone crescents, Lake Mojave projectile points, and other stone artifacts typical of the Lake Mojave Period, which is presumed to have begun somewhat earlier than 10,000 years ago at 11,450 B.C., and lasted to perhaps 5050–4550 B.C. (Hall 1993; Moratto 1984). Thus, the evidence, albeit scant, indicates that the area was frequented at an early date by bands of hunters preying on the large herds of game animals.

The earliest evidence of distinct valley cultural patterns appears during the Lower Archaic Period (8550–5550 cal B.C.) when crescents and stemmed projectile points are first used and evidence appears of dietary use of freshwater fish, waterfowl, mussels, deer, and pronghorn. Unfortunately, the relationships between people living in the foothills and valley floor during this period are currently unknown. Like the preceding period, archaeological evidence from the Central Valley is primarily limited to isolated finds such as stemmed points, stone crescents, and other distinctive flaked stone tools on the shores of Tulare Lake (Fenenga 1992; Rosenthal et al. 2007; Wallace and Riddell 1991). The presence of marine shell beads in Great Basin sites around this time suggests that trading relationships were well established during the Lower Archaic, although archaeological evidence from the Central Valley floor is currently lacking (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

The Middle Archaic (5550–550 cal B.C.) marks the development of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta due to sea level rise, which changed the Central Valley into a new, wetland habitat (Rosenthal et al. 2007). At the same time, warmer and drier conditions resulted in the shrinking of Tulare Lake and many other Central Valley lakes (Rosenthal et al. 2007). Foothill sites are

more common during the earlier half of the Middle Archaic. Archaeological assemblages from this region include expedient tools used for a variety of purposes, such as chopping, scraping, and milling, and subsistence data suggest reliance on acorns and pine nuts (McGuire 1995; Rosenthal and McGuire 2004). Valley sites dating to the early part of the Middle Archaic are rare, likely to the depositional environment associated with the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta and the formation of wetlands. The only artifacts from the Central Valley that pre-date 2550 B.C. are those from deeply buried contexts. However, sites post-dating 2550 B.C. are better represented, and include what appear to be long-term residences along rivers. Stone tools were used in abundance, meanwhile ground stone tool kits emerged along with long-distance trade and exchange networks focused on obsidian, shell beads, and ornaments (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

New cultural patterns emerged during the Upper Archaic Period (550 cal B.C. to cal A.D. 1100), when a distinct shift in burial practices occurred and geographic differences in site and artifact types appeared. Widespread proliferation of specialized technology is evident, including new types of bone tools, projectile points, and ceremonial objects such as wands and blades. Paleoethnobotanical studies also suggest the use of labor-intensive and seasonally abundant resources, including acorns, pine nuts, salmon, and shellfish. Year-round villages on the shores of Buena Vista Lake have diverse assemblages, including shell beads, spindle-shaped charmstones, dart points, bone fish spears, cobble mortars and chisel-ended pestles (Hartzell 1992).

Similarly, the Emergent Period, extending from cal A.D. 1100 to the historic-era, is marked by continued variation in settlement and burial patterns appear across the valley, coupled with the disappearance of atlatl and dart tool kits that are replaced with bow-and-arrow technology (i.e., small corner-notched and Desert series projectile points) at about cal A.D. 1000. Fishing tool kits expanded to include more efficient harpoons, bone fishhooks, and gorge hooks. In the Tulare Basin, pottery obtained via trade appears as well as baked clay balls used for cooking and making carved clay effigies (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

2.3 ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

The Project area is in the Southern Valley Yokuts ethnographic territory. The Yokuts are one of eight subgroups of the Penutian linguistic phylum that is present across the western coast and inland regions of North America from Canada to Mexico (Golla 2011). The Yokuts had many language subgroups and spoke a variety of mutually intelligible dialects across the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada (Golla 2011). The Southern Valley Yokuts populated the shores of Tulare, Buena Vista, and Kern lakes, their connecting sloughs, and the lower portions of the Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern rivers (Latta 1999; Silverstein 1978).

The Yokuts resided in round or oval, sunken houses with conically shaped pole frames covered with tule mats. Tules were used to manufacture a wide variety of items including baskets, floor mats, sunshades, curtains, boats, baby cradles, and even women's skirts (Latta 1977). The Northern Valley Yokuts employed bone harpoon tips for fishing, stone sinkers for nets, chert projectile points for hunting, mortars and pestles, scrapers, knives, and bone awls to procure and manufacture food. They acquired marine shell from coastal tribes to make necklaces and other adornments.

The basic unit of Yokuts society was the nuclear family, which was identified with a totem symbol specific to the paternal line. Within each tribe, lineage totems were further grouped into one of two moieties, designated by the overarching symbols of the eagle and coyote (Wallace 1978). The basic political unit was the tribe or tribelet, which encompassed a single village or several settlements. In most Yokuts tribes, two chiefs, one representing each moiety, governed the tribe. Although they were expected to rule the tribe cooperatively, the leader of the eagle moiety was afforded a certain precedence (Kroeber 1976).

The Tachi, who were the northernmost of the Tulare Lake tribes, occupied a large area of the Central Valley, extending from the western shores of Tulare Lake northward to the Fresno Slough and westward to the Coast Ranges (Kroeber 1976). The Tachi Yokuts village *Wiu* (also *Waiu*, or Mussel Slough) was just south of Lemoore at the present location of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut reservation, a few miles southeast of the Project area (Kroeber 1976). During the historic-era, the general vicinity of Lemoore was a seasonal plant and seed collection area for local tribes. The Tachi relied on the plentiful supply of lacustrine and riverine resources, including lake trout, chubs, perch, and suckers as well as turtles and freshwater shellfish. Wild seeds and acorns were harvested in the early summer and fall, respectively, and stored for use throughout the year. Waterfowl and other game attracted to the lake supplemented the Yokuts diet.

Intensive European exploration of Yokuts territory did not take place until the early nineteenth century (Wallace 1978). As a result of European contact with Native American populations of the San Joaquin Valley, indigenous populations were significantly reduced by disease and settlement patterns were disrupted by recruitment for Missions Soledad, San Luis Obispo, San Antonio de Padua, and San Juan Bautista. However, even more traumatic impacts to the valley's Native American population were caused by a series of parasitic (i.e., malaria) and viral (e.g., influenza) epidemics that began in 1833. The diseases struck with such virulence that by 1846 an estimated 40–75 percent of Native Americans had died during outbreaks in California. By 1850, of the estimated 15,700 people constituting the 15 tribelets of the Southern Valley Yokuts, approximately 3,680 are estimated to have survived into the mid-twentieth century (Cook 1955).

Many Southern Valley Yokuts tribes have survived the effects of colonization, particularly the SRR who have since developed an early childhood education to college success program and have worked to preserve song, dance, and oral history traditions of the tribe (Golla 2011). The SRR is governed by a Tribal Council and operates auxiliary departments that serve local tribal populations in areas of governance, healthcare, education, housing, cultural resource management, and administration of the Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino. The SRR contributes annually to the Kings County fire department, health initiatives, and other community welfare programs.

2.4 HISTORIC CONTEXT

The following themes addressed herein provide a framework for evaluating built environment resources within the Project area and include regional development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

2.4.1 Early Exploration and Settlement

The San Joaquin Valley was considered a remote and sometimes unruly hinterland to the coastal missionaries, as well as the Spanish colonial government and later Mexican provincial government, for the first half of the nineteenth century. During the first three decades of the century, treks by Spanish detachments, which typically included a Franciscan padre, explored the region. The Spaniards were the first Europeans to encounter the Southern Valley Yokuts when Pedro Fagés led a group of soldiers through Tejon Pass into the San Joaquin Valley in 1772 (Wallace 1978). Four years later Francisco Garcés also explored the region. Other Europeans did not follow until Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga led a group of Spanish explorers into the valley in 1806 (Clough and Secrest 1984). This party intended to locate new lands for missions, find and return runaway Indians, and relocate stolen livestock. Yet despite such intentions and conscription, neither a mission nor military outpost was ever established in the San Joaquin Valley.

Nonetheless, the region was well-travelled and settled to some extent by Mexicans and other peoples of European descent. Even before the earliest official exploration of the central San Joaquin Valley by Lieutenant Moraga in 1805, *El Camino Viejo á Los Angeles* (the Old Road to Los Angeles) served as an alternate route to the better known El Camino Real (Cook 1960:247–253). This inland road led from San Pedro in south Los Angeles, through the San Bernardino Mountains, along the western flank of the San Joaquin Valley, and up to San Antonio in present-day east Oakland. A 1936 map depicts a fork in the main path of the road just south of present-day Kettleman City, creating two branches of the road. The branches rejoin at Arroyo de Panoche Grande (Figure 2-1; Latta 1936). Various stops were found along the two branches of El Camino Viejo, including Poso Chané, which emerged as an early Mexican settlement La Libertad, near present-day Riverdale (Clough and Secrest 1984:40; Latta 1936:12).

Expansion of missions in California ceased by the early 1820s as a result of Mexico's independence from Spain, thus preventing the creation of any San Joaquin Valley missions. In August 1833, the Mexican Congress adopted the law of secularization, allowing for the confiscation of mission properties for redistribution to Californios and naturalized citizens. From 1833 to 1846, Mexican governors approved more than 800 such grants in California. The grants, commonly called “ranchos,” typically encompassed 5,000 acres or more. While most of these land grants included former mission estates, some encompassed nonmission properties in the San Joaquin Valley. Two land grants — Rancho del San Joaquin and Rancho Laguna de Tache — are within present-day Fresno County. However, it is unknown to what extent the two grants were improved or used during the period of Mexican rule. In 1846, Manuel Castro received the Laguna de Tache Land Grant, extending from present-day Kingsburg downstream to the Fresno Slough (Clough and Secrest 1984:32–34). La Libertad lies just within the western boundary of this 48,800 tract of land (Latta 1936:12). Similar to other land grants, Rancho Laguna de Tache encompassed the overflow lands of a major river, in this case the Kings River, which provides prime real estate for cattle raising. However, despite evidence that Castro attempted to settle the property, the lawlessness of the region appears to have prevented him from doing so.

The Mexican-American War (1846–1848) was a relatively small-scale affair, with forces on either side numbering no more than several hundred troops for any one battle. Likewise, fighting was predominantly limited to the coastal areas and never spilled into the San Joaquin Valley.

Although, the spoils of the war for the United States were enormous. On February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ceding California, as well as other former Mexican territories, to the United States. In September 1850, California became the thirty-first state in the Union.

One condition of the treaty obligated the United States government to honor the property rights of the rancheros. In 1851, Congress passed the California Land Act, which created a land commission to ascertain the veracity of former Mexican land claims; the commission's rulings could be, and often were, appealed in the federal courts. Initially, the land commission rejected Castro's claim to Rancho Laguna de Tache in 1854, citing his inability to settle on the land during the Mexican period (Clough and Secrest 1984:33–34). Four years later, the decision was reversed by a federal district court, which determined that hostility of Native Americans had prevented him from occupying the grant despite his efforts. In 1866, Castro was finally granted the land patent for Rancho Laguna de Tache. Unfortunately, by this time, his legal fees and loans had grown so large he was forced to sell the property at public auction to pay his creditors. The land was sold to Jeremiah Clarke. The clouded titles, protracted court decisions, and duress caused by usurious loans and exorbitant legal retainers that characterized the case of the Rancho Laguna de Tache were all too familiar circumstances for hundreds of other claimants of Mexican grants, as well as those Americans whose interests were tied to such claims (Jelinek 1999).

2.4.2 Settlement and the Beginning of Irrigation

By 1856, when the California legislature created Fresno County from parts of Merced, Mariposa, and Tulare counties, cattle ranching had joined mining among the county's primary economic pursuits (Clough and Secrest 1984:83). During the more than 15 years when the property's title was held in legal limbo, Rancho Laguna de Tache was invaded by squatters, who did not let the land lie fallow. Indeed, by the time of the 1866 survey, the tract had been settled by several families engaged in stock raising. Historical records surmise that after 1866, these squatters eventually purchased their parcels from Clarke, establishing a small community (Clough and Secrest 1984:34). The old pueblo La Libertad eventually became the Liberty Settlement, which subsequently changed its name to Riverdale in 1875 (Vandor 1919:278).

Among the various goods produced by settlers of the lower Kings River and Fresno Slough areas, livestock was in fact the most commercially important (Grunsky 1898; Mead 1901; Vandor 1919). While periodic flooding of the river and sloughs did continue to water the natural grasses of riparian lands, alfalfa quickly emerged as the region's dominant commodity, both as feed and as a crop for cash sale. Similar to vineyards and orchards, this flowering plant can only be grown commercially with irrigation. Moreover, through such appropriated water, the alfalfa farmer could cultivate land that did not contain a natural source of water (i.e., not riparian). The Riverdale Ditch, which is no longer extant within the Project area, along with the Turner, (Liberty) Millrace, Reed, and Burrell ditches, were built specifically for this purpose. The problem was that these ditch owners still depended on the natural flow of the Kings Rivers, which, like all Sierra Nevada streams, varied wildly from one year to the next. Compounding the matter was that Murphy Slough, one of the river's many tributaries, lay in the lowermost reaches of the Kings River system, requiring the water to pass by the gates of numerous other upstream irrigators before entering the slough.

Given the often-limited supply of this critical resource, in 1898, the five owners of the Riverdale area ditches organized the Murphy Slough Association to fairly apportion and minimize confrontations over the use of the slough's waters (Adams 1915:55–57; Mead 1901:306). A critical part of the association's formation was its agreement with the Fresno Canal and Irrigation Company (FCIC). Earlier in the decade, the FCIC had purchased Rancho Laguna de Tache, including its long-standing riparian water rights on the Kings River. It was imperative that the association make a deal with the FCIC to prevent being cut off from their water supply during years of poor runoff. Despite the FCIC's larger size and greater experience in litigious matters, the association may have held at least some legal leverage on account of the relatively early appropriations by the Riverdale and Turner ditches in 1875. Per their agreement, until the flow of the slough exceeded 300 cubic feet per second, the available water was divided equally between the FCIC and the Riverdale members. The association further stipulated distribution among its members: the Turner Ditch, which still maintained its own head gate, received one-sixth of the flow; the Riverdale and Burrell ditches, which shared the same head gate, were entitled to a combined one-third; and the Millrace and Reed ditches took one-third and one-sixth, respectively. Within the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, such associations were common in areas that lacked a dominant irrigation company, like the FCIC in the Fresno area or the San Joaquin and Kings River Canal Company, owned by the powerful Miller & Lux Company, on the lower San Joaquin River.

2.4.3 The Railroad and Growth of Riverdale

The town of Riverdale, like most valley communities, owes its existence to the railroad, specifically the Hanford & Summit Lake Railway (Robertson 1998:126). Beginning operation in 1912, the 42-mile-long line extended south to southeast from Ingle (about 4 miles north of Tranquility) and made various stops in the Fresno Slough and lower Kings River areas before terminating at Hardwick in Kings County. In 1917, the Southern Pacific Railroad acquired the Hanford & Summit Lake line. In addition to Riverdale, the new railroad gave rise to West Side communities like Tranquility and San Joaquin. Fresno County atlases from 1911, 1913, and 1920 show a steady expansion around the center of Riverdale, at the present-day intersection of Mt. Whitney and Valentine avenues. By 1920, the town's residential lots covered about 100 acres of former agricultural land (Guard 1911; Progressive Map Service 1913, 1920).

2.4.4 Riverdale High School

Education in California prior to the twentieth century followed national trends of authoritarian teaching methods that valued passivity and operated out of one-room schoolhouses. Philosopher John Dewey spearheaded the Progressive Education Movement in the 1880s to reform the rote approach to schooling. The Progressive Education Movement advocated for a more individualized and hands-on learning experience to coincide with a student's natural curiosity. Dewey's ideas centered around individual achievement by using materials other than textbooks and environments outside of the schoolhouse. The influence of the Progressive Education Movement was seen in campus architecture throughout the United States and California beginning in the 1910s, where schoolhouses were replaced by more flexible designs that emphasized natural light, integrated the outdoors, and utilized classroom wings as opposed to a single room. With modern campus designs accounting for multiple classrooms and teachers,

single-subject courses such as agriculture became more accessible (Sapphos Environmental 2014).

In the late nineteenth century, the formation of a California school district required a certain number of students, specific administrative and fiscal conditions, and approval by the County Board of Supervisors. With unchallenging qualifications, many smaller school districts, such as Riverdale, formed all throughout Fresno County. The Riverdale School District formed in 1878, although historical newspapers indicate there was a school in Riverdale as early as 1876. In rural California, families lived farther apart and lacked public transportation, resulting in centrally located schools accessible by foot or by horse. It was not uncommon for students to commute two or more miles by foot each way. As the more remote areas in California grew in population and families lived closer together, the already-established smaller school districts typically unified into larger districts.

The Riverdale Joint Union High School District was organized in 1912 and consisted of the Crescent, Elkhorn, Liberty, North Fork, and Riverdale school districts. The first year of instruction at the Riverdale Joint Union High School served 13 students from Fresno and King counties in the Barritt's Opera House. The following 1913–1914 school year, 23 students were enrolled, and classes were moved to the larger, two-story Fleharty Hall to accommodate the growing population. By 1916, the high school produced its first graduating class, had 50 enrolled students, and operated out of the Odd Fellows Hall.

In 1915, the local community recognized the steady exponential growth of student enrollment at the high school and voted in favor of a \$30,000 bond measure for the construction of a new high school campus. After the consideration of numerous site options, the brand-new school was completed in 1916 on Mt. Whitney Avenue in its current location. It was commonly known as “Riverdale High School” and is often referred to as the “Mt. Whitney campus” in historical records.

Following design trends from the Progressive Education Movement, which focused on education tailored to the interests and needs of individual students, the original Riverdale High School included five classrooms and an auditorium, rather than a single-room schoolhouse. The school operated out of the original facilities until 1947, when plans were developed and approved for a new north and south wing with classrooms and new buildings, including a cafeteria, wood and auto shop, and auditorium. Riverdale Joint Union High School District purchased 40 additional acres from 1948 to 1949 and expanded the current high school campus northward. This expansion was likely in response to population growth spurred by the development of nearby Lemoore Naval Air Station. Additionally, tentative plans were made to add a junior high school to the campus. The junior high school, however, was never built despite further population growth. In 1995, the Riverdale Joint Union High School District unified with the Riverdale Joint Union Elementary School District, forming the Riverdale Joint Unified School District (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025).

2.4.5 Athletics at Riverdale High School

Riverdale Joint Union High School instituted team athletics since its inception in 1912, as evidenced by historical Fresno County newspapers. Newspapers began reporting on the school's basketball games as early as 1913 and baseball games beginning in 1917 (Fresno Morning

Republican 1913, 1917). A tennis team is noted as early as 1926. While sports teams were not often co-ed, both genders were given an opportunity to participate in athletics at Riverdale Joint Union High School from an early date (Fresno Herald 1919). Newspapers describe a girls' basketball team in 1917 and both a boys and a girls tennis team in 1926. As of 2025, Riverdale High School offers basketball, cheerleading, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, track, baseball, football, softball, volleyball, and stunt teams.

Of the sporting events at Riverdale High School, most local news coverage has been afforded to the football team, known as the Riverdale Cowboys. The team was formed in 1921, five years after the Mt. Whitney campus opened. The inaugural season included 11 players who competed in a Fresno County league composed of smaller teams from high schools also participating in football for the first time (Fresno Morning Republican 1921). By the end of the 1920s, the football team was an established part of campus culture with events including alumni games and weekly coverage during the season in county newspapers (Fresno Bee 1924).

Of note is athlete, actor, and politician Carlos Alan Autry, also known as Alan Autry or Carlos Brown, who played football as a Riverdale Cowboy in the late 1960s. After graduating from Riverdale High School in 1970, Autry found success in the National Football League, Hollywood, and politics. Autry returned to his hometown of Fresno after retiring from Hollywood. In Fresno, he went on to serve two terms as the mayor from 2001 to 2009 (Editors of Biography 2021).

2.4.6 High School Agriculture Programs in California

The 1917 passage of the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Act drastically altered precollegiate agricultural education in the United States. The act provided federal aid to states for the purpose of promoting vocational education in agriculture, trades and industry, and homemaking. The state-wide funds provided by this act were apportioned among school districts in Fresno County, including Riverdale High School, from the 1920s onward (Fresno Morning Republican 1926).

Shortly after the Smith-Hughes Act, the Future Farmers of America association (FFA) formed in 1928. The FFA provided, and continues to provide, education and training to high school students in preparation for careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. In 1928, the association held its inaugural annual nationwide conference, where 18 states were in attendance. Today, the organization boasts 9,163 local chapters in all 50 states. The annual conference allows delegates from each participating state to work together to conceptualize challenges future generations may face attempting to feed a growing population and theorize solutions to those challenges (Future Farmers of America 2025). While California was represented in the very first nationwide FFA conference in Kansas City in 1928, the Riverdale chapter was not formed until 1930 (Rollin 2017). In 1935, Riverdale Joint Union High School sent six delegates to the national FFA convention at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (San Luis Obispo Daily Telegram 1935). Today, the Riverdale High School FFA chapter continues to provide students extracurricular opportunities, including livestock exhibition, career development events, and leadership training.

3 METHODS

This chapter describes methods used to complete the cultural resource inventory of the Project area. This includes a records search to identify previous cultural resources and studies within and adjacent to the Project area, archival research, and intensive archaeological and built environment pedestrian surveys.

3.1 RECORDS SEARCH

At Æ's request, the SSJVIC of the CHRIS at California State University, Bakersfield, conducted a records search of the original study area to identify previously recorded cultural resources and prior surveys within and surrounding the study area in a 0.5-mile search radius. SSJVIC staff consulted cultural resource location and survey base maps, reports of previous investigations, and cultural resource records (Appendix B).

3.2 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Prior to conducting a pedestrian archaeological survey, Æ's architectural historians conducted background research to identify areas within the Project area where extant historic-aged buildings, structures, or objects might be present, or where archaeological deposits might exist. Desktop and online library research focused on historical newspapers, maps, aerial images, atlases, and photographs. Æ reviewed and compiled information from various sources including:

- Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) plat maps, 1855 (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>);
- GLO land patents, 1875 (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>);
- Aerial photographs, accessed through the Map Aerial Locator Tool maintained by California State University, Fresno, 1937, 1942, 1950, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1973, 1977, 1992, and 1993 (<http://malt.lib.csufresno.edu/MALT/>);
- Aerial photographs accessed via HistoricAerials.com administered by NETROnline, 1957, 1984, and 1986 (historicaerials.com);
- USGS topographic maps accessed via USGS topoView, 1924, 1927, and 1954 (<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>);
- Topographic maps accessed via HistoricAerials.com administered by NETROnline, 1924 and 1954 (historicaerials.com);
- ParcelQuest California Property Database, Parcel Search (<https://www.parcelquest.com/features/parcel-search/>);
- Historical Census Records and historical records accessed via Ancestry Online Database subscription (<http://ancestry.com/>);

- Historical newspapers accessed via Newspapers.com administered by Ancestry.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/>); and
- Fresno County Property Atlases Collection available through the Online Archive of California database, San Joaquin Valley Library System, 1891 by Thos. H. Thompson; 1907 by William Harvey; 1909, 1911, and 1913 by W. C. Guard; 1920 by Progressive Map Service (<https://calisphere.org/collections/17170/>).

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT FIELD SURVEYS

Æ Staff Archaeologist Justin Tidd conducted an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey of the study area using parallel transects spaced 10–15 meters apart. Tidd documented information on the survey coverage and observations regarding ground visibility and other conditions on digital Survey123 Field Record forms. He took photographs of the Project area using an iPad camera and used a Global Navigation Satellite System Arrow 100 to collect spatial information. Concurrently with the archaeological pedestrian survey, Æ’s Architectural Historian Sophia Lynch surveyed the study area to identify historic-era built environment resources. Lynch identified and recorded cultural resources present using an iPad camera and digital Survey123 Field Record forms. All field records and photographs are archived at Æ’s office in Fresno, California. Complete documentation of cultural resources within the Project area is included in Appendix C.

4 FINDINGS

This chapter provides results of the SSJVIC records search, background research, and describes the pedestrian surveys, including observations of field conditions and cultural resources identified within the Project area. The records search results were not affected by the minimal changes to the overall Project acreage.

4.1 RECORDS SEARCH

On April 7, 2025, the SSJVIC responded to Æ’s records search request (Records Search File No. 25-145). In their response, they identified five previous cultural resource investigations within the study area and four previous investigations in the 0.5-mile search radius. In addition, the records search identified one previously recorded cultural resource within the study area and three previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile records search radius (Appendix B).

4.1.1 Previous Cultural Resource Studies

There is one previous cultural resource study with an amendment, and four archaeological studies that include the study area (Table 4-1; Appendix B). Of these studies, only one contained a pedestrian survey; it was prepared on behalf of a public utilities/development project (FR-02922). The study covered less than 5 percent of the study area and no cultural resources were identified as a result. The other four studies are larger research overviews and syntheses that do not specifically pertain to the Project area. In addition, four studies have been conducted within the 0.5-mile search radius. While several local canals and ditches were recorded for these studies, none were determined significant or recommended eligible for listing in the CRHR. In addition, no cultural resource studies have been conducted directly adjacent to the Project area.

**Table 4-1
Previous Investigations in the Study Area and 0.5-Mile Search Radius**

CHRIS Report No.	Author(s)	Year	Title
In the Project Area			
FR-00357	Crist, M.K. and Varner D.M.	1981	<i>Archaeological Overview and Locational Analysis of the Fresno Area</i>
FR-00641	Peck, B.J.	1977	<i>The Distribution of Aboriginal Occupational Sites in Fresno County, California</i>
FR-01156	Unknown	1968	<i>A Proposal for an Archaeological Element in the Fresno County, General Plan</i>
FR-01162	Stuart, D.R.	1990	<i>A Summary of the Present Archaeological Resources of Fresno County</i>
FR-02922	Loftus, S.L., and Orfila, R.S.	2012	<i>Cultural Resources Assessment: 1.29 Acres, Riverdale Well No. 5 Riverdale, Fresno County, California</i>
FR-02922-A	Pierce, W.	2018	<i>Riverdale Public Utilities District Amendment Project at Riverdale, Fresno County, California</i>

Table 4-1 (continued)
Previous Investigations in the Study Area and 0.5-Mile Search Radius

CHRIS Report No.	Author(s)	Year	Title
In 0.5-Mile Radius			
FR-00974	Wren, D.G.	1984	<i>Love Estates Tract # 3641 EA 2167</i>
FR-02563	Franco, L., Brum, S., Scoggin, B.	2013	<i>Riverdale Native American Site Visit and Survey</i>
FR-02879	Lloyd, J.B., Baloian, R., Wingate, E.	2017	<i>Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, Fresno County, California</i>
FR-03054	Granado, G. et al.	2022	<i>Cultural Resource Inventory and Built Environment Evaluation for Willow View Apartments, Riverdale, Fresno County, California</i>

4.1.2 Previously Recorded Resources

The records search results returned one previously recorded resource, a segment of the historic Riverdale Ditch, within the study area, and three previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile radius (Table 4-2). These resources include a segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad southwest of the Project area, the Turner Ditch north of the Project area, and Burrell Ditch to the south. The Riverdale Ditch, which previously transected the Project area, is no longer present in the Project area. The Riverdale Irrigation District confirmed through electronic communication that the segment of the Riverdale Ditch within the Project area was abandoned at an unspecified date, likely due to modern system upgrades elsewhere in the irrigation network. No precontact resources have been recorded within the Project area or the 0.5-mile search radius.

Table 4-2
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Study Area and 0.5-Mile Search Radius

Primary	Trinomial	Age	Type
In Project Area			
P-10-007056	—	Historic	Structure, Riverdale Ditch
In 0.5-Mile Radius			
P-10-003930	CA-FRE-3109H	Historic	Structure, Southern Pacific Railroad
P-10-007055	CA-FRE-3836H	Historic	Structure, Turner Ditch
P-10-007262	CA-FRE-3931H	Historic	Structure, Burrell Ditch

4.2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Æ consulted historical topographic maps, atlases, aerial photographs, land patents, and newspapers to determine the ownership history of the Project area.

4.2.1 Property-Specific History

The Project area is within the southeast quarter of Section 24 of Township 17 South, Range 19 East of the 1954 Riverdale, CA USGS topographic quadrangle. An 1855 GLO map depicts no development within or surrounding the Project area. A dry slough noted as “Grand Tulare and Overflow Land” is immediately west and south of the Project area.

The earliest ownership record of this quarter section is an 1875 GLO land patent granted to James R. Jordan. The 1891 Fresno County Atlas labels “Jos, Johnston Est.” as the owner of the parcel containing the Project area. Over the next 20 years, ownership was divided between farmers R.F. and E.E. Johnston, and R.S. and R.E. Gobby according to historical atlas and census records. No buildings or structures are depicted on available maps prior to 1924, which, in combination with the knowledge that the owners were farmers, indicates the land was likely used to raise livestock or crops before becoming a high school campus. Although historical records confirm that the Riverdale Mt. Whitney High School campus was constructed in 1916, subsequent Fresno County atlas maps still label the farmers as owners of the parcels containing the school. No historic-period ownership records are readily available following 1920. Records obtained through Fresno County Assessor data on ParcelQuest list RJUSD as the current owner of the parcel.

Historic aerial photography provides insight into the construction dates for the Project’s built resources at Riverdale High School. The earliest available aerial photograph of the Project area is from 1937 and depicts the high school campus, built in 1916, and the Riverdale Ditch running along its east boundary and through the center of the Project area. The next available aerial from 1942 (Figure 4-1) shows no considerable changes. By 1950, the Riverdale High School Stadium was constructed, which included the field, running track, protective earthen berm, west seating, and west entrance and parking lot (Figure 4-2). The small water pump building southwest of the stadium is also depicted on the 1950 aerial. By 1961, the restroom facility was in place west of the stadium, just south of the parking lot. Most of the 1916 buildings were removed and replaced with newly constructed buildings by this time.

Improvements were made to the stadium between 1967 and 1970. From the available aerial photographs, it is evident that the west seating section was extended north and south, and the east seating section was also added. These improvements coincide with records that new sports facilities, including a second gym, locker rooms, a weight room, a physical education classroom, and offices for coaches and physical education teachers, were added in the early 1970s to accommodate the growing needs of the Riverdale High School Athletics department (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025).

A row of trees was planted along the north end of the stadium between 1973 and 1977. By 1984, the L-shaped building northeast of the stadium was removed, and the long agricultural building west of the softball field was in place. A small ticket booth building and storage building appears at the southeast corner of the parking lot by 1986. Between 1986 and 1992, additional agricultural buildings and structures were constructed to the west, and the Riverdale Ditch was abandoned and is no longer visible above ground. It was likely abandoned due to modern system upgrades elsewhere in the irrigation network. In 2018, the stadium was dedicated to Jack King, a 1947 four-sport athlete and graduate of the high school, who became a lifelong “superfan” of Riverdale High School athletics. A new scoreboard commemorating “Jack King Field” was installed at the north end of the field in honor of this dedication.

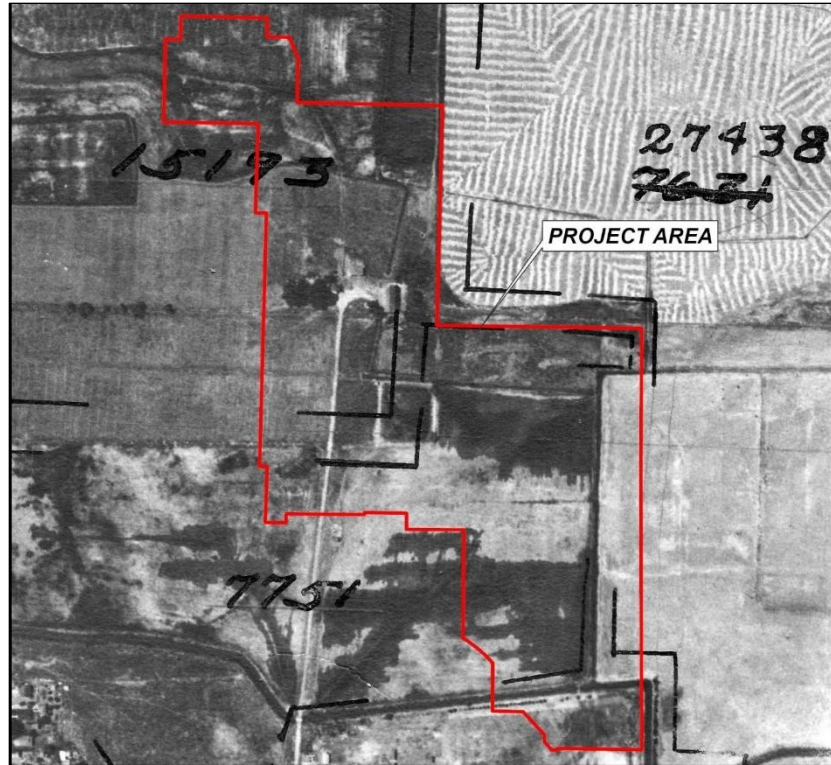


Figure 4-1 Aerial photograph from 1942 depicting Riverdale High School and site of future stadium.

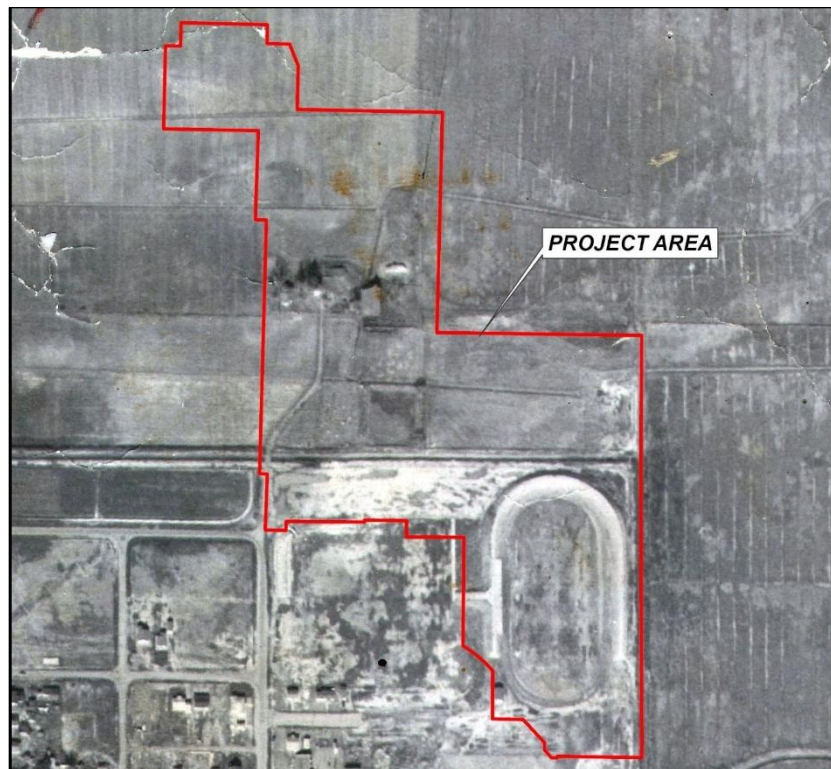


Figure 4-2 Aerial photograph from 1950 depicting Riverdale High School Stadium.

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Æ Archaeologist Justin Tidd conducted an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey on April 25, 2025, prior to the changes made for the current Project area. Tidd surveyed 21.15-acres, or 78.4 percent, of the 26.99-acre study area, including 19.94 acres, or 92.71 percent, of the 21.51-acre Project area. (Figure 4-3). An additional 1.57-acres was added to the Northern Field of the Project area that was not surveyed during the original pedestrian survey. Æ attempted to survey this area but it could not be accessed due to the presence of dense corn stalks (Figure 4-4). Additionally, the southern portion of the baseball practice field was not surveyed as the natural surface of this area has been graded and contains imported fill and landscaping.

The southern portion of the Project area, which includes the Riverdale High School Stadium, concession stand building, restroom facility, and associated buildings and structures, also was heavily disturbed and had less than 10 percent ground visibility. The land between the buildings and structures had either been heavily landscaped or paved over, including a parking lot, several paved roadways, and walking paths (Figure 4-5). Tidd observed bare soils along the margins of the landscaped areas, sports fields, and parking lot. No cultural materials were observed in these areas.

Ground visibility varied in the agricultural fields in the northern portion of the Project area. The southern field, which includes the agricultural barn is directly west of the baseball field and north of the parking lot (Figure 4-6). It had been plowed recently and although the plowing disturbed the ground surface, it provided moderate (50–60 percent) ground visibility. The northern field and proposed basin area farther north contained crops completely obscuring ground visibility (Figure 4-7). No cultural resources were observed in the agricultural fields.

A 45 meter (north–south) by 21 meter (east–west) earthen berm of imported soil is present along the western exterior of the athletic field and stadium seating (Figure 4-8). Visibility was excellent, exceeding 90 percent, over the berm and the 11-meter-wide patch of grass between the berm and the parking lot to the west. A sparse scatter of historic-era glass and ceramic fragments and a precontact handstone (P-10-007683) was observed on the berm and patch of grass.

4.3.1 P-10-007683

P-10-007683 is a 40 meter (north–south) by 15 meter (east–west) low-density refuse scatter of historic-era glass and ceramic fragments and one precontact handstone found on the earthen berm. Historic-era materials include 33 glass shards of various colors (aqua, brown, yellow, cobalt, amethyst, and clear; Figure 4-9), 1 yellow glazed earthenware sherd, and 1 white porcelain sherd. One patinated clear glass ovoid bottle base fragment with no identifiable maker’s mark (likely from a liquor bottle) also was observed (Figure 4-10). The handstone, manufactured on a cryptocrystalline silicate cobble, is unifacially ground with light pecking on its margins (Figure 4-11). The artifact was found in a high traffic area adjacent to the football field and was placed under an oleander bush for protection (Figure 4-12). The bush is on top of the berm 25 feet north of the concrete football stands. The DPR forms for the isolate are in Appendix C.



Figure 4-3 Survey coverage and cultural resources map.



Figure 4-4 Dense corn stalks in a newly identified portion of the Project area not previously covered during the original survey, facing northeast.



Figure 4-5 Paved roadway obscuring natural ground surface, facing north.



Figure 4-6 Southern agricultural field with moderate visibility. The agricultural barn is visible in the background, facing southeast.



Figure 4-7 Northern field with zero visibility, facing north.



Figure 4-8 Earthen berm and patch of grass west of the athletic stadium containing P-10-007683, facing north.



Figure 4-9 Sample of glass shards from P-10-007683.



Figure 4-10 Patinated clear glass ovoid bottle base fragment with no visible maker's mark, from P-10-007683.



Figure 4-11 Cryptocrystalline handstone with light pecking found in P-10-007683.



Figure 4-12 Earthen berm containing P-10-007683, facing north. The double flags in the foreground mark the original location of the handstone; it was moved underneath the oleander bush on the right side of the photo.

4.4 BUILT ENVIRONMENT SURVEY

On April 25, 2025, Æ Architectural Historian Sophia Lynch conducted an intensive built environment survey of the study area that includes a portion of outdoor recreational facilities on the Riverdale High School campus, and confirmed the presence of four built environment resources within the Project area: Riverdale High School Stadium, pump building, concession stand, and agricultural barn, and one built environment resource immediately adjacent to the Project area, the restroom facility. Only a small portion of facilities on the campus are within the Project area, and because it is outside the scope of work, the campus was not surveyed and recorded in its entirety. Additionally, the campus was developed in a sprawling manner over time that was not master planned. Physical descriptions of the resources are provided below and identified in Figure 4-3. Corresponding DPR forms for the four recorded cultural resources are in Appendix C. Æ also prepared an update to the current DPR form to reflect that the Riverdale Ditch is no longer present within the Project area.

4.4.1 Riverdale High School Stadium

The Riverdale High School Stadium (P-10-007687, CA-FRE-4071H) is comprised of a grass sports field bounded by an oval, dirt track loop, concrete stadium seating along the east and west sides of the field, and a press box within the west seating section that marks the stadium's main entrance. An earthen berm with vegetation encloses the north and northeast side of the stadium. The berm contains a lower section of concrete stadium seating along the east side of the field. The south end of the stadium is open to the campus. The stadium is bounded by the high school baseball and softball junior varsity fields to the north, campus buildings to the south, and

Bogdanoff Field (a baseball field) to the west. The main entrance is accessible by concrete sidewalks that connect to a rectangular, paved parking lot northwest of the stadium. While the built elements of the stadium are not representative of a distinct architectural style, their design language is consistent with that of other buildings on campus from around the middle of the twentieth century.

The central grass field is 525 feet long and 225 feet wide and is enclosed by a 1,312-foot (400 meter) dirt running track (Figures 4-13 and 4-14). The field is painted with the standard 360-foot-long football field grid, and two modern football goal posts and soccer goals are at each end of the painted field. A modern scoreboard is at the far north end of the stadium.

The west seating is 300 feet long and includes eight rows of tiered seating. The seating is separated into five sections by six staircases (Figure 4-15). It has a poured concrete foundation, topped by metal bench seats, and is enclosed by a chain link fence. Seating is accessible through four gates, with two at the bottom and two at the top of the seats. The gates at the top of the seats allow access to the stadium seating from the west entrance to the stadium. The south end of the seats are painted green and lettered with “cowboy pride” in white paint.

The two-story, plaster-clad press box is to the rear of the west stadium seating (Figure 4-16). The building has a rectangular floor plan and is topped by a lowly-pitched shed roof. The press box has three entrances with flush metal doors: one on the north elevation and two on the south elevation. One of the entrances on the south elevation is on the second story and is accessed by a mobile ladder. Fenestration consists of six windows. Four aluminum double hung windows are on the west elevation and two are on the east elevation, overlooking the field. The windows on the east elevation are fitted with retractable wood shutters. The west elevation faces the stadium entrance and is decorated with the Riverdale School mascot, a cowboy riding a bucking horse, in the center, flanked by the words “Riverdale Cowboys.”



Figure 4-13 North end of the field and track, facing northeast.



Figure 4-14 South end of the field and track, facing southeast.



Figure 4-15 Larger, west set of stadium seating with east elevation of the press box, facing west.



Figure 4-16 West elevation of the press box at the west entrance to the stadium, facing east.

4.4.2 Restroom Facility

The restroom facility (P-10-007686, CA-FRE-4070H) is an unadorned one-story concrete building covered by a shingle-covered gable roof (Figures 4-17 and 4-18). It is in a fenced area immediately south of the stadium parking lot. The building features overhanging boxed eaves with wood fascia boards. Its concrete walls are clad in plaster. Entry to the individual gender-separated sections is gained through single-width pedestrian doors on both east and west elevations. Metal privacy screens shield the restroom entrances from view. Three boarded-up windows are evenly spaced on the south elevation; the board covering the central window has collapsed inward. No other fenestration is present. While the restroom facility is not representative of a distinct architectural style, its design language is consistent with that of other buildings on campus, including the stadium.

4.4.3 Pump Building

The water pump building (P-10-007685, CA-FRE-4069H) is an unadorned one-story concrete building covered by a shingle-covered gable roof. It is immediately southwest of the Riverdale High School Stadium. The building features overhanging boxed eaves with wood fascia boards. Its concrete walls are clad in plaster. The primary (south) elevation has a centered, single-width door for pedestrian access (Figure 4-19). A corrugated metal sliding utility door is on the north elevation. The west elevation has two vinyl, single-hung windows to either side (Figure 4-20). The west elevation is fronted by a paved, fenced storage area. No fenestration is present on the east elevation. Two concrete ground mounts and metal ductwork are adjacent to the east elevation, presumably associated with a no longer extant water storage tank.



Figure 4-17 East and north elevations of the restroom facility, facing northwest.



Figure 4-18 West and south elevations of the restroom facility, facing northeast.



Figure 4-19 Primary (south) elevation of the pump building, facing north.



Figure 4-20 West elevation of the pump building, facing east.

4.4.4 Concession Stand

The concession stand is a one-story vernacular style building with western folk influences (McAlester 2015). The building is at the south end of the oval running track in a gravel lot. It is covered by a shingle-covered shed roof that is obstructed from view by a wood parapet on the primary elevation. It is rectangular in mass with wood board and batten cladding. The primary (north) elevation features a wood, shingle-covered porch (Figure 4-21). The concession vending window is centered on the north elevation. The porch is accessible by centered wood steps or,

alternatively, by wheelchair-accessible concrete ramps to either side of the building. The building is accessible by a pedestrian door on the west elevation. No other fenestration is present and all other elevations are unadorned and have wood board and batten cladding (Figure 4-22).



Figure 4-21 Primary (north) elevation of the concession building, facing south.



Figure 4-22 Rear (south) elevation of the concession building, facing north.

4.4.5 Agricultural Barn

Æ recorded two buildings and ancillary structures associated with agricultural education at the Riverdale High School in the west and north sections of the Project area. An open, metal pipe-

framed barn is just east of South Hazel Avenue and west of the softball junior varsity field. The barn has a low-pitched gable roof covered by corrugated metal sheets. The barn is open to the exterior on all sides, revealing hollow metal roof supports (Figure 4-23). The interior of the barn contains a central breezeway flanked by two rows of livestock stables. The stables are composed of rounded metal fencing, with a cinderblock half-wall along the breezeway side and metal gates on the exterior-facing side. A shed room is attached to the east end of the barn.

A smaller, timber-framed ancillary building is adjacent to the northeast of the barn. It is topped by a shed roof covered by standing seam metal sheets. A water tank, wooden crates, and mobile livestock trailers are adjacent to the north of the buildings, and a corral enclosure is adjacent to the south of the buildings. The agricultural buildings and structures are enclosed by a system of modern chain link fences (Figure 4-24).



Figure 4-23 Barn with stables, facing southeast.



Figure 4-24 Agricultural barn facilities, facing southwest.

5 HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATIONS

This chapter presents the CRHR evaluation criteria and eligibility evaluation of the recorded built environment resources within the Project area, which is a portion of outdoor recreational facilities on the Riverdale High School campus: Riverdale High School Stadium, pump building, concession stand, and agricultural barn. It also provides an eligibility evaluation for the restroom facility, which is outside and directly adjacent to the Project area, to support future development at Riverdale High School. Details of the evaluations are provided below; additional information for the four evaluated resources is provided on the DPR 523-series record forms in Appendix C. Æ prepared an update for the Riverdale Ditch DPR form; however, it was not evaluated because it is nonextant.

5.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

To determine whether the Project will have a significant impact on a potential historical resource, cultural resources within the Project area must be evaluated for eligibility to be listed in the CRHR. If a resource qualifies as a historical resource, the potential for the Project to cause a significant adverse change to the qualities of the resource that make it eligible will require assessment, and the impacts may be subject to mitigation to reduce the impacts to less than significant. Cultural resources that are not eligible for listing in the CRHR do not require further consideration. The National Park Service (NPS) has established a process for identifying, evaluating, and assessing effects to historic properties (i.e., cultural resources eligible for listing in the federal National Register of Historic Places). Practically speaking, determinations made within a federal regulatory context are almost always universally accepted for purposes of identifying, evaluating, and assessing impacts under CEQA. Thus, the NPS guidelines are applicable and have been integrated into the process outlined herein.

The first threshold in this process is to ascertain whether a site or built environment resource within the Project area is old enough to be considered a historical resource and, accordingly, eligible for listing in the CRHR. To be eligible for listing in the CRHR, an archaeological or built environment resource must be 45 years old or older. Documentation of resources less than 45 years old also may be filed if those resources have been formally evaluated, regardless of the outcome of the evaluation (Office of Historic Preservation 1995:2). If a resource is found to meet this age criterion, the following sequential steps apply:

- Classifying the resource as a district, archaeological site, building, structure, or object;
- Determining the theme, context, and relevant thematic period of significance with which the resource is associated;
- Determining whether the resource is historically important under a set of significance criteria; and
- If significant, determining whether the resource retains integrity.

In California, historical resources are usually classified according to *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources*, published by the California Office of Historic Preservation in 1995. This handbook contains listings of resource categories for historical and precontact sites as well as standing structures. For built environment resources, it is additionally helpful to define a property's type (e.g., commercial vs. residential, urban vs. rural, agricultural vs. industrial).

The significance of a historical resource is best understood and judged in relation to a historic context (Office of Historic Preservation 1995:9). The evaluation process essentially weighs the relative importance of events, people, and places against the larger backdrop of history. Within this process, the context provides the comparative standards and/or examples as well as the theme(s) necessary for this assessment. According to the NPS (1997), a theme is a pattern or trend that has influenced the history of an area over time. A theme is typically couched in geographic (i.e., local, state, or national) and temporal terms to focus and facilitate the evaluation process.

Significance is based on how well a subject resource represents one or more themes through its associations with important events or people and/or through its inherent qualities. A resource must demonstrate more than just association with a theme; it must be a good representative of the theme, capable of illustrating the various thematic elements of a time and place in history.

According to the CEQA Guidelines, for a historical resource to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, it must meet at least one of the criteria defined in California PRC 5024.1(c):

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

If a resource does not possess historical significance, a discussion of integrity is not required.

5.2 ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

To be included in the CRHR, a resource must not only possess historical significance but also the physical means to convey such significance—that is, it must possess integrity. Integrity refers to the degree to which a resource retains and expresses its original character. To facilitate this assessment, the NPS (1997:44-45) provides the following definition of the seven aspects of integrity. These aspects of integrity have been adopted by the CRHR.

1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property;
3. Setting is the physical environment of a historic property;
4. Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;
5. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;
6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and
7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

5.3 CRHR EVALUATIONS

Æ evaluated the Riverdale High School Stadium, restroom facility, pump building, concession stand, and agricultural barn for CRHR-eligibility as part of the current study. This entailed an assessment of historical significance and a discussion of integrity, as applicable, of each individually recorded historic-era built environment resource. Only a portion of outdoor recreational facilities on the Riverdale High School campus is within the Project area and current scope of work. Additionally, the campus developed in a sprawling manner over time that was not master planned. The campus in its entirety was not surveyed and recorded; thus, the entire Riverdale High School campus is not being evaluated for historical significance as part of this Project.

5.3.1 Riverdale High School Stadium

As detailed in Section 4.2, the Riverdale High School Stadium is within the northeast half of the campus. It is first visible in historic aerial photographs dating to the 1940s, making it at least 75 years of age. To ascertain whether the stadium possesses historical significance and has the potential to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, a formal discussion of the evaluation criteria is required.

5.3.1.1 Significance

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The stadium appears to have been constructed between 1942 and 1950. It is a commonplace building type within the development of high school campuses throughout California during the mid-twentieth century, during which most construction was characterized by what could be accomplished in the most economic manner to meet the widespread demand of the nationwide population boom. This would especially be the case in the 1940s, during and immediately post-World War II. Archival research did not reveal that the stadium was associated

with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. The stadium does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus, high school athletics, outstanding accomplishments in sports, or other significant historical events. Therefore, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers revealed limited information about two potentially significant individuals that have a tangential association with the stadium. Athlete, actor, and politician Alan Autry attended Riverdale High School. While Autry likely played football at the stadium, his time as a student predates any of his professional accomplishments. Therefore, the stadium is not representative of Autry's most notable accomplishments. In recent years, the stadium was named after former student and athlete Jack King. No evidence was found to suggest that the stadium is closely associated with any significant contributions to local, California, or national history by this individual. Historical ownership records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable and supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the stadium was built on, or the stadium itself. It does not appear to be associated with widely recognized athletes or other historically significant individuals or groups. For this reason, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The Riverdale High School Stadium is an example of a commonplace building type found on high school campuses across the country, especially during the mid-twentieth century. During the 1940s, construction often utilized simple forms that could be replicated, readily available materials, and little to no ornamentation in order to economically meet the demands of a nationwide population boom. It is not representative of a significant architectural style, and the architect is unknown. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the stadium is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. AER has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from subsequent field visits. Therefore, AER does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the resource to be significant. The stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

5.3.1.2 Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The Riverdale High School Stadium does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

5.3.2 Restroom Facility

The restroom facility is within the west half of the campus, immediately south of the stadium parking lot. It is first visible in a historical aerial photograph from 1965, making it at least 60 years of age. To ascertain whether the building possesses historical significance and has the potential to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, a formal discussion of the evaluation criteria is required.

5.3.2.1 Significance

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The restroom facility appears to have been constructed between 1961 and 1965. It does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus. Archival research did not reveal that the building was associated with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. Therefore, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers did not reveal any information about potentially significant individuals or groups associated with the restroom facility. While historical ownership records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable, supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the facility was built on, or the building itself. For this reason, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The restroom facility is one of several buildings on the Riverdale High School campus constructed in a unified design language characterized by unadorned, plastered concrete and simple roof types. Buildings from this era of campus development are mostly utilitarian in function and share a sober paint scheme. The restroom facility is not representative of a significant architectural style. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the restroom facility is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. *Æ* has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the field visit. Therefore, *Æ* does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the building to be significant. The restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

5.3.2.2 Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The restroom facility does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

5.3.3 Pump Building

The pump building is immediately southwest of the stadium. It is first visible in historical aerial photographs dating to 1950, making it at least 75 years of age. To ascertain whether the building possesses historical significance and has the potential to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, a formal discussion of the evaluation criteria is required.

5.3.3.1 Significance

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The pump building appears to have been constructed by 1950. It does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus. Archival research did not reveal that the building was associated with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage. Therefore, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers did not reveal any information about potentially significant individuals or groups associated with the pump building. While historical ownership records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable, supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the building was built on, or the building itself. For this reason, the pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The pump building is one of several buildings on the Riverdale High School campus constructed in a unified design language characterized by unadorned, plastered concrete and simple roof types. Buildings from this era of campus development are mostly utilitarian in function and share a sober paint scheme. The pump building is not representative of a significant architectural style. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the pump building is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. AEC has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the field visit. Therefore, AEC does not anticipate

that any additional information can be identified that would prove the building to be significant. The pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

5.3.3.2 Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The pump building does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

5.3.4 Concession Stand

While AE recorded the concession stand in the field, archival research revealed that the building does not meet the age requirement for evaluation. To be eligible for listing in the CRHR, an archaeological or built environment resource must be 45 years old or older. The concession stand does not appear in historical aerial photographs until after 1993 and therefore does not warrant consideration for the purposes of CEQA. No further management of this resource is required at this time.

5.3.5 Agricultural Barn

While AE recorded the agricultural barn and associated ancillary structures in the field, archival research revealed that the structures do not meet the age requirement for evaluation. To be eligible for listing in the CRHR, an archaeological or built environment resource must be 45 years old or older. The barn does not appear in historical aerial photographs until 1984 and therefore does not warrant consideration for the purposes of CEQA. No further management of this resource is required at this time.

SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

At the request of RJUSD, Æ conducted a cultural resource inventory and evaluation for the proposed Riverdale High School Improvement Project. The proposed Project includes making improvements or replacing several extant buildings and structures within a 21.51-acre Project area. The Project is subject to CEQA, which mandates public agencies determine whether a proposed project will cause a significant change to the environment, including cultural resources. The Project area occupies the land northeast of the intersection of West Mount Whitney and South Marks avenues.

To assist RJUSD in fulfilling their responsibility under CEQA, Æ conducted a cultural resource study to identify historical resources (i.e., cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR) within the Project area. Accordingly, Æ performed background research, obtained a records search from the SSJVIC, and conducted an intensive archaeological and historic built environment pedestrian survey of all accessible lands proposed for impacts within the Project area. Additionally, Æ evaluated the historic significance of four built environment resources for CRHR-eligibility.

The RJUSD consulted with Native American local tribes and individuals under Assembly Bill 52. Æ did not conduct additional tribal outreach as part of this Project.

6.1 SUMMARY

The records search conducted by the SSJVIC reported one previously recorded cultural resource within the Project area, a nonextant segment of the Riverdale Ditch, and three historic-era resources within the 0.5-mile search radius. Additionally, the SSJVIC revealed that five cultural resources investigations have occurred within the Project area (overlapping less than 5 percent of the property), and four investigations have been conducted within the 0.5-mile search radius.

Æ conducted an archaeological and historic built environment survey of 21.15 acres, or 78.4 percent, of the 26.99-acre study area, including 19.94, or 92.71 percent, of the 21.51-acre Project area proposed for development. Æ's archaeological pedestrian survey identified a sparse artifact scatter containing various colored historic-era glass fragments, a few ceramic sherds, and a precontact handstone. It was found on the berm of imported soil (likely secondary context) and recorded as an isolate (P-10-007683). The Riverdale Irrigation District confirmed that the historical location of the Riverdale Ditch is within the Project area but was abandoned.

Æ architectural historians identified four built environment resources in the Project area, as well as one outside but immediately adjacent to the Project area, and confirmed that three of them meet the age criteria (older than 45 years) of a historical resource: Riverdale High School Stadium, restroom facility, and pump building. The other two buildings (concession stand and agricultural barn) were constructed less than 45 years ago and were not evaluated or recorded during this study. Æ recorded the four built environment resources on the appropriate DPR 523-series forms and evaluated them for CRHR-eligibility. Æ concludes that they do not possess

the required historical significance to qualify for listing in the CRHR. As such, they do not qualify as historical resources per CEQA.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Although Æ's study did not identify historical resources within the Project area, isolate P-10-007683 was observed on the earthen berm north of the stadium. Per communication from RJUSD, the soils used to construct the berm were imported prior to accurate record keeping and the origins are unknown. Given the presence of precontact and historic-era items on the surface of the berm, there is an increased likelihood that additional cultural material may be mixed in the berm soils. Additionally, given the low ground visibility in the northern portion of the Project area, there is a possibility that cultural resources are present but were obscured from view during the survey. Æ recommends the following measures be adopted.

6.2.1 Archaeological Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure CULT-1 Full-Time Archaeological Monitoring. Due to the known sensitivity of the Project area, a qualified archaeologist shall monitor ground-disturbing activities during all phases of the proposed Project. The archaeologist will coordinate with the Tribal monitor, construction contractor, and RJUSD representatives to determine the grading schedule, sensitivity training needs, and procedures to follow if inadvertent finds are discovered. Monitoring shall continue until all ground-disturbing activities for each phase are complete or as otherwise agreed upon in writing by the project archaeologist, Tribal representative(s) (assumed to be the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe), and RJUSD.

RJUSD shall contract with a qualified firm to ensure an archaeological monitor will be on site during all ground-disturbing activities in areas of high concern. These activities include:

- Excavation of the existing soil berm of the stadium;
- Trenching or excavation for utilities deeper than 1.5 foot below the existing ground surface in all Project areas;
- Excavation of the stormwater basin;
- Initial earthwork for the multi-use athletics fields in undeveloped farmland, until soil import activities have concluded; and
- All earthwork for the agricultural barn in undeveloped farmland.

The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect construction activities if potentially significant cultural resources are encountered. If such resources are identified, all earthwork in the vicinity shall cease, and Mitigation Measures (MM) CULT-5 and TC-3 shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2 Part-Time Archaeological Monitoring. In addition to CULT-1, areas of moderate concern shall also be monitored by a qualified archaeologist who, in

coordination with the Tribal monitor, will conduct periodic spot-check monitoring of earthwork activities including:

- Grading for the redevelopment of the stadium;
- Grading for the redevelopment of the parking lot;
- Grading for the redevelopment of South Hazel Avenue; and
- Grading of the multi-use athletics fields, after soil import has concluded.

The frequency and schedule of spot-check monitoring shall be determined in consultation with the Tribal monitor/representative prior to the start of construction, based on the sensitivity of the area and the scope of ground disturbance. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect construction activities if potentially significant cultural resources are encountered. If any potentially significant cultural resources are discovered, all work in the vicinity area shall cease, and MM CULT-5 and TC-3 shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3 Worker Environmental Awareness Program. A Worker Environmental Awareness Program shall be conducted prior to any ground-disturbing activities. The purpose of the training is to educate the construction crew and establish protocols for treating unanticipated cultural resource finds. The project archaeologist shall provide cultural resources awareness training to all construction personnel. This training will include descriptions of the types of resources that may be found in the Project area, the protocols to be used in the event of an unanticipated discovery, provide contact information for the archaeological firm and the monitoring Tribe, and identify the laws protecting significant archaeological and historical resources. The archaeological firm will coordinate with the monitoring Tribe to include any additional concerns in the workers environmental training program presentation to temporarily provide information to construction personnel should a representative not be immediately available to provide the Tribal training in MM TC-3. Such concerns could include Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) requirements, laws and regulations, respect for Tribal requests, the ability to temporarily redirect construction traffic by both cultural monitors, and any other concerns as applicable.

The training may be provided via a pre-recorded video or given on site by the archaeologist as needed and will be conducted in coordination with the Tribal training required in MM TC-5, and attendance shall be documented by sign-in sheets or equivalent verification. Documentation shall be submitted to the District prior to the commencement of ground disturbance and included in reports prepared pursuant to MM CULT-6.

For the purposes of this measure, “construction personnel” includes contractors, subcontractors, equipment operators, laborers, and supervisory staff engaged in or overseeing ground-disturbing activities. The term does not include delivery drivers, vendors, furniture installers, or other workers whose on-site presence is limited to short-term tasks outside of ground-disturbance areas. This training requirement applies only during the period in which ground-disturbing activities occur. Once all earthwork is complete, additional trainings for new personnel is not required.

Mitigation Measure CULT-4 Monitoring Plan. Archaeological and Tribal monitoring methods and procedures shall be documented in a Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan (CRMP). At least 30 days prior to construction of the Project's first phase, the project archaeologist, in coordination with the Tribal monitor, will begin preparing the CRMP. The CRMP shall be approved by the RJUSD at least 5 days prior to the start of construction and a final copy maintained on site throughout construction activities. The CRMP will cover all phases of Project development and, at a minimum, outline the project schedule, define the areas to monitor, identify the roles of the archaeologist and the Tribal monitor/representative, provide contact information, review safety procedures, and discuss the procedures to follow in the event of a cultural resource discovery.

Mitigation Measure CULT-5 Unanticipated Discoveries. If any cultural materials are identified, the archaeologist should temporarily halt the ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find(s) and notify the Tribal monitor and on-site supervisor. The archaeologist, in coordination with the Tribal monitor, shall assess the find to determine if materials are isolated or part of a larger archaeological deposit. If an archaeological site is identified, the resource should be evaluated for significance under CEQA criteria and further treatment measures may be required. The evaluation shall consider the resource's eligibility and its potential as a TCR under PRC Section 21074. If the resource(s) is determined to be a TCR, procedures outlined in the CRMP and MM TC-3 will be followed. Should the discovery be identified as human remains, procedures outlined in California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 will be followed (see Section 6.2.3).

Mitigation Measure CULT-6 Monitoring Report. A monitoring report shall be prepared by the project archaeologist within 60 days of completion of all construction monitoring for each phase of Project development. The reports will, at a minimum, describe the methods of monitoring, discuss any cultural resources discovered and how they were managed, include an evaluation of eligibility for the discovered resources, if applicable; provide a list of involved personnel; and provide any additional recommendations if appropriate. Once each report has been finalized, the archaeologist will prepare final digital submissions for RJUSD and the monitoring Tribe. The archaeological firm will also submit digital copies to the SSJVIC.

6.2.2 Tribal Mitigation Measures

As part of formal AB 52 consultation, RJUSD discussed the results of Æ's pedestrian survey with the SRR and the discovery of the precontact hand stone. During their consultation, SRR provided their concerns regarding the sensitivity of the Project area and discussed requested mitigation measures. To date, RJUSD has proposed draft mitigation measures to the SRR that are still pending review, comments as needed, and approval from the SRR, which will continue until the close of AB 52 consultation. Based on the findings of this evaluation and ongoing consultation with SRR, the following tribal mitigation measures are recommended:

Mitigation Measure TC-1 Full-Time Earthwork Tribal Cultural Resource Monitoring. To avoid potential impacts to TCRs, a qualified Tribal monitor from the SRR shall be retained by RJUSD. The Tribal monitor shall be present to observe all ground-disturbing activities in areas of high concern of all phases, including, but not limited to, grading, excavation, trenching, and augering. If a Tribal monitor is temporarily unavailable, earthwork in high-potential areas shall

not proceed unless: (a) a Tribal monitor has conducted a pre-activity inspection (spot check) and cleared the work area, or (b) the qualified archaeological monitor required by MM CULT-1 is present on site. The requirement for Tribal monitoring shall be noted on all construction documents for all phases and verified by RJUSD prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for all phases. Monitoring shall continue until all ground-disturbing activities for each phase are complete or as otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Tribal representative(s), project archaeologist, and RJUSD. The areas of high concern include:

- Excavation of the existing soil berm of the stadium;
- Trenching or excavating for utilities deeper than 1.5 foot below the existing ground surface in all Project areas;
- Excavation of the stormwater basin;
- Initial earthwork for the multi-use athletics fields in undeveloped farmland, until soil import activities have concluded; and
- All earthwork for the agricultural barn in undeveloped farmland.

The Tribal monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect construction activities if potentially significant TCRs are encountered. If such resources are identified, all earthwork in the vicinity shall cease, and MM TC-3 and CULT-5 shall be implemented.

All phases of earthwork monitoring shall be documented in a CRMP developed in coordination with the SRR and the qualified project archaeologist as required by CULT-4, and maintained on site. Monitoring documentation shall be submitted to the RJUSD upon completion of ground-disturbing activities for each phase (MM CULT-6).

Mitigation Measure TC-2 Spot-Check Earthwork Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring.

In addition to TC-1, areas of moderate concern shall also be monitored by a retained SRR monitor who, in coordination with the archaeologist, will conduct periodic spot-check monitoring of earthwork activities including:

- Grading for the redevelopment of the stadium;
- Grading for the redevelopment of the parking lot;
- Grading for the redevelopment of South Hazel Avenue; and
- Grading of the multi-use athletics fields, after soil import has concluded.

The frequency and schedule of spot-check monitoring shall be determined in consultation with the project archaeologist prior to the start of construction, based on the sensitivity of the area and the scope of ground disturbance. The Tribal monitor shall have the authority to increase the frequency of monitoring if site conditions indicate a higher potential for encountering TCRs. If any potentially significant TCR are discovered, all work in the vicinity area shall cease and MM CULT-5 and TC-3 shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure TC-3 Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources. If TCRs including human remains, cultural materials, features, or artifacts, are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the discovery shall immediately cease. The construction contractor shall immediately notify the construction manager, the Tribal monitor (as identified in TC-1 and TC-2), and the qualified archaeologist as required in CULT-1.

The significance of the discovery shall be evaluated by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the Tribal monitor. The evaluation shall consider the resource's eligibility for listing in the CRHR and its potential as a TCR under PRC Section 21074.

If the resource is determined to be a TCR or otherwise significant under CEQA, the construction manager shall implement a treatment plan developed in consultation with the SRR Tribal representative(s), the RJUSD, and the qualified archaeologist. The treatment plan may include preservation in place, if feasible, or respectful recovery and reburial in accordance with Tribal protocols. Construction activities may resume in the affected area only after the RJUSD, in consultation with the archaeologist and Tribal representative(s), determines that appropriate mitigation has been implemented.

Mitigation Measure TC-4 Tribal Cultural Resources Curation Agreement. At least 30 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, the RJUSD shall execute a Curation and Treatment Agreement with the SRR, a California Native American tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area.

The agreement shall establish protocols for the respectful treatment, temporary storage, and long-term curation or reburial of any TCRs that may be collected during ground-disturbing or other construction activities where preservation in place is determined not to be feasible pursuant to MM TC-3. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to:

- Recognizing SRR's role as the appropriate entity for determining the treatment and disposition of recovered TCRs;
- Allowing SRR to take possession of recovered materials for reburial or curation in accordance with their customs, protocols, and applicable laws; and
- Providing culturally appropriate documentation that respects the confidentiality and sensitivity of TCRs, consistent with PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.3.

Evidence of the executed agreement shall be documented by RJUSD prior to any ground disturbance. Final disposition of any TCRs shall occur in accordance with the terms of the agreement and be documented in the final report for the appropriate phase per MM CULT-6.

Mitigation Measure TC-5 Pre-Construction Tribal Cultural Awareness Training. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities of each phase, RJUSD, in coordination with the Construction Manager, the SRR, and project archaeologist, shall ensure that all construction personnel who are involved in supervising or regularly working within areas of ground disturbance attend a Tribal Cultural Awareness Training conducted by a representative of the SRR. Training shall be conducted in person before ground-disturbing activities commence.

After the initial training and commencement of ground-disturbing activities, any new on-site personnel, either from a current or new construction company, who regularly works within areas of ground disturbance, are also required to attend an in-person Tribal Cultural Awareness Training. Attendance for all Tribal Trainings shall be documented via sign-in sheet, and a copy shall be submitted to RJUSD and the archaeological consultant to include in the report(s) per MM CULT-6. The District will be responsible for all construction personnel taking both the archaeological and Tribal awareness trainings. For the purposes of this measure, “construction personnel” includes contractors, subcontractors, equipment operators, laborers, and supervisory staff engaged in or overseeing ground-disturbing activities. The term does not include delivery drivers, vendors, furniture installers, or other workers whose on-site presence is limited to short-term tasks outside of ground-disturbance areas.

The Tribal Cultural Awareness Training shall inform on-site personnel, at a minimum, of the following:

- Respect for TCRs; This Project area may contain TCRs, which are places or objects of cultural and spiritual importance to the SRR. Protecting these resources is required by law and is a condition of the Project.
- Examples of TCRs, which include the following but are not limited to, stone tools, flakes from tool-making, bone, shell, pottery fragments, hearths, dark soil with organic material, viewsheds, and ancestral remains.
- Legal protections addressing TCRs and their protection under CEQA and Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.3. This must also include that it is illegal to remove, damage, or ignore TCRs.
- Discovery procedures including: (1) If you see anything that looks unusual, stop work immediately in that area and notify the supervisor in charge. (2) The Project Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor will determine the next steps. (3) Do not touch, move, or collect any potential cultural materials.
- The role of the Tribal Monitor and their presence on site. The SRR monitor represents the Tribe and has authority to stop work if a resource is found. Their instructions must be respectfully followed.

In the event that a SRR representative is not on site to provide the Training, the new personnel must take the archaeological workers environmental training program training in MM CULT-3 and be scheduled to take the SRR Training within 5 days of their first day of work on site.

This training requirement applies only during the period in which ground-disturbing activities occur. Once all earthwork is complete, additional trainings for new personnel are not required.

6.2.3 Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains

Æ advises that in the event human remains are uncovered during Project activities, the Fresno County Coroner is to be immediately notified by the project archaeologist to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in CEQA Guidelines

Section 15064.5(e)(1). If the remains are identified to be those of a Native American person, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 requires that the county coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendant, who will be afforded the opportunity to recommend means for treatment of the human remains following protocols in California PRC 5097.98.

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APPENDIX A

Personnel Qualifications

Areas of Expertise

- Cultural resources management
- Prehistoric archaeology of southern California
- Indigenous archaeology and Native American/descendant community coordination
- Federal, state, local environmental laws and regulations
- Training, capacity building
- Traditional Cultural Property and Landscape analysis

Years of Experience

- 25

Education

M.S., Anthropology, focus Archaeology, University of California, Riverside, 2003

B.S., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, 2000

B.A., Linguistics, University of California, Riverside, 2000

Registrations/Certifications

- Registered Professional Archaeologist 28576661 (current)
- Cultural Consultant, Riverside County #171 (current)
- First aid/CPR
- HAZWOPER (40 hour)

Permits/Licensure

- Principal Investigator, California BLM Statewide Cultural Resources Use Permit CA-24-18

Professional Associations

- Society of California Archaeology
- Association of Environmental Professionals

Professional Experience

2025–	Managing Principal/Principal Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
2023–2024	Principal Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
2020–2022	Senior Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
2017–2023	Senior Ethnoarchaeologist, Cultural Geographics Consulting
2007–2017	Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians
2001–2015	Archaeological Assistant, San Bernardino County Coroner
2002–2007	Senior Archaeologist, L&L Environmental, Inc.

Technical Qualifications

Ms. Hoover has 25 years of experience in archaeological, cultural, and tribal resource management in Central, Coastal, and Southern California and Yucatan, Mexico. Ms. Hoover has collaborated with governmental agencies, environmental consultants, and indigenous communities to develop sustainable and practical applications for the identification and preservation of archaeological and tribal cultural resources. As a capable Project Manager, she has coordinated dozens of CRM projects during all phases of development. Ms. Hoover is the designated archaeologist of record for three Native American Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) in southern California.

Ms. Hoover has authored, co-authored, reviewed, and contributed to hundreds of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) technical reports; Programmatic, Memoranda, and Master Agreements; THPO development applications and associated tribal ordinances and historic preservation guidance; ethnographic studies and National Register of Historic Places eligibility forms; and other compliance and mitigation documents.

Ms. Hoover has presented collaborative projects, personal research, cultural resources education, and environmental regulation guidance trainings to a wide variety of audiences, including topics such as AB 52, SB 18 and CEQA guidance, cultural and tribal consultation best practices, and Tribal Monitoring Program trainings. She has contributed to CalTHPO organizational committees, participated in development of California and Federal archaeological and tribal consultation policies, and contributed to a published book on Tribal GIS applications.

Areas of Expertise

- Cultural resource management
- Architectural history
- Historic preservation

Years of Experience

- 14

Education

Ph.D. candidate, Architectural History, Utrecht University

M.A., Architectural History and Historic Preservation, Utrecht University, 2010–2011

B.A., Art History, Utrecht University, 2007–2010

Professional Experience

2023–	Principal Architectural Historian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Hemet, California
2023	Senior Architectural Historian, PaleoWest, LLC, Los Angeles, California
2022–2023	Senior Planner, Office of Historic Preservation, City of Dallas, Texas
2019–2021	Senior Architectural Historian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California
2017–2019	Editor/Translator, SDI Media, Los Angeles, California
2016–2017	Subcontractor, GPA Consulting, Los Angeles, California
2015–2016	Project Manager, City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2014–2015	Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, New York
2011–2014	Advisor on Cultural History and Urban Development, City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Technical Qualifications

Mr. van Onna has been involved in cultural resources management since 2011. His areas of expertise include built environment investigations, preparation of historic resource evaluation reports, and other required documentation for cultural resource management projects. As a Principal Architectural Historian for Applied EarthWorks, Mr. van Onna meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards in architectural history. He has prepared technical reports for historical built environment resources to satisfy compliance requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including significance evaluations and eligibility recommendations for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Mr. van Onna has previously worked for the City of Amsterdam, Netherlands, coordinating its Municipal Landmarks Project and completing numerous built environment surveys, studies, and historical significance assessments. More recently, he worked for the city of Dallas as a senior planner in the Office of Historic Preservation. At Applied EarthWorks, he leads built environment studies, provides guidance and assistance to project managers and staff, and conducts review of technical documents. Additional skills include archival research, architectural photography, editing, and quality assurance. Through his pursuit of a doctoral degree at Utrecht University, he explores the role of historic preservation in urban public spaces in the United States.

Areas of Expertise

- Cultural resource management
- Prehistoric archaeology
- Project management

Years of Experience

- 30

Education

Ph.D., Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, 2003

M.A., Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, 1995

B.A., Anthropology, University of California, Davis, 1989

Registrations/Certifications

- Registered Professional Archaeologist 15189

Permits/Licensure

- Principal Investigator, California BLM Statewide Cultural Resources Use Permit CA-24-18

Professional Affiliations

- Society for American Archaeology
- Society for California Archaeology

Professional Experience

2021–	Principal Archaeologist (2023–present), Principal Archaeologist, subconsultant (2021–2023), Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California
2000–2020	President (2015–2020), Managing Principal (2015–2020), Regional Manager (2012–2014), Assistant Division Manager (2010–2011), Principal Archaeologist/Project Manager (2016–2020), Senior Archaeologist/Project Manager (2000–2015), Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California
1998–2001	Adjunct Faculty Member, Fresno City College, Fresno, California
1995–1996	Staff Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California
1994–1995	Staff Archaeologist, INFOTEC Research, Inc., Fresno, California
1992–1994	Teaching Assistant, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
1989–1991	Archaeological Project Leader, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento

Technical Qualifications

Dr. Clark Baloian has been involved in archaeology in California and the western United States since 1987. Her areas of expertise include the prehistory of the San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada, Great Basin, central California coast, and the Iron Age of West Africa. Dr. Baloian has served as Principal Investigator/Project Manager, Field Supervisor, Crew Chief, or Field Technician for projects throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Hawaii, and West Africa. Her experience in cultural resource management includes research design, data acquisition, laboratory analysis, and preparation of technical reports and compliance documents; she also has completed the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation course in National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance policies and procedures. Her analytic skills include lithic and ceramic analyses as well as settlement pattern studies and spatial analysis, which were the foci of her doctoral research. As a Principal Archaeologist for Applied EarthWorks, Dr. Baloian provides quality assurance, high-level technical review, CEQA and Section 106 oversight, and overall professional guidance for project work, as needed.

Areas of Expertise

- Architectural history
- California history
- Environmental history
- Archival and historical research
- CEQA/NEPA application and analysis
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Preservation of Historic Properties

Years of Experience

- 4

Education

B.A., Art History, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN, 2019 (with great distinction)

B.A., Foreign Languages-French, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN, 2019 (with great distinction)

Professional Affiliations

- California Preservation Foundation

Professional Experience

- 2024— Associate Architectural Historian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Hemet, California.
- 2021–2023 Staff Architectural Historian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California.

Technical Qualifications

Ms. Good-Peery is a Secretary of the Interior Qualified Associate Architectural Historian at Applied EarthWorks, Inc. She received dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art History and French from East Tennessee State University in 2019. Ms. Good-Peery's professional responsibilities include policy consistency analysis, historical resource evaluation, significance evaluation, integrity assessment, built environment monitoring, archival and historical research, and architectural field surveys. She maintains all measures to satisfy compliance requirements under Section 106 of the NRHP, CEQA, and local regulations. Since joining Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Ms. Good-Peery has employed her educational background for projects throughout California's central valley, central coast, and southern California, including Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Merced, Riverside, San Benito, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Yuba Counties. She has prepared evaluations for various types of state historic resources and at-risk properties and performed Section 110 condition assessments at military installations. She has assessed potential adverse effects under 36 CFR 800.5 in support of projects dealing with sensitive or eligible resources. She has also reviewed projects for consistency with the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. She is knowledgeable of urban, rural, residential, commercial, civic, agricultural, transportation, defense, and scientific related properties.

Areas of Expertise

- Forensic anthropology
- Exhumations
- Human osteology
- Faunal analysis/zooarchaeology
- Project administration
- Thermally altered remains identification and recovery

Years of Experience

- 8

Education

M.S., Forensic Anthropology,
Boston University Chobanian and
Avedisian School of Medicine, 2023

B.A., Anthropology, University of
California, Santa Cruz, 2012

Professional Associations

American Association of Biological
Anthropologists

Registrations/Certifications

- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED
Certification (2024)
- ISNetwork Online Training for
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- California Office of Emergency
Services Registered Responder

Professional Experience

- 2025– Associate Anthropologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.,
Fresno, California
- 2024– Instructor in Biological Anthropology, California State
University Fresno
- 2022– Forensic Anthropology Consultant and Peer Reviewer,
Puerto Rico Institute of Forensic Sciences
- 2023–2025 Staff Anthropologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno,
California
- 2022–2023 Field Technician, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
- 2008–2012 Zooarchaeology Preparations and Curation Intern,
University of California, Santa Cruz

Technical Qualifications

Ms. Saenz is an Associate Anthropologist at Applied EarthWorks, Inc. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her Master of Science degree in Forensic Anthropology from the Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine. Ms. Saenz has completed internships in zooarchaeological preparation and curation, thermally altered scene analysis and remains recovery, and currently serves as a forensic anthropological consultant and peer reviewer for the Puerto Rico Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Ms. Saenz is an instructor in Biological Anthropology at California State University, Fresno, where she also serves as a forensic anthropology analyst, performing laboratory case analysis and field exhumations on active cases, cold cases, and bioarcheological remains. Ms. Saenz serves as a forensic anthropological technician for the Central Valley Cold Case Initiative and a Consulting Forensic Anthropologist for the California Office of Emergency Services. Ms. Saenz's professional responsibilities include project administration, osteological assessments, outreach with the Native American Heritage Commission and its recommendations, pre-field project preparations, writing technical reports, completing California Department of Parks and Recreation 523-series forms, reporting, assisting with project proposals, and completing prefield safety documents. Ms. Saenz serves as the Safety Steward for the Fresno office.

Areas of Expertise

- Architectural history
- Landscape history
- Archival and historical research

Years of Experience

- 1

Education

B.A., History, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, 2024

Professional Experience

2025–	Staff Architectural Historian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Hemet, California
2024–2025	Bodily Injury Claims Adjuster, Famers Insurance, Remote
2023–2024	Associate Editor, The Forum – Cal Poly Historical Journal, San Luis Obispo, California
2023	Political Consulting Intern, Public Policy Solutions, LLC, San Luis Obispo, California
2020–2021	Administrative Assistant, The Mortgage Licensing Group, San Marcos, California

Technical Qualifications

Ms. Sophia Lynch is a Staff Architectural Historian at Applied EarthWorks, Inc. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2024, with a focus in landscape history. Ms. Lynch's professional responsibilities include architectural field surveys, archival and historical research, and report preparation. Since joining Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Ms. Lynch has applied her educational background to projects throughout California, including Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernadino, and Shasta counties. She has completed built environment surveys of various historic properties, researched and written historic contexts for project sites, and aided in the preparation of historic resource evaluation reports. She is knowledgeable of urban, rural, educational, agricultural, and residential related properties.

APPENDIX B

Records Search Results

*Archaeological site locations are exempt from the California Public Records Act, as specified in Government Code 7927.005, and from the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552[b][3]), under the legal authority of both the NHPA (PL 89-665, as amended, Section 304[a]) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (PL 96-95, Section 9[a]).



4/7/2025

Nicole Saenz
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 West Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, CA 93711

Re: 4689 Riverdale High School
Records Search File No.: 25-145

The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on Riverdale USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and the 0.5 mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format: ☐ Custom GIS Maps ☒ GIS Data ☐ Hand Drawn Maps (Inyo County Only)

Resources within project area:	P-10-007056
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-10-003930, 007055, 007262
Reports within project area:	FR-00357, 00641, 01156, 01162, 02922
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	FR-00974, 02563, 02879, 03054

NOTE: "Other" report locations were omitted, per the CHRIS Data Request Form.

Resource Database Printout (list): ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Database Printout (details): ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Digital Database Records: ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (list): ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (details): ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Digital Database Records: ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies: ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Copies: ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

OHP Built Environment Resources Directory: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976): ☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Caltrans Bridge Survey: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/cultural-studies/california-historical-bridges-tunnels>

Ethnographic Information: Not available at SSJVIC

Historical Literature: Not available at SSJVIC

Historical Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>

Local Inventories: Not available at SSJVIC

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx#searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=1> and/or
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb8489p15p;developer=local;style=oac4;doc.view=items>

Shipwreck Inventory: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
<https://www.slc.ca.gov/shipwrecks/>

Soil Survey Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

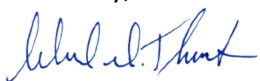
The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Sincerely,



Celeste M. Thomson
Coordinator

Report List

SSJVIC Record Search 25-145

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
FR-00357		1981	Crist, Michael K. and Varner, Dudley M.	Archaeological Overview and Locational Analysis of the Fresno Area	California State University, Fresno	10-001014
FR-00641		1977	Peck, Billy J.	The Distribution of Aboriginal Occupational Sites in Fresno County, California	California State University, Fresno	
FR-00974		1984	Wren, Donald G.	Love Estates Tract # 3641 EA 2167	individual consultant	
FR-01156		1968	Unknown	A Proposal for an Archaeological Element in the Fresno County, General Plan	Committee on Sierra Foothills Public Archaeology	
FR-01162		1990	Stuart, David R.	A Summary of the Present Archaeological Resources of Fresno County	California Department of Parks and Recreation	
FR-02563		2013	Franco, Lalo, Brum, Shana, and Scoggin, Bill	Riverdale Native American Site Visit and Survey	Santa Rosa Rancheria Cultural Department	
FR-02879		2017	Lloyd, Jay B., Baloian, Randy, and Wingate, Ernest	Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, Fresno County, California	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	10-007055, 10-007056
FR-02922	IC Record Search Nbr - 12-180; 17-502; OHP PRN - EPA 2018 0214 001	2012	Loftus, Shannon L. and Orfila, Revecca S.	Cultural Resources Assessment: 1.29 Acres, Riverdale Well No. 5 Riverdale, Fresno County, California	SLL Consulting	
FR-02922A		2018	Pierce, Wendy	Riverdale Public Utilities District Amendment Project at Riverdale, Fresno County, California	State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance	
FR-03054		2022	Granado, Gabriel, Good, Cheyenne F., Yates, Timothy, Long, Amber, and Hoover, Anna	Cultural Resource Inventory and Built Environment Evaluation for Willow View Apartments, Riverdale, Fresno County, California	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.	10-007262

Resource List

SSJVIC Record Search 25-145

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-10-003930	CA-FRE-003109H	Resource Name - Southern Pacific Railroad	Structure	Historic	AH07; HP11	1998 (W.L. Norton, Jones & Stokes); 1999 (S. Hooper, S. Flint, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.); 2002 (Peggy B. Murphy, Three Girls and a Shovel); 2004 (Bryan Larson, Cindy Toffelmier, JRP Historical Consulting); 2009 (Joseph Freeman, Rebecca Flores, JRP Historical Consulting); 2009 (Joseph Freeman, Rebecca Flores, JRP Historical Consulting); 2009 (Joseph Freeman, Rebecca Flores, JRP Historical Consulting); 2010 (Michael Hibma, LSA Associates); 2013 (Randy Baloian, Applied Earthworks, Inc.); 2015 (Randy Baloian, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.); 2015 (Randy Baloian, Applied Earthworks, Inc.); 2016 (J. Tibbet, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.); 2018 (Annie McCausland, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.); 2018 (Jessica Jones, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.); 2021 (Morgan Bird, SWCA Environmental Consultants)	FR-00238, FR-01770, FR-01771, FR-01772, FR-02642, FR-02726, FR-02769, FR-02847, FR-02942, FR-03037, FR-03103
P-10-007055	CA-FRE-003836H	Resource Name - Turner Ditch	Structure	Historic	HP20	2017 (Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Applied EarthWorks, Inc.)	FR-02879
P-10-007056		Resource Name - Riverdale Ditch; OTIS Resource Number - 0686247	Structure	Historic	HP20	2017 (Jay Lloyd, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.)	FR-02879
P-10-007262	CA-FRE-003931H	Resource Name - Burrell Ditch; Burrel Ditch	Structure	Historic	HP20	2021 (Cheyenne F. Good, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.)	FR-03054

APPENDIX C

Cultural Resource Records

*Archaeological site locations are exempt from the California Public Records Act, as specified in Government Code 7927.005, and from the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552[b][3]), under the legal authority of both the NHPA (PL 89-665, as amended, Section 304[a]) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (PL 96-95, Section 9[a]).

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # 10-007056
HRI #/Trinomial

☐ Continuation ☒ Update

Page 1 of 1

Resource Name or #: Riverdale Ditch

- *P2. Location: a. County: Fresno ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted
b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverdale Date: 1954 T17S, R19E; Sec. 24 M.D. B.M.
c. Address: None
e. Other Locational Data: The nonextant segment was once coursed through the Riverdale High School campus.

- L2a. Portion Described: ☐ Entire Resource ☒ Segment ☐ Point Observation Designation:
b. Location of point or segment: NAD 83, Zone 11N; Segment west end: 243866 mE / 4035953 mN
Segment east end: 244171 mE / 4035699 mN

- *P3a. Description: Æ surveyed a former segment of the Riverdale Ditch within the northern end of the Riverdale High School campus. Æ confirmed that the segment of the ditch no longer exists in this location.

- *P7. Owner and Address:
Riverdale Irrigation District
21027 S. Brawley Ave.,
Riverdale, CA 93656

- *P8. Recorded By: Cheyenne Good-Peery
Sophia Lynch, and Julio Olivares,
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, CA 93711

- *P9. Date Recorded: April 25, 2025

- *P10. Survey Type: ☒ Intensive
☐ Reconnaissance ☐ Other

Describe: Pedestrian survey

- *P11. Report Citation: Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna
2025 *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project, Fresno County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California. Prepared for Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale, California.

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

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # 10-007683

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 4

Resource Name or # AE-4698-ISO-01

P1. Other Identifier:

***P2. Location: a. County:** Fresno

☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverdale **Date:** 1954 T17S, R19E; SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 24 M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 3086 W. Mount Whitney Ave., Riverdale, CA 93656

d. UTM: NAD83, Zone 11N; 244060 mE / 4035871 mN

e. Other Locational Data: From the Riverdale High School parking lot, proceed on foot through the campus to the north. It is required to check-in as a visitor at the front office. Walk north 460 feet to the football field and dirt track. Walk along the western edge of the field for another 460 feet. The isolate is on the earthen berm and adjacent patch of grass on the northwest corner of the field 30 feet north of the north end of a set of concrete bleachers.

***P3a. Description:** The isolate is a scatter of historic-era glass and ceramic fragments and one precontact ground stone tool covering an area 40 meters (N–S) by 15 meters (E–W). Historic-era materials include 1 aqua glass shard, 1 brown glass shard, 1 yellow glass shard, 1 cobalt shard, 1 amethyst shard, 28 clear glass shards, 1 yellow glazed earthenware sherd, and 1 white porcelain sherd. A single patinated clear glass bottle base fragment, 3 15/16 inches long by 1 5/8 inches wide by 1 1/8 inches high, was observed. The base is ovoid and was likely part of a liquor bottle. No identifiable maker's mark is visible. The sparse scatter includes a single cryptocrystalline silicate handstone. The handstone is 12.5 by 10.2 by 4.5 centimeters. It is unifacially ground with light pecking on its margins (see Continuation).

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH16. Isolate

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☒ Other: Isolate

***P5a. Photograph or Drawing:**



P5b. Description of Photo: Isolate on the earthen berm, facing north.

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

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Riverdale Joint Unified School District,
3160 W. Mount Whitney Ave.,
Riverdale, CA 93656

***P8. Recorded By:** Justin Tidd
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, CA 93711-3600

***P9. Date Recorded:** April 25, 2025

***P10. Survey Type:** ☒ Intensive
☐ Reconnaissance ☐ Other
Describe: 15-meter interval pedestrian transects

***P11. Report Citation:** Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna
2025 *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project, Fresno County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California. Prepared for Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale, California.

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

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

Page 2 of 4

Resource Name or #: AE-4698-ISO-01

***P3a. Description (continued):** The isolate is on an artificial earthen berm on the northwestern margin of a football field/sporting complex in the Riverdale High School campus. The berm is 10–12 feet high by 40–50 feet wide at its base and trends generally SW–NE. The berm's slopes are relatively steep (15–20 degrees). Cultural materials were observed on the top of the berm and eroding down both sides, with a heavier concentration observed on the northwest-facing slope. The quantity of material tapers to the northwest as the slope gives way to a flat area adjacent to the fenced-off asphalt parking lot. The general landscape is flat (0 degrees) and exposure is 100 percent open. A few landscaped oleander bushes provide scant cover. Other observed vegetation includes dried mustard, weeds, and landscaped grass (likely Bermuda grass). Ground visibility in the immediate area was good (80–90 percent) but decreases to 0 percent to the northwest and southeast due to landscaping and asphalt.

The area around the isolate is heavily disturbed by landscaping, construction of the sports complex, an asphalt parking lot, and ongoing school-related activities. The earthen berm was constructed as part of the sports complex, and the origin of the soil is unknown. Because the isolate is in a highly trafficked area adjacent to the football field, the handstone was placed underneath an oleander bush for protection. The bush is on top of the berm 25 feet north of the concrete football stands.



Isolate on earthen berm with asphalt parking lot in the background, facing south.



Historic-era glass shard sample.



Single amethyst glass shard.



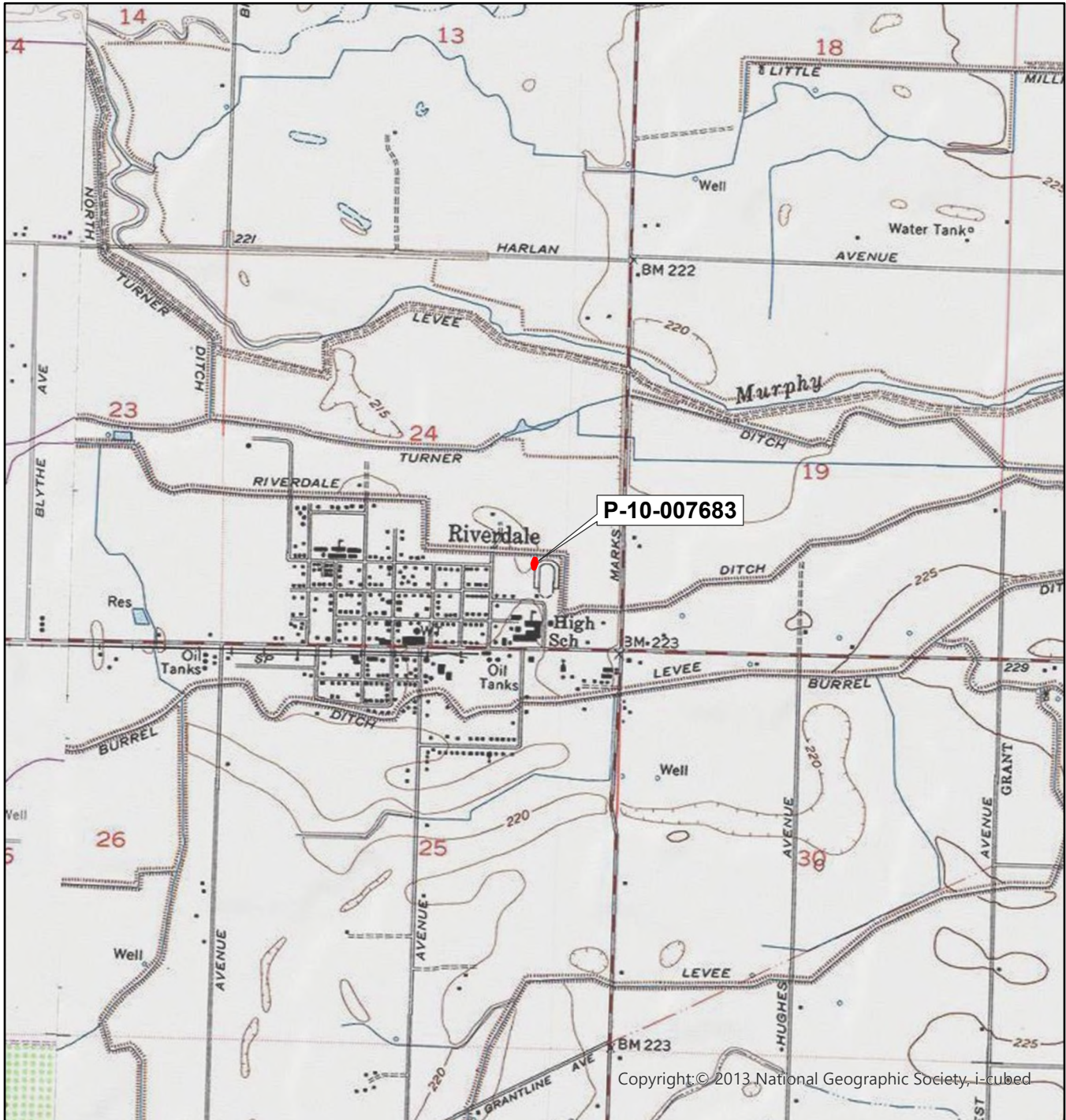
Clear glass bottle base fragment.



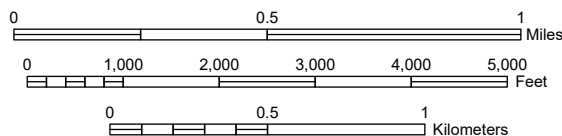
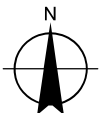
Handstone with the ground surface side up.



Oleander bush (right) where the handstone was moved after recording. Original handstone location marked with double pink flags in foreground.



Scale: 1:24,000



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # 10-007685
HRI #
Trinomial CA-FRE-4069H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 8

Resource Name or # Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: a. County: Fresno

☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverdale Date: 1954

T17S, R19E; Sec. 24 M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 3086 W. Mount Whitney Ave., Riverdale, Fresno County, CA

d. UTM: NAD 83, Zone 11N; 244063 mE / 4035740 mN

e. Other Locational Data: None.

*P3a. Description: The water pump building is an unadorned one-story concrete building covered by a shingle-covered gable roof. It is immediately southwest of the Riverdale High School Stadium. The building features overhanging boxed eaves with wood fascia boards. Its concrete walls are clad in plaster. The primary (south) elevation has a centered, single-width door for pedestrian access. A corrugated metal sliding utility door is on the north elevation. The west elevation has two vinyl, single-hung windows to either side. The west elevation is fronted by a paved, fenced storage area. No fenestration is present on the east elevation. Two concrete ground mounts and metal ductwork are adjacent to the east elevation, presumably associated with a no longer extant water storage tank.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP9. Public Utility Building

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other:

*P5a. Photograph or Drawing:



P5b. Description of Photo: Primary (south) elevation of the pump building, facing north.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic ☐ Both
Between 1942 and 1950

*P7. Owner and Address:

Riverdale Joint Unified School District
P.O. Box 1058
Riverdale, CA 93656

*P8. Recorded By: Cheyenne Good-Peery
Sophia Lynch, and Julio Olivares,
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, California 93711

*P9. Date Recorded: April 25, 2025

*P10. Survey Type: ☒ Intensive

☐ Reconnaissance ☐ Other

Describe: Pedestrian survey

*P11. Report Citation: Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna

2025 *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project, Fresno County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California. Prepared for Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale, California.

*Attachments: ☐ NONE

☒ Building, Structure,
and Object Record

☒ Photograph Record

☒ Location Map

☐ Archaeological Record

☐ Milling Station Record

☐ Other (list):

☒ Sketch Map

☐ District Record

☐ Rock Art Record

☐ Continuation Sheet

☐ Linear Feature Record

☐ Artifact Record

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

Page 2 of 8

Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

B1. Historic Name: None.

B2. Common Name: None.

B3. Original Use: Utilitarian

B4. Present Use: Utilitarian

*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular

*B6. Construction History (construction date, alterations, and dates of alterations): Historical aerial photography provides insight into the construction dates for the built resources at Riverdale High School. An aerial photograph from 1942 shows no evidence of the water pump building. By 1950, the pump building is in place.

*B7. Moved?: ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: Original Location:

*B8. Related Features: None.

B9. a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme: Water management Area: Fresno County
Period of Significance: None Property Type: Utilitarian Applicable Criteria: None

Settlement and the Beginning of Irrigation

By 1856, when the California legislature created Fresno County from parts of Merced, Mariposa, and Tulare counties, cattle ranching had joined mining among the county's primary economic pursuits (Clough and Secrest 1984:83). During the more than 15 years when the property's title was held in legal limbo, Rancho Laguna de Tache was invaded by squatters, who did not let the land lie fallow. Indeed, by the time of the 1866 survey, the tract had been settled by several families engaged in stock raising. Historical records surmise that after 1866, these squatters eventually purchased their parcels from Clarke, establishing a small community (Clough and Secrest 1984:34). The old pueblo La Libertad eventually became the Liberty Settlement, which subsequently changed its name to Riverdale in 1875 (Vandor 1919:278).

Among the various goods produced by settlers of the lower Kings River and Fresno Slough areas, livestock was in fact the most commercially important (Grunsky 1898; Mead 1901; Vandor 1919). While periodic flooding of the river and sloughs did continue to water the natural grasses of riparian lands, alfalfa quickly emerged as the region's dominant commodity, both as feed and as a crop for cash sale. Similar to vineyards and orchards, this flowering plant can only be grown commercially with irrigation. Moreover, through such appropriated water, the alfalfa farmer could cultivate land that did not contain a natural source of water (i.e., not riparian). The Riverdale Ditch, along with the Turner, (Liberty) Millrace, Reed, and Burrel ditches, were built specifically for this purpose. The problem was that these ditch owners still depended on the natural flow of the Kings Rivers, which, like all Sierra Nevada streams, varied wildly from one year to the next. Compounding the matter was that Murphy Slough, one of the river's many tributaries, lay in the lowermost reaches of the Kings River system, requiring the water to pass by the gates of numerous other upstream irrigators before entering the slough.

Given the often-limited supply of this critical resource, in 1898, the five owners of the Riverdale area ditches organized the Murphy Slough Association to fairly apportion and minimize confrontations over the use of the slough's waters (Adams 1915:55–57; Mead 1901:306). A critical part of the association's formation was its agreement with the Fresno Canal and Irrigation Company (FCIC). Earlier in the decade, the FCIC had purchased Rancho Laguna de Tache, including its long-standing riparian water rights on the Kings River. It was imperative that the association make a deal with the FCIC to prevent being cut off from their water supply during years of poor

This space reserved for official comments.

Sketch Map
See Sketch map

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

runoff. Despite the FCIC's larger size and greater experience in litigious matters, the association may have held at least some legal leverage on account of the relatively early appropriations by the Riverdale and Turner ditches in 1875. Per their agreement, until the flow of the slough exceeded 300 cubic feet per second, the available water was divided equally between the FCIC and the Riverdale members. The association further stipulated distribution among its members: the Turner Ditch, which still maintained its own head gate, received one-sixth of the flow; the Riverdale and Burrell ditches, which shared the same head gate, were entitled to a combined one-third; and the Millrace and Reed ditches took one-third and one-sixth, respectively. Within the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, such associations were common in areas that lacked a dominant irrigation company, like the FCIC in the Fresno area or the San Joaquin and Kings River Canal Company, owned by the powerful Miller & Lux Company, on the lower San Joaquin River.

The Railroad and Growth of Riverdale

The town of Riverdale, like most valley communities, owes its existence to the railroad, specifically the Hanford & Summit Lake Railway (Robertson 1998:126). Beginning operation in 1912, the 42-mile-long line extended south to southeast from Ingle (about 4 miles north of Tranquility) and made various stops in the Fresno Slough and lower Kings River areas before terminating at Hardwick in Kings County. In 1917, the Southern Pacific Railroad acquired the Hanford & Summit Lake line. In addition to Riverdale, the new railroad gave rise to West Side communities like Tranquility and San Joaquin. Fresno County atlases from 1911, 1913, and 1920 show a steady expansion around the center of Riverdale, at the present-day intersection of Mt. Whitney and Valentine avenues. By 1920, the town's residential lots covered about 100 acres of former agricultural land (Guard 1911; Progressive Map Service 1913, 1920).

Riverdale High School

Education in California prior to the twentieth century followed national trends of authoritarian teaching methods that valued passivity and operated out of one-room schoolhouses. Philosopher John Dewey spearheaded the Progressive Education Movement in the 1880s to reform the rote approach to schooling. The Progressive Education Movement advocated for a more individualized and hands-on learning experience to coincide with a student's natural curiosity. Dewey's ideas centered around individual achievement by using materials other than textbooks and environments outside of the schoolhouse. The influence of the Progressive Education Movement was seen in campus architecture throughout the United States and California beginning in the 1910s, where schoolhouses were replaced by more flexible designs that emphasized natural light, integrated the outdoors, and utilized classroom wings as opposed to a single room. With modern campus designs accounting for multiple classrooms and teachers, single-subject courses such as agriculture became more accessible (Sapphos Environmental 2014).

In the late nineteenth century, the formation of a California school district required a certain number of students, specific administrative and fiscal conditions, and approval by the County Board of Supervisors. With unchallenging qualifications, many smaller school districts, such as Riverdale, formed all throughout Fresno County. The Riverdale School District formed in 1878, although historical newspapers indicate there was a school in Riverdale as early as 1876. In rural California, families lived farther apart and lacked public transportation, resulting in centrally located schools accessible by foot or by horse. It was not uncommon for students to commute two or more miles by foot each way. As the more remote areas in California grew in population and families lived closer together, the already-established smaller school districts typically unified into larger districts.

The RJUSD was organized in 1912 and consisted of the Crescent, Elkhorn, Liberty, North Fork, and Riverdale school districts. The first year of instruction at the RJUSD high school served 13 students from Fresno and King counties in the Barritt's Opera House. The following 1913–1914 school year, 23 students were enrolled, and classes were moved to the larger, two-story Fleharty Hall to accommodate the growing population. By 1916, the RJUSD high school produced its first graduating class, had 50 enrolled students, and operated out of the Odd Fellows Hall.

In 1915, the local community recognized the steady exponential growth of student enrollment at the high school and voted in favor of a \$30,000 bond measure for the construction of a new high school campus. After the consideration of numerous site options, the brand-new school was completed in 1916 on Mt. Whitney Avenue in its current location. It was commonly known as "Riverdale High School" and is often referred to as the "Mt. Whitney campus" in historical records.

Following design trends from the Progressive Education Movement, which focused on education tailored to the interests and needs of individual students, the original Riverdale High School included five classrooms and an

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

Page 4 of 8

Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

auditorium, rather than a single-room schoolhouse. The school operated out of the original facilities until 1947, when plans were developed and approved for a new north and south wing with classrooms and new buildings, including a cafeteria, wood and auto shop, and auditorium. RJUSD purchased 40 additional acres from 1948 to 1949 and expanded the current high school campus northward. This expansion was likely in response to population growth spurred by the development of nearby Lemoore Naval Air Station. Additionally, tentative plans were made to add a junior high school to the campus. The junior high school, however, was never built despite further population growth (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025).

Significance Evaluation

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The pump building appears to have been constructed by 1950. It does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus. Archival research did not reveal that the building was associated with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. Therefore, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers did not reveal any information about potentially significant individuals or groups associated with the pump building. While historical ownership records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable, supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the building was built on, or the building itself. For this reason, the pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The pump building is one of several buildings on the Riverdale High School campus constructed in a unified design language characterized by unadorned, plastered concrete and simple roof types. Buildings from this era of campus development are mostly utilitarian in function and share a sober paint scheme. The pump building is not representative of a significant architectural style. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the pump building is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. Æ has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the field visit. Therefore, Æ does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the building to be significant. The pump building is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The pump building does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (list attributes and codes): None.

***B12. References:**

Adams, Frank

1915 *Progress Report of Co-Operative Irrigation Investigations in California, 1912–1914*. State of California Department of Engineering Bulletin No. 1. Sacramento.

Clough, Charles W., and William B. Secrest, Jr.

1984 *Fresno County—the Pioneer Years: From the Beginnings to 1900*, edited by Bobbye Sisk Temple. Panorama West Books, Fresno, California.

Grunsky, Carl Ewald

1898 *Irrigation near Fresno, California*. Water-Supply and Irrigation Papers of the United States Geological Survey No. 18. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

Page 5 of 8

Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

Guard, W. C.

1911 *Atlas of Fresno County*. W. C. Guard, Fresno, California.

Mead, Elwood

1901 *Irrigation Investigations in California*. U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Experiment Stations Bulletin No. 100. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Progressive Map Service

1913 *Progressive Atlas of Fresno County*. Progressive Map Service, Fresno, California.

1920 *Progressive Atlas of Fresno County*. Progressive Map Service, Fresno, California.

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

2025 History of the Riverdale Joint Unified School District, <https://www.rjusd.org/about-us/history-of>, accessed May 15, 2025. Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale Joint Unified School District.

Robertson, Donald B.

1998 *California*. Encyclopedia of Western Railroad History, Vol. IV. Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho.

Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

2014 *Los Angeles Unified School District: Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*. Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Vandor, Paul E.

1919 *History of Fresno County, California, with Biographical Sketches*, Vol. 1. 2 vols. Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California.

B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** Carlos van Onna

Date of Evaluation: June 18, 2025

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Primary # 10-007685
HRI #/Trinomial CA-FRE-4069H
*NRHP Status Code

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Water Pump Building

Date: April 25, 2025 Photographer: Sophia Lynch



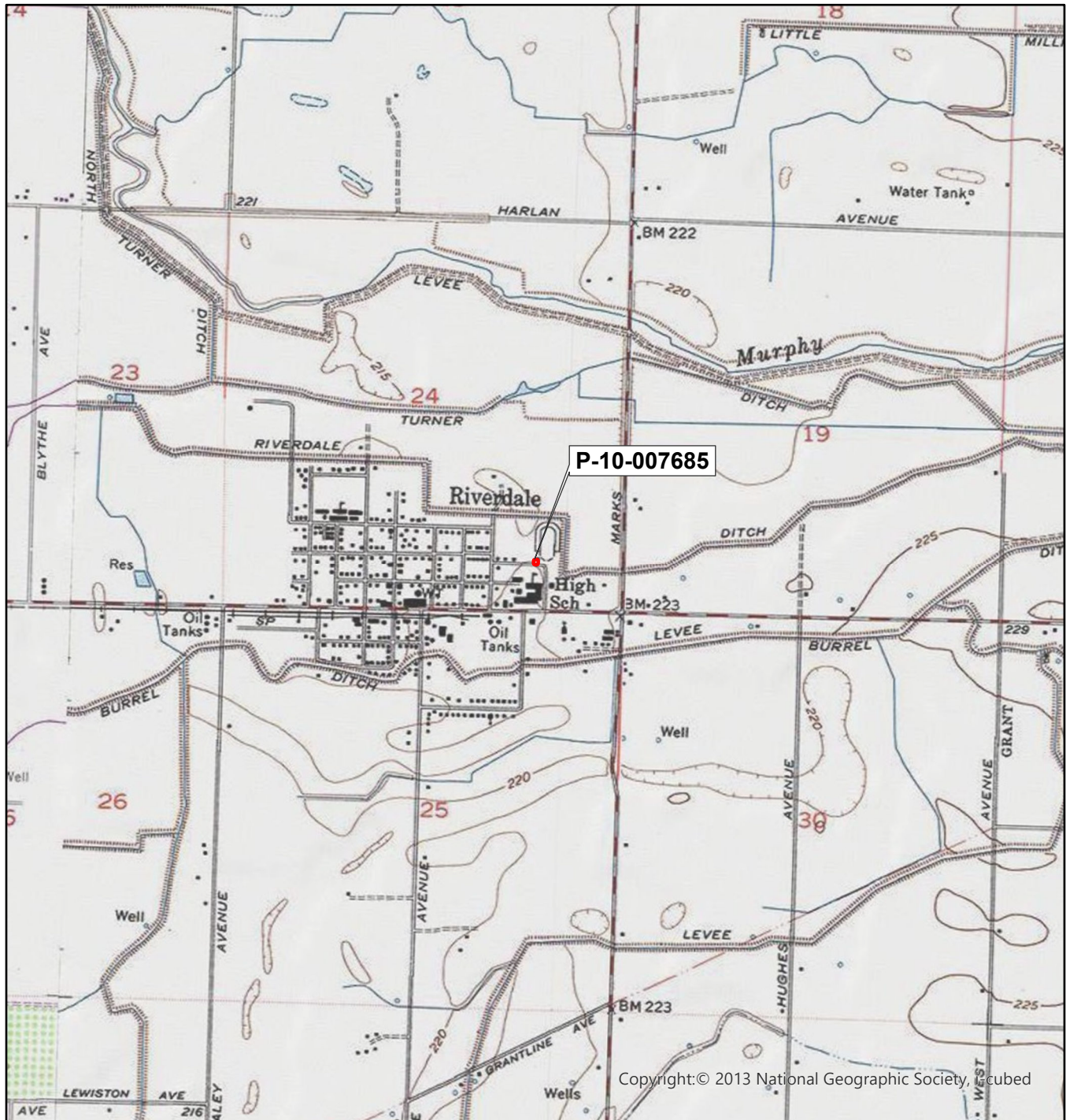
West elevation of the pump building, facing east.



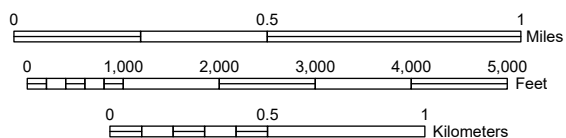
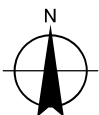
East elevation of the pump building, facing west.



Rear (north) elevation of the pump building, facing south.



Scale: 1:24,000





State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # 10-007686
HRI #
Trinomial CA-FRE-4070H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 8

Resource Name or # Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: a. County: Fresno

☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverdale

Date: 1954

T17S, R19E; Sec. 24 M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 3086 W. Mount Whitney Ave., Riverdale, Fresno County, CA

d. UTM: NAD 83, Zone 11N; 243994 mE / 4035879 mN

e. Other Locational Data: None.

*P3a. Description: The restroom facility is an unadorned one-story concrete building covered by a shingle-covered gable roof. It is in a fenced area immediately south of the stadium parking lot. The building features overhanging boxed eaves with wood fascia boards. Its concrete walls are clad in plaster. Entry to the individual gender-separated sections is gained through single-width pedestrian doors on both east and west elevations. Metal privacy screens shield the restroom entrances from view. Three boarded-up windows are evenly spaced on the south elevation. No other fenestration is present. While the restroom facility is not representative of a distinct architectural style, its design language is consistent with that of other buildings on campus, including the stadium.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP4. Ancillary building

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other:

*P5a. Photograph or Drawing:



P5b. Description of Photo: West and south elevations of the restroom facility, facing northeast.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic ☐ Both
Ca. 1961

*P7. Owner and Address:

Riverdale Joint Unified School District
P.O. Box 1058
Riverdale, CA 93656

*P8. Recorded By: Cheyenne Good-Peery
Sophia Lynch, and Justin Tidd
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, California 93711

*P9. Date Recorded: April 25, 2025

*P10. Survey Type: ☒ Intensive

☐ Reconnaissance ☐ Other

Describe: Pedestrian survey

*P11. Report Citation: Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna

2025 *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project, Fresno County, California.* Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California. Prepared for Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale, California.

*Attachments: ☐ NONE

☒ Building, Structure,
and Object Record

☒ Photograph Record

☒ Location Map

☐ Archaeological Record

☐ Milling Station Record

☐ Other (list):

☒ Sketch Map

☐ District Record

☐ Rock Art Record

☐ Continuation Sheet

☐ Linear Feature Record

☐ Artifact Record

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

B1. Historic Name: None.

B2. Common Name: Bathrooms

B3. Original Use: Public restroom

B4. Present Use: Public restroom

***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular

***B6. Construction History (construction date, alterations, and dates of alterations):** The restroom facility first appears in an aerial photograph from 1961. It was not present in an aerial photograph from 1957.

***B7. Moved?:** ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** Riverdale High School stadium, on a separate Primary form

B9. a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Riverdale Joint Unified School District

***B10. Significance:** Theme: Local Athletics Area: Fresno County
Period of Significance: None Property Type: Restroom Facility Applicable Criteria: None

The Railroad and Growth of Riverdale

The town of Riverdale, like most valley communities, owes its existence to the railroad, specifically the Hanford & Summit Lake Railway (Robertson 1998:126). Beginning operation in 1912, the 42-mile-long line extended south to southeast from Ingle (about 4 miles north of Tranquility) and made various stops in the Fresno Slough and lower Kings River areas before terminating at Hardwick in Kings County. In 1917, the Southern Pacific Railroad acquired the Hanford & Summit Lake line. In addition to Riverdale, the new railroad gave rise to West Side communities like Tranquility and San Joaquin. Fresno County atlases from 1911, 1913, and 1920 show a steady expansion around the center of Riverdale, at the present-day intersection of Mt. Whitney and Valentine avenues. By 1920, the town's residential lots covered about 100 acres of former agricultural land (Guard 1911; Progressive Map Service 1913, 1920).

Riverdale High School

Education in California prior to the twentieth century followed national trends of authoritarian teaching methods that valued passivity and operated out of one-room schoolhouses. Philosopher John Dewey spearheaded the Progressive Education Movement in the 1880s to reform the rote approach to schooling. The Progressive Education Movement advocated for a more individualized and hands-on learning experience to coincide with a student's natural curiosity. Dewey's ideas centered around individual achievement by using materials other than textbooks and environments outside of the schoolhouse. The influence of the Progressive Education Movement was seen in campus architecture throughout the United States and California beginning in the 1910s, where schoolhouses were replaced by more flexible designs that emphasized natural light, integrated the outdoors, and utilized classroom wings as opposed to a single room. With modern campus designs accounting for multiple classrooms and teachers, single-subject courses such as agriculture became more accessible (Sapphos Environmental 2014).

In the late nineteenth century, the formation of a California school district required a certain number of students, specific administrative and fiscal conditions, and approval by the County Board of Supervisors. With unchallenging qualifications, many smaller school districts, such as Riverdale, formed all throughout Fresno County. The Riverdale School District formed in 1878, although historical newspapers indicate there was a school in Riverdale as early as 1876. In rural California, families lived farther apart and lacked public transportation, resulting in centrally located schools accessible by foot or by horse. It was not uncommon for students to commute two or more miles by

This space reserved for official comments.

Sketch Map
See Sketch map

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

foot each way. As the more remote areas in California grew in population and families lived closer together, the already-established smaller school districts typically unified into larger districts.

The RJUSD was organized in 1912 and consisted of the Crescent, Elkhorn, Liberty, North Fork, and Riverdale school districts. The first year of instruction at the RJUSD high school served 13 students from Fresno and King counties in the Barritt's Opera House. The following 1913–1914 school year, 23 students were enrolled, and classes were moved to the larger, two-story Fleharty Hall to accommodate the growing population. By 1916, the RJUSD high school produced its first graduating class, had 50 enrolled students, and operated out of the Odd Fellows Hall.

In 1915, the local community recognized the steady exponential growth of student enrollment at the high school and voted in favor of a \$30,000 bond measure for the construction of a new high school campus. After the consideration of numerous site options, the brand-new school was completed in 1916 on Mt. Whitney Avenue in its current location. It was commonly known as “Riverdale High School” and is often referred to as the “Mt. Whitney campus” in historical records.

Following design trends from the Progressive Education Movement, which focused on education tailored to the interests and needs of individual students, the original Riverdale High School included five classrooms and an auditorium, rather than a single-room schoolhouse. The school operated out of the original facilities until 1947, when plans were developed and approved for a new north and south wing with classrooms and new buildings, including a cafeteria, wood and auto shop, and auditorium. RJUSD purchased 40 additional acres from 1948 to 1949 and expanded the current high school campus northward. This expansion was likely in response to population growth spurred by the development of nearby Lemoore Naval Air Station. Additionally, tentative plans were made to add a junior high school to the campus. The junior high school, however, was never built despite further population growth (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025).

Athletics at Riverdale High School

Riverdale High School instituted team athletics since its inception in 1912, as evidenced by historical Fresno County newspapers. Newspapers began reporting on the school's basketball games as early as 1913 and baseball games beginning in 1917 (Fresno Morning Republican 1913, 1917). A tennis team is noted as early as 1926. While sports teams were not often co-ed, both genders were given an opportunity to participate in athletics at Riverdale High School from an early date (Fresno Herald 1919). Newspapers describe a girls' basketball team in 1917 and both a boys and a girls tennis team in 1926. As of 2025, Riverdale High School offers basketball, cheerleading, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, track, baseball, football, softball, volleyball, and stunt teams.

Of the sporting events at Riverdale High School, most local news coverage has been afforded to the football team, known as the Riverdale Cowboys. The team was formed in 1921, five years after the Mt. Whitney campus opened. The inaugural season included 11 players who competed in a Fresno County league composed of smaller teams from high schools also participating in football for the first time (Fresno Morning Republican 1921). By the end of the 1920s, the football team was an established part of campus culture with events including alumni games and weekly coverage during the season in county newspapers (Fresno Bee 1924).

Of note is athlete, actor, and politician Carlos Alan Autry, also known as Alan Autry or Carlos Brown, who played football as a Riverdale Cowboy in the late 1960s. After graduating from Riverdale High School in 1970, Autry found success in the National Football League, Hollywood, and politics. Autry returned to his hometown of Fresno after retiring from Hollywood. In Fresno, he went on to serve two terms as the mayor from 2001 to 2009 (Editors of Biography 2021).

Significance Evaluation

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The restroom facility appears to have been constructed between 1961 and 1965. It does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus. Archival research did not reveal that the building was associated with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. Therefore, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers did not reveal any information about potentially significant individuals or groups associated with the restroom facility. While historical ownership

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable, supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the facility was built on, or the building itself. For this reason, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The restroom facility is one of several buildings on the Riverdale High School campus constructed in a unified design language characterized by unadorned, plastered concrete and simple roof types. Buildings from this era of campus development are mostly utilitarian in function and share a sober paint scheme. The restroom facility is not representative of a significant architectural style. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the restroom facility is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. Æ has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from the field visit. Therefore, Æ does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the building to be significant. The restroom facility is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The restroom facility does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (list attributes and codes): None.

***B12. References:**

Editors of Biography

2021 Alan Autry, <https://www.biography.com/actor/alan-autry>, accessed May 28, 2025. Biography.com, Hearst Digital Media.

Fresno Bee

1924 Riverdale High Wins from Alumni, 2 to 0. *Fresno Bee* 28 November:15, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/700823948/?match=1&terms=riverdale%20high%20wins%20from%20alumni>, accessed May 15, 2025. Newspapers.com. Fresno, California.

Fresno Herald

1919 Riverdale Wins Two Games from Caruthers. *Fresno Herald* 3 May:11, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/1168211484/?match=1&terms=%22riverdale%20high%20school%22%20%22baseball%22>, accessed May 15, 2025. Newspapers.com. Fresno, California.

Fresno Morning Republican

1913 High School Girls Win at Basketball. *Fresno Morning Republican* 20 October:6, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/707807400/?match=1&terms=RIVERDALE%20HIGH%20SCHOOL%20BASKETBALL>, accessed May 15, 2025. Newspapers.com. Fresno, California.

1917 Caruthers Notes. *Fresno Morning Republican* 15 February:15, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/607039567/?match=1&terms=%22riverdale%20high%20school%22%20%22baseball%22>, accessed May 15, 2025. Newspapers.com. Fresno, California.

1921 Riverdale High School Eleven. *Fresno Republican* 5 December:7, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/607329893/?match=1&terms=Riverdale%20High%20School%20Football>, accessed May 15, 2025. Newspapers.com. Fresno, California.

Guard, W. C.

1911 *Atlas of Fresno County*. W. C. Guard, Fresno, California.

Progressive Map Service

1913 *Progressive Atlas of Fresno County*. Progressive Map Service, Fresno, California.

1920 *Progressive Atlas of Fresno County*. Progressive Map Service, Fresno, California.

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

***NRHP Status Code**

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

2025 History of the Riverdale Joint Unified School District, <https://www.rjusd.org/about-us/history-of>, accessed May 15, 2025. Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale Joint Unified School District.

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Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

2014 *Los Angeles Unified School District: Historic Context Statement, 1870 to 1969*. Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** Carlos van Onna

Date of Evaluation: June 9, 2025

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Primary # 10-007686
HRI #/Trinomial CA-FRE-4070H
*NRHP Status Code

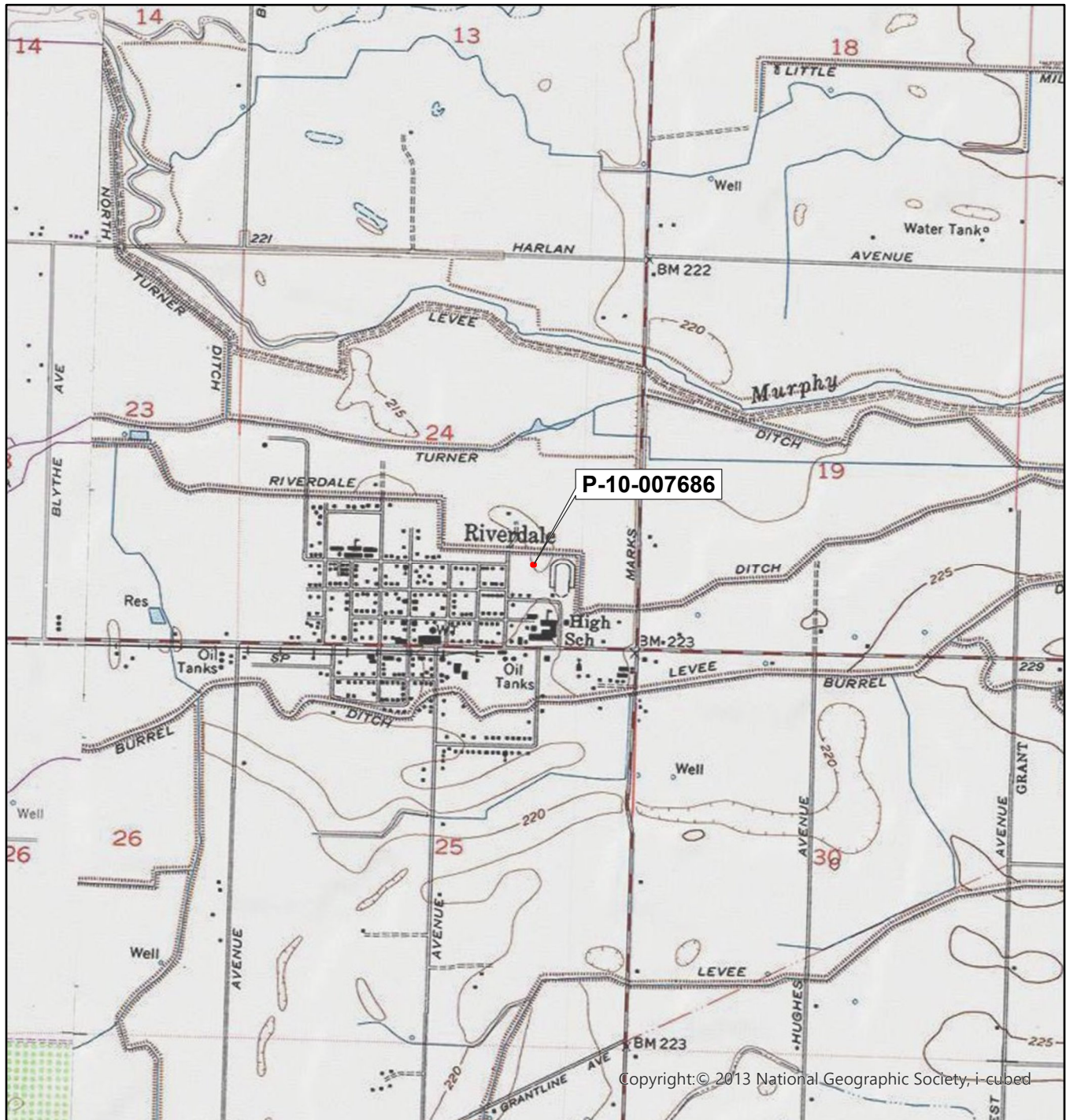
Page 6 of 8

Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Restroom Facility

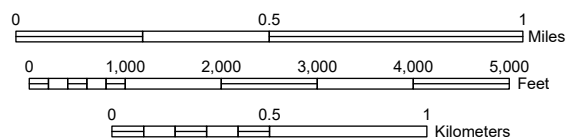
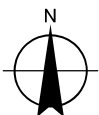
Date: April 25, 2025 Photographer: Blair, Church, & Flynn



East and north elevations of the restroom facility, facing northwest.



Scale: 1:24,000





State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # 10-007687
HRI #
Trinomial CA-FRE-4071H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

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Resource Name or # Riverdale High School Stadium

P1. Other Identifier:

- *P2. Location: a. County: Fresno ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted
b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Riverdale Date: 1954 T17S, R19E; Sec. 24 M.D. B.M.
c. Address: 3086 W. Mount Whitney Ave., Riverdale, Fresno County, CA
d. UTM: NAD 83, Zone 11N; 244103 mE / 4035830 mN
e. Other Locational Data: None.

*P3a. Description: The Riverdale High School Stadium is comprised of a grass sports field bounded by an oval, dirt track loop, concrete stadium seating along the east and west sides of the field, and a press box within the west seating section that marks the stadium's main entrance. An earthen berm with vegetation encloses the north and northeast side of the stadium. The berm contains a lower section of concrete stadium seating along the east side of the field. The south end of the stadium is open to the campus. The stadium is bounded by the high school baseball and softball practice fields to the north, campus buildings to the south, and Bogdanoff Field (a baseball field) to the west. The main entrance is accessible by concrete sidewalks that connect to a rectangular, paved parking lot northwest of the stadium. While the built elements of the stadium are not representative of a distinct architectural style, their design language is consistent with that of other buildings on campus from around the middle of the twentieth century. (See Continuation Sheet)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP42. Stadium / sports arena

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☒ Structure ☒ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other:

***P5a. Photograph or Drawing:**



P5b. Description of Photo: West elevation of the sound box at the west entrance to the stadium, facing east.

- *P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:
☐ Prehistoric ☒ Historic ☐ Both
Between 1942 and 1950
- *P7. Owner and Address:
Riverdale Joint Unified School District
P.O. Box 1058
Riverdale, CA 93656
- *P8. Recorded By: Cheyenne Good-Peery
Sophia Lynch, and Julio Olivares,
Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
1391 W. Shaw Ave., Suite C
Fresno, California 93711
- *P9. Date Recorded: April 25, 2025
- *P10. Survey Type: ☒ Intensive
☐ Reconnaissance ☐ Other
Describe: Pedestrian survey

*P11. Report Citation: Nicole Saenz, Sophia Lynch, Cheyenne Good-Peery, and Carlos van Onna
2025 *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation for the Riverdale High School Improvement Project, Fresno County, California*. Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California. Prepared for Riverdale Joint Unified School District, Riverdale, California.

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

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

***P3a. Description (continued):** The central grass field is 525 feet long and 225 feet wide and is enclosed by a 1,312-foot (400 meter) dirt running track. The field is painted with the standard 360 foot-long football field grid, and two modern football goal posts and soccer goals are at each end of the painted field. A modern scoreboard is at the far north end of the stadium.

The west seating is 300 feet long and includes eight rows of tiered seating. The seating is separated into five sections by six staircases. It has a poured concrete foundation, topped by metal bench seats, and is enclosed by a chain link fence. Seating is accessible through four gates, with two at the bottom and two at the top of the seats. The gates at the top of the seats allow access to the stadium seating from the west entrance to the stadium. The south end of the seats are painted green and lettered with “cowboy pride” in white paint.

The two-story, plaster-clad press box is to the rear of the west stadium seating. The building has a rectangular floor plan and is topped by a lowly-pitched shed roof. The press box has three entrances with flush metal doors: one on the north elevation and two on the south elevation. One of the entrances on the south elevation is on the second story and is accessed by a mobile ladder. Fenestration consists of six windows. Four aluminum double hung windows are on the west elevation and two are on the east elevation, overlooking the field. The windows on the east elevation are fitted with retractable wood shutters. The west elevation faces the stadium entrance and is decorated with the Riverdale School mascot, a cowboy riding a bucking horse, in the center, flanked by the words “Riverdale Cowboys.”

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

B1. Historic Name: None

B2. Common Name: Jack King Field

B3. Original Use: Recreational sports

B4. Present Use: Recreational sports

***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular

***B6. Construction History (construction date, alterations, and dates of alterations):** Historical aerial photography provides insight into the construction dates for the built resources at Riverdale High School. An aerial photograph from 1942 shows no evidence of resources related to the stadium. By 1950, the stadium was constructed and included the field, track, protective earthen berm, west seating, and west entrance and parking lot. By 1961, the restroom facility was in place west of the stadium, just south of the parking lot. Between 1967 and 1970, improvements were made to the stadium; visually, it is evident the west seating were extended to the north and south, and east seating were added. These improvements coincide with records that new sports facilities, including a second gym, locker rooms, a weight room, a physical education classroom, and offices for coaches and physical education teachers, were added in the early 1970's to accommodate the growing needs of the Riverdale High School Athletics department (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025). In 2018, the stadium was dedicated to Jack King, a 1947 four-sport athlete and graduate of the high school, who became a lifelong "superfan" of Riverdale High School athletics. A new scoreboard commemorating "Jack King Field" was installed at the north end of the field in honor of this dedication.

***B7. Moved?:** ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** Field, running track, seating, earthen berm; Restroom facility, on a separate Primary form; Concession stand, on a separate Primary form

B9. a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Riverdale Joint Unified School District

***B10. Significance:** Theme: Local Athletics
Period of Significance: None

Area: Fresno County

Property Type: Recreational

Applicable Criteria: None

The Railroad and Growth of Riverdale

The town of Riverdale, like most valley communities, owes its existence to the railroad, specifically the Hanford & Summit Lake Railway (Robertson 1998:126). Beginning operation in 1912, the 42-mile-long line extended south to southeast from Ingle (about 4 miles north of Tranquility) and made various stops in the Fresno Slough and lower Kings River areas before terminating at Hardwick in Kings County. In 1917, the Southern Pacific Railroad acquired the Hanford & Summit Lake line. In addition to Riverdale, the new railroad gave rise to West Side communities like Tranquility and San Joaquin. Fresno County atlases from 1911, 1913, and 1920 show a steady expansion around the center of Riverdale, at the present-day intersection of Mt. Whitney and Valentine avenues. By 1920, the town's residential lots covered about 100 acres of former agricultural land (Guard 1911; Progressive Map Service 1913, 1920).

Riverdale High School

Education in California prior to the twentieth century followed national trends of authoritarian teaching methods that valued passivity and operated out of one-room schoolhouses. Philosopher John Dewey spearheaded the Progressive Education Movement in the 1880s to reform the rote approach to schooling. The Progressive Education Movement advocated for a more individualized and hands-on learning experience to coincide with a student's natural curiosity.

This space reserved for official comments.

Sketch Map
See sketch map

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

Dewey's ideas centered around individual achievement by using materials other than textbooks and environments outside of the schoolhouse. The influence of the Progressive Education Movement was seen in campus architecture throughout the United States and California beginning in the 1910s, where schoolhouses were replaced by more flexible designs that emphasized natural light, integrated the outdoors, and utilized classroom wings as opposed to a single room. With modern campus designs accounting for multiple classrooms and teachers, single-subject courses such as agriculture became more accessible (Sapphos Environmental 2014).

In the late nineteenth century, the formation of a California school district required a certain number of students, specific administrative and fiscal conditions, and approval by the County Board of Supervisors. With unchallenging qualifications, many smaller school districts, such as Riverdale, formed all throughout Fresno County. The Riverdale School District formed in 1878, although historical newspapers indicate there was a school in Riverdale as early as 1876. In rural California, families lived farther apart and lacked public transportation, resulting in centrally located schools accessible by foot or by horse. It was not uncommon for students to commute two or more miles by foot each way. As the more remote areas in California grew in population and families lived closer together, the already-established smaller school districts typically unified into larger districts.

The RJUSD was organized in 1912 and consisted of the Crescent, Elkhorn, Liberty, North Fork, and Riverdale school districts. The first year of instruction at the RJUSD high school served 13 students from Fresno and King counties in the Barritt's Opera House. The following 1913–1914 school year, 23 students were enrolled, and classes were moved to the larger, two-story Fleharty Hall to accommodate the growing population. By 1916, the RJUSD high school produced its first graduating class, had 50 enrolled students, and operated out of the Odd Fellows Hall.

In 1915, the local community recognized the steady exponential growth of student enrollment at the high school and voted in favor of a \$30,000 bond measure for the construction of a new high school campus. After the consideration of numerous site options, the brand-new school was completed in 1916 on Mt. Whitney Avenue in its current location. It was commonly known as "Riverdale High School" and is often referred to as the "Mt. Whitney campus" in historical records.

Following design trends from the Progressive Education Movement, which focused on education tailored to the interests and needs of individual students, the original Riverdale High School included five classrooms and an auditorium, rather than a single-room schoolhouse. The school operated out of the original facilities until 1947, when plans were developed and approved for a new north and south wing with classrooms and new buildings, including a cafeteria, wood and auto shop, and auditorium. RJUSD purchased 40 additional acres from 1948 to 1949 and expanded the current high school campus northward. This expansion was likely in response to population growth spurred by the development of nearby Lemoore Naval Air Station. Additionally, tentative plans were made to add a junior high school to the campus. The junior high school, however, was never built despite further population growth (Riverdale Joint Unified School District 2025).

Athletics at Riverdale High School

Riverdale High School instituted team athletics since its inception in 1912, as evidenced by historical Fresno County newspapers. Newspapers began reporting on the school's basketball games as early as 1913 and baseball games beginning in 1917 (Fresno Morning Republican 1913, 1917). A tennis team is noted as early as 1926. While sports teams were not often co-ed, both genders were given an opportunity to participate in athletics at Riverdale High School from an early date (Fresno Herald 1919). Newspapers describe a girls' basketball team in 1917 and both a boys and a girls tennis team in 1926. As of 2025, Riverdale High School offers basketball, cheerleading, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, track, baseball, football, softball, volleyball, and stunt teams.

Of the sporting events at Riverdale High School, most local news coverage has been afforded to the football team, known as the Riverdale Cowboys. The team was formed in 1921, five years after the Mt. Whitney campus opened. The inaugural season included 11 players who competed in a Fresno County league composed of smaller teams from high schools also participating in football for the first time (Fresno Morning Republican 1921). By the end of the 1920s, the football team was an established part of campus culture with events including alumni games and weekly coverage during the season in county newspapers (Fresno Bee 1924).

Of note is athlete, actor, and politician Carlos Alan Autry, also known as Alan Autry or Carlos Brown, who played football as a Riverdale Cowboy in the late 1960s. After graduating from Riverdale High School in 1970, Autry found success in the National Football League, Hollywood, and politics. Autry returned to his hometown of Fresno

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

after retiring from Hollywood. In Fresno, he went on to serve two terms as the mayor from 2001 to 2009 (Editors of Biography 2021).

Significance Evaluation

Criterion 1—Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. The stadium appears to have been constructed between 1942 and 1950. It is a commonplace building type within the development of high school campuses throughout California during the mid-twentieth century, during which most construction was characterized by what could be accomplished in the most economic manner to meet the widespread demand of the nationwide population boom. This would especially be the case in the 1940s, during and immediately post-World War II. Archival research did not reveal that the stadium was associated with any specific events or trends that have made significant contributions to the patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. The stadium does not appear to have been the site of any noteworthy advancements related to Riverdale High School campus, high school athletics, outstanding accomplishments in sports, or other significant historical events. Therefore, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2—Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Review of regional histories, available property atlases and maps, and historical newspapers revealed limited information about two potentially significant individuals that have a tangential association with the stadium. Athlete, actor, and politician Alan Autry attended Riverdale High School. While Autry likely played football at the stadium, his time as a student predates any of his professional accomplishments. Therefore, the stadium is not representative of Autry's most notable accomplishments. In recent years, the stadium was named after former student and athlete Jack King. No evidence was found to suggest that the stadium is closely associated with any significant contributions to local, California, or national history by this individual. Historical ownership records for the land from the time of construction were unavailable and supplemental research did not reveal significant persons associated with the land the stadium was built on, or the stadium itself. It does not appear to be associated with widely recognized athletes or other historically significant individuals or groups. For this reason, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3—Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values. The Riverdale High School Stadium is an example of a commonplace building type found on high school campuses across the country, especially during the mid-twentieth century. During the 1940s, construction often utilized simple forms that could be replicated, readily available materials, and little to no ornamentation in order to economically meet the demands of a nationwide population boom. It is not representative of a significant architectural style, and the architect is unknown. It is not distinctive of a defined, historically significant type, period, or method of construction, it is not the work of a master, and it does not possess high artistic value. For these reasons, the stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4—Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation. Criterion 4 applies to built environment resources if further study has the potential to yield information that cannot be obtained from other sources. However, the stadium is an example of a common resource type in California that has been well documented. Æ has exhausted available sources and no additional information could be gleaned from subsequent field visits. Therefore, Æ does not anticipate that any additional information can be identified that would prove the resource to be significant. The stadium is not considered significant under Criterion 4.

Eligibility

A discussion of integrity is not required because the resource does not possess historical significance. The Riverdale High School Stadium does not possess significance under the CRHR criteria for evaluation; therefore, it is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR and does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (list attributes and codes):

***B12. References:**

Editors of Biography

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

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B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** Carlos van Onna

Date of Evaluation: June 9, 2025

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Primary # 10-007687
HRI #/Trinomial CA-FRE-4071H
*NRHP Status Code

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Resource Name or #: Riverdale High School Stadium

Date: April 25, 2025 Photographer: Sophia Lynch



North end of the field and track, facing northeast.



South end of the field and track, facing southeast.



Larger, west set of stadium seating with east elevation of the press box, facing west.



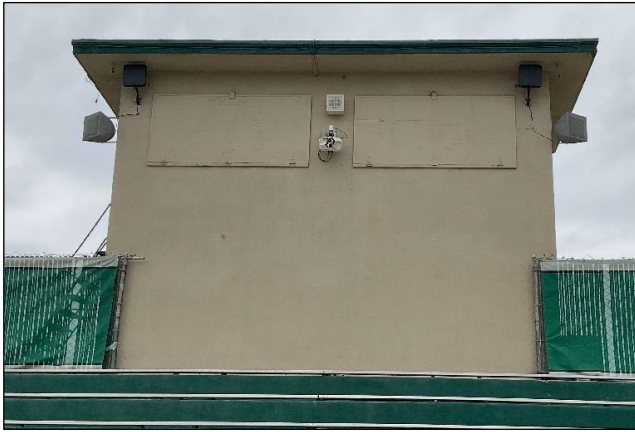
Earthen berm between the stadium and the practice baseball field, facing northeast.



South elevation of the west stadium seating, facing north.



South elevation of the press box building, west entrance to the left, and west bleachers to the right, facing north.



East elevation of the press box building, facing west.



North elevation of the press box building, facing south.



Smaller, east set of stadium seating, facing east.



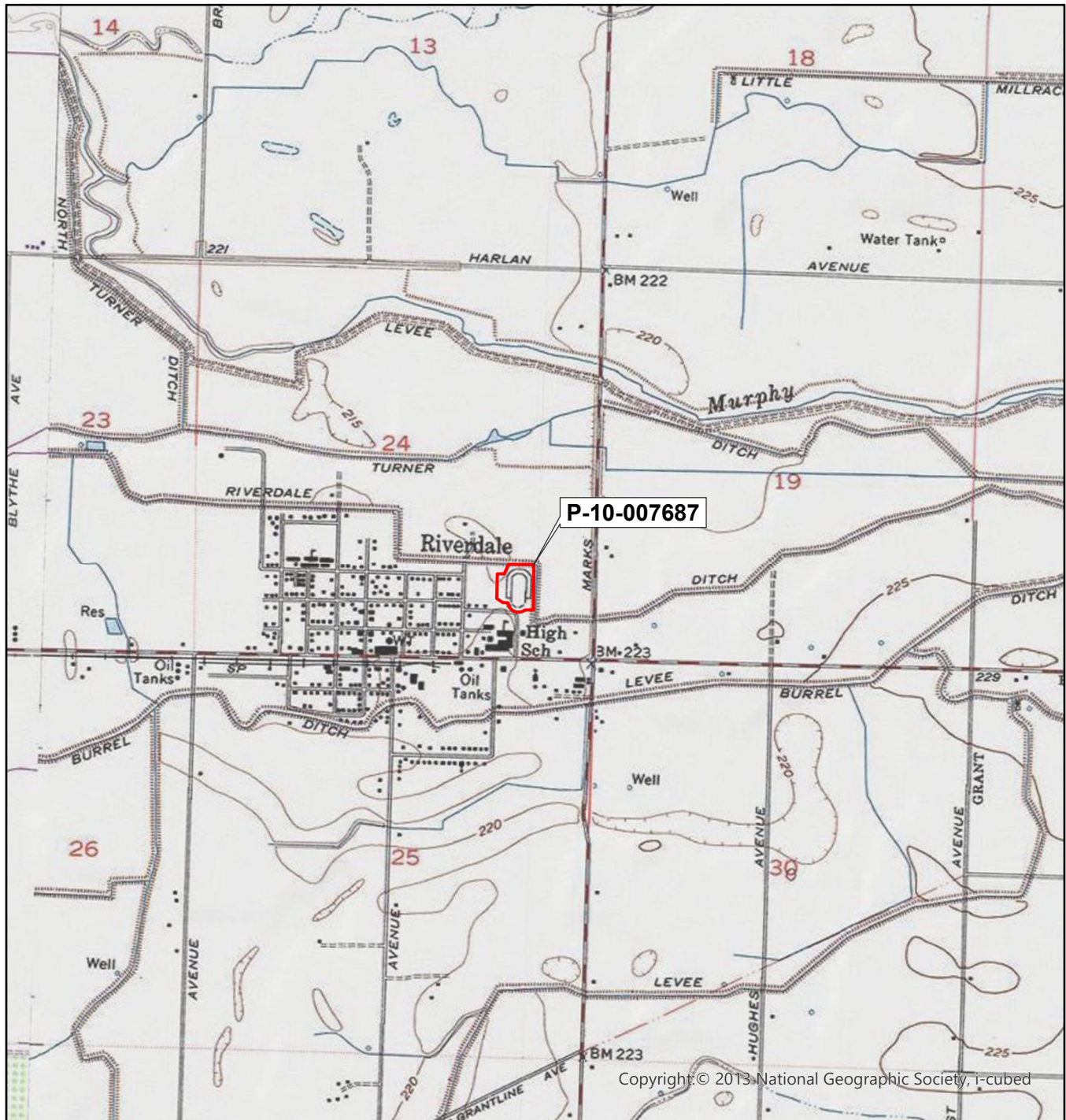
Contemporary scoreboard at north end of the field, facing north.



Contemporary ticket booth at the parking lot stadium entrance.



Small contemporary storage building, facing northwest.



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Scale: 1:24,000

