

Appendix C Cultural Resources Report

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGY STUDY, WESTSIDE TREND PROJECT

KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Project No. 2302-0472

Prepared for:

Bidr, LLC.
19100 7th Standard Road
McKittrick, California 93251

Prepared by:

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SEPTEMBER 2023



NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

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Report Title: Phase I Archaeological Study, Westside Trend Project, Kern County,
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U.S.G.S. Quad(s): Carneros Rocks

Key words: Kern County, Phase I Archaeological Study, McKittrick, Southern Valley
Yokuts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of Bidr, LLC (Bidr), Padre Associates, Inc. (Padre), has completed a Phase I Archaeological Study in support of the Westside Trend Project (Project) located adjacent to Carneros Creek Oil Field, Kern County, California (Project site). The scope of this document includes an archaeological records search, Sacred Lands File search, and a Phase I pedestrian survey as required by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM). CalGEM has determined that the issuance of well drilling permits would be a discretionary action subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed Project involves the drilling and potential development of one exploratory well. The Phase I archaeological study has assessed the Project site for potential archaeological resources and determine project impacts.

The records search did not reveal any previously recorded resources within the Project site or 0.25-mile search radius. Padre Staff Archaeologist Christopher J. Letter conducted a pedestrian survey of the Project site on June 29, 2023 and did not identify any cultural resources within the Project site.

Proposed Project impacts will not affect cultural resources and no further archaeological study or monitoring is warranted. Padre recommends that the Project proceed as planned. A change in scope (i.e. increase area of disturbance beyond the Project site), will require additional cultural resources surveys. In the event cultural resources are encountered during the proposed Project, Padre recommends all construction activities cease within a 100-foot radius. Work will resume once an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology has assessed the find and identified and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.

One copy of this report will be submitted to the South San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) at California State University, Bakersfield. A copy of all field notes is on file at Padre's office in San Luis Obispo, California.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the request of Bidr, LLC (Bidr), Padre Associates, Inc. (Padre), has completed a Phase I Archaeological Study in support of the Westside Trend Project (Project) located adjacent to Carneros Creek Oil Field, Kern County, California (Project site). The scope of the study includes an archaeological records search, a Sacred Lands File Search, and a pedestrian survey.

Padre completed the study pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. CEQA requires lead agencies to evaluate proposed projects for their potential to impact archaeological resources (Public Resources Code Section 21082, 21083.2, and 21084.1, and California Code of Regulations 15064.5). According to the CEQA Guidelines, “historical resources” include buildings, structures, objects, districts, or sites that may possess prehistoric or historical archaeological, architectural, cultural, or scientific importance. CEQA states that if a project will have a significant effect on important cultural resources, then alternative plans or mitigation measures need to be developed. However, only important cultural resources need to be considered in the mitigation plans.

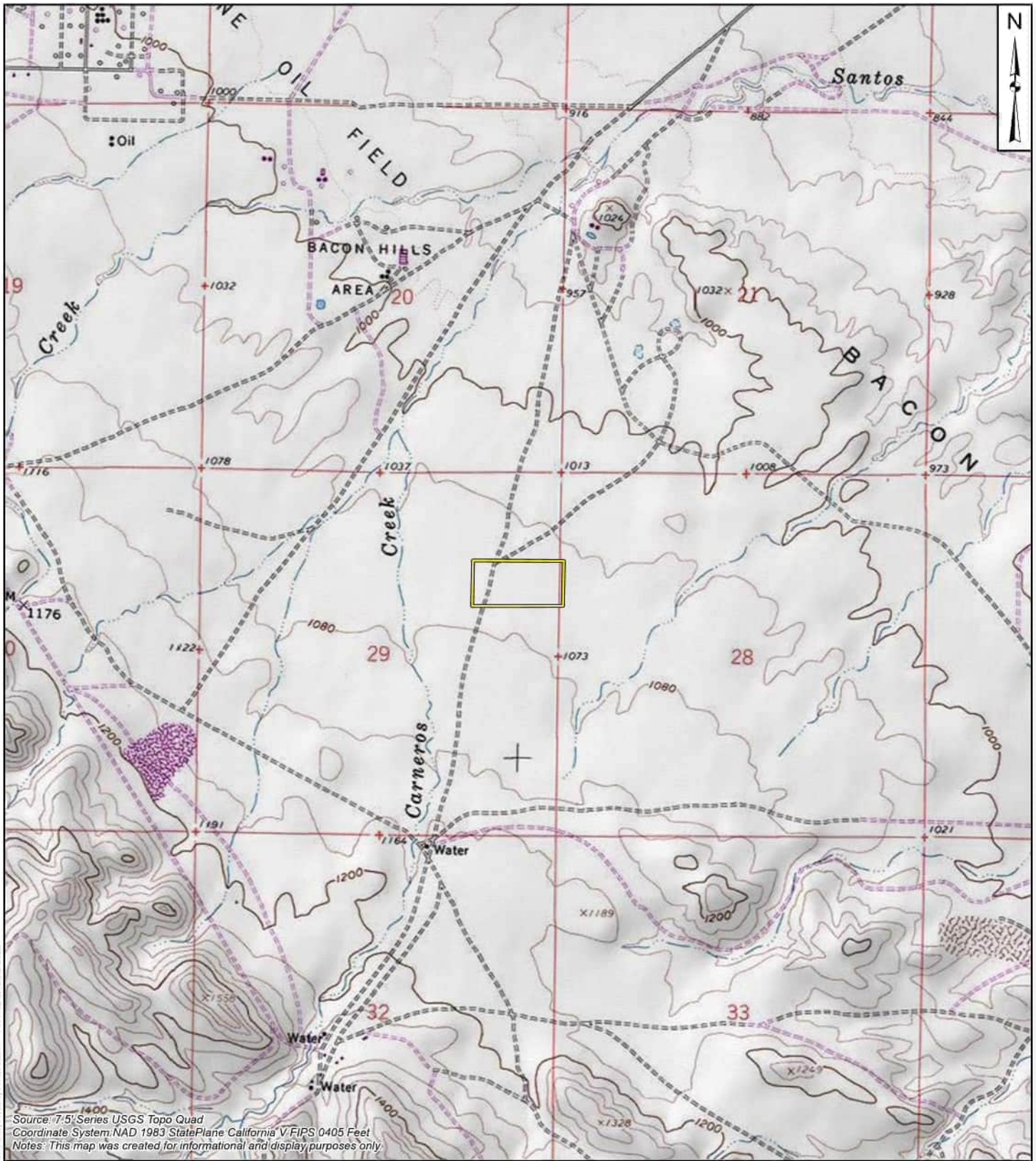
On June 29, 2023, Padre Staff Archaeologist Christopher J. Letter, B.A. completed the pedestrian survey. Senior Archaeologist Rachael J. Letter, M.S., RPA, who exceeds the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards as outlined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 61, served as Cultural Resources Project Manager.

The remainder of this section provides the Project description and location; Section 2.0 discusses the regulatory framework; Section 3.0 provides the environmental, ethnographic and archaeological overviews for the region; Section 4.0 describes the records search results and Native American consultation; Section 5.0 presents the field methodology and survey results; Section 6.0 provides a summary and recommendations; and references are listed in Section 7.0. The records search results are located in Appendix A, and the response from the Native American Heritage Commission is provided in Appendix B.

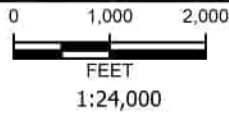
1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project site is located within the *Carneros Rocks, California* USGS 7.5-Minute Series topographic quadrangle map. Specifically, the Project site is located within Section 29 of Township 28 South, Range 20 East, northwest of the community of McKittrick, Kern County, California (Figure 1-1). The approximate elevation ranges from 1,047 to 1,070 feet above mean sea level. The Project site is currently an active pasture and is located 950 feet east of Carneros Creek, an intermittent stream.

The proposed Project includes the drilling and potential development of one exploratory well. The proposed Project surface disturbance will include vegetation removal and grading as needed.



Source: 7.5' Series USGS Topo Quad
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 Notes: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



LEGEND:
 Project Area



USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Carneros Rocks
 Legal Description: T28S, R20E, Sec.29



PROJECT NAME:
WESTSIDE TREND PROJECT,
 KERN COUNTY, CA

PROJECT NUMBER:
 2302-0472

DATE:
 June 2023

PROJECT LOCATION

FIGURE:
1-1

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2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This Phase I archaeological study complies with the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended (CEQA Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq.). The following regulatory framework describes the applicable state and local statutes pertaining to the protection of cultural resources.

2.1 STATE REGULATIONS

2.1.1 California Environment Quality Act

CEQA statute and guidelines include procedures for identifying, analyzing, and disclosing potential adverse impacts to historical resources, which include all resources listed in or formally determined eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or local registers. CEQA further defines a “historical resource” as a resource that meets any of the following criteria:

- A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the CRHR;
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC, unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant;
- A resource identified as significant (i.e., rated 1-5) in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1(g) (DPR Form 523), unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant; or
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California, provided the determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource is considered “historically significant” if it meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5).

2.1.2 California Register of Historical Resources

CRHR Criteria of Evaluation. The CRHR is a listing of California resources that are significant within the context of California’s history. The CRHR is a state-wide program of similar scope to the NRHP. In addition, properties designated under municipal, or county ordinances are eligible for listing in the CRHR. A historic resource must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the following criteria that are defined in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 11.5, Section 4850:

- It is associated with events or patterns of 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; or
- It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or

- It 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; or
- It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

2.1.3 Assembly Bill 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52, which became law on January 1, 2015, provides for consultation with California Native American tribes during the CEQA process, and equates significant impacts to “tribal cultural resources” with significant environmental impacts. PRC Section 20174 defines tribal cultural resources as:

“Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe and are one of the following:

- A. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR;
- B. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5020.1; or
- C. A resource determined by the lead CEQA agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead CEQA agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

The consultation provisions of the law require that within 14 days of determining that a project application is complete, or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead CEQA agency must notify tribes of the opportunity to consult on the project. California Native American tribes must be recognized by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project site, and must have previously requested that the lead CEQA agency notify them of projects. Tribes have 30 days following notification of a project to request consultation with the lead CEQA agency.

The purpose of consultation is to inform the lead CEQA agency in its identification and determination of the significance of tribal cultural resources. Consultation may also include a discussion of project alternatives, significant effects, and mitigation measures, and should be undertaken in good faith by both the tribe and lead CEQA agency. If a project is determined to result in a significant impact to an identified tribal cultural resource, the consultation process must occur and conclude prior to adoption of any environmental document (PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3).

2.2 KERN COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

2.2.1 Section 1.10.3, Policy 25

This section of the General Plan provides that the County of Kern will promote the preservation of cultural and historic resources that provide ties with the past and constitute a heritage value to residents and visitors. There are five implementing measures (K through O).

Included in these is a measure that states that the County Planning Department will evaluate the necessity for the involvement of a qualified Native American monitor for grading and other construction activities on CEQA projects.

2.3 REGULATIONS CONCERNING DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

California PRC §5097.98 (Notification of Native American human remains, descendants; disposition of human remains and associated grave goods) mandates that the lead agency adhere to the following regulations when a project results in the identification or disturbance of Native American human remains:

- (a) Whenever the commission receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, it shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The descendants may, with the permission of the owner of the land, or his or her authorized representative, inspect the site of the discovery of the Native American remains and may recommend to the owner or the person responsible for the excavation work means for treating or disposing, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make their recommendation within 48 hours of their notification by the Native American Heritage Commission. The recommendation may include the scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.
- (b) Whenever the commission is unable to identify a descendant, or the descendant identified fails to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendant, and the mediation provided for in subdivision (k) of Section 5097.94 fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5097.9, the provisions of this section (including those actions taken by the landowner or his or her authorized representative to implement this section), and any action taken to implement an agreement developed pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 5097.94, shall be exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13, commencing with Section 21000).
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 30244, the provisions of this section (including those actions taken by the landowner or his or her authorized representative to implement this section), and any action taken to implement an agreement developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of Section 5097.94 shall be exempt from the requirements of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20, commencing with Section 30000).

3.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL OVERVIEW

This section provides background information pertaining to the natural and cultural context of the Project site. The contexts describe the relationship of the Project site within the larger natural environment, which in turn provides information regarding the natural resources that indigenous groups accessed for subsistence and land use patterns for the prehistoric period.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project site is located on an alluvial fan to the east of the Temblor Range, an uplifted block of marine sediments deposited 10 million years ago and to the west of the Bacon Hills. Tectonic deformation in this region has created a series of low ridges separated by valleys, including the McKittrick Valley, just south of the Project site (URS, 2012). Specifically, the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates that there are two soil types within the Project site. The Panoche soils series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in loamy calcareous alluvium from sedimentary rock on alluvial fans and flood plains. The Milham soils series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in mixed calcareous alluvium weathered from granitic and sedimentary rock on alluvial fans, plains, low terraces and fan remnants.

The climate of the Project site is hot and arid with an average annual rainfall of five to six inches (Culleton et al., 2005). Vegetation consists of the Valley Saltbush Scrub and Non-Native Grassland communities including native saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*) and spiny saltbush (*Atriplex spinifera*). Non-native vegetation such as oats (*Avena barbata*) and tumbleweed (*Kali tragus*) are also present (Miles and Goudey, 1998; URS, 2012).

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Archaeological investigations in the southern San Joaquin Valley began with the University of California Archaeological Survey at the turn of the twentieth century. The survey focused on documenting and collecting artifacts from archaeological sites in Kern County, including the Elk Hills, but did not establish a meaningful temporal framework (Gifford and Schenck, 1926). Excavations and research completed between the 1930s and the 1970s, focused on the former shorelines of Buena Vista and Tulare lakes, and a variety of cultural chronologies were proposed for the San Joaquin Valley. More recent excavation, driven by regulatory and project development requirements, have defined five broad temporal periods for the southern San Joaquin Valley: Paleo-Indian, Early Holocene, Middle Holocene, Late Holocene, and Protohistoric (Hartzell, 1992; URS, 2012).

3.2.1 Paleo-Indian Period (c. 25,000 – c. 12,000 B.P.)

The Paleo-Indian period represents the earliest human occupation in North America, beginning no earlier than 40,000 years before present (B.P.) and perhaps as recently as 25,000 to 20,000 B.P. Small groups of highly mobile individuals hunted (now extinct) megafauna and small animals and gathered berries and seeds (Hartzell, 1992). Artifacts were mostly portable and groundstone tools are rare (Alcock and Parr, 1997).

The Tulare Lake basin, located approximately 35 miles north of the Project site in Fresno County, provides evidence of human occupation during the Paleo-Indian Period in the San

Joaquin Valley. The Witt Site (Riddell and Olsen, 1969) produced over 275 basally thinned and fluted concave base projectile points, similar to the Clovis type (c. 13,200 to 12,900 B.P.). Obsidian hydration sourcing of these projectile points reveal they were manufactured from material collected from the Napa Valley and the eastern Sierras indicating trade with other groups (Garfinkel et al., 2008).

3.2.2 Early Holocene Period (c. 12,000 – 7,000 B.P.)

Mobility decreased during the Early Holocene Period. Small groups lived in camps near lakes and streams and subsistence strategies focused more on small animals and lacustrine resources (Hartzell, 1992). Distinct artifacts from this period consist of groundstone atlatls, crescents, scraper tools, and projectile point types include Lake Mojave, Silver Lake, and Pinto series. Milling implements are absent from the archaeological record (Siefkin, 1999).

3.2.3 Middle Holocene Period (c. 7,000 – c. 4,000 B.P.)

Cultural changes during the Middle Holocene Period are thought to be a response to a shift in climate towards warm, dry conditions and receding lakeshores (Rosenthal et al., 2007). Sites are commonly found on rises along the margins of lakes (Hartzell, 1992) and burials are extended with no grave goods (Warren and McKusick, 1959). Diagnostic artifacts include Elko and Pinto series projectile points, flake scrapers, charmstones, and the introduction of milling stones. Trade items such as marine shell beads and ornaments, worked bone, and steatite items also become more common (Hartzell, 1992).

3.2.4 Late Holocene Period (c. 4,000 – 500 B.P.)

Prehistoric technology and economy became markedly more complex during the Late Holocene Period. The artifact assemblage contains hopper mortars, smaller arrow-size projectile points, bone fish hooks, steatite H-shaped Fishing “reels”, and tule-covered clay ball net weights (Hartzell, 1992). Subsistence practices emphasized terrestrial resources away from lakes and marshes and become more diversified at the end of the period. The overall population grew and settled into larger village sites on knolls between ephemeral drainages (Moratto, 1984). Continuation of trade relationships is evident in the increased number of obsidian items, steatite bowls, and marine shell ornaments (Wallace, 1971).

3.2.5 Protohistoric Period (c. 500 – c. 150 B.P.)

The Protohistoric Period correlates with the historical Yokuts occupation of the San Joaquin Valley until sustained European occupation circa A.D. 1850 (100 B.P.). Protohistoric sites contain decorated baked-clay objects, triangular Cottonwood series projectile points, elaborate bone tools, bowl-hopper mortars, and increased ceremonial items (e.g. whistles, pipes). Use of asphaltum becomes abundant and communities acquire brown ware pottery from groups in the Sierra foothills (Rosenthal et al., 2007). Burials during this period are tightly flexed and contain a small amount of grave goods that increasingly include European items after A.D. 1770 (Warren and McKusick, 1959).

3.3 ETHNOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The Project site is located within the ethnographic territory of the Southern Valley Yokuts Indians, a group which comprised at least 16 distinct linguistic dialects (Kroeber, 1925).

According to Kroeber (1925; Wallace, 1978) the Southwestern San Joaquin Valley was home to the Tulamni subgroup of Southern Valley Yokuts Indians whose main settlement, *Telúmneu*, was on the western shore of Buena Vista Lake with territory ranging west and north toward modern day McKittrick (Wallace, 1978). The closest village location to the Project site was *Wog'teu* near present-day McKittrick (Latta, 1999).

Yokuts villages were located on low mounds near major water courses and lakes. Because wood was scarce, the Yokuts constructed houses from tule, cattails, vines, and grasses. Single families lived in small, oval-shaped dwelling constructed over a shallow pit. Communal houses, holding 10 or more families, were rectangular shaped with a wooden pole frame and individual spaces demarcated by walls of tule mats. Animal skins were also used in both structure types to protect against the elements. Other village structures included granaries, sweathouses, and semi-subterranean halls for dance and gatherings (Wallace, 1978).

The Yokuts subsistence strategies focused on fishing, hunting waterfowl, and collecting shellfish, seeds, and roots. Plant foods played a key part in their diet; the most important resource was tule, whose roots and seeds were eaten. Acorns were not readily available and the Tulamni often traded with other groups for acorn products. The Yokuts also used tule reeds to make woven baskets, boats, and hunting blinds and coated these items with a thin layer of asphaltum (harvested from natural tar seeps) to make them watertight (Wallace, 1978).

The Southern Valley Yokuts grouped their families into patrilineal totemic lineages in which a specific animal represented the father's lineage and was revered within the family unit. Positions of tribal authority, ceremonial duties, and titles (such as chief) were usually passed from father to son. Other individuals within the tribe (e.g. shamans, ritual specialists) earned their position through personal experience and prophetic dreams (Kroeber, 1925; Wallace, 1978).

The annexation of California by the United States brought numerous Americans into the San Joaquin Valley. Those who did not find their fortune in the gold mines stayed to pursue farming and raise livestock. By 1851, the Southern Valley Yokuts were forced to relinquish their lands to the United States for reservations and payments in goods; however, the treaty was never ratified. Eventually, the Tule River Reservation was established near Porterville in 1873 and the Santa Rosa Rancheria was established near Lemoore in 1921 (Reid, 1996). Both reservations remain open and encourage the preservation of the Southern Valley Yokuts culture.

3.4 HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT

3.4.1 Mission Period (A.D. 1769 – 1821)

The Southern Valley Yokuts first encountered the Spanish when Pedro Fages entered the San Joaquin Valley in 1772 (Wallace, 1978). Fages encountered a Yokuts village (probably *Telúmneu*) on the southwestern shore of Buena Vista Lake and gave the lake and surrounding area the name Buena Vista (Hoover et al., 1966). Four years later, Franciscan Father Francisco Garcés was the first European to officially contact the tribe on behalf of the Spanish crown (Galvin, 1965).

During the early 1800s, the Southern San Joaquin Valley became a haven for escaped neophytes, who introduced the non-missionized populations to European practices. The Yokuts became excellent horseback riders and began stealing horses from the mission and rancho herds

(Cook, 1962; Wallace, 1978). A few of the Yokuts, including individuals from the Tulamni tribe, settled at the Soledad, San Luis Obispo, San Antonio and San Juan Bautista missions; however, no single tribe of Yokuts ever became missionized (Wallace, 1978).

3.4.2 Rancho Period (A.D. 1821 – 1848)

Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821 and the Secularization Act of 1833 ended the Catholic Church's control of large estates associated with the missions and presidios in Alta California. The new Mexican government granted ranchos to Mexican and foreign settlers, who mainly used the land for grazing sheep and cattle (Hackel, 1998; Lech, 2004). Most of the ranchos were located along the coast; however, a few were located in the San Joaquin Valley, such as Rancho San Emigdio (approximately 31 miles south of the Project site). Rancheros organized campaigns into the valley to retrieve stolen livestock and capture slaves. A fur trapping party, led by Jedediah Smith, traveled through the San Joaquin Valley in 1827, and spread malaria among the Yokuts tribes. A series of epidemics between 1833 and 1846 reduced the Yokuts population by approximately 75 percent (Cook, 1955; Wallace, 1978).

3.4.3 American Period (A.D. 1848 - Present)

The United States took possession of Alta California following the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, and California became a free and undivided state in 1850 as a condition of the Compromise of 1850. Kern County was organized from portions of Los Angeles and Tulare counties in 1866. It was named after the Kern River, which was named for Edward M. Kern, the topographer of the Fremont expedition of 1845-46 (Robinson, 1961).

The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in northern California encouraged prospectors to search the rest of the state for new strikes. In the 1860s, agriculture developed in the Central Valley to supply the growing number of miners and mining towns in the region. The San Joaquin Valley became prime agricultural land due to the ready availability of irrigation water and native grasslands. Colonel Thomas Baker founded a small agricultural settlement along the Kern River in 1861 that became the City of Bakersfield. With the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1873, Bakersfield became the primary market and transportation hub for the valley (Hoover et al., 1966; Robinson, 1961). Unfortunately, industrialized agriculture drained the Buena Vista and Kern lakebeds and surrounding tule swamps by the end of the nineteenth century.

Another industry vital to Kern County is oil production. Organized in 1864, the Buena Vista Petroleum Company built a kerosene refinery at the foot of the Temblor Range and operated until April 1867, when transportation costs became too high (Hoover et al., 1966). Small-scale "pick and shovel" oil exploration and development continued in the region, and asphalt deposits from the McKittrick area were mined for roofing and paving material during the 1880s (Jackson et al., 2003). The opening of rail lines into the McKittrick and Midway Valleys in 1893 and 1900, respectively, allowed for large-scale production (Rintoul, 1990). Boom towns appeared along the railroad lines and spurs to provide housing, supplies, and entertainment for the oil field workers. In 1896, the Klondike Oil Company drilled the first oil well in the southern San Joaquin Valley, the Shamrock gusher (San Joaquin Valley Geology, 2014). Discoveries of other substantial deposits in the Midway Sunset, Kern River, and Elk Hills fields during the early 1900s signaled the beginning of the oil boom. This development transformed western Kern County into a major oil producing region and gave rise to communities like Taft and McKittrick. Kern County remains the leading producer of oil in California (DOGGR, 2012).

4.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

4.1 RECORDS SEARCH METHODS

Padre ordered an archaeological records search from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (SSJVIC- CHRIS) at the California State University, Bakersfield on June 15, 2023. The records search included a review of all recorded historic-era and prehistoric archaeological sites within the Project site and a 0.25-mile radius, as well as a review of known cultural resource surveys and technical reports. Padre received the results on June 26, 2023.

During the records search, the following sources were consulted:

- SSJVIC base maps, USGS 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangles for the Project site, and other historic maps;
- Pertinent survey reports and archaeological site records were examined to identify recorded archaeological sites and historic-period built-environment resources (such as buildings, structures, and objects) within or immediately adjacent to the Project site; and
- The California Department of Parks and Recreation's California Inventory of Historic Resources (1991) and the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Properties Directory (2007), which combines cultural resources listed on the California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historic Interest, and those that are listed in or determined eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR.

4.2 RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

The records search did not identify any cultural resources within the Project site or within a 0.25-mile radius. Additionally, the records search indicates that the Project site has not been previously studied and no cultural resource investigations have been completed within a 0.25-mile radius.

4.3 SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

On June 15, 2023, Padre emailed a request for a Sacred Lands File search to the NAHC to request information about sacred or traditional cultural properties that may be located within the Project site (Appendix B). A search of the Sacred Lands file housed at the NAHC did not indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the Project site. On July 23, 2023, the NAHC provided a list of local groups and individuals to contact for further information regarding local knowledge of sacred lands. The response from the NAHC is attached as Appendix B and should be forwarded to the CEQA Lead Agency, which will conduct Native American consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1.

5.0 FIELD SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

Padre Staff Archaeologist Christopher J. Letter completed the pedestrian survey on June 29, 2023. The archaeologist examined the Project site with parallel transects spaced at 10-meter intervals where not constrained by dense vegetation. The survey area was documented with color digital photographs.

The Project site consisted of a nearly level field currently used for grazing. No structures are present and an unimproved dirt road bisects the Project site (Figure 5-1, Figure 5-2, and Figure 5-3). Ground surface visibility ranged from thirty to 100 percent with dense vegetation accounting for the areas of lesser visibility. Vegetation consisted of seasonal grasses, wildflowers and weeds. Soils observed during the survey consisted of a clay loam with less than 10 percent gravels and small to large cobbles of various rock types including sandstone. No cultural resources were observed during the survey.



Figure 5-1. Overview of Project site, facing southwest



Figure 5-2. Overview of Project site, facing north



Figure 5-3. Overview of Project site, facing east

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Padre has completed a Phase I Archaeological Study in support of the Westside Trend Project. The following recommendations are intended to assist planners minimize the impact of future construction activities on known cultural resources.

The records search did not identify any cultural resources and the pedestrian survey was negative for cultural resources.

Proposed Project impacts will not affect cultural resources and no further archaeological study or monitoring is warranted. Padre recommends that the Project proceed as planned. A change in scope (i.e. increase area of disturbance beyond the Project site), will require additional cultural resources surveys. In the event cultural resources are encountered during the proposed Project, Padre recommends all construction activities cease within a 100-foot radius. Work will resume once an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology has assessed the find and identified and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.

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APPENDIX A

RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS



6/26/2023

Rachael Letter
Padre Associates, Inc.
369 Pacific Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: 2302-0472
Records Search File No.: 23-229

The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Carneros Rocks USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and the 0.25 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

Resources within project area:	None
Resources within 0.25 mile radius:	None
Reports within project area:	None
Reports within 0.25 mile radius:	None

- 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,

Jeremy E David
Assistant Coordinator

APPENDIX B

RESPONSE FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 23, 2023

Rachael Letter
Padre Associates, Inc.Via Email to: rletter@padreinc.com**Re: Westside Trend Project, Kern County**

Dear Ms. Letter:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

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

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst
AttachmentACTING CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
ChumashSECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
MiwokCOMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-CostanoanCOMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
NomlakiCOMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
LuiseñoCOMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
KumeyaayCOMMISSIONER
VacantCOMMISSIONER
VacantCOMMISSIONER
VacantEXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, Nisenan**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Kern County
7/23/2023

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Kern	Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians	N	Delia Dominguez, Chairperson	115 Radio Street Bakersfield, CA, 93305	(626) 339-6785		2deedominguez@gmail.com	Kitanemuk Southern Valley Yokut	Kern, Los Angeles	
	Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties	N	Patti Dunton, Tribal Administrator	8270 Morro Rd. Atascadero, CA, 93422	(805) 464-2650		info@salinatribe.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo	6/6/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Leo Sisco, Chairperson	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 924-1278	(559) 924-3583		Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Tulare	
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Kelsie Shroll, Elders' Council Administrative Assistant	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 245-5403		kshroll@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Nakia Zavalla, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460			nzavalla@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Sam Cohen, Government & Legal Affairs Director	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460			scohen@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Wendy Teeter, Cultural Resources Archaeologist	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 325-8630		wteeter@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Tejon Indian Tribe	F	Candice Garza, CRM Scheduler	4941 David Road Bakersfield, CA, 93307	(661) 345-0632		cgarza@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov	Kitanemuk	Kern	4/11/2023
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Kerri Vera, Environmental Department	P. O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 783-8892	(559) 783-8932	kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San	7/22/2016
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist	P. O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 783-8892	(559) 783-8932	joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San	7/22/2016
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Neil Peyron, Chairperson	P.O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 781-4271	(559) 781-4610	neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San	
	Xolon-Salinan Tribe	N	Karen White, Chairperson	P.O. Box 7045 Spreckels, CA, 93962	(831) 455-1012		xolon.salinan.heritage@gmail.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	4/3/2023
	Xolon-Salinan Tribe	N	Penny Hurt, Cultural Preservation Administrator	P.O. Box 7045 Spreckels, CA, 93962	(805) 453-3675		phurt6700@gmail.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	4/3/2023
	yak tityu tityu yak tihini – Northern Chumash Tribe	N	Mona Tucker, Chairperson	660 Camino Del Rey Arroyo Grande, CA, 93420	(805) 748-2121		olivas.mona@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	5/30/2023

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

Record: PROJ-2023-003622
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Kern
NAHC Group: All

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Westside Trend Project, Kern County.