INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. Project title:	Yokohl Creek Recharge Project
2. Lead agency:	Exeter Irrigation District 150 South E Street Exeter, CA 93221
3. Contact person:	Dennis R. Keller Dennis R. Keller Consulting Civil Engineer, Inc. (559) 732-7938
4. Project location:	Yokohl Creek, north of State Highway 198 between Road 212 and Road 220. Approximately 3.2 miles Northeast of Exeter Section 30, T18S, R27E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian
5. Latitude, Longitude:	36°19'55.15" N, 119°05'48" W (Check Structure) 36°19'38" N 119° 04'32.75" W (Discharge Structure)
6. General plan designation:	Valley Agriculture
7. Zoning:	Exclusive Agricultural Zone – 20 acre minimum (AE-20)
8. Description of project:	The Exeter Irrigation District (District) provides water for agricultural irrigation purposes. The Proposed Project consists of a new concrete check structure in Yokohl Creek to increase the recharge capacity of the reach. The Proposed Project also includes a discharge structure along Yokohl Creek that will enable the District to deliver surplus surface water to the creek for recharge purposes. Construction will include the clearing and site preparation, excavation for the check and discharge structures, concrete placement and backfill, compaction and surface restoration efforts to complete the new structures.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:	Surrounding land uses include rural residential areas mixed with agricultural areas. The Project includes elements within and along the banks of Yokohl Creek. The Creek experiences seasonal flows dependent on snow and rainfall within the Yokohl Creek watershed and excess irrigation water discharges.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required	Tulare County Flood Control District; United States Army Corps of Engineers; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; California Department of Water Resources; California Regional Water Quality Control Board; and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and subsequent discussion on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture & Forestry	☐ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Dennis R. Keller — 12 January 2026

Signature — Date

Dennis R. Keller, Consulting Civil Engineer — Exeter Irrigation District

Printed name — For

Issues:

I. AESTHETICS **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not result in a change in the scenic characteristics of the area and its surroundings. The Proposed facilities will exist within the existing channel and below the top of the existing channel bank/levee. Construction activities will temporarily change the scenic characteristics. Restoration activities will restore the area to pre-construction conditions.

b. **No Impact.** Construction will not affect scenic resources (i.e., trees) on or near the Proposed Project. The Project is not located adjacent to or near a state scenic highway.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project consists of the installation of new check structure that will exist below the top of the existing channel bank/levee. Public views and existing visual character of the Project area will not be adversely affected upon completion of the Project.

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare. The new facilities will not result in lighting at the site of the Proposed Project. No lighting at the site exists or is proposed.

II. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. **Would the project:**

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will be constructed within the limits of the Yokohl Creek channel and will not remove any land from agricultural production.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area is not currently zoned for agriculture.

c. **No Impact.** There are no forest lands within the limits of the Proposed Project.

d. **No Impact.** There are no forest lands within the limits of the Proposed Project.

e. **No Impact.** See previous responses to Items (a) through (d).

III. AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. **Would the project:**				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The air quality impacts from the construction activities and the annual operation and maintenance activities from the operation of the Proposed Project have been evaluated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). The results have been compared against thresholds established by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and are estimated to be below any threshold. A summary of the emissions estimates is attached for reference.

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable air quality plan. During construction, however, the District and the selected contractors would be required to comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Regulation VIII.

b. **No Impact.** Air emissions estimates for construction and operations do not indicate a significant increase for any non-attainment pollutant.

c. **No Impact.** See response to Items (a) and (b).

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project consists of the installation of a concrete structure for water diversion. The Proposed Project will not result in other continuous emissions, such as objectionable odors. See responses to Items (a) and (b).

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (continued)

Discussion

A Biological Evaluation Report (Report) was completed in May, 2025, that included a field survey completed in April, 2025. Identification of special status species included a search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. The Report has been attached for reference.

a. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation.** The Report established that the potential exists for construction-related mortality and/or disturbances to nesting raptors and/or migratory birds, including the Swainson's Hawk. The Report determined that the magnitude of the potential impacts could be reduced to a less than significant level through the incorporation of the following mitigation practices: scheduling of construction during low risk times of year (i.e., construction timing), preconstruction surveys and avoidance of active nests. The Report also recommended the establishment of construction and monitoring of active nests if necessary for the Swainson's Hawk. Preventive measures shall be incorporated into construction documents to avoid potential impacts.

   Based upon the biological field survey the Report concluded that less than significant impacts would occur to special status plants and special status animal species within the Project vicinity and subsequent mitigation measures are not required.

b. **No Impact.** The biological field survey did not establish the presence of sensitive natural communities or designated critical habitat on the Proposed Project site.

c. **No Impact.** The biological field survey conducted in April, 2025, did not identify any wetlands on the Proposed Project site.

d. **Less than Significant Impact.** The biological field survey established that Yokohl Creek could facilitate movement of wildlife. The Report concluded that the Proposed Project, however, will not result in features that impedes movement of common native wildlife.

e. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not conflict with the Tulare County General Plan (2012). The Proposed Project Site does not present a change in the designated land uses for the Project area.

f. **No Impact.** No habitat conservation plan has been identified for or that includes the Project area. Since the Proposed Project does not result in any change to existing land use and associated conditions, it not expected to conflict with any local, regional or state conservation plans.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment (Assessment) was completed for the Proposed Project site on August 19, 2025, that included field surveys, record surveys and tribal contacts. A field survey was conducted on April 15, 2025. The detailed Assessment did not establish the presence of recorded resources within the Project area. The Report is attached for reference.

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area consists of riparian land areas and the waterway associated with Yokohl Creek. The Assessment did not identify the presence of a historical resource within the Proposed Project area. The Assessment did determine the presence of two (2) resources within 0.5 mile of the Proposed Project area. These resources, however, will not be impacted by the Proposed Project.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area consists of riparian land areas and waterways. The elements of the Proposed Project will be constructed within the channel banks/levees of Yokohl Creek. The Survey report did not identify presence of any archaeological resources within the Proposed Project site. Two (2) archaeological resources were identified within a 0.5 mile buffer zone. The resources are located in close proximity to Highway 198 to the south and east of the Project Area and will not be impacted by the Proposed Project.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area consists of riparian land areas and waterways. No formal cemetery is located within the Proposed Project area. Measures shall be implemented during construction to address discovery of human remains or other archaeological resources.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project consists of constructing a new water check structure to facilitate groundwater recharge. The check structure will be manually operated and does not change the consumption of energy resources to facilitate recharge.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include elements that would be associated with state or local energy efficiency plans.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (continued)

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project location is not shown to be in an area designated to be affected by active earthquake fault zones, or landslide and liquefaction zones, as reviewed through the California Geological Survey Information Warehouse web-based regulatory mapping tool.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project location consists of sandy loam soils. The Proposed Project area will be restored to existing conditions following construction. Construction specifications for the Proposed Project will require compaction of all disturbed areas and restoration of vegetation which will minimize the potential for erosion.

c. **No Impact.** According to the National Resource Conservation Service (Soil Conservation Service), the Proposed Project area consists of Exeter Loam and Yettem Sandy Loam. The soil summary does not list any geologic hazards such as soil instability or subsidence. See response to Item (a).

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include the construction of permanent dwelling buildings.

e. **No Impact.** Criteria does not apply. The Proposed Project does not include installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **Less than Significant Impact.** Estimates of greenhouse gases resulting from the construction activities and the annual operation and maintenance activities from the operation of the Proposed Project have been determined using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District does not have an annual greenhouse emissions standard. The results are estimated to be below the interim threshold of 10,000 metric tons (MT) established by the California Air Resources Board. A summary of the emissions estimate is attached for reference.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.	☐	☐	☐	☒

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (continued)

Discussion

a. **Less than Significant Impact.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project may require the use of chemicals for associated equipment operation (lubricants). The quantities of such chemicals will not represent a significant hazard. The transport, use and storage of chemicals will be in accordance with regulatory requirements.

b. **Less than Significant Impact.** The operation of the Proposed Project will not require the regular use of significant quantities of chemicals. Equipment operation associated with construction will require lubricants. The quantities of such chemicals will not represent a significant hazard.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will not be constructed on a hazardous materials site. The Proposed Project site is not on the Cortese List.

e. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project site is not located within an airport land use plan. The nearest public airstrip is approximately six (6.5) miles away (Sequoia Field). The City of Visalia Airport also lies approximately 6.5 miles away.

f. **No Impact.** There are no emergency response plans which involve the Proposed Project site.

g. **No Impact.** Wildlands are not considered present within the Project area. The Proposed Project area consists of river embankments with adjacent agricultural lands or roadways. No changes in adjacent land uses are proposed.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (continued)

Discussion

a. **Less than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project, whether during construction or following completion, would not degrade water quality. Yokohl Creek will be dry (i.e., no flow or water present) during construction. Construction requirements such as a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be utilized to prevent potential water quality impacts. Operation of the check structure will not affect water quality.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include any groundwater extraction facilities. The Proposed Project constructs a water check structure to facilitate groundwater recharge. The Proposed Project will not result in community growth that would increase groundwater use.

c(i) **Less than Significant Impact.** Elements of the Proposed Project will be constructed at existing grades. No changes to existing grades are proposed. The Proposed Project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area. Construction specifications for the Proposed Project will require compact of all disturbed areas which will minimize the potential for erosion.

c(ii) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project site is located within the channel of Yokohl Creek. The Proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the area. Runoff occurring behind the levees is and will remain away from the Project site.

c(iii) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area is not served by a stormwater drainage system. See response to Item c(ii).

c(iv) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the channel of the Yokohl Creek. The Project site is considered within a "Special Flood Hazard Area". The Proposed Project elements consists of new features within the channel. The Proposed Project will be designed to not impede or redirect or otherwise change flood flows within the channel. National Flood Hazard Layer Firmette maps are attached for reference. The Proposed Project will include facility removal features to allow passage of flood flows.

d. **No Impact.** The operation of the Proposed Project does not require the use of any chemicals that pose a risk of pollution during a flood event. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 100 miles from the Pacific Ocean and separated by the coastal mountain ranges (elevation of approximately 3,000 ft). Consequently the Proposed Project site is not subject to inundation by tsunami. The Proposed Project site is not located adjacent to an enclosed body of water that could be subject to a seiche.

e. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include any water quality considerations. The Proposed Project does not conflict with sustainable groundwater management criteria. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to facilitate groundwater recharge and complement sustainable groundwater management criteria.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project area is located outside of residential developments in the area. The Proposed Project is with the channel of Yokohl Creek.

b. **No Impact.** There are no conflicts between the Proposed Project and the Tulare County General Plan. The Proposed Project will occur within the channel of Yokohl Creek.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the channel of Yokohl Creek and will not result in a loss of mineral resources.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the channel of Yokohl Creek and will not impact any resource recovery site.

XII. NOISE **Would the project in:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **Less than Significant Impact.** During construction, the potential exists for noise to occur in excess of the Tulare County's General Plan standards. The Project's construction specifications will require construction activities to follow all applicable laws and limit noise generation. The Proposed Project will be located within an existing channel and approximately 350 feet away from the nearest residence. The Proposed Project location is in close proximity to Road 220, Avenue 300 and agricultural land. Any noise created by construction would be consistent with vehicular traffic and agricultural equipment and would not adversely impact adjacent residents. Upon completion, the Proposed Project does not represent an increase in existing noise levels.

b. **Less than Significant Impact.** The potential for construction-related vibrations exists. Due to the location and nature of the Proposed Project area, vibration resulting from construction would be consistent with agricultural equipment and would not adversely impact adjacent residents. Upon completion, the Proposed Project does not represent an increase in existing vibration levels.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project site is not located within an airport land use plan. The nearest public airstrip is approximately 4.8 miles north of the Proposed Project.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new water check structure to improve water recharge capabilities.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is primarily located within the channel of Yokohl Creek.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

No Impact. The Proposed Project will not require, nor facilitate the need for additional governmental services. No changes to service ratios, service times or other public service performance objectives will occur. Construction sequencing of the improvements will be used to minimize any potential impacts of roadways during construction.

XV. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** See response to Item XIII(a) – Population and Housing.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include or require expansion of any recreational facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b) (Criteria for Analyzing Transportation Impacts).	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project elements are located within the channel of Yokohl Creek and will be installed at existing finish grade elevations.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not conflict with § 15064.3 (b). The Proposed Project does not represent a Land Use or Transportation Project. The construction of the Proposed Project can be accomplished by local contractors which will minimize the vehicle miles traveled.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project elements will be constructed within the channel of Yokohl Creek and will not prevent features that affect traffic.

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in the alteration of the present access at the Proposed Project site. Therefore, adequate emergency access would be unchanged.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a(i) **No Impact.** The cultural resources survey completed for the Proposed Project (Item V) did not identify a listed or eligible for listing tribal cultural resource within the Project area.

a(ii) **No Impact.** The cultural resources survey completed for the Proposed Project (Item V) did not identify any tribal cultural resource having significance with the Project area.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years.	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project consists of constructing a check structure within the channel of Yokohl Creek. The Proposed Project will not change the conditions of the Project area.

b. **No Impact.** The elements of the Proposed Project construct water check features for groundwater recharge purposes. The Proposed Project does not require new water supplies.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project addresses irrigation/agricultural water use capabilities. The Proposed Project does not result in any, let alone additional, wastewater flows (demands).

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not result in a change in the solid waste generation or disposal of the existing facilities. The construction phase of the Proposed Project will generate additional solid waste on a temporary basis. Specifications will require proper handling and disposal of construction-related materials. In general, the construction-related materials (i.e., concrete, soil, etc.) can be recycled by the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District.

e. **No Impact.** Specifications will require proper handling and disposal of construction-related materials.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, powerlines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The Proposed Project is not located within a State Responsibility Area or high fire hazard severity zone.

a. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will not impair any emergency or evacuation plans.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the channel of Yokohl Creek and will not exacerbate wildfire risks.

c. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not result in additional support infrastructure. Upon completion, the Proposed Project will use existing dirt access roads. Powerlines are not part of the Proposed Project.

d. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the channels of Yokohl Creek. See responses to Item IX.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. **Less Than Significant Impact.** As described in the previous sections, the Proposed Project will not result in any significant adverse impacts. Short-term related impacts that might occur during construction will be mitigated to a less than significant level based on Proposed Project design and/or construction specification requirements.

b. **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not part of a past or future project. No projects or associated elements have been identified that rely on the completion of the Proposed Project. Therefore, the individual considerations of the Proposed Project and their described potential impacts do not have related impacts that need to be collectively analyzed as part of other projects.

c. **No Impact.** No direct or indirect adverse effects on the human population have been identified through the completion of this Initial Study.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT



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N

PROPOSED PROJECT
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

0 300 600 Feet

DRK, CCE, INC.



CHECK STRUCTURE - PROPOSED PROJECT
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

0 150 300 Feet

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DRK, CCE, INC.

FIGURE 3



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N

0 30 60 Feet

CHECK STRUCTURE - PROPOSED PROJECT
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

DRK, CCE, INC.



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N

DISCHARGE STRUCTURE - PROPOSED PROJECT
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

0 150 300 Feet

FIGURE 5



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N

DISCHARGE PIPELINE AND CHUTE - PROPOSED PROJECT
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

0 30 60 Feet

DRK, CCE, INC.

APPENDIX B

AIR EMISSIONS GREENHOUSE GASES ESTIMATES

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ESTIMATED EMISSIONS
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT
EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The estimated Project construction and operational air emissions are summarized below. The emission estimates were generated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2016.3.2. based upon the installation of a concrete check structure with water level control boards and a water discharge structure within the streambanks of Yokohl Creek over a 123-day construction schedule. The full CalEEMod emissions estimate report is available for review at the District office.

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment or Unclassified)	Nonattainment Rates (Marginal, Moderate, Serious, Severe or Extreme)	Threshold of Significance for the Area (if applicable (Tons/Year) (1)	Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Operations Emissions (Tons/Year) (2)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment	NA	100	0.43	0.54
Ozone (O_3)	Nonattainment	Extreme	10 (EPA De Minimis)	Unknown (Note 3)	Unknown (Note 3)
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)	Unknown	-	10	0.33	0.56
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	Attainment	NA	15	0.02	0.16
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	Unknown	-	10	0.17	0.4
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	Attainment	NA	100 (EPA De Minimis)	0.0008	0.19
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	Unknown	-	50 (EPA De Minimis)	Unknown (Note 3)	Unknown (Note 3)
Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Nonattainment	Serious	15	0.02	0.05
CO2e (Greenhouse Effect)	Does not apply	-	10,000 Metric Tons (California Air Resources Board)	69	304
Lead (Pb)	Attainment	NA	25 (EPA De Minimis)	Unknown (Note 3)	Unknown (Note 3)

Notes:

1. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District adopted thresholds, unless otherwise noted.
2. Results reflect CalEEMod recreational land use.
3. Not calculated by CalEEMod.

APPENDIX C

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

LIVE OAK
ASSOCIATES, INC.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE STRUCTURES PROJECT
TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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May 5, 2025 PN 2961-01

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Live Oak Associates, Inc. (LOA) investigated the biological resources of approximately 1.46-acres split between two locations along Yokohl Creek in Tulare County, California and evaluated potential project-related impacts to such resources pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The eastern location is located along Yokohl Creek, approximately 0.1-mile north of California State Route 198 and encompasses a portion of Road 220, and the western location lies approximately 175 feet south of Avenue 300 along Yokohl Creek.

The project site was surveyed on April 8, 2025 for its biotic habitats, the plants and animals occurring in those habitats, and significant habitat values that may be protected by state and federal law. At the time, the site consisted of citrus orchards, Yokohl Creek, and ruderal lands. The site supported a variety of weedy grasses and forbs within the ruderal lands, creek banks, and scattered in the orchards.

The project site provides limited habitat value to native wildlife species, due to the developed nature of the site and surrounding lands, and unsuitable habitat for all special status plant species.

Project related impacts are considered potentially significant for Swainson's hawks and other nesting birds and raptors that could potentially nest on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Impacts to these nesting birds will be reduced to a less than significant level by either constructing the project outside of the nesting season or, if construction must occur during the nesting season, conducting preconstruction surveys and avoiding active nests.

The project will either have no impact or a less than significant impact, as defined by CEQA, on the following biotic resources: all 21 special status plant species known to occur in the region; 14 special status animal species that would not likely use the site for sensitive activities such as nesting or communal roosting; three special status animal species (tricolored blackbird, pallid bat, western mastiff bat) that may occasionally use habitats of the project site for foraging and the American badger that may utilize the site as a movement corridor; jurisdictional waters; wildlife movement corridors; and sensitive natural communities and designated critical habitat. The project appears to be consistent with Tulare County General Plan policies related to biological resources and is not subject to any Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Live Oak Associates, Inc. (LOA) conducted an investigation of the biotic resources of two 100-foot radius work areas (approximately 1.46-acres total) along Yokohl Creek in Tulare County, California ("project site" or "site") that are proposed for construction of concrete check structure across Yokohl Creek and a pipeline discharge structure along the north bank ("project"). This report describes the biotic habitat of the project site, evaluates the suitability of the habitat for special status plant and animal species, identifies potentially significant impacts to sensitive or protected biological resources from the project and proposes measures that, if implemented, would mitigate those impacts to a less than significant level as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

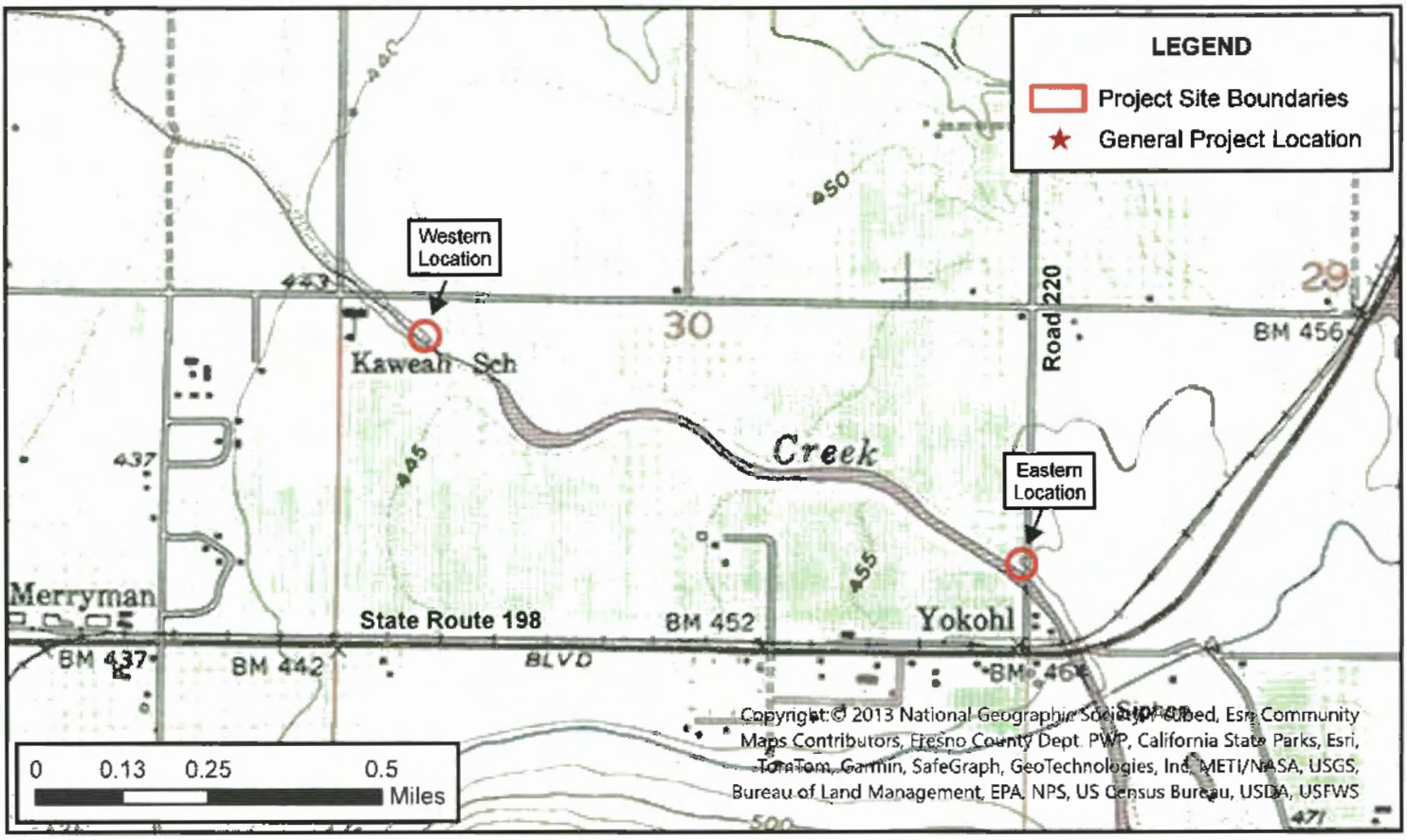
The project site is located immediately north of the small community of Yokohl, approximately 0.1-mile north of State Route 198 at the eastern project location and 0.4-mile north of State Route 198 at the western project location (Figure 1). The site can be found on the *Rocky Hill* U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, Section 30, Township 18 South, Range 27 East; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Figure 1).

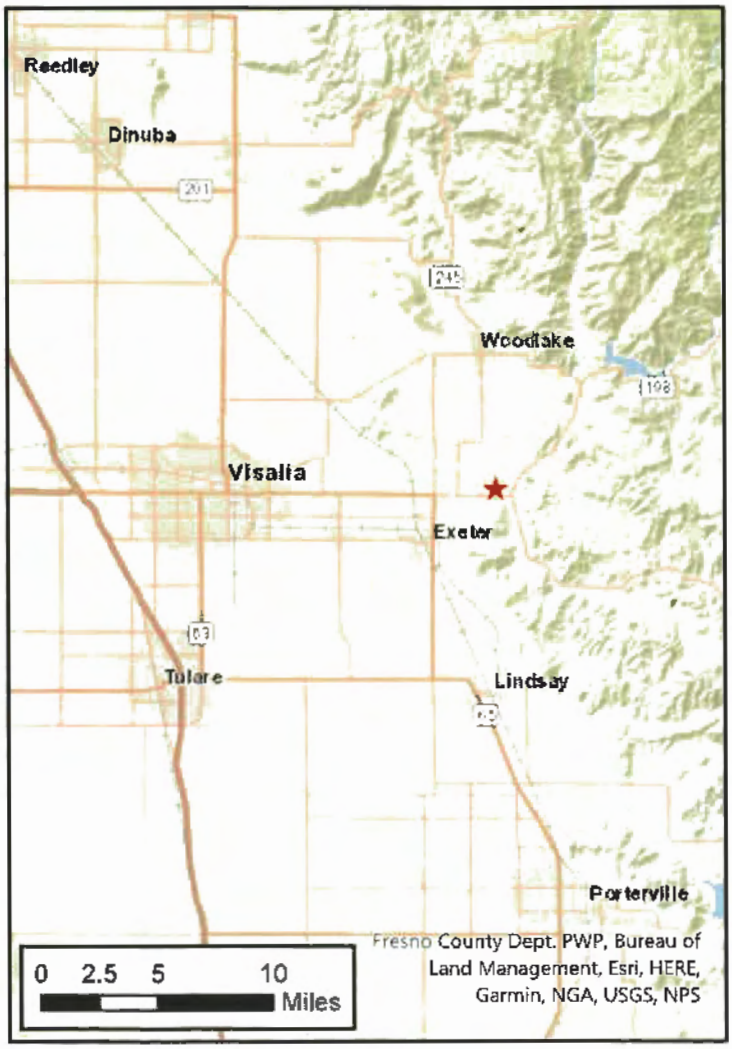
1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the construction of a concrete check structure across Yokohl Creek at the western location and the construction of a pipeline discharge structure along the north bank of Yokohl Creek at the eastern location. The construction of the pipeline discharge will allow for unused irrigation water to return to the creek for recharge purposes.

1.3 REPORT OBJECTIVES

This report summarizes a biological study conducted by LOA to facilitate environmental review pursuant to CEQA. As such, the report's objectives are to:







LIVE OAK
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Yokohl Creek Recharge Structures Project
Vicinity Map

Date	Project #	Figure #
05/06/2024	2961-01	1

- Characterize the project site's existing biological resources, including biotic habitats, flora and fauna, soils, and aquatic resources
- Evaluate the project site's potential to support sensitive resources such as special status species, sensitive natural communities, and jurisdictional waters and wetlands
- Summarize all state and federal natural resource protection laws that may be relevant to project implementation
- Identify and discuss potential project-related impacts to biological resources within the context of CEQA and other state and federal laws
- Identify avoidance and mitigation measures that would reduce the magnitude of project-related impacts in a manner consistent with CEQA and species-specific guidelines

1.4 STUDY METHODOLOGY

The analysis of impacts, as discussed in Section 3.0 of this report, is based on the known and potential biotic resources of the project site (discussed in Section 2.0). Sources of information used in the preparation of this analysis include: (1) the *California Natural Diversity Data Base* (CDFW 2025); (2) the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (CNPS 2025); (3) manuals, reports, and references related to plants and animals of the San Joaquin Valley; and (4) other available planning documents and biological studies from the general project vicinity. A field survey of the project site was conducted on April 8, 2025 by LOA biologist Natalie Neff. The survey entailed walking through the project site while identifying the principal habitats / land uses of the site and the constituent plants and animals within. The field survey conducted for this study was sufficient to assess the significance of possible biological impacts associated with the development plans for the project site.

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The project site is located at the eastern edge of the southern San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley is a large, nearly flat alluvial plain bordered by the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Tehachapi Mountains to the south, the California coast ranges to the west, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the north.

The San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers followed by cool, moist winters. Summer temperatures commonly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and the relative humidity is generally very low. Winter temperatures rarely exceed 70 degrees Fahrenheit with daytime highs often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Annual precipitation in the project vicinity varies considerably from year to year, but averages approximately 10.3 inches, almost all of which falls between the months of October and March in the form of rain (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2025).

The project vicinity is characterized by agricultural lands to the west and largely undeveloped rangeland to the east. Areas immediately surrounding the project site include agricultural and ruderal lands as well as upstream and downstream portions of Yokohl Creek. Yokohl Creek is the principal drainage in the region, flowing from southeast to northwest out of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The project site occurs on and within 100 feet of the creek.

2.2 PROJECT SITE

At the time of LOA's survey, the project site consisted of weedy grasses and forbs as well as citrus trees located in the orchards. Analysis of aerial imagery indicates that Yokohl Creek has continued to flow unobstructed since at least 1956 and that the surrounding lands have been used for agricultural purposes since at least 1956 (Historic Aerials 2025). However, the stretches of Yokohl Creek through the project site and agricultural lands in the vicinity have been confined through the construction of leveed embankments that, in many places, are reinforced with rock and concrete.

Each project site location is relatively flat with an elevation of approximately 445-feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) at the western location and 460-feet NGVD at the eastern location (see Figure 1). Soils of the site comprise Exeter loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, at the western location and Yettem Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, at the eastern location (NRCS 2025). Neither soil is considered hydric, meaning they do not have the propensity to pond water and support wetland vegetation. Soils of the site have been substantially altered due to decades of agricultural use and levee construction and as a result no longer maintain their native soil characteristics and have no particular significance to biological resources.

2.3 BIOTIC HABITATS / LAND USES

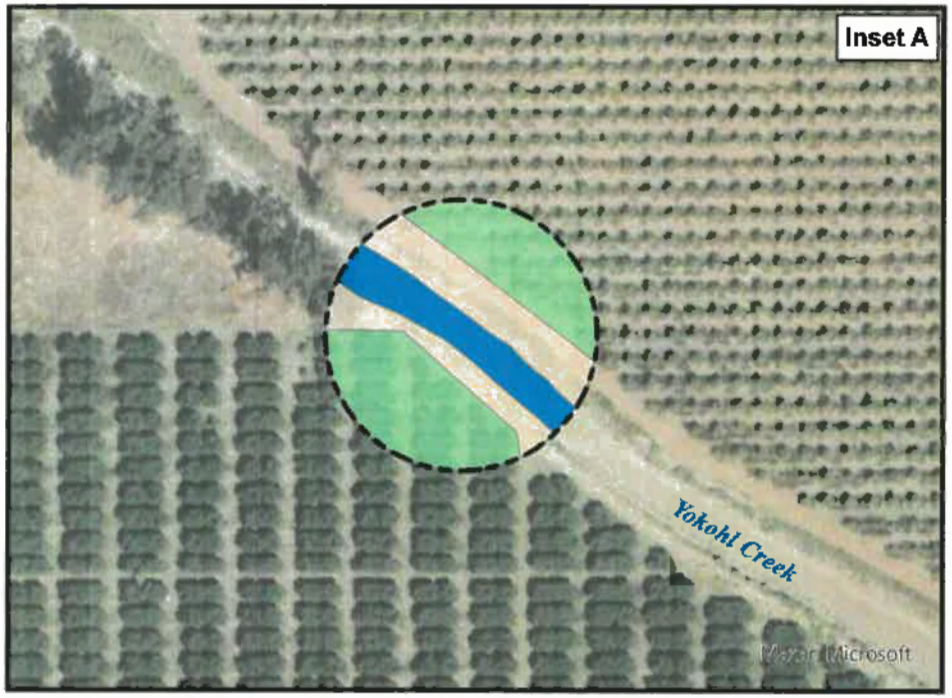
At the time of LOA's survey, the project site contained three biotic habitats / land uses: orchard, developed/ruderal, and creek (Figure 2). Due to the intensive agricultural use of the site and surrounding lands, the site offers little to no habitat value to native plants and animals. A list of vascular plants identified on the site is presented in Appendix A. A list of terrestrial vertebrates using or potentially using the project site is presented in Appendix B. Representative photos of the site are presented in Appendix C.

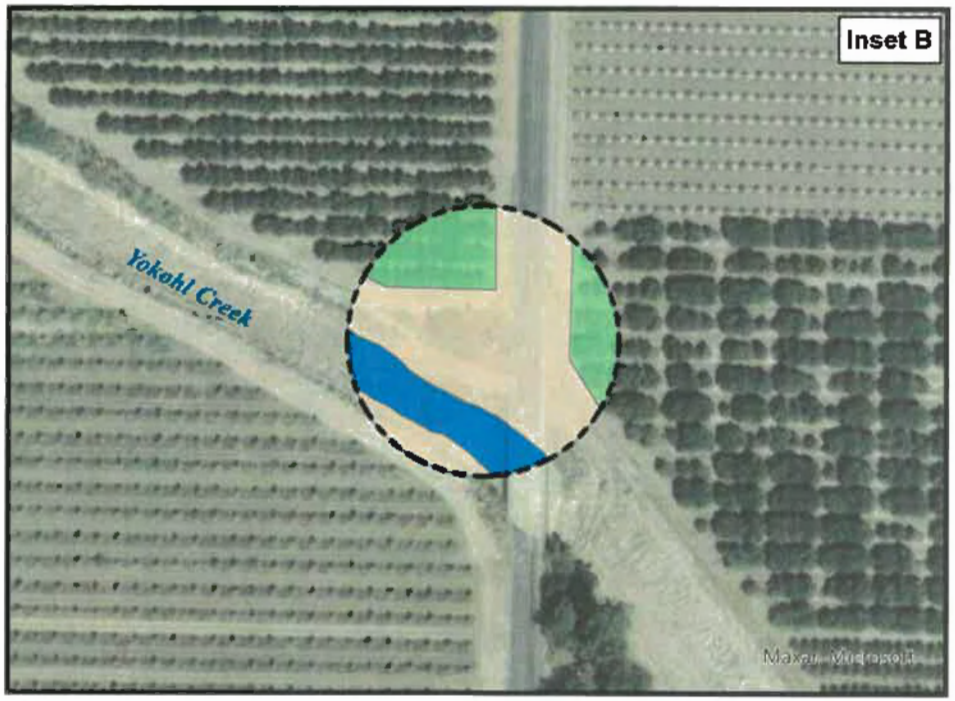
2.3.1 Orchard

At the time of LOA's field survey, approximately 0.7-acre of the project site consisted of pomelo (*Citrus maxima*) and orange (*Citrus* x *sinensis*) orchards. Vegetation within the orchards consisted primarily of the orchard trees, though some weedy grasses and forbs such as wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), and Canada horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*) were found within the orchards.

The site's orchards may be used by some native wildlife species that have adapted to make use of agricultural lands. A few birds could nest in the orchard including northern mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*), Brewer's blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), and American robins (*Turdus migratorius*). While the site is unsuitable for raptor nesting, the site may be used for foraging by the Cooper's hawk (*Acciputer cooperii*), which sometimes forages in orchards.







LIVE OAK ASSOCIATES, INC.

Yokohl Creek Recharge Structures Project
Biotic Habitats / Land Uses

Date	Project #	Figure #
05/06/2025	2961-01	2

LEGEND

- Project Site Boundaries

Habitat / Land Use Type

- Orchard
- Ruderal/Developed
- Creek

N
W E
S

0 250 500 Feet

Amphibians such as Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) and western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) may breed in the nearby Yokohl Creek and disperse through the orchards. Reptiles like the Pacific gophersnake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) may utilize the orchard.

Small mammal use of the orchards may include Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilis beecheyi*), and Audubon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). At the time of LOA's survey, burrowing rodent activity was limited within the orchards.

Mammalian predators such as coyotes (*Canis latrans*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) may forage through the orchard. Various bat species may foraging over the orchards as well, but are unlikely to roost within the citrus trees due to orchard management practices, small stature of the trees, and lack of cavities or crevasses.

2.3.2 Ruderal/Developed

At the time of LOA's survey, approximately 0.9-acre of the project site consisted of ruderal/developed lands. Ruderal/developed lands include Road 220 and its bridge over Yokohl Creek, agricultural roads, the upper banks of Yokohl Creek, upland Yokohl Creek margins, and small sections of fallow lands. Vegetation within the ruderal/developed lands was primarily restricted to upland Yokohl Creek margins and the sections of fallow land. Common plant species at both sites included red brome (*Bromus rubens*), ripgut brome, wall barley, brome fescue (*Festuca bromoides*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia spp.*), bur parsley (*Anthriscus caucalis*), prickly lettuce, milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), cheeseweed, narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), and seep monkeyflower (*Erythranthe guttata*). The western location also supported shrubby vegetation such as castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), tobacco tree (*Nicotiana glauca*), and a few branches of red river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) that overhung part of the project site.

The ruderal/developed areas of the site are likely to be used by a some common wildlife species. The same species of birds that could nest in the orchard could nest in vegetation within the ruderal/developed areas of the site.

Additionally, the killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) could nest on the ground in open ruderal/developed areas and the black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) and cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) could nest under the Road 220 bridge, with the later actively nesting under the bridge at the time of the survey.

The same bird species that could be found foraging in the orchard could also forage in the ruderal/developed areas. Small raptors like Cooper's hawks and American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) could forage over the site, though larger raptors are not expected to utilize ruderal/developed areas of the site for foraging.

The same amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals that could be found in the orchard could be found in the ruderal/developed area. At the time of LOA's survey, burrowing rodent activity was present along the agricultural roads, uplands of Yokohl Creek, and upper banks of Yokohl Creek.

Mammalian predators such as coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks may forage in the ruderal/developed areas, and utilize the creek corridor for local movements. Bats are common foragers along creek corridors and species such as Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) and California bats (*Myotis californicus*) could night roost under the bridge but the lack of small enclosed spaces under the bridge make day-time roosting improbable.

2.3.3 Creek

Yokohl Creek runs through the center of both project site locations. This habitat includes the Yokohl Creek bed and lower banks. Vegetation within the creek habitat consisted of species such as Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), small fescue (*Festuca microstachys*), common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), seep monkeyflower (*Erythranthe guttata*), and yellow annual sweetclover (*Meliotus indicus*). Vegetation at the eastern location was restricted to the lower creek banks while the western location contained vegetation in the creek bed as well as the lower creek banks. Though both locations were not inundated at the time of the survey, the eastern location showed evidence of recent inundation through wet, damp soils.

Nesting birds would be absent from the lower banks and bed of the creek due to creek flows, but the same species found foraging in the ruderal/developed lands are likely to forage in this area of the site as well.

Amphibian numbers within the creek habitat are expected to be higher than those in the ruderal/developed and orchard habitat. Pacific chorus frog and western toad could breed in the creek, though as mentioned before, Yokohl Creek is only intermittently inundated and may not always support amphibian reproduction, if at all.

The same reptiles found in the orchard and ruderal/developed habitats could be found foraging in the creek habitat during dry periods. Small mammals could forage in the creek but are unlikely to make burrows or nests in the bed or lower banks.

Mammalian predators could forage within this habitat and use the creek bed for local movements during dry periods.

2.4 SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Many species of plants and animals within the state of California have low populations, limited distributions, or both. Such species may be considered "rare" and are vulnerable to extirpation as the state's human population grows and the habitats these species occupy are converted to agricultural and urban uses. As described more fully in Section 3.0, state and federal laws have provided California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a mechanism for conserving and protecting the diversity of plant and animal species native to the state. A sizable number of native plants and animals have been formally designated as threatened or endangered under state and federal endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as "candidates" for such listing. Still others have been designated as "species of special concern" by the CDFW. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has developed its own set of lists (i.e., California Rare Plant Ranks, or CRPR) of native plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered (CNPS 2025). Collectively, these plants and animals are referred to as "special status species."

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was queried for special status plant and animal occurrences in the nine USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles containing and surrounding the project site (*Ivanhoe, Woodlake, Kaweah, Exeter, Rocky Hill, Chickencoop Canyon, Cairns Corner, Lindsay* and *Frazier Valley*). Special status plants and animals returned in the query are summarized below in Table 1. Sources of information for this table included *California's Wildlife,*

Volumes I, II, and III (Zeiner et. al 1988-1990), *California Natural Diversity Data Base* (CDFW 2025), *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, second edition* (Baldwin et al 2012), the *California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (CNPS 2025), *Calflora.org, iNaturalis.org*, and *eBird.org*.

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

PLANTS

Species Listed as Threatened or Endangered under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Act

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Kaweah brodiaea (*Brodiaea insignis*)	CE, CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in granitic or clay soils in cismontane woodlands, meadows, seeps, valley and foothill grasslands at elevations of 490- 4,500 feet. Blooms April-June. Found only in the Tule and Kaweah River drainages.	**Absent** Suitable habitat and soils are absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Hoover's Spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*)	FT, CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in vernal pools of California's Central Valley; blooms July-September; elevation 80-820 ft.	**Absent.** No vernal pools are present on the project site.
Striped Adobe-Lily (*Fritillaria striata*)	CT, CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in heavy clay soils of cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland between 1,150 and 2,920 ft. in elevation. Blooms February-April.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat and soils are absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
San Joaquin Valley Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia inaequalis*)	FT, CE CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools of the Central Valley; requires deep pools with prolonged periods of inundation; blooms April-September; elevation 100-2,480 ft.	**Absent.** No vernal pools are present on the project site.
San Joaquin Adobe Sunburst (*Pseudobahia peirsonii*)	FT, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in grasslands of the Sierra Nevada foothills in heavy clay soils of the Porterville and Centerville series. Blooms March-April; elevation 300-2,625 ft.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat and soils are absent from the project site and adjacent lands.
Greene's Tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*)	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools of California's Central Valley from Shasta Co. on the north to Tulare Co. on the south; blooms May to September.	**Absent.** No vernal pools are present on the project site.

CNPS-listed Species

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Heartscale (*Atriplex cordulata* var. *erecticaulis*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on saline or alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, meadows, seeps, and grasslands; blooms April-October; elevations below 1,230 ft.	**Absent.** Decades of agricultural disturbance would have eliminated any habitat that may have once been present on site or in the immediate vicinity.
Lesser Saltscale (*Atriplex minuscula*)	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grasslands of the San Joaquin Valley; alkaline/sandy soils; blooms May-October; elevation 50-660 ft.	**Absent.** Decades of agricultural disturbance and residential development would have eliminated any habitat that may have once been present on site or in the immediate vicinity.
Vernal Pool Smallscale (*Atriplex persistens*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in alkaline vernal pools; blooms July-Oct.; elevations below 400 ft.	**Absent.** No vernal pools are present on the project site and the project site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Subtle Orache (*Atriplex subtilis*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in valley and foothill grasslands of the San Joaquin Valley; blooms August-October; elevation 130-330 ft.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

PLANTS (cont'd)

CNPS-listed Species

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Recurved Larkspur (*Delphinium recurvatum*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland on alkaline soils; often in valley saltbush or valley chenopod scrub up to 2,600 ft in elevation. Blooms March - June.	**Absent.** While one occurrence was mapped to the general vicinity of the project site in 1937 (CDFW 2025), decades of agricultural disturbance have eliminated habitat that may have once been present on site or in the immediate vicinity.
Calico Monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs around granitic outcrops or gooseberry shrubs in broadleaf upland forest and cismontane woodland in granitic soils; 330 and 4270 ft. in elevation. May occur in disturbed areas. Blooms March-May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site.
Mouse Buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. murinum)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in sandy soils along the Kaweah River drainage; 1,310 to 2,295 feet in elevation. Blooms from May- October.	**Absent.** The project site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Spiny-sepaled Button Celery (*Eryngium spinosepalum*)	CRPR 1B.2	Found in vernal pools, swales and grasslands at the eastern edge of the San Joaquin Valley and in the Tulare Basin; elevation between 330 and 840 ft. Blooms April to May.	**Absent.** No vernal pools are present on the project site.
Kaweah Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe norrisii)*	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in marble crevices along the Kaweah River drainage, elevation between 1,965 - 4,265 feet in elevation. Blooms March– May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Winter's Sunflower (*Helianthus winteri*)	CRPR 1B.2	Found on steep, south-facing grassy slopes, rock outcrops, and road-cuts at elevations from 590 feet to 1509 feet. Blooms year round.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Alkali-Sink Goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysantha*)	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in valley grassland, alkali sink, wetland riparian areas less than 328 ft. in elevation in the southern Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. Blooms February – June.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
Coulter's Goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*)	CRPR 1B.1	Found in coastal salt marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools at elevations between 1 and 1, 375 meters. Blooms February - June.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site.
Madera Leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon serrulatus*)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in openings in cismontane woodland between 980 and 1,400 ft. in elevation. Blooms April-May.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat is absent from the project site and the site is outside of this species' elevational range.
California Alkali Grass (Puccinellia simplex)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in alkali sinks and flats within grassland and chenopod scrub habitats of the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, and western Mojave Desert below 3,000 ft. in elevation. Blooms March-May.	**Absent.** Decades of agricultural disturbance has eliminated any habitat that may have once been present on site or in the immediate vicinity.
Sanford's Arrowhead (Sagittaria sanfordii)	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in freshwater emergent marsh habitat in drainage ditches and canals of California's Central Valley and low Sierra foothills. Blooms May to October.	**Unlikely.** There are no CNDDB or Calflora occurrences within 8-miles of the project site and lack of continued inundation within Yokohl Creek provides inadequate habitat for this species (CDFW 2025, Calflora 2025).

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

ANIMALS

Species Listed as Threatened or Endangered under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Act

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*)	FT	Lives in mature elderberry shrubs of California's Central Valley and Sierra foothills.	**Absent.** VELB distribution is no longer thought to include the San Joaquin Valley south of Merced County. Furthermore, blue elderberry shrubs required by this species are absent from the site.
Crotch's Bumble Bee (*Bombus crotchii*)	CCE	Once common in the Central Valley, this species is now absent from most of it, particularly in the central portion of its historic range. Where present, it is associated with open grassland and scrub habitats. Constructs nests underground in animal burrows. Overwintering sites are likely in soft soils or in debris or leaf litter.	**Unlikely.** Although there are a few historical and recent sightings of Crotch Bumble bee in the region (CDFW 2025, iNaturalist 2025, Bumblebee Watch 2025), the project site is situated in a matrix of intensive agricultural lands generally incompatible with this species' ecology. Furthermore, the site's suitability and attractiveness for foraging bumble bees is very low due to low densities of flowering plants suitable for foraging and dense stands of grass that dominate upland areas of the site, which offer no foraging opportunity.
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)	FT	Primarily found in vernal pools of California's Central Valley.	**Absent**. Suitable habitat in the form of vernal pools is absent from the site and immediately surrounding lands.
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*)	FE	Vernal pools of clear to turbid waters of the Central Valley measuring 54 sq.ft. to larger pools (largest known to be 89-acre Olcott Lake).	**Absent**. Suitable habitat in the form of vernal pools is absent from the site and immediately surrounding lands.
California Tiger Salamander-Central California DPS (*Ambystoma californiense pop. 1*)	FT, CT	Found primarily in annual grasslands; requires vernal pools for breeding and rodent burrows for aestivation. Although most CTS aestivate within 0.4 mile of their breeding pond, outliers may aestivate up to 1.3 miles away (Orloff 2011).	**Absent.** The site is south of the known distribution of this species. Suitable breeding habitat is absent from the project site and surrounding lands within 1.3 miles of the site.
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog-South Sierra DPS (*Rana boylii pop. 5*)	FE, CE	Found in or near rocky streams in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Uses submerged rocks and debris for cover. Requires gravel or rocks in moving water near stream margins for reproduction.	**Unlikely.** The project site is situated within a matrix of intensive agricultural and urban uses within which this species would not have been able to persist. The deep sandy bed of Yohohl Creek and intermittent flows provide unsuitable habitat for this species. The only CNDDB occurrence within the vicinity of the project site is from 1941 and lies approximately 4-miles northeast of the project site.

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

ANIMALS (cont'd)

Species Listed as Threatened or Endangered under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Act

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*)	FPT, CSC	Occurs in grasslands of San Joaquin Valley, where it breeds in vernal pools or other seasonal wetlands and aestivates in underground refugia such as rodent burrows. Baumberger et al. (2019) recorded a mean maximum distance of around 230 feet between breeding and aestivation sites, with an overall maximum of 890 feet.	**Unlikely.** The project site is situated within a matrix of intensive agricultural and urban uses within which this species would not have been able to persist. Two CNDDB occurrences lie approximately 3 and 0.5 miles north of the project site, however, both are historical in nature, documented in 1991, within relatively undeveloped lands (CDFW, 2025). Two 2023 occurrences from iNaturalist were documented within 5-miles of the project site, but both were also in undisturbed landscapes (iNaturalist 2025).
Northwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys pallida*)	FPT, CSC	Found in ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Requires partially submerged rocks or logs for basking sites. Nesting takes place in open areas, on a variety of soil types, and up to ¼ mile away from water. Overwintering and summertime aestivation includes use of upland habitat, generally with leaf litter or other loose substrate for burying themselves.	**Unlikely.** The project site does not offer suitable habitat for this species. Yokohl Creek is not inundated consistently enough for this species and the surrounding lands are composed of intensive agricultural uses that are incompatible with this species' habitat requirements.
Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)	CCE, CSC	Frequents open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low- growing vegetation. Dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably the California ground squirrel, for nest burrows.	**Unlikely.** The project site provides unsuitable to marginal habitat for the burrowing owl due to the presence of orchard trees, tall weedy vegetation, and poor foraging opportunities. Burrows present along the banks of Yokohl Creek showed no sign of burrowing owl use such as whitewash, cough pellets, and feathers.
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)	CT	This breeding-season migrant to California nests in stands with few trees in riparian areas and juniper-sage flats, and in oak savannah. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands or alfalfa fields supporting rodent populations.	**Possible.** There is one nesting occurrence in the CNDDB within 10 miles of the project site and over 20 sightings of individual birds documented on eBird within the same area (CDFW 2025, eBird 2025). Nesting habitat is absent from the project site, but there are several large trees adjacent and within the vicinity of the project site that could feasibly be used for nesting. Foraging habitat on the site is absent to marginal.

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

ANIMALS (cont'd)

Species Listed as Threatened or Endangered under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Act

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	CE, CFP	Nests and winters on ocean shores, lake margins and rivers. Uses old-growth snags. Mostly forages over water and along shores.	**Unlikely.** The project site provides unsuitable foraging habitat and this species would not nest in nearby trees due to the absence of nearby large bodies of water features this species is associated with and the intensive agricultural landscape in which the site is situated. The nearest nesting occurrence of this species is approximately 8.25-miles northeast of the project site along Lake Kaweah (CDFW 2025). At most, a bald eagle may occasionally pass over the site.
California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)	FE, CE	Scavenge for carrion in habitats ranging from Pacific beaches to mountain forests and meadows. Primarily a cavity-nesting species, condors lay their eggs in rock crevices, on overhung cliff ledges, and in burned-out hollows of old-growth conifers.. Their size makes take-off difficult, leading them to use high perches for easier take-offs.	**Unlikely.** The project site does not offer suitable habitat for foraging, roosting, or nesting for this species. Three condor sightings within 10-miles of the project site are documented on eBird and one nesting occurrence was generally mapped to the Rocky Hills area in 1976, approximately 5-miles east of the project site at its closest point (CDFW 2025, eBird 2025). At most, condors may occasionally pass over the site.
Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)	CT, CSC	Breeds colonially near fresh water in dense bulrush, cattails, or thickets of willows or shrubs, and increasingly in grain fields. Forages in grassland and cropland areas.	**Possible.** This species is known from the vicinity. Two CNDDB nesting occurrences have been documented within 7-miles of the project site including one from 2014 approximately 1.80-mile south of the project site, and there are over 25 sightings documented on eBird within 10-miles of the project site (CDFW, 2025, eBird 2025). The project site does not offer suitable nesting habitat and only offers marginal foraging habitat for this species, but it's proximity to numerous sightings and two nesting occurrences makes it feasible that individuals could occasionally forage on the site.
Tipton Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*)	FE, CE	Inhabits valley saltbrush scrub, valley sink scrub, and grassland habitats located from the Valley floor to 300 ft. in elevation.	**Absent.** There are no CNDDB occurrences within the vicinity of the project site, The project site is situated within a matrix of intensive agricultural lands within which this species would not have been able to persist, and the project site is outside the elevational range for this species.
San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)	FE, CT	Frequents desert alkali scrub and annual grasslands and may forage in adjacent agricultural habitats. Utilizes enlarged ground squirrel burrows as denning habitat. May become adapted to urban environments, as has occurred in the cities of Bakersfield, Taft, and Coalinga.	**Unlikely.** There are 11 CNDDB occurrences within 10 miles of the project site, the closest dated from 1975, located approximately 2.8-miles northwest of the project site. Although there are multiple occurrences, the most recent is from 2001 and the remaining 10 occurrences are 33 years old or older (CDFW 2025). The site only provides marginal habitat for this species and is surrounded by orchards and other habitats incompatible with this species' habitat requirements.

TABLE 1. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

ANIMALS (cont'd)

State Species of Special Concern

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence on the Project Site
Northern California Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)	CSC	Occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Requires moist soils.	**Unlikely.** The project site offers marginal to unsuitable habitat for this species due to the agricultural landscape in which the site is situated.
American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)	CSC	This species inhabits open and dry sections of grasslands, shrub, and forest habitats with friable soil.	**Possible.** The project site offers marginal to unsuitable habitat for this species due to the agricultural landscape in which the site is situated. No evidence of badger use such as digs, large burrows, scat, or prints were observed during the field survey. There is some possibility that badgers could occasionally pass through the site in the creek bottom during dispersal movements between natural lands to the southeast and the Kaweah River corridor to the northwest.
Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)	CSC	Roosts in rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices with access to open habitats for foraging. May also roost in caves, mines, hollow trees and buildings.	**Possible.** The project site provides potential foraging habitat. A bridge on the eastern project site location could provide night roosting habitat for this species but lacks the cracks or openings that would provide small enclosed spaces required for day roosting.
Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)	CSC	Frequents open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer, and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, palm oasis, chaparral and urban. Roosts in cliff faces, high buildings, and tunnels.	**Possible.** Three CNDDB occurrences are documented within 10 miles of the project site, including a 1994 documentation adjacent to the site in the vicinity of the community of Yokohl (CDFW 2025). Suitable roosting habitat is absent from the site as the bridge over Yokohl Creek is low and provides on cracks or openings for roosting. Western mastiff bats may forage over the site and surrounding lands.

***OCCURRENCE DESIGNATIONS AND STATUS CODES**

Present: Species observed on the site at time of field surveys or during recent past.
Likely: Species not observed on the site, but it may reasonably be expected to occur there on a regular basis.
Possible: Species not observed on the site, but could occur there from time to time.
Unlikely: Species not observed on the site, and would not be expected to occur there except, perhaps, as a transient
Absent: Species not observed on the site and precluded from occurring because habitat requirements are not met.

STATUS CODES

FE	Federally Endangered	CE	California Endangered
FT	Federally Threatened	CT	California Threatened
FPT	Federally Proposed Threatened	CSC	California Species of Special Concern
FC	Federal Candidate	CFP	California Fully Protected
		CC	California Candidate for Listing

CRPR CODES

1A	Plants Presumed Extinct in California	2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere		

2.5 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

Jurisdictional waters are those rivers, creeks, drainages, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and wetlands that are subject to the authority of the USACE, CDFW, and/or the RWQCB. In general, the USACE regulates navigable waters, tributaries to navigable waters, and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to these waters, where wetlands are defined by the presence of hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. All waters under USACE jurisdiction are also regulated by the RWQCB as waters of the State. Additionally, the RWQCB asserts jurisdiction over certain isolated features disclaimed by the USACE. The CDFW has jurisdiction over waters that have a defined bed and bank. The regulation of jurisdictional waters is discussed in more detail in Section 3.2.8.

Jurisdictional waters occur on the site in the form of Yokohl Creek, which is likely to be considered a jurisdictional water by the RWQCB and CDFW, and possibly USACE.

2.6 DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT

As will be discussed further in Section 3.0, the USFWS often designates areas of "critical habitat" when it lists species as threatened or endangered. Critical habitat is a specific geographic area(s) that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection.

Designated critical habitat is absent from the project site and immediately surrounding lands.

2.7 CALIFORNIA SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

California contains a wide range of natural communities, or unique assemblages of plants and animals. These communities have largely been classified and mapped by CDFW as part of their Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP). Natural communities are assigned state and global ranks according to their rarity and the magnitude and trend of the threats they face. Any natural community with a state rank of 3 or lower (on a 1 to 5 scale) is considered "sensitive" and must be considered in CEQA review.

No habitats designated as a Sensitive Natural Community by CDFW or any other sensitive habitats are present on the site or surrounding lands.

2.8 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS

Wildlife movement corridors are routes that animals regularly and predictably follow during seasonal migration, dispersal from native ranges, daily travel within home ranges, and inter-population movements. Movement corridors in California are typically associated with valleys, rivers and creeks supporting riparian vegetation, and ridgelines.

The stream corridor of Yokohl Creek has the potential to function as a movement corridor for local movements of resident terrestrial wildlife species moving between natural lands to the southeast of the project site and naturals lands northeast of site associated with the Kaweah River.

3.0 RELEVANT GOALS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

3.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

In California, any project carried out or approved by a public agency that will result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment must comply with CEQA. The purpose of CEQA is to ensure that a project's potential impacts on the environment are evaluated and methods for avoiding or reducing these impacts are considered before the project is allowed to move forward. A secondary aim of CEQA is to provide justification to the public for the approval of any projects involving significant impacts on the environment.

According to Section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines, a significant effect on the environment means a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic interest." Although the lead agency may set its own CEQA significance thresholds, project impacts to biological resources are generally considered to be significant if they would meet any of the following criteria established in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by CDFW or USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Furthermore, CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(a) requires the lead agency to make "mandatory findings of significance" if there is substantial evidence that a project may:

- Substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species.
- Achieve short-term environmental goals to the detriment of long-term environmental goals.
- Produce environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable, meaning that the incremental effects of the project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects.

3.2 OTHER RELEVANT LAWS AND POLICIES

3.2.1 General Plan Policies of Tulare County

In compliance with CEQA, the lead agency must consider conformance with applicable goals and policies of the Tulare County General Plan. The Tulare County General Plan was released in August of 2012 and is valid through 2030. Implementation of goals in the general plan is accomplished via a set of policies specific to each goal.

Relevant biological resource policies of the Tulare County General Plan can be found in Component C-Environment, Chapter 8: Environmental Resources Management, Section 8.1: Biological Resources, and in Component C-Environment, Chapter 11: Water Resources, include commitments by the County to:

- Ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive wildlife and plant life, including those species designated as rate, threatened, and/or endangered by State and/or Federal government, through compatible land use development
- Limit or modify proposed development within areas that contain sensitive habitat for special status species and direct development into less significant habitat areas
- Minimized erosion and maximize beneficial vegetative growth if developing in a natural habitat

- Protect riparian areas through habitat preservation, designation as open space or recreational land uses, bank stabilization and development controls

- Support the preservation and management of wetland and riparian plant communities for passive recreation, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitats

- Require buffer areas between development projects and significant watercourses, riparian vegetation, wetlands, and other sensitive habitats and natural communities sufficient to assure the continued existence of waterways and riparian habitat in their natural state

- Support the establishment and administration of a mitigation banking program to evaluate and identify appropriate lands for protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species impacted during the land development process

- Discourage channel modification in streams and rivers where it increases the rate of flow, rate of sediment transport, erosive capacity, have adverse effect on aquatic life, or modify necessary groundwater recharge

- Protect water quality from contamination hazards during development

- Utilize best management practices and other mitigation measures to protect surface water and groundwater from the adverse effects of construction activities

- Control erosion and sediment from construction sites

- Monitor actions taken at the Federal and State level which impact water resources in order to evaluate the effects of these actions on the County's resources

- Work cooperatively with State and Federal land managers to coordinate watershed management on public land

3.2.2 Threatened and Endangered Species

In California, imperiled plants and animals may be afforded special legal protections under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and/or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). Species may be listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under one or both Acts, and/or as "rare" under CESA. Under both Acts, "endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and "threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. Under CESA, "rare" means a species may become endangered if their present environment worsens. Both Acts prohibit "take" of listed species, defined under CESA as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill" (California Fish and Game Code, Section 86), and more broadly defined



under FESA to include "harm" (16 USC, Section 1532(19), 50 CFR, Section 17.3). The USFWS commonly interprets "take" to include the loss of habitat utilized by a listed species.

When state and federally listed species have the potential to be impacted by a project, the USFWS and CDFW must be included in the CEQA process. These agencies review the environmental document to determine the adequacy of its treatment of endangered species issues and to make project-specific recommendations for the protection of listed species. Projects that may result in the "take" of listed species must generally enter into consultation with the USFWS and/or CDFW pursuant to FESA and CESA, respectively. In some cases, incidental take authorization(s) from these agencies may be required before the project can be implemented.

3.2.3 California Fully Protected Species

The classification of certain animal species as "fully protected" was the State of California's initial effort in the 1960s, prior to the passage of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), to identify and provide additional protection to those species that were rare or faced possible extinction. Following CESA enactment in 1970, many fully protected species were also listed as California threatened or endangered. The list of fully protected species are identified, and their protections stipulated, in California Fish and Game Code Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and fish (5515). Fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take, except in conjunction with necessary scientific research and protection of livestock.

3.2.4 Migratory Birds

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (FMBTA: 16 USC 703-712) prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in any bird species covered in one of four international conventions to which the United States is a party, except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The name of the act is misleading, as it actually covers almost all birds native to the United States, even those that are non-migratory. The FMBTA encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs.

Native birds are also protected under California state law. The California Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to take or possess any non-game bird covered by the FMBTA (Section 3513), as well as any other native non-game bird (Section 3800), even if incidental to lawful activities.

3.2.5 Birds of Prey

Birds of prey are also protected in California under provisions of the State Fish and Game Code, Section 3503.5, 1992), which states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order *Falconiformes* or *Strigiformes* (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered "taking" by the CDFW.

3.2.6 Nesting Birds

In California, protection is afforded to the nests and eggs of all birds. California Fish and Game Code (Section 3503) states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." Breeding-season disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered a form of "take" by the CDFW.

3.2.7 Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Community Conservation Plans

Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act establishes a process by which non-federal projects can obtain authorization to incidentally take listed species, provided take is minimized and thoroughly mitigated. A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), developed by the project applicant in collaboration with the USFWS and/or NMFS, ensures that such minimization and mitigation will occur, and is a prerequisite to the issuance of a federal incidental take permit. Similarly, a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), developed by the project applicant in collaboration with CDFW, provides for the conservation of biodiversity within a project area, and permits limited incidental take of state-listed species.

3.2.8 Wetlands and Other Jurisdictional Waters

Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into "navigable waters" (33 U.S.C. §1344), defined in the CWA as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas" (33 U.S.C. §1362(7)). The CWA does not supply a definition for waters of the U.S., and that has been the subject of considerable debate since the CWA's passage in 1972. A variety of regulatory definitions have been promulgated by the two federal agencies responsible for implementing the CWA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USACE. These definitions have been interpreted, and in some cases, invalidated, by federal courts.

Waters of the U.S. are presently defined by the EPA and USACE's joint 2023 Revised Definition of 'Waters of the U.S.' Rule (2023 WOTUS Rule), issued in January 2023 and amended in August 2023. Generally speaking, waters of the U.S. include:

- Waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide
- The territorial seas
- Interstate waters
- Impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under the definition
- Tributaries to other waters of the U.S. that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water
- Wetlands adjacent to other waters of the U.S. that have a continuous surface connection to those waters

The 2023 WOTUS Rule also defines a number of exclusions from the definition of waters of the U.S., many of which are longstanding exclusions from earlier regulatory regimes. These generally include:

- Waste treatment systems
- Prior converted cropland

- Ditches excavated wholly in and draining only dry land that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water
- Certain artificial features, e.g. irrigation basins, swimming pools, borrow pits, and artificially irrigated areas
- Swales and erosional features characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow

All activities that involve the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. are subject to the permit requirements of the USACE. Such permits are typically issued on the condition that the applicant agrees to provide mitigation that result in no net loss of wetland functions or values.

Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has regulatory authority to protect the water quality of all surface water and groundwater in the State of California ("waters of the State"). Nine RWQCBs oversee water quality at the local and regional level. The RWQCB for a given region regulates discharges of fill or pollutants into waters of the State through the issuance of various permits and orders. Discharges into waters of the State that are also waters of the U.S. require a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB as a prerequisite to obtaining a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit. Discharges into waters of the State that are not also waters of the U.S. require Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), or waivers of WDRs, from the RWQCB.

The SWRCB and RWQCBs also administer the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is concerned with the discharge of stormwater and other pollutants into water bodies. Projects that disturb one or more acres of soil must obtain coverage under the SWRCB's current NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit. A prerequisite for permit coverage is the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer. Other types of pollutant discharges into waters of the U.S., such as wastewater, may require coverage under a different NPDES general permit, and in some cases an individual permit.

CDFW has jurisdiction over the bed and bank of natural drainages and lakes according to provisions of Section 1601 and 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. Activities that may substantially modify such waters through the diversion or obstruction of their natural flow, change or use of any material from their bed or bank, or the deposition of debris require a Notification of



Lake or Streambed Alteration. If CDFW determines that the activity may adversely affect fish and wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement will be prepared. Such an agreement typically stipulates that certain measures will be implemented to protect the habitat values of the lake or drainage in question.

4.0 IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

This analysis assumes that most of the 1.46-acre project site will only experience temporary disturbance with permanent disturbance limited to the footprint of the proposed concrete check structure across Yokohl Creek at the western location and the pipeline discharge structure at the eastern location.

4.1 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT IMPACTS

4.1.1 Potential Project Impacts to Nesting Raptors and Migratory Birds Including the Swainson's Hawk

Potential Impacts. The bridge, orchard trees, and ground of the project site have the potential to be used for nesting by a variety of migratory birds. Larger trees in the immediate project vicinity have the potential to support nesting raptors, possibly including the Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), a California Threatened species. Nearly all birds are protected by state and federal law. If project construction takes place during the nesting season, birds nesting on site could be injured or killed by construction activities, while birds nesting near the site could be disturbed such that they would abandon their nests. Construction-related mortality of nesting birds and disturbance leading to nest abandonment would violate state and federal laws and constitute a significant impact of the project.

Swainson's hawks are not expected to be adversely affected by project related loss of habitat. The site offers no suitable nesting habitat and only provides a very small amount of marginal foraging habitat within the Yokohl Creek corridor. Orchards and paved roads provide unsuitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks. For these reasons, project-related loss of habitat for the Swainson's hawk is considered less than significant under CEQA.

Mitigation. The following measures will be implemented for the protection of nesting birds and raptors including Swainson's hawks.

> ***Mitigation Measure 4.1.1a (Construction Timing).*** If feasible, future construction activities will take place entirely outside of the avian nesting season (February 1 to August 31).

Mitigation Measure 4.1.1b (Preconstruction Surveys). If construction must occur between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys for active bird nests within 7 days prior to the start of work during this period. The survey area will encompass the site and surrounding lands within ¼ mile for nesting Swainson's hawks, 500 feet for other nesting raptors, and 250 feet for nesting birds.

Mitigation Measure 4.1.1c (Avoidance of Active Nests). Should any active nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction-free buffer around the nest. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are capable of foraging independently.

Implementation of the above measures will reduce potential project impacts to nesting birds and raptors, including the Swainson's hawk, to a less than significant level under CEQA and facilitate compliance with state and federal laws protecting these species.

4.2 LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT PROJECT IMPACTS

4.2.1 Potential Project Impacts to Special Status Plants

Potential Impacts. Twenty-one (21) special status plant species have been documented in the project vicinity (see Table 1). All 21 species are considered absent from the project site due to an absence of suitable habitat and/or soils, the site's being situated outside of the species' distribution, or a combination thereof. Therefore, impacts to special status plants are considered less than significant under CEQA.

Mitigation. Mitigation measures are not warranted.

4.2.2 Potential Project Impacts to Special Status Animal Species Absent from or Unlikely to Occur Within the Project Site

Potential Impacts. Of the 19 special status animal species that potentially occur in the general vicinity of the site, 14 are considered absent from or unlikely to occur within the project site or its vicinity due to the absence of suitable habitat and/or the project site being situated outside of the species' known distribution (see Table 1). These comprise the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californienses*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*),

foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*), northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californiamus*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*), and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). The project is expected to have an insignificant effect or no effect on these species through construction mortality/disturbance or loss of habitat because there is little or no likelihood that they are present.

Mitigation. Mitigation is not warranted.

4.2.3 Project Impacts to Special Status Animal Species that Would Use the Site for Non-Sensitive Activities Only

Potential Impacts. Of the five special status animal species potentially occurring on site, four are not expected to use the site for sensitive activities such as breeding, nesting, or communal roosting, nor are they likely to breed, nest, or communally roost close enough to the site that they would be vulnerable to construction-related disturbance during these activities (see Table 1). These species are the tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis* ssp. *californicus*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*). Tricolored blackbirds, Pallid bats, and western mastiff bats have the potential to forage on or over the site from time to time. Yokohl creek could provide a movement corridor for American badgers that may occasionally traverse the site during dispersal movements. All of these species are highly mobile and would be expected to simply avoid work areas should they encounter them.

The project would not adversely affect any of these species through loss of foraging habitat or movement corridor use. Most of the 1.46-acres project site will experience temporary disturbance. Furthermore, similar and higher quality foraging habitats are abundant in the project vicinity and elsewhere in the region. For these reasons, impacts to tricolored blackbird, American badger, pallid bat, and western mastiff bat are considered less than significant under CEQA.

Mitigation. Mitigation is not warranted.

4.2.4 Potential Project Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters

Potential Impacts. The project will result in small impacts to Yokohl Creek. The exact footprint of permanent impact to the creek from the installation of the proposed structures is unknown at this time but anticipated to be less than 0.1 acres. Yokohl Creek would likely fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB and possibly USACE. Because the area of impact to Yokohl Creek will be very small, impacts to jurisdictional waters are considered less than significant under CEQA.

Mitigation. Mitigation is not warranted. However, it should be noted that project activities will likely require permits from one or more of the agencies listed above.

4.2.5 Potential Project Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors

Potential Impacts. The project site contains Yokohl Creek, which could facilitate movement of local terrestrial wildlife. The stretch of Yokohl Creek in and near the project site runs through miles of agricultural lands and provides a corridor between natural lands to the southeast and northwest. The construction of the concrete check structure, which would span the width of Yokohl Creek at the western location, could impede movement of wildlife utilizing the stream bed for migration, however, wildlife utilizing the stream bed for movement would likely climb the banks of Yokohl Creek to go around the concrete check. The construction of the pipeline discharge structure would not result in any significant temporary or permanent impediment to the movement of locally occurring species. Individuals are expected to use Yokohl Creek for movement in nearly the same manner as before the construction of the concrete check and pipeline discharge structure, therefore, the project will result in a less than significant impact on wildlife movement corridors.

Mitigation. Mitigation is not warranted.

4.2.6 Project Impacts to Sensitive Natural Communities and Designated Critical Habitat

Potential Impacts. Sensitive Natural Communities and Designated Critical Habitat are absent from the project site and surrounding lands. Project development would have no impact on Sensitive Natural Communities or Designated Critical Habitat.

Mitigation. No mitigation is warranted.

4.2.7 Consistency with Local Policies and Ordinances

Potential Impacts. The project appears consistent with Tulare County General Plan policies related to biological resources.

Mitigation. Mitigation measures are not warranted.

4.2.8 Consistency with Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Community Conservation Plans

Potential Impacts. There are no known HCPs or NCCPs that would apply to the project.

Mitigation. Mitigation measures are not warranted.

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APPENDIX A: VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PROJECT SITE

APPENDIX A
VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PROJECT SITE

The plant species listed below were observed on the project site during LOA's April 8, 2025 survey. The wetland indicator status of each plant, derived from the USACE-administered National Wetland Plant List for the Arid West Region, has been shown following its common name if available.

OBL - Obligate
FACW - Facultative Wetland
FAC - Facultative
FACU - Facultative Upland
UPL - Upland

APIACEAE – Carrot Family		
Anthriscus caucalis	Burr Chervil	UPL
APOCYNACEAE – Dogbane Family		
Asclepias fascicularis	Narrowleaf Milkweed	FAC
ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family		
Centaurea melitensis	Maltese Star-thistle	UPL
Erigeron canadensis	Canada Fleabane	FACU
Helianthus annuus	Common Sunflower	FACU
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph Weed	UPL
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce	FACU
Madia elegans	Common Madia	UPL
Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle	UPL
Xanthium strumarium	Rough Cocklebur	FAC
BORAGINACEAE – Borage Family		
Amsinckia spp.	Amsinckia	UPL
BRASSICACEAE – Mustard Family		
Brassica nigra	Black Mustard	UPL
Brassica spp.	Mustard spp.	UPL
EUPHORBIACEAE – Spurge Family		
Ricinus communis	Castor Bean	FACU
FABACEAE – Walnut Family		
Acmispon americanus	Spanish Clover	UPL
Medicago polymorpha	Bur Clover	FACU
Melilotus indicus	Yellow Sweet Clover	FACU
GERANIACEAE – Geranium Family		
Erodium cicutarium	Redstem Filaree	
MALVACEAE – Mallow Family		
Malva parviflora	Cheeseweed	UPL
MYTACEAE – Myrtle Family		
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Red River Gum	FAC
PHRYMACEAE – Lopseed Family		
Erythranthe guttata	Seep Monkeyflower	OBL

POACEAE – Grass Family		
Avena spp.	Wild Oat	UPL
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut Brome	UPL
Bromus rubens	Red Brome	UPL
Digitaria sanguinalis	Crabgrass	FACU
Festuca bromoides	Brome Fescue	FACU
Festuca microstachys	Small Fescue	UPL
Festuca perennis	Italian Rye Grass	FAC
Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley	FACU
RUTACEAE – Citrus Family		
Citrus maxima	Pomelo	UPL
Citrus x *sinensis*	Orange	UPL
SIMAROUBACEAE – Quassia Family		
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	FACU
SOLANACEAE – Nightshade Family		
Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed	UPL
Nicotiana glauca	Tobacco Tree	FAC
URTICACEAE – Nettle Family		
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle	FAC

APPENDIX B: TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATE SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING ON THE PROJECT SITE

APPENDIX B
TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATE SPECIES THAT POTENTIALLY OCCUR ON THE PROJECT SITE

The species listed below are those that may be expected to routinely and predictably use or pass through the project site during some or all of the year. An asterisk denotes a species observed on or immediately adjacent to the site during surveys conducted by LOA on April 8, 2025.

CLASS: AMPHIBIA
ORDER: ANURA (Frogs and Toads)
FAMILY: BUFONIDAE (True Toads)
Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*)
FAMILY: HYLIDAE (Treefrogs and Relatives)
Pacific Tree Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*)

CLASS: REPTILIA
ORDER: SQUAMATA (Lizards and Snakes)
SUBORDER: SAURIA (Lizards)
FAMILY: PHRYNOSOMATIDAE
Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)
Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)
SUBORDER: SERPENTES (Snakes)
FAMILY: COLUBRIDAE (Colubrids)
Pacific Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer catenifer*)
Common Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*)
FAMILY: VIPERIDAE (Vipers)
Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*)

CLASS: AVES
ORDER: CICONIIFORMES (Herons, Storks, Ibises and Relatives)
FAMILY: CATHARTIDAE (New World Vultures)
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
ORDER: FALCONIFORMES (Vultures, Hawks, and Falcons)
FAMILY: ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Old World Vultures, and Harriers)
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
*Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
FAMILY: FALCONIDAE (Caracaras and Falcons)
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
ORDER: COLUMBIFORMES (Pigeons and Doves)
FAMILY: COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons and Doves)
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
*Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
ORDER: STRIGIFORMES (Owls)
FAMILY: TYTONIDAE (Barn Owls)
Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
ORDER: APODIFORMES (Swifts and Hummingbirds)

FAMILY: TROCHILIDAE (Hummingbirds)
*Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)
ORDER: PASSERIFORMES (Perching Birds)
FAMILY: TYRANNIDAE (Tyrant Flycatchers)
*Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)
Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)
FAMILY: PICIDAE (Woodpeckers)
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
FAMILY: CORVIDAE (Jays, Magpies, and Crows)
California Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)
*American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)
FAMILY: HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows)
*Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
FAMILY: AEGITHALIDAE (Bushtits)
Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)
FAMILY: TURDIDAE (Thrushes)
Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
FAMILY: MIMIDAE (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)
FAMILY: MOTACILLIDAE (Wagtails, Longclaws, and Pipits)
American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)
FAMILY: PARULIDAE (Wood Warblers and Relatives)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)
FAMILY: STURNIDAE (Starlings and Allies)
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
FAMILY: EMBERIZIDAE (Sparrows)
*California Towhee (*Melozone crissalis*)
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
FAMILY: ICTERIDAE (Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies)
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullock*)
FAMILY: FRINGILLIDAE (Finches)
*House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)
FAMILY: PASSERIDAE (Old World Sparrows)
*House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

CLASS: MAMMALIA
ORDER: DIDELPHIMORPHIA (Marsupials)
FAMILY: DIDELPHIDAE (Opossums)

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

ORDER: CHIROPTERA (Bats)

FAMILY: VESPERTILIONIDAE (Vespertilionid Bats)

Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)
California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*)
Western Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*)
Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

FAMILY: MOLOSSIDAE (Free-tailed Bat)

Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)

ORDER: LAGOMORPHA (Rabbits, Hares, and Pikas)

FAMILY: LEPORIDAE (Rabbits and Hares)

Audubon's Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

ORDER: RODENTIA (Rodents)

FAMILY: SCIURIDAE (Squirrels, Chipmunks, and Marmots)

*California Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*)

FAMILY: GEOMYIDAE (Pocket Gophers)

Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*)

FAMILY: MURIDAE (Mice, Rats and Voles)

Western Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*)
Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)
Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)
California Vole (*Microtus californicus*)

FAMILY: HETEROMYIDAE (Kangaroo Rats)

Heermann's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys heermanni*)

ORDER: CARNIVORA (Carnivores)

FAMILY: CANIDAE (Foxes, Wolves, and Relatives)

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
Coyote (*Canis latrans*)
Domestic Dog (*Canis familiaris*)

FAMILY: PROCYONIDAE (Raccoons and Relatives)

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

FAMILY: MUSTELIDAE (Weasels and Relatives)

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

FAMILY: FELIDAE (Cats)

Feral Cat (*Felis catus*)

APPENDIX C:
SELECT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROJECT SITE



Photo 1: Looking south across Yokohl Creek and Road 220 at the eastern location.



Photo 2: Looking east at a ruderal area in the eastern location. Road 220 and orchard in background.



Photo 3: Looking northwest at a ruderal area, upper banks of Yokohl Creek and orchards in the eastern location.



Photo 4: Looking west at Road 220 bridge. Cliff swallows nesting in background.



Photo 5: Under Road 220 bridge featuring active cliff swallow nests.



Photo 6: Looking southeast at the western location.



Photo 7: Looking northwest at the eastern location.



Photo 8: Looking southwest across the western location featuring California ground squirrel burrows.

APPENDIX D

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California

Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment
Yokohl Creek Check and Discharge Stations Project,
Exeter, CA 93221
Assessor Parcel Numbers
115-170-010, and 011
Tulare County, California

Prepared for
Exeter Irrigation District
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Soar Environmental) has been retained by Exeter Irrigation District (The District) to prepare a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment Yokohl Creek Check and Discharge Stations Project located north of the State Highway 198 and Road 220 intersection in Tulare County, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) prior to implementation of the proposed Project. The proposed project is to construct a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure on approximately 2-acres on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 115-170-010, and 011. The purpose of the Phase 1 CRA is to provide an inventory of the known and potentially significant cultural resources within the Project area through a California Historical Records Information search (CHRIS) using the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC), as well as a Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

The results of the records search indicate two (2) cultural resource(s) recorded within 0.50-mile of the Project area. The record searches indicate no recorded resources in the Project area. The pedestrian survey identified no recorded existing resources within the Project area. No site testing or mitigation measures are required, unless previously undiscovered cultural resources are detected during construction.

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1.0 Introduction

This report details the results of a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment in support of the proposed check structure and pipeline discharge station near Exeter, California, on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 115-170-010, and 011 (Figure 1). This Phase 1 report is prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), PRC Sections 21082, 21083.2, and 21084.1, and California Code of Regulations 15064.5.

Heather Froshour completed the archival review, field survey, and prepared this Phase 1 report. Julie Federico assisted in preparing this Phase 1 report. Ms. Froshour is Soar Environmental's Principal Archaeologist who meets the professional standards of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for archaeology (36 CFR 61) and is certified by the Register of Professional Archaeologists. Ms. Federico is a Soar Environmental Archaeologist with a background in Anthropology and is certified by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Soar Environmental requested a records search from the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVC) for the Project area as well as a 0.50-mile buffer. The archival research for this Phase 1 report was negative for archaeological sites or historical resources within the Project area. The archival record search reported six (6) recorded resources within 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. The records search revealed no previous cultural resources surveys had been conducted in the Project area. No additional cultural resource survey reports have been completed within a 0.50-mile radius of the Project area.

As part of the background research, Soar Environmental also requested a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The results of the records review and SLF search were negative. The NAHC suggested contacting eight (8) individuals representing three (3) Native American tribal groups to find out if they have additional information about the Project area. Soar Environmental sent outreach letters to all eight (8) recommended tribal individuals. No response was received.

Soar Environmental conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project on April 15, 2025. This field survey was negative for surface archaeological resources within the Project area. As currently designed, the proposed project will not impact any known in situ archaeological sites or historical resources.

It is recommended, however, in the event that cultural resources are encountered during construction activities associated with the Project, a qualified archaeologist shall be obtained to assess the significance of the find in accordance with the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(f). In addition, the Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA 15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the unlikely event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

1.1 Project Description

The Project proposes to construct a concrete check structure and pipeline discharge station on Yokohl Creek in Tulare County (Figure 1). The proposed construction lies within APNs 115-170-010, and 011.

The proposed work will consist of installing a concrete check structure across Yokohl Creek. This structure will be located 485 feet upstream of Avenue 300. The second location consists of a pipeline discharge structure along the north bank of Yokohl Creek to return unused irrigation water to the creek for recharge purposes. All construction will occur within the parcel boundaries.

1.2 Existing Condition

The Project area is located in the San Joaquin Valley approximately 192-meters north from Highway 198, at Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 115-170-010, and 011 (Figure 1). The Project area is approximately 2.72-miles south of Lane Slough. The Project area is located in Tulare County within Section 30. Township 18S, Range 27E, Mount Diablo Base Meridian, as depicted on the Tulare, CA 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographical quadrangle (Figure 1).

1.0 REGULATORY SETTING

Federal, State and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that may be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are the basic federal and state laws governing preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, State and local significance.

2.1 Federal

Federal regulations for cultural resources are governed primarily by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" are found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites which are determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The criteria for determining National Register eligibility are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Amendments to the NHPA (1986 and 1992) and subsequent revisions to the implementing regulations have, among other things, strengthened the provisions for Native American consultation and participation in the Section 106 review process. While federal agencies must follow federal regulations, most projects by private developers and landowners do not require this level of compliance. Federal regulations only come into play in the private sector

if a project requires a federal permit or if it uses federal money.

2.2 State

California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term "historical resource" includes "any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California" (California Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5020.1[j])(State of California, 2021). In 1992, the California legislature established the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) "to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (California PRC § 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR, enumerated in the following text, were developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the NRHP. According to California PRC § 5024.1(c) (1– 4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains "substantial integrity," and (ii) meets at least one of the following criteria:

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 prehistory or history

To understand the historic importance of a resource, sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance (14 CCR 4852[d][2]).

The CRHR protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources. The criteria for the CRHR are nearly identical to those for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

California Health and Safety Code, §7050.5

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods,

regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California Health and Safety Code, §7050.5, requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains can occur until the County Coroner has examined the remains (California Health and Safety Code, §7050.5b). California PRC §5097.98, also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If the County Coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the County Coroner must contact the California NAHC within 24 hours (California Health and Safety Code, §7050.5c)(State of California, 2021). The NAHC will notify the most likely descendant. With the permission of the landowner, the most likely descendant may inspect the site of discovery. The inspection must be completed within 48 hours of notification of the most likely descendant by the NAHC. The most likely descendant may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains, and items associated with Native Americans.

California State Assembly Bill 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 of 2014 amended California PRC § 5097.94, and added California PRC §21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3. AB 52 established that tribal cultural resources must be considered under CEQA and also provided for additional Native American consultation requirements for the lead agency. California PRC §21074, defines tribal cultural resources as follows:

(a) Section 21074 of the Public Resources Code states that "tribal cultural resources" are either of the following:

> (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
>
> > (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
> >
> > (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of §5020.1.
>
> (2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of §5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of §5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision:
>
> > (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.

> (b) A historical resource described in §21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of §21083.2, or a "nonunique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of §21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

AB 52 formalizes the lead agency–tribal consultation process, requiring the lead agency to initiate consultation with California Native American tribes located on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). This includes California Native American groups that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project, including tribes that may not be federally recognized. Lead agencies are required to begin consultation prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR).

Section 9 of AB 52 establishes that "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." Section 6 of AB 52 added §21080.3.2 to the California PRC, which states that parties may propose mitigation measures "capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource." Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding Project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (California PRC §21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (California PRC §21082.3[a]).

Native American Human Remains

State law (California PRC §5097 et seq.) addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and established the NAHC.

In the event that Native American human remains, or related cultural material are encountered, §15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines (as incorporated from PRC §5097.98) and California Health and Safety Code, §7050.5, defines the subsequent protocol. In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, excavation or other disturbances shall be suspended on the site, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains or related material. Protocol requires that the County Coroner or County-approved Coroner represented be contacted in order to determine if the remains are of Native American origin. Should the coroner determine the remains to be Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours. The most likely descendant may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treating, with appropriate dignity, the human remains, and any associated grave goods as provided in California PRC §5097.98 (14 CCR 15064.5(e))(State of California 2021).

2.3 Local

Tulare County

Chapter 8.6 of the Tulare County General Plan of 2012 promotes the preservation of cultural and historic resources through managing and protecting sites of cultural and archeological importance for the benefit of present and future generations (County of Tulare, 2012).

The following policies are outlined for the preservation of cultural resources:

ERM-6.1 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources
The County shall participate in and support efforts to identify its significant cultural and archaeological resources using appropriate State and Federal standards.

ERM-6.2 Protection of Resources with Potential State or Federal Designations
The County shall protect cultural and archaeological sites with demonstrated potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California State Office of Historic Preservation's California Points of Interest and California Inventory of Historic Resources. Such sites may be of Statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values as determined by a qualified archaeological professional.

ERM-6.3 Alteration of Sites with Identified Cultural Resources
When planning any development or alteration of a site with identified cultural or archaeological resources, consideration should be given to ways of protecting the resources. Development can be permitted in these areas only after a site specific investigation has been conducted pursuant to CEQA to define the extent and value of resource, and mitigation measures proposed for any impacts the development may have on the resource.

ERM-6.4 Mitigation
If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records.

ERM-6.5 Cultural Resources Education Programs
The County should support local, State, and national education programs on cultural and archaeological resources.

ERM-6.6 Historic Structures and Sites
The County shall support public and private efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, and continue the use of historic structures, sites, and parks. Where applicable, preservation efforts shall conform to the current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and

Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

ERM-6.7 Cooperation of Property Owners
The County should encourage the cooperation of property owners to treat cultural resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage public support for the preservation of these resources.

ERM-6.8 Solicit Input from Local Native Americans
The County shall continue to solicit input from the local Native American communities in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or to sites of cultural importance.

ERM-6.9 Confidentiality of Archaeological Sites
The County shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.

ERM-6.10 Grading Cultural Resources Sites
The County shall ensure all grading activities conform to the County's Grading Ordinance and California Code of Regulations, Title 20, § 2501 et. seq..

3.0 SETTING

This section of the report summarizes information regarding the physical and cultural setting of the Project area, including prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic contents of the general area. Several factors; including topography, biological resources, and available water sources; affect the nature and distribution of the cultural periods of activity of an area. This background provides a context for understanding the nature of the cultural resources that may be identified within the region of the project.

3.1 Environmental Setting

The Project area is located at an elevation of 440 to 463 feet in the eastern half of Tulare County, approximately 7.59-miles east of the city of Visalia, California within the San Joaquin Valley and west edge of the Siera Nevada Mountains. The San Joaquin Valley is a long, narrow, northwest-trending, alluvial valley that lies between the Sierra Nevada Range to the east and the Coast Ranges to the west (Wagner, 2002).

The Project area is best characterized historically as a rural ranching and agricultural region with large populations of both large and small mammals. Prehistorically, the larger mammals inhabiting the Project area would have included mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*), black-tailed deer (*O. hemionus columbianus*), tule elk (*Cervus elaphus nannoides*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocarpa Americana*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) (Jameson and Peeters 1988). The small mammals that historically inhabited the Project area

included rabbit (*Sylvilagus sp.*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)s well as gradation.

Surface soils consist of the Exeter soil series within the whole of the northern check structure. The Exeter soil series is typically moderately deep down to duripan, moderately well-drained, and formed in alluvium, comprised mainly of granitic sources. This soil is made up of brown loam at surface with reddish brown sandy clay loam below. Surface soils within the southern discharge structure Project area consist of the Yettem sandy loam soil series. The Yettem soil series is typically moderately deep down to duripan, moderately well-drained, and formed in alluvium, comprised mainly of granitic sources. This soil is made up of brown loam at surface with reddish brown sandy clay loam below (Figure 2) (United States Department of Agriculture, 2024).

The average annual precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley is 7 to 20 inches. The mean annual temperature is 61 to 64 degrees F. The frost-free season averages 250 to 300 days.

3.2 Cultural Setting

Cultural resources include prehistoric-era archaeological sites, historic-era archaeological sites, Native American traditional cultural properties, sites of religious and cultural significance, and historical buildings, structures, objects, and sites. The importance of any single cultural resource is defined by the context in which it was first created, current public opinion and modern yet evolving analysis. From an analytical perspective, temporal and geographic considerations help to define the historical context of the Project area. The importance or significance of a cultural resource is partly described by the context in which it originated or developed. National Park Service Bulletin 16a (1997) describes a historic context as "information about historic trends and properties grouped by an important theme in prehistory or history of a community, state, or the nation during a particular period of time." A context links an existing property to important historic trends, and this allows a framework for determining the significance of a property. Given this, a major goal of the historian is to determine accurate themes of analysis, a task that can only be undertaken by a thorough review of previous researchers' thoughts and ideas, as well as reviewing the literature of the resources.

In California, historians have divided the past into broad categories based on climate models, archaeological dating and written histories. Paleontologists divide time into much larger segments, with defined and named periods of time shortening in timespan as the modern era is reached. For the purposes of this analysis, these periods in history have been summarized below.

3.2.1 Prehistoric Setting

During the Early Holocene epoch (9700 to 4000 B.C.), large game hunting societies populated the area. Culturally significant surface finds in the Tulare Basin have yielded some projectile points similar to particular Paleoindian varieties (i.e., Western Clovis), suggesting an initial occupation pre-dating approximately 11,300 years before present (B.P.). The Middle Holocene

epoch (4000 to 1000 B.C.) is characterized by Pinto-like points and groundstone tools, although the association between the epoch and specific societies is not certain.

Olsen and Payen (1968) developed a chronology of four temporally distinct complexes for sites found within the southern San Joaquin Valley. The first complex, the Positas Complex, ranges from 3300 to 2600 B.C. and is characterized by small, shaped mortars, short cylindrical pestles, milling stones, perforated flat cobbles, and sea snail shell beads. The second complex is the Pacheco Complex which ranges from approximately 2600 B.C. to 300 A.D. This complex is divided into Phase B and Phase A. Phase B ranges from 2600 B.C. to 1600 B.C. and is characterized by biface arrow points, abalone shell ornaments, and sea snail shell beads. Phase A ranges from 1600 B.C. to 300 A.D. and is represented by more variation in shell bead types, perforated canine teeth, bone awl, whistles, grass saws, large stemmed and side-notched points, and an abundance of milling stones, mortars, and pestles.

The third complex, the Gonzaga Complex, ranges from 300 to 1000 A.D. and is characterized by extended burials, bowl mortars, shaped pestles, squared and tapered stem projectile points, bone awls, grass saws, and a shell industry composed of distinctive shell ornaments and beads.

Lastly, the Panoche Complex ranges from 1500 A.D. to European contact (mid to late 1700 A.D.) and is characterized by the presence of fewer milling stones, varied mortars and pestles, small side-notched arrow points, clamshell disc beads, bone awls, whistles, saws, and tubes.

3.2.2 Ethnographic Setting

The Project area is located within the traditional cultural territory of the Penutian-speaking Yokuts tribal groups occupied the southern San Joaquin Valley region and much of the nearby Sierra Nevada. Ethnographic information about the Yokuts was collected primarily by Powers (1971, 1976 [originally 1877]), Kroeber (1925), Gayton (1930, 1948), Driver (1937), Latta (1977) and Harrington (n.d.). For a variety of historical reasons, existing research information emphasizes the central Yokuts tribes who occupied both the valley and particularly the foothills of the Sierra. For a thousand years, the region was inhabited by the Foothill Yokuts. There are over 30 Native American sites in this area alone. These include: significant rock art areas, four major village sites, bedrock mortars, rockslides (like playground sites), and several burial grounds (Save Yokohl Valley 2025). The Yokohl Valley is a traditional spiritual site of the Foothill Yokuts, and spans 22 acres with vivid pictographs on granite boulders and in caves near Rocky Hill, located on the south side (Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter 2014).

The northernmost tribes suffered from the influx of Euro-Americans during the Gold Rush and their populations were in substantial decline by the time ethnographic studies began in the early twentieth century. In contrast, the southernmost tribes were partially removed by the Spanish to missions and eventually absorbed into multi-tribal communities on the Sebastian Indian Reservation (on Tejon Ranch), and later the Tule River Reservation, closer to the Project area. The result is an unfortunate scarcity of ethnographic detail on southern Valley tribes, especially in relation to the rich information collected from the central foothills tribes where native speakers of the Yokuts dialects are still found. Regardless, the general details of indigenous lifeways were

similar across the broad expanse of Yokuts territory, particularly in terms of environmentally influenced subsistence and adaptation and with regard to religion and belief, which were similar everywhere.

This scarcity of specific detail is particularly apparent in terms of southern valley tribal group distribution. The San Joaquin Valley floor, and thus the study area, was occupied by these southern Valley Yokuts speakers, themselves divided into a series of autonomous "tribelets," the boundaries of which are not well defined. The Yauelmani Yokuts lived from the Kern River area, in modern Bakersfield, to the southeast corner of the valley, on the Tejon Ranch. The Hometwali were centered around Kern Lake, while the Tulamni occupied the west side of Buena Vista Lake and the foothills of the Temblors, at least to McKittrick. The Tuhohi resided from the Kern River delta north to the Goose Lake area and west to the sloughs near Buttonwillow. Yokuts villages apparently extended up to, but not into, the mouths of the canyons on the northern and western fronts of the Tehachapi Mountains, well into the foothills and lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada on the east, and to the crest of the Temblor Range on the west. The Yokuts are Penutian speakers and are linguistically related to northern occupants of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Yokuts settlement pattern was largely consistent, regardless of specific tribe involved. Winter villages were typically located along lakeshores and major stream courses (as these existed circa AD 1800), with dispersal phase family camps located at elevated spots on the valley floor and near gathering areas in the foothills.

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

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

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

The centrality of shamanism to the religious and spiritual life of the Yokuts was demonstrated by the role of shamans in the yearly ceremonial round. The ritual round performed the same each

year, starting in the spring with the jimsonweed ceremony, followed by rattlesnake dance and (where appropriate) first salmon ceremony. After returning from seed camps, fall rituals began in the late summer with the mourning ceremony, followed by first seed and acorn rites and then bear dance (Gayton 1930:379). In each case, shamans served as ceremonial officials responsible for specific dances involving a display of their supernatural powers (Kroeber 1925).

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

Although population estimates vary and population size was greatly affected by the introduction of Euro-American diseases and social disruption, the Yokuts were one of the largest, most successful groups in Native California. Cook (1978) estimates that the Yokuts region contained 27 percent of the Aboriginal population in the state at the time of contact; other estimates are even higher. Many Yokuts people continue to reside in the southern San Joaquin Valley today.

3.2.3 Historic Setting

In California, the historic era is divided into three general periods: the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present). The mission system, which ultimately established 21 missions between 1796 and 1822, consisted of missions, presidios, and pueblos, and was designed to convert the indigenous peoples of California to Christianity and assimilate them under Spanish rule (Gudde 1998).

The Spanish Period saw exploration and the establishment of the San Diego Presidio and missions at San Diego (1769) and San Luis Rey (1798), and asistencias (chapels) to the San Diego Mission at Santa Ysabel (1818) and to the San Luis Rey Mission at Pala (1816). Horses, cattle, agricultural foods and weed seeds, and a new architectural style and method of building construction were also introduced. Spanish influence continued after 1821 when California became a part of Mexico, yet the missions continued to operate for a short time longer and laws governing the distribution of land were retained.

In 1821, Mexico won independence and control of the Spanish American colonies from Spain. Land was allowed to be redistributed and the native neophytes were freed from church jurisdiction as a result of the Secularization Act of 1833. During this secularization period, the Mexican authorities in Alta California made numerous large land grants on former mission properties in the area; many became private ranches, or ranchos; the vast majority were the result of land grants from the Mexican government (Robinson 1979). The Mexican Period ended in

1848 as a result of the Mexican American War.

The American period began when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed between Mexico and the United States in 1848. As a result of the treaty, the former Mexican province of Alta California became part of the United States as the territory of California. Rapid population increase occasioned by the Gold Rush of 1849 allowed California to become a state in 1850. Most Mexican land grants were confirmed to the grantees by U.S. courts, but usually with more restricted boundaries which were surveyed by the U.S. Surveyor General's office.
Exeter, California did not attract early settlers; there was no natural water source. Not until 1898 when the Southern Pacific connected Exeter and Visalia, did people heading to the mountains or Visalia picked up a stagecoach in Exeter. There were three railroads coming through Exeter; the Southern Pacific (1888), the Visalia Electric (1905), and the Santa Fe (1912). The town was incorporated March 2, 1911 (Mitchell 1987).

4.0 ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

4.1 Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC)

The Project area is located in the USGS Rocky Hill 7.5' Series Quadrangle (USGS 2021). On April 1, 2025, Soar submitted a records search request to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) located at the California State University, Bakersfield (Appendix A). The records search included a 0.5-mile buffer around the Project area. The results from the records search received on April 14, 2025 indicate no cultural resource studies have been conducted within the Project area. According to the information on file, there are no resources within the Project area.

There were six (6) reports identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area (Table 1). There are two (2) recorded resources within the 0.5-mile record search radius (Table 2).

Table 1. Survey Reports within 0.5 Mile of the Project area

Report No.	Year	Author(s)/ Affiliation	Title
TU-00207	1978	Cantwell, R.J.	Archaeological and Historical Survey Report for Bridge Number A300 - 212
TU-00261	1981	Cantwell, R.J.	Archeological and Historical Survey Report for M 296 from Diagonal 211 to State Highway 198, Tulare County
TU-01320	2006	Pollock, Katherine H.; Statistical Research, Inc.	Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project: Archaeological Survey of 28 Pole Locations on the Roeding, Gill, Rim, Tetley, Elster, Soda Springs 12 kV and Sawpit 33 kV Transmission Lines, San Bernardino and Tulare Counties, California

TU-01498	2010	Leach-Palm, Laura, Brandy, Paul, King, Jay, Mikkelsen, Pat, Seil, Libby, Hartman, Lindsay, and Bradeen, Jill; Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 6 Rural Conventional Highways in Fresno, Western Kern, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties.
TU-01583	2010	Orfila, Rebecca S.; RSO Consulting, Archaeological and Historical Resource Management	Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Replacement of Eighteen Deteriorated Power Poles on the Booster 12 kV, Bowen 12 kV, Cattle 12 kV, El Mirador 12 kV, Isabella 12 kV, Nickerson 12 kV, Roeding 12 kV, Round Valley 12 kV, and Zante 12 kV Circuits in Kern and Tulare Counties in California
TU-01675	1999-2000	Marine, Mandy, Dodd, Douglas; California Department of Transportation	Historic Property Survey Report for Pavement Rehabilitation Project and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County; Negative Archaeological Survey Report for Pavement Rehabilitation and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County; Historical Architectural Survey Report and Historic Resource Evaluation Report for Pavement Rehabilitation and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County, California

Table 2. Resources within 0.5 Mile of the Project area

Primary #	Type	Description
P-54-004034	Structure	Visalia Electric Railroad segment
P-54-004615	Structure	Foothill Ditch (originally "Lower Pogue Ditch")

There are no recorded cultural resources within the Project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.

4.2 Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted on April 1, 2025 to conduct a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, and to obtain a list of tribes culturally and geographically affiliated with the Project area (Appendix B). On April 14, 2025, the NAHC indicated there are no Native American traditional cultural places or sacred sites within or near

the Project area. The NAHC provided a list of eight (8) Tulare County Native American groups and individuals affiliated with the local tribes. On April 17, 2025, Ms. Froshour sent letters to all individuals describing the location, and the nature of the Project. In each letter, Ms. Froshour included a request for information regarding prehistoric, historic, ethnographic land use, as well as contemporary Native American values.

Soar Environmental did not receive comments from the Tulare County Native American groups or affiliated individuals regarding the proposed development at the project location.

4.3 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGE REVIEW

A review of the historic aerial imagery reveals that both portions of the Project area has been utilized as agricultural land since 1956. Both Road 220 and Road 300 were also present during this time. The Project area continued to be utilized as agricultural throughout its history, and all the way up to modern day (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC 2020).

5.0 PREVIOUS DISTURBANCES IN THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is located within an area that has undergone moderate anthropogenic modifications, primarily from activities related to agricultural uses. Likewise, the surface of the Project Area has undergone surface grading and intense subsurface disturbance from previous road construction. In some cases, the graded surface could exceed 24 inches (60 centimeters).

In summary, the following previous disturbances have occurred within or immediately adjacent to the Project area:

- Surface grading and maintenance of current and historic roads.
- Surface grading and subsurface disturbance for irrigation construction.
- Subsurface plowing, tilling, and harvesting due to agricultural activities.

6.0 FIELD SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

The basic criteria for determining the presence of prehistoric and historic cultural resources in local urban and rural settings generally includes:

- Presence of flaking debris derived from stone tool manufacturing
- Presence of marine shell and/or other faunal remains
- Occurrence of material culture artifacts

- Surface expressions of cultural features
- Bedrock mortars and related milling features/components
- Soil discolorations or atypical soil manifestations
- Stone/adobe features associated with structural remains
- Diagnostic ceramics derived from Spanish, Mexican, or later periods
- Historic iron and glassware, cans, privy pits, domestic occupational debris

This investigation included the following tasks:

- Review of regional history and previous cultural resource sites and studies within the Project area and the vicinity.
- Examination of archival topographic maps and aerial photographs for the Project area and the general vicinity.
- Request of a California Historical Resources Information System data request of the Project area and 0.50-mile radius through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center.
- Request of a NAHC Sacred Lands File Search for the Project area and 0.50-mile radius. Contact with Tribal groups and individuals as named by the NAHC.
- Evaluate the potential for the proposed Project to result in significant impacts to cultural resources including the potential to impact buried cultural resources with no surface expression.
- Intensive Phase 1 pedestrian survey with transect intervals of 5-10 feet (1-3 meters) of the Project area.
- Develop recommendations associated with impacts to cultural resources following the guidelines as outlined in the Regulatory Setting.

Ms. Froshour conducted the field survey of the Project area on April 15, 2025. The Project area was examined by systematic pedestrian inspection of the ground surface. Transect intervals varied from 5-10 feet (1-3 meters). Disturbances immediately adjacent to the Project area were also examined for primary and secondary surface archaeological indicators.

The Project area is located on Yokohl Creek and is surrounded by lands consisting mostly of agricultural fields (Figures 3 through 6). The surface visibility of the Project area, defined as the approximate percentage of native soils visible during field survey of a given project component,

was estimated at 75-100% within the Project area. The ground surface was covered by approximately 0.3-acres of patchy non-native grasses with scattered shrubs towards the edges of the dry creek.

In summary, no *in situ* cultural resources, or isolated materials potentially derived from primary or secondary archaeological contexts, were observed on the surface of the Project area.

7.0 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

There appears to be a low possibility for subsurface cultural resources in the Project area, based on the results of the archival research, and the fact that no known resources have been detected during previous disturbances within the Project area. There are no recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile buffer radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks. No site testing or mitigation measures are recommended or required, unless previously undiscovered cultural resources are detected during construction.

A potential always exists to encounter previously undetected cultural resources. If cultural materials (prehistoric and/or historic artifacts) are detected during the course of ground disturbances associated with this project, all work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can inventory and assess the significance of the find(s). At that point, the resources shall be evaluated in accordance with the procedures set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 21083.2, sections 15064.5 and 15126.4, and the criteria regarding resource eligibility to the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR).

If a resource cannot be avoided, then the resource must be examined vis-à-vis the provisions in the County Guidelines, and CEQA Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4 and the eligibility criteria as an "important" or "unique archaeological resource," as appropriate. In many cases, determination of a resource's eligibility can only be made through extensive research and archaeological testing. Human remains are addressed by State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. This code section states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of the origin and disposition of the remains, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric/ethnohistoric Native American remains, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 24 hours of notification, and may potentially recommend scientific removal, reburial, nondestructive analysis of human remains, and/or specific treatment of associated burial goods.

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FIGURES

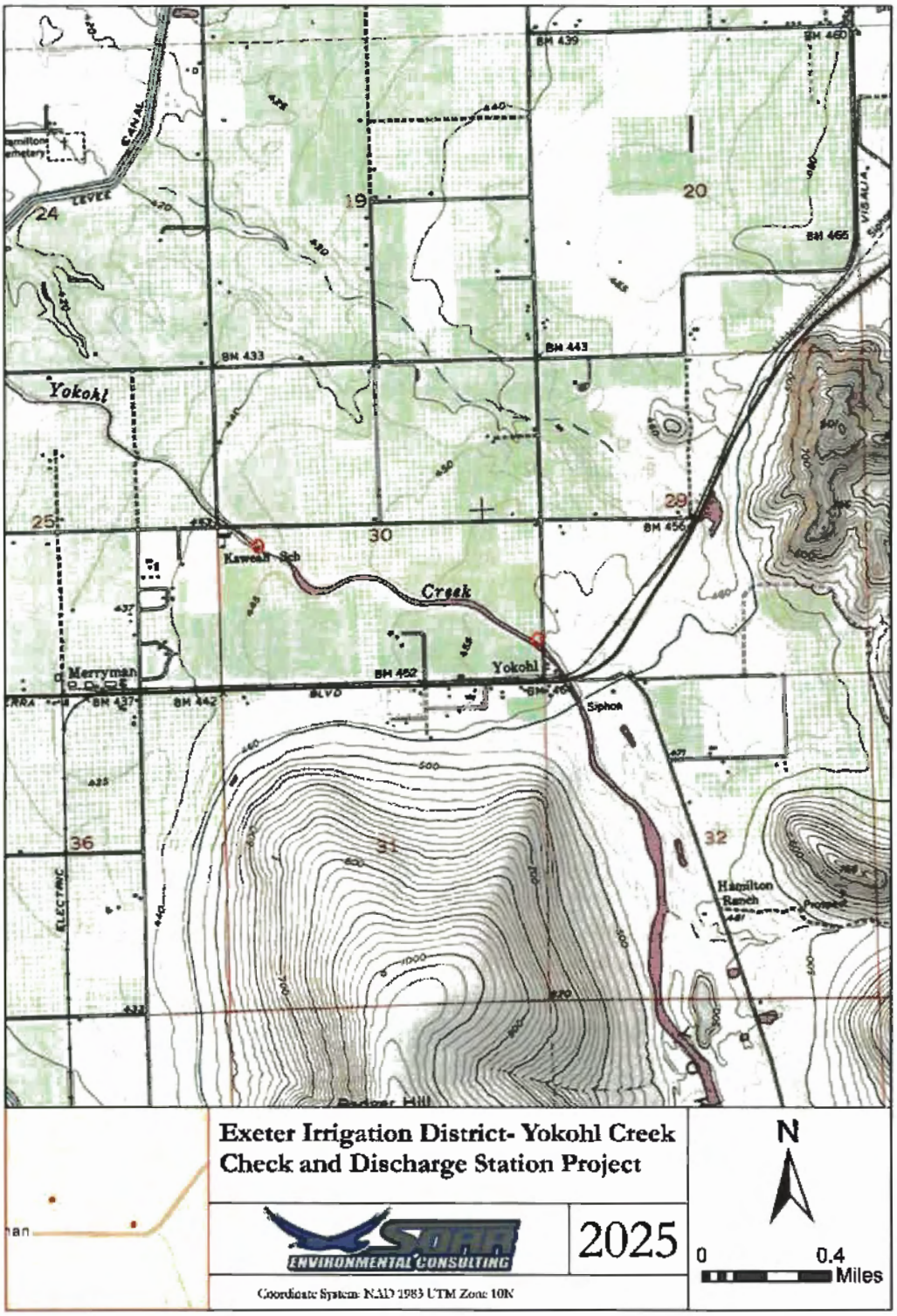
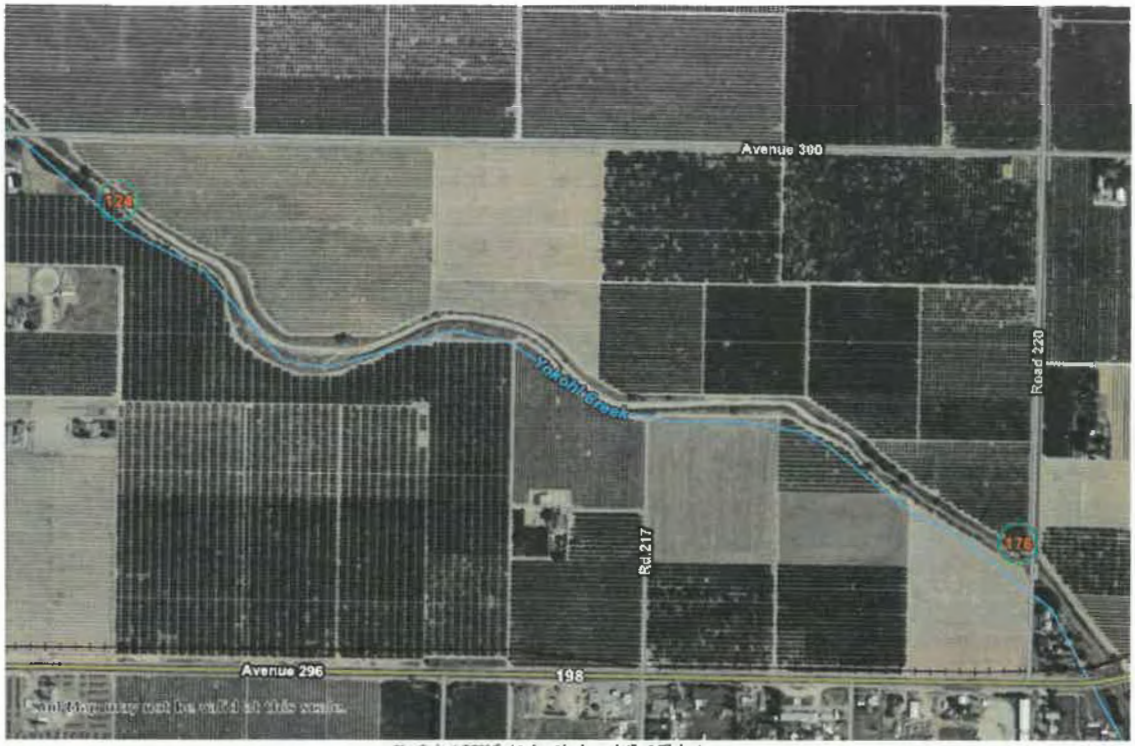


Figure 1— Project Location, adapted from USGS 7.5' series Rocky Hill, California, 1951



Map Scale: 1:7,860 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

0 100 200 400 600 Feet

0 350 700 1400 2100

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 11N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
124	Exeter loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0.7	50.0%
176	Yettem sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0.7	50.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		**1.4**	**100.0%**

Figure 2— Soil Types Occurring in the Project area



Figure 3— Overview from northwest edge of proposed check structure, facing southeast



Figure 4— Overview from southeast edge of proposed check structure, facing northwest



Figure 5— Overview from south-southeast edge of proposed pipeline discharge station, facing northwest



Figure 6— Overview from northeast edge upstream of proposed pipeline discharge station, facing southwest

APPENDIX A

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center Records Search

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California

Cultural Resources Records Search Request

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022
Tel: 661.654.2289
ssjvic@csub.edu

RE: Phase 1 CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment Report for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Celeste,

Please find attached one project location map and shapefiles for the proposed irrigation development located between Ave 296 and Ave 300 in Exeter, CA 93221, Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment Report, and the SSJVIC/CHRIS Data Request Form. The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

Please conduct a normal rate records search, including no more than a 0.50-mile radius buffer, of the project location illustrated on the attached map. Please provide the following information:

- PDF of all site records and associated survey reports (Note: PDF/photocopy only those site reports that appear to be pertinent to the immediate project location and search area; surveys and other site/resources can be listed, with full reports requested later if necessary).
- A list of all previous sites and surveys within the search area.
- A confirmation of any sites, structures, or linear features on local, state, and/or federal registers/lists in the project location or the 0.50-mile search area that are not yet mapped on the GIS.

If the normal records search costs will exceed $500.00, or if you have any questions or comments, please e-mail me at hfroshour@soarhere.com. Please contact me as soon as possible if there will be any delays with the records search, as the client may request an expedited search. Please email the encrypted search results in PDF format to: hfroshour@soarhere.com.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance with this project.

Most Sincerely,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Sr. Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.
207.232.8912

California Historical Resources Information System

CHRIS Data Request Form

ACCESS AND USE AGREEMENT NO.: 515.00 **IC FILE NO.:** _____

To: Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center

Print Name: Heather Froshour Date: 04/01/2025

Affiliation: Soar Environmental Consulting Inc.

Address: 1322 East Shaw Ave. Suite 400

City: Fresno State: CA Zip: 93710

Phone: (559)547-8884 Fax: _____ Email: hfroshour@soarhere.com

Billing Address (if different than above): _____

Billing Email: AccountsPayable@soarhere.com Billing Phone: _____

Project Name / Reference: Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA

Project Street Address: intersection of Ave 296 & Rd 220; & 485 feet S of Ave 300

County or Counties: Tulare

Township/Range/UTMs: T18S, R27E, S30; 36.332071, -119.096795 & 36.327238, -119.081284

USGS 7.5' Quad(s): Tulare California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad

PRIORITY RESPONSE (Additional Fee): yes ☐ / no ☒

TOTAL FEE NOT TO EXCEED: $ 500.00
(If blank, the Information Center will contact you if the fee is expected to exceed $1,000.00)

Special Instructions:

Information Center Use Only

Date of CHRIS Data Provided for this Request: _____

Confidential Data Included in Response: yes ☐ / no ☐

Notes: _____

California Historical Resources Information System

CHRIS Data Request Form

Mark the request form as needed. Attach a PDF of your project area (with the radius if applicable) mapped on a 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle to scale 1:24000 ratio 1:1 neither enlarged nor reduced and include a shapefile of your project area, if available. Shapefiles are the current CHRIS standard for submitting digital spatial data for your project area or radius. **Check with the appropriate IC for current availability of digital data products.**

- Documents will be provided in PDF format. Paper copies will only be provided if PDFs are not available at the time of the request or under specially arranged circumstances.
- Location information will be provided as a digital map product (Custom Maps or GIS data) unless the area has not yet been digitized. In such circumstances, the IC may provide hand drawn maps.
- In addition to the $150/hr. staff time fee, client will be charged the Custom Map fee when GIS is required to complete the request [e.g., a map printout or map image/PDF is requested and no GIS Data is requested, or an electronic product is requested (derived from GIS data) but no mapping is requested].

For product fees, see the CHRIS IC Fee Structure on the OHP website.

1. **Map Format Choice:**

Select One: Custom GIS Maps ☒ GIS Data ☐ Custom GIS Maps **and** GIS Data ☐ No Maps ☐

Any selection below left unmarked will be considered a "no. "

Location Information:

	Within project area	Within 0.5 mi. radius
ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Locations[1]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Locations	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Report Locations[1]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
"Other" Report Locations[2]	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒

3. **Database Information:**
(contact the IC for product examples, or visit the SSJVIC website for examples)

	Within project area	Within 0.5 mi. radius
ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Database[1]		
List (PDF format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Detail (PDF format)	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
Excel Spreadsheet	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Database		
List (PDF format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Detail (PDF format)	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
Excel Spreadsheet	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
Report Database[1]		
List (PDF format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Detail (PDF format)	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
Excel Spreadsheet	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒
Include "Other" Reports [2]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☐ / no ☒

4. **Document PDFs** (paper copy only upon request):

	Within project area	Within 0.5 mi. radius
ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Records[1]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☐ / no ☒
NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL Resource Records	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☐ / no ☒
Reports[1]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☐ / no ☒
"Other" Reports[2]	yes ☐ / no ☒	yes ☐ / no ☒

CHRIS Data Request Form

5. Eligibility Listings and Documentation:

	Within project area	Within 0.5 mi. radius
OHP Built Environment Resources Directory[3]:		
Directory listing only (Excel format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Associated documentation[4]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
OHP Archaeological Resources Directory[1,5]:		
Directory listing only (Excel format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Associated documentation[4]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
***California Inventory of Historic Resources* (1976):**		
Directory listing only (PDF format)	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐
Associated documentation[4]	yes ☒ / no ☐	yes ☒ / no ☐

6. Additional Information:

The following sources of information may be available through the Information Center. However, several of these sources are now available on the OHP website and can be accessed directly. The Office of Historic Preservation makes no guarantees about the availability, completeness, or accuracy of the information provided through these sources. Indicate below if the Information Center should review and provide documentation (if available) of any of the following sources as part of this request.

Caltrans Bridge Survey	yes ☒ / no ☐
Ethnographic Information	yes ☒ / no ☐
Historical Literature	yes ☒ / no ☐
Historical Maps	yes ☒ / no ☐
Local Inventories	yes ☒ / no ☐
GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps	yes ☒ / no ☐
Shipwreck Inventory	yes ☐ / no ☒
Soil Survey Maps	yes ☐ / no ☒

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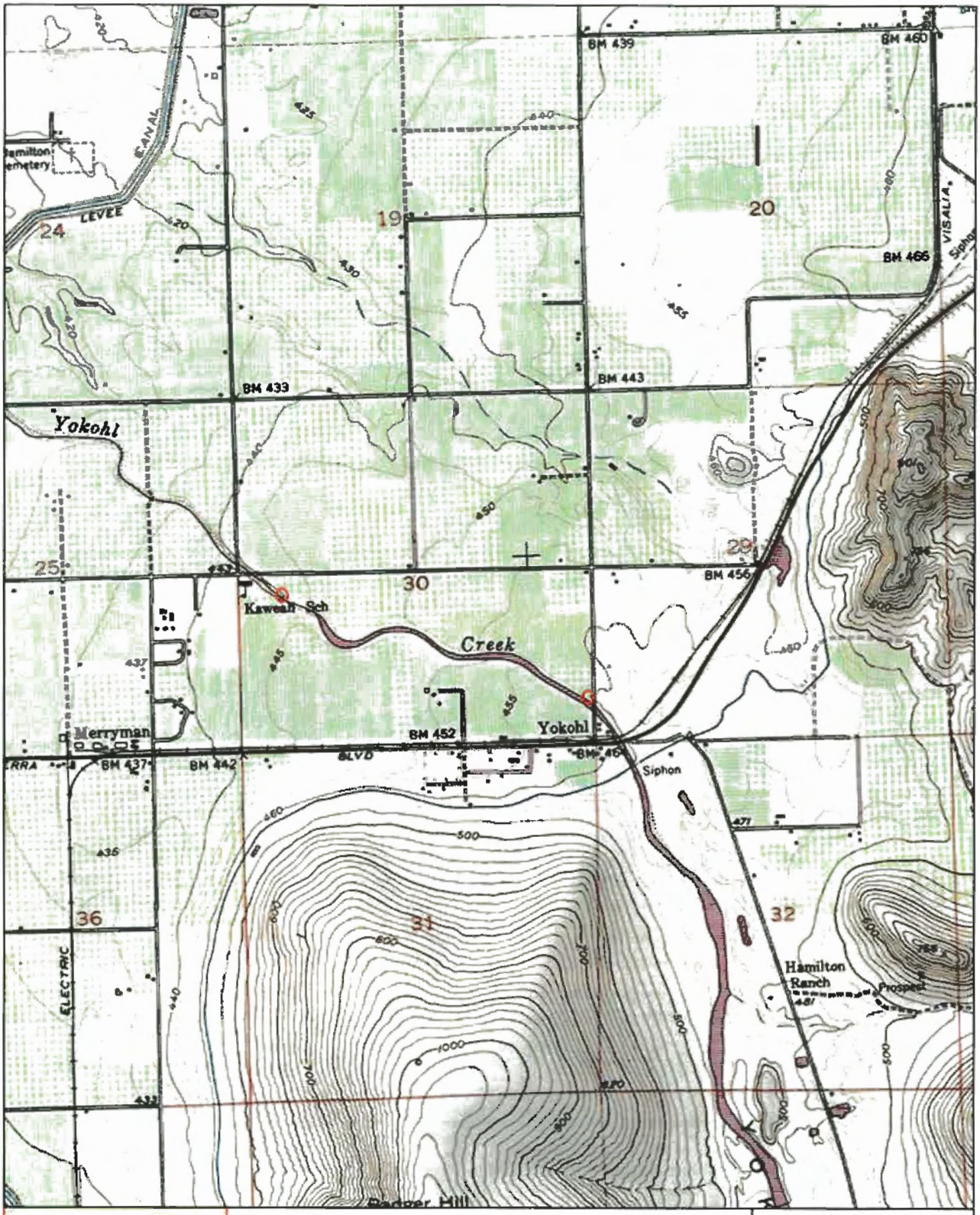
[1] In order to receive archaeological information, requestor must meet qualifications as specified in Section III of the current version of the California Historical Resources Information System Information Center Rules of Operation Manual and be identified as an Authorized User or Conditional User under an active CHRIS Access and Use Agreement.

[2] "Other" Reports GIS layer consists of report study areas for which the report content is almost entirely non-fieldwork related (e.g., local/regional history, or overview) and/or for which the presentation of the study area boundary may or may not add value to a record search.

[3] Provided as Excel spreadsheets with no cost for the rows; the only cost for this component is IC staff time. Includes, but not limited to, information regarding National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest, and historic building surveys. Previously known as the HRI and then as the HPD, it is now known as the Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). The Office of Historic Preservation compiles this documentation and it is the source of the official status codes for evaluated resources.

[4] Associated documentation will vary by resource. Contact the IC for further details.

[5] Provided as Excel spreadsheets with no cost for the rows; the only cost for this component is IC staff time. Previously known as the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, now it is known as the Archaeological Resources Directory (ARD). The Office of Historic Preservation compiles this documentation and it is the source of the official status codes for evaluated resources.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

SOAR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

2025

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

N

0 0.4 Miles

California Historical Resources Information System



Fresno
Inyo
Kern
Kings
Madera
Tulare

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72 DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289
Email: ssjvic@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic

4/14/2025

Heather Froshour
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.
1322 East Shaw Ave., Suite 400
Fresno, CA 93710

Re: Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA
Records Search File No.: 25-148

The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on Rocky Hill 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:	None
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-54-004034, 004615
Reports within project area:	None
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	TU-00207, 00261, 01320, 01498, 01583, 01675

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.glorecords.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

Resource List

SSJVIC Record Search 25-148

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-54-004034		Resource Name - Visalia Electric Railroad; OHP PRN - FHWA010730A; OHP PRN - FHWA000411B; OHP Property Number - 128220; OTIS Resource Number - 570144	Structure	Historic	AH07; HP11	1999 (Douglas W. Dodd, Caltrans); 2000 (Daniel Abeyta, Office of Historic Preservation); 2001 (Kelly Hobbs, Caltrans); 2001 (Michael G. Ritchie, US Department of Transportation); 2001 (Dr. Knox Mellon, Office of Historic Preservation); 2007 (M. O'Neill, M. Walton, Pacific Legacy); 2017 (Sandra Speas, Victoria Harvey, Stantec Consulting); 2020 (R. Azpitarte, ASM Affiliates, Inc.)	TU-01675, TU-01991
P-54-004615	CA-TUL-002874H	Other - JTU-053; Resource Name - Foothill Ditch (orignially "Lower Pogue Ditch"); OHP Property Number - 124973; OTIS Resource Number - 574621	Structure	Historic	HP20	1999 (Douglas W. Dodd, Caltrans); 2009 (Steven J. Melvin, Rebecca Flores, JRP Historical Consulting, LLC.); 2019 (R. Azpitarte, ASM Affiliates, Inc.)	TU-01887

Report List

SSJVIC Record Search 25-148

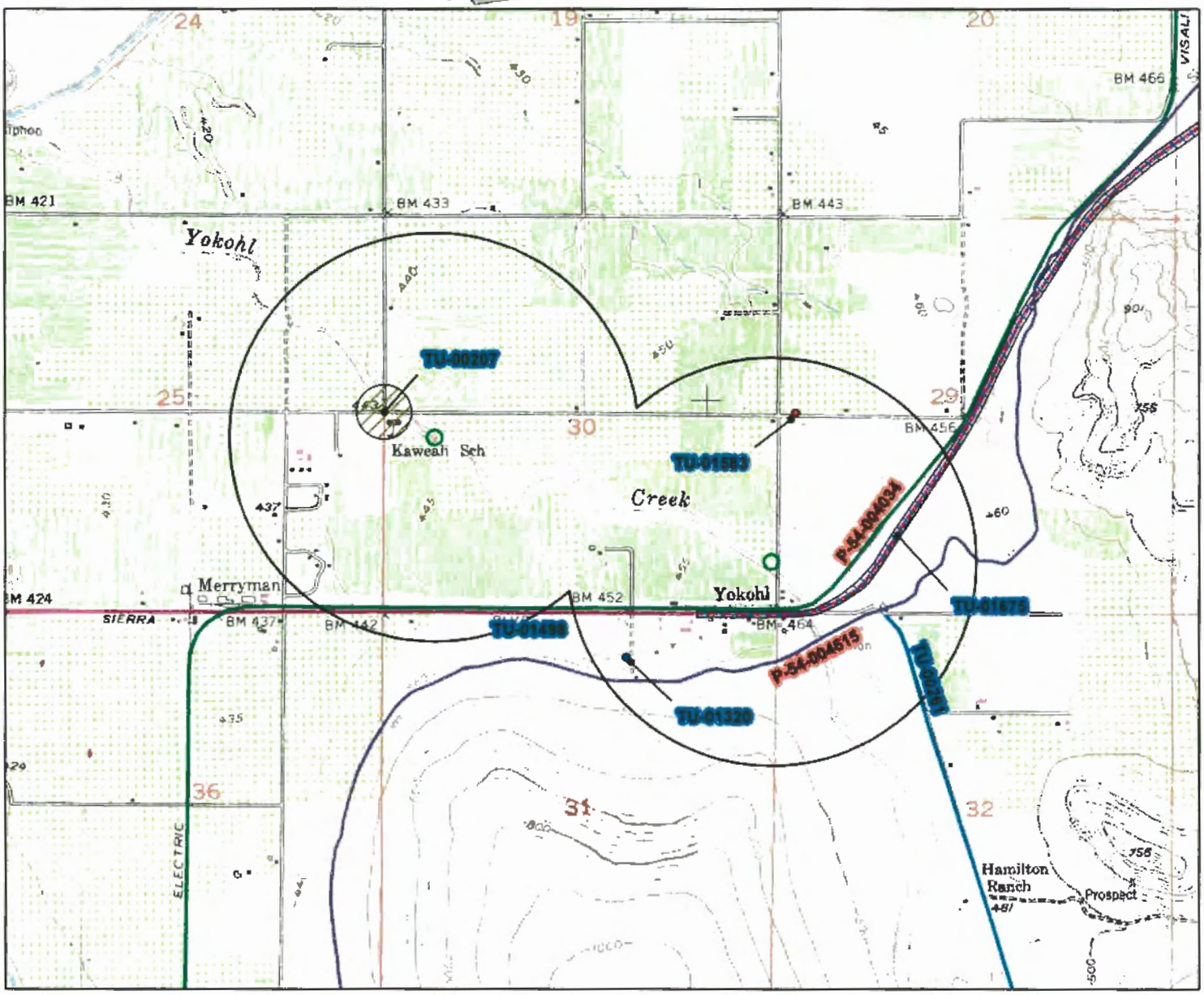
Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
TU-00207		1978	Cantwell, R.J.	Archaeological and Historical Survey Report for Bridge Number A300 - 212	Individual Consultant	
TU-00261		1981	Cantwell, R.J.	Archeological and Historical Survey Report for M 296 from Diagonal 211 to State Highway 198, Tulare County	Individual Consultant	
TU-01320		2006	Pollock, Katherine H.	Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project: Archaeological Survey of 28 Pole Locations on the Roeding, Gill, Rim, Tetley, Elster, Soda Springs 12 kV and Sawpit 33 kV Transmission Lines, San Bernardino and Tulare Counties, California	Statistical Research, Inc.	
TU-01498	Submitter - Contract No. 06A1106; Submitter - Expenditure Authorization No. 06-0A7408	2010	Leach-Palm, Laura, Brandy, Paul, King, Jay, Mikkelsen, Pat, Seil, Libby, Hartman, Lindsay, and Bradeen, Jill	Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 6 Rural Conventional Highways in Fresno, Western Kern, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties.	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	54-000580, 54-001091, 54-001479, 54-004595, 54-004611, 54-004614, 54-004619, 54-004629, 54-004630
TU-01583	Submitter - WO 6051-4800 F4809 (10); Submitter - WO 6051-4800 P-4806 (7); Submitter - WO 6053-4800 0-4878 (1)	2010	Orfila, Rebecca S.	Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Replacement of Eighteen Deteriorated Power Poles on the Booster 12 kV, Bowen 12 kV, Cattle 12 kV, El Mirador 12 kV, Isabella 12 kV, Nickerson 12 kV, Roeding 12 kV, Round Valley 12 kV, and Zante 12 kV Circuits in Kern and Tulare Counties in California	RSO Consulting, Archaeological and Historical Resource Management	
TU-01675	Caltrans - 06-TUL-198, PM 21.5/26.7 EA 06-339300	2000	Marine, Mandy	Historic Property Survey Report for Pavement Rehabliitation Project and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County	California Department of Transportation	54-004034, 54-005207, 54-005208, 54-005209
TU-01675A		1999	Marine, Mandy	Negative Archaeological Survey Report for Pavement Rehabilitation and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County	Cal Trans	
TU-01675B		1999	Dodd, Douglas	Historical Architectural Survey Report and Historic Resource Evaluation Report for Pavement Rehabilitation and Shoulder Widening on State Route 198 Near Lemoncove, Tulare County, California	Cal Trans	

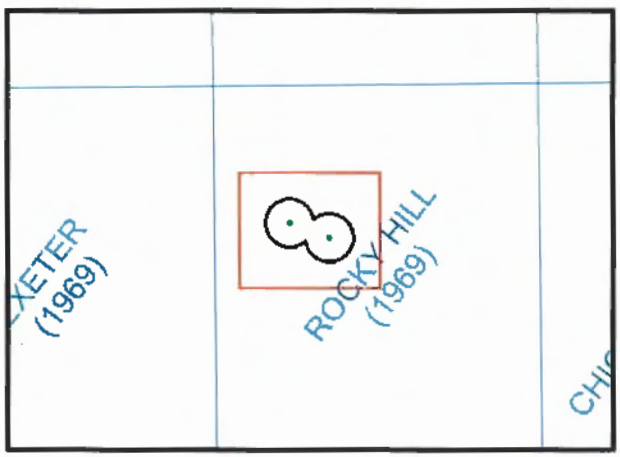
California
Historical
Resources
Information
System



Fresno
Inyo
Kern
Kings
Madera
Tulare

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72 DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289
Email: ssjvic@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic





May depict confidential cultural resource locations. Do not distribute.
Map pages depicting no data have been excluded.

Project Area
Record Search radius

N
W E
S

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles
0 0.150.3 0.6 Kilometers

SSJV Information Center Record Search 25-148
Requester: Heather Froshour, Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Project Name: Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA
USGS 7.5' Quad(s): Rocky Hill
County: Tulare

APPENDIX B

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Tel: 916.373.3710
Fax: 916.373.5471
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

RE: Phase I CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment Report for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached one project location map for the irrigation development located between Ave 296 and Ave 300 in Exeter, CA 93221, Phase I Cultural Resource Desktop Report, and the Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request. The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

This letter is intended to inform you of the project and to help ensure compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). As part of the Cultural Resources Study for the project, we are requesting your insights on potential Native American cultural properties and resources in and/or near the project.

Please respond at your earliest convenience if you have any information to consider for this study.

Also, we would greatly appreciate if you could review the attached map and indicate to us if there are any concerns you might have or input regarding potentially sensitive cultural heritage values in the project area and vicinity.

Feel free to contact me by email at hfroshour@soarhere.com or phone at 207.232.8912.

Most Sincerely,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Sr. Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.
207.232.8912

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA

County: Tulare

USGS Quadrangle Name: Tulare, California (2021)

Township: 18S **Range:** 27E **Section(s):** 30

Company/Firm/Agency: Soar Environmental Consulting Inc.

Street Address: 1322 East Shaw Ave. Suite 400

City: Fresno **Zip:** 93710

Phone: (559)547-8884

Fax:

Email: hfroshour@soarhere.com

Project Description:

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Type of List Requested

■ **CEQA Tribal Consultation List (AB 52)** – ***Per Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (b), (d), (e) and 21080.3.2***

☐ **General Plan (SB 18)** - ***Per Government Code § 65352.3.***

Local Action Type:

☐ **General Plan** ☐ **General Plan Element** ☐ **General Plan Amendment**

☐ **Specific Plan** ☐ **Specific Plan Amendment** ☐ **Pre-planning Outreach Activity**

Required Information

Project Title: Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA

Local Government/Lead Agency: Soar Environmental Consulting Inc.

Contact Person: Heather Froshour

Street Address: 1322 East Shaw Ave. Suite 400

City: Fresno **Zip:** 93710

Phone: (559)547-8884 **Fax:**

Email: hfroshour@soarhere.com

Specific Area Subject to Proposed Action

County: Tulare **City/Community:** Exeter

Project Description:

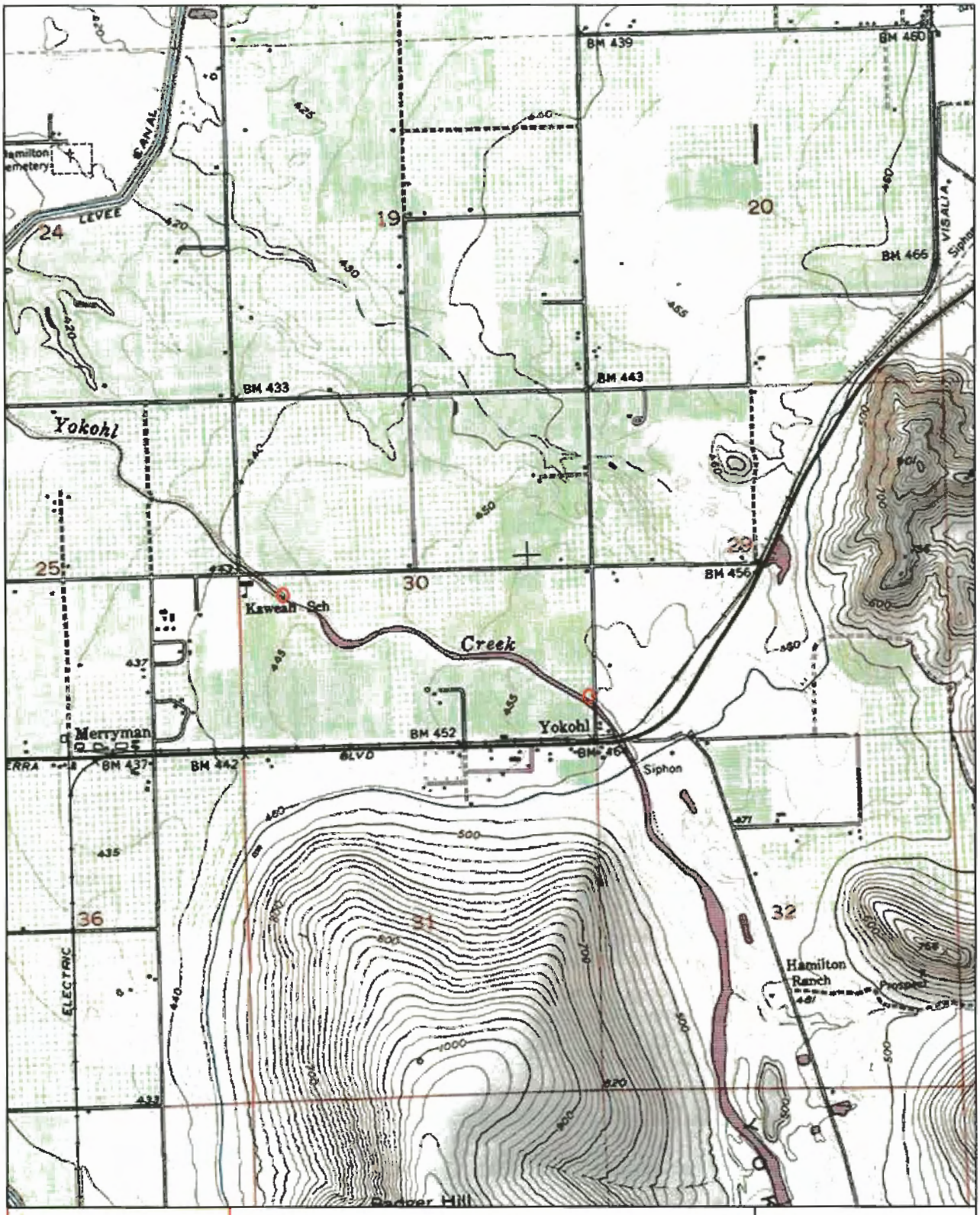
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Additional Request

■ **Sacred Lands File Search** - ***Required Information:***

USGS Quadrangle Name(s): Tulare California (2021) 7.5' Series Quad

Township: 18S **Range:** 27E **Section(s):** 30



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

SOAR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

2025

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

N

0 0.4 Miles

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — Gavin Newsom, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseño Indians

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
STEVEN QUINN

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

April 2, 2025

Heather Froshour
Soar Environmental Consulting Inc.

Via Email to: hfroshour@soarhere.com

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA Project, Tulare County

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: melina.carlos@nahc.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Melina Carlos

Melina Carlos
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Tulare County
4/2/2025

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Tulare	Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians	N	Delia Dominguez, Chairperson	115 Radio Street Bakersfield, CA, 93305	(626) 339-6785		2ddominguez@gmail.com	Kitanemuk Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Los Angeles,Madera,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Samantha McCarty, Cultural Specialist II	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 693-3440		smccarty@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov	Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Merced,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	10/3/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Shana Powers, THPO	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 423-3600			Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Merced,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	10/3/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Nichole Escalon, Cultural Specialist I	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 924-1278			Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Merced,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	10/3/2023
	Table Mountain Rancheria	F	Michelle Heredia-Cordova, Chairperson	P.O. Box 410 Friant, CA, 93626	(559) 822-2587	(559) 822-2693	mhcordova@tmr.org	Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Madera,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	12/21/2023
	Traditional Choinumni Tribe	N	David Alvarez, Chairperson	2415 E. Houston Avenue Fresno, CA, 93720	(559) 217-0396	(559) 292-5057	davealvarez@sbcglobal.net	Foothill Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Madera,Tulare	
	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	
	Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	N	Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson	1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA, 93906	(831) 443-9702		kwood8934@aol.com	Foothill Yokut Mono	Alameda,Calaveras,Contra Costa,Fresno,Inyo,Kings,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Monterey,San Benito,San	6/19/2025

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 Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Phase I Exeter Irrigation District Yokohl CRA Project, Tulare County.

Record: PRC-2023-001757
Report Type: ABS: GIS
Counties: Tulare
NAHC Group: All

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA, 93305
Phone: (626) 339-6785
2deedominguez@gmail.com

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Delia Dominguez, Chairperson,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

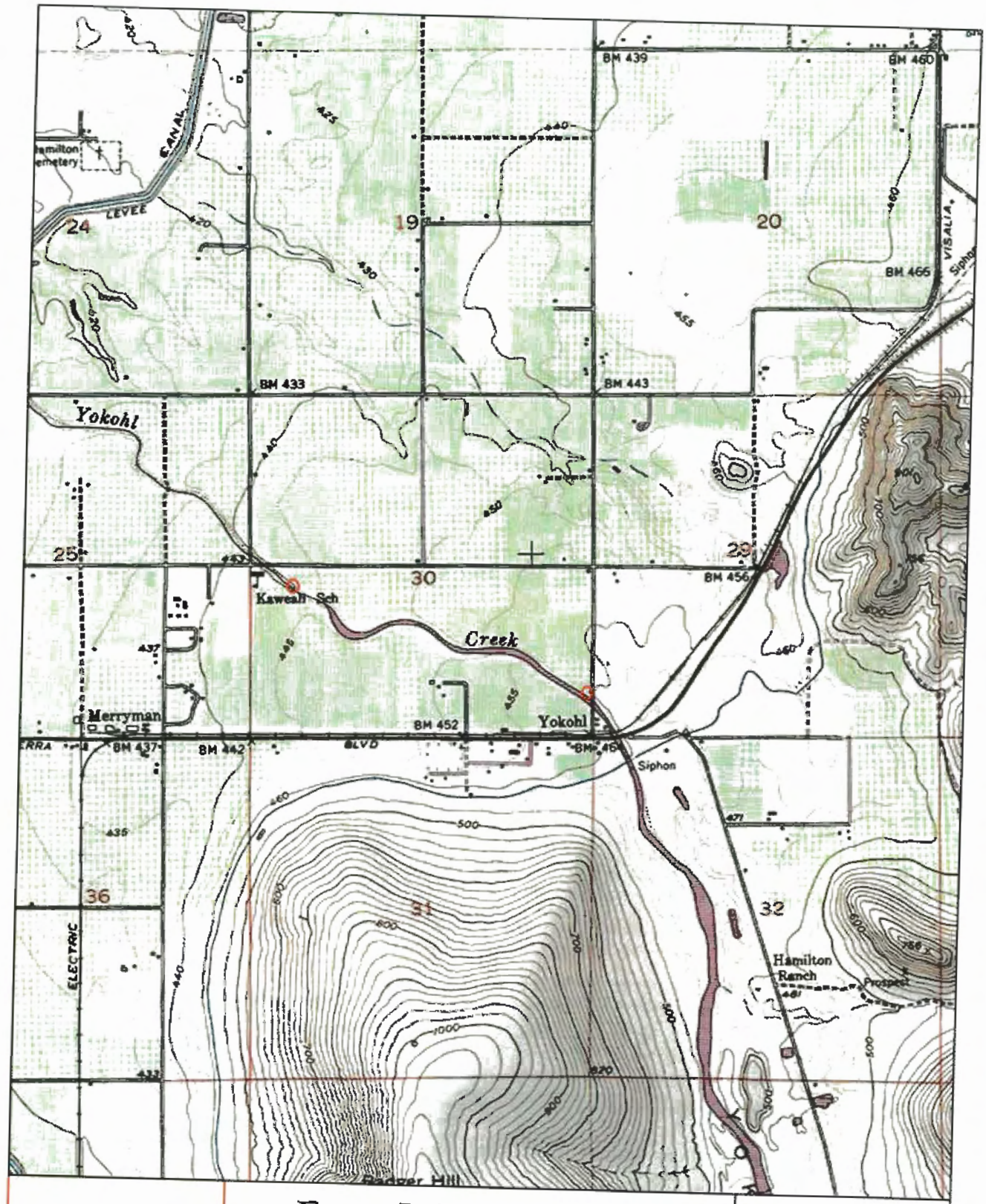
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

Soar contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on April 1, 2025. On April 14, 2025, SSJVIC results reported no historic cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites are known within the project area. No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Two (2) historic cultural resources were identified within the ½-mile search radius of the project area. No historic properties on federal, state, or local inventories have been evaluated within the project area. Six (6) previous surveys have been conducted within a ½-mile radius of the project area. On April 17, 2025, Soar conducted an archeological pedestrian field survey of the project area. **No cultural resources** were identified during the field survey.

Soar is contacting you to determine if you have any concerns regarding the proposed development. Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d), you have **30 days** from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with Soar. Should you have any concerns or knowledge of cultural resources in the specific project area, please contact me at hfroshour@soarhere.com or at (207) 232-8912 at your earliest convenience. If Soar does not hear from you within this time, we shall assume that you have no comments regarding this project.

Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District-Yokohl

Fresno County Dept. PWP, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Copyright© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

2025

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

N

0 0.4 Miles

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA, 93245
Phone: (559) 924-1278

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Nichole Escalon, Cultural Specialist I,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

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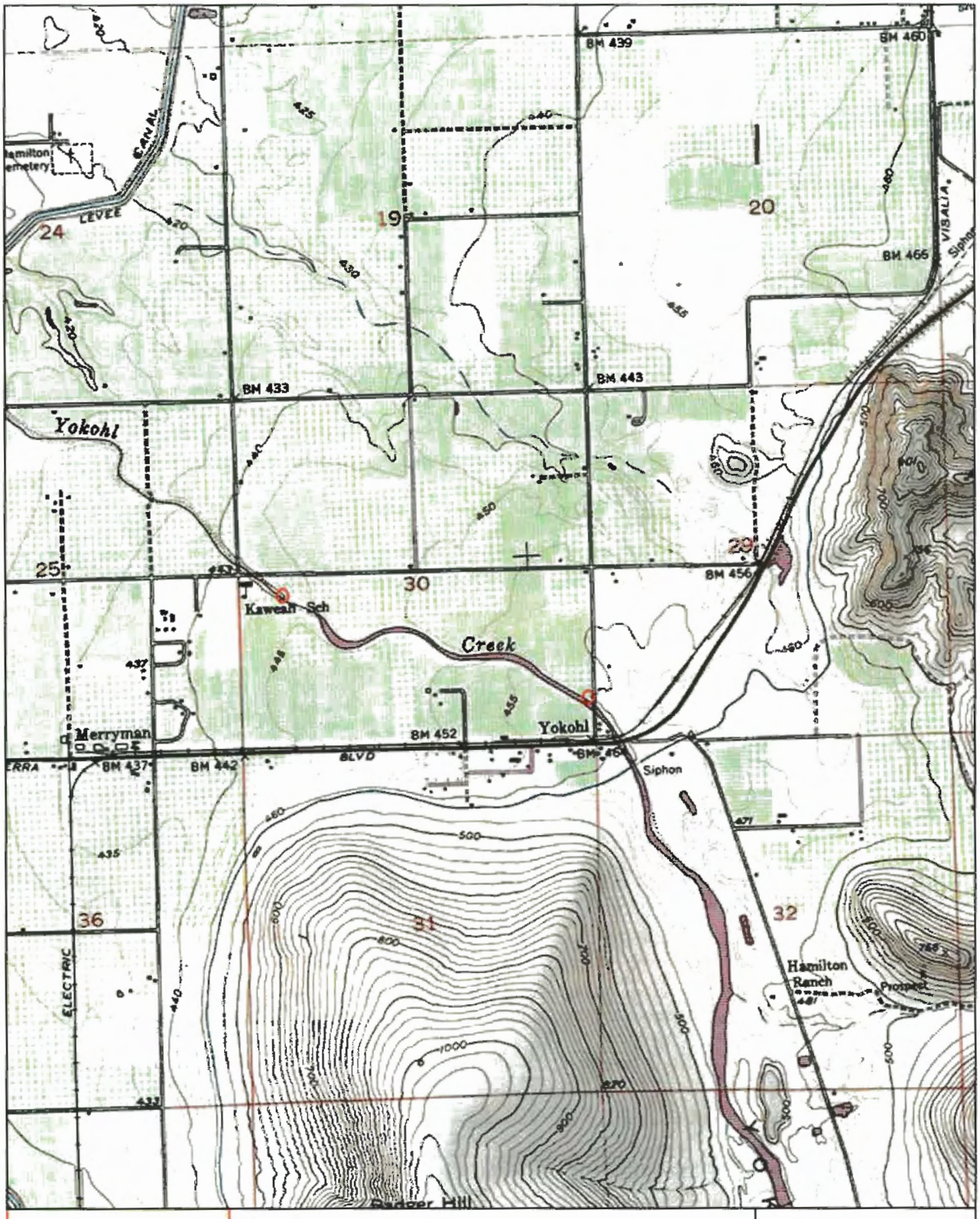
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Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

Fresno County Dept. PWP, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

2025

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

N

0 0.4 Miles

Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA, 93245
Phone: (559) 633-3440
smccarty@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Samantha McCarty, Cultural Specialist II,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

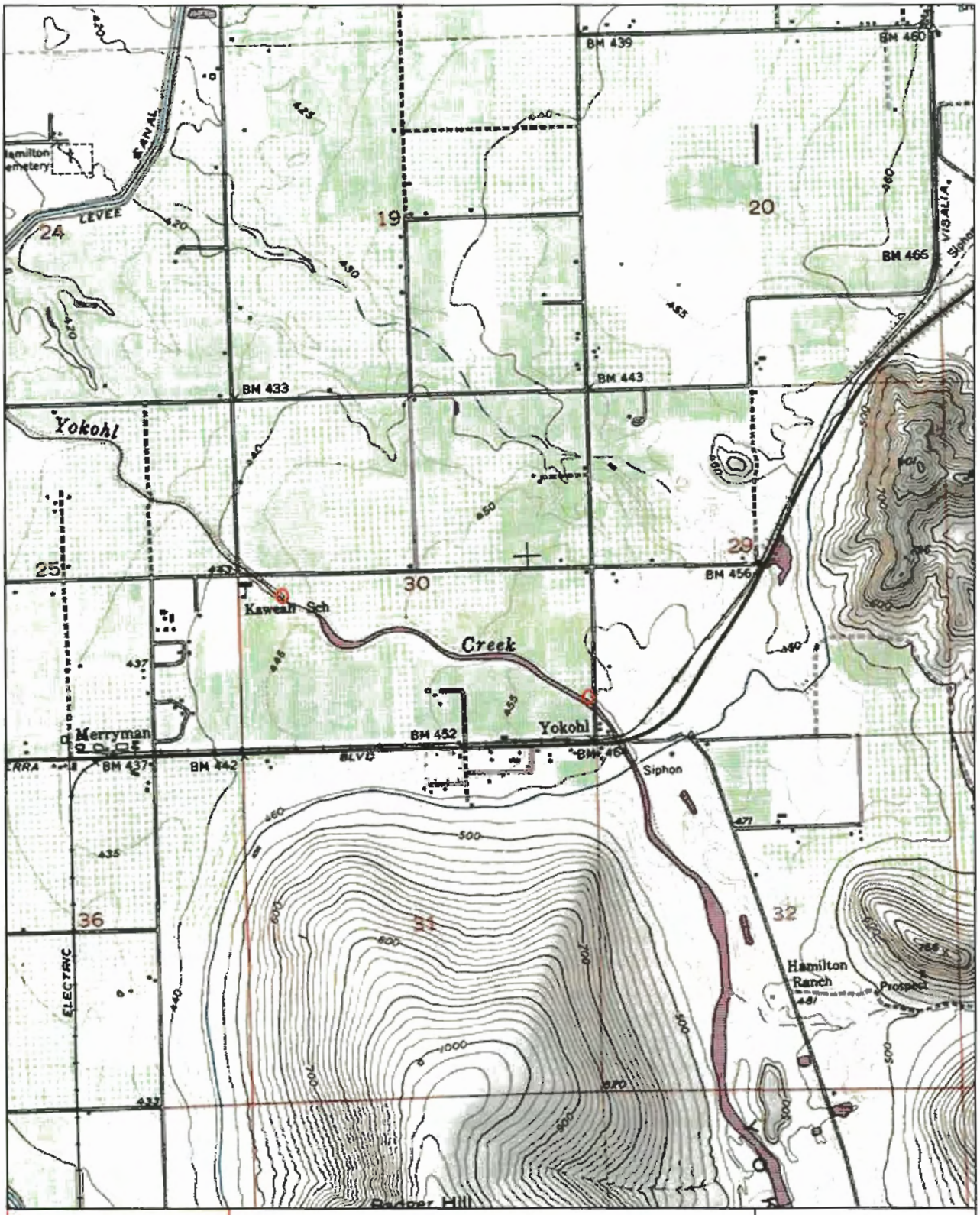
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

Soar contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on April 1, 2025. On April 14, 2025, SSJVIC results reported no historic cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites are known within the project area. No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Two (2) historic cultural resources were identified within the ½-mile search radius of the project area. No historic properties on federal, state, or local inventories have been evaluated within the project area. Six (6) previous surveys have been conducted within a ½-mile radius of the project area. On April 17, 2025, Soar conducted an archeological pedestrian field survey of the project area. **No cultural resources** were identified during the field survey.

Soar is contacting you to determine if you have any concerns regarding the proposed development. Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d), you have **30 days** from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with Soar. Should you have any concerns or knowledge of cultural resources in the specific project area, please contact me at hfroshour@soarhere.com or at (207) 232-8912 at your earliest convenience. If Soar does not hear from you within this time, we *shall assume that you have no* comments regarding this project.

Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

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2025

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Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA, 93245
Phone: (559) 423-3900

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Shana Powers, THPO,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

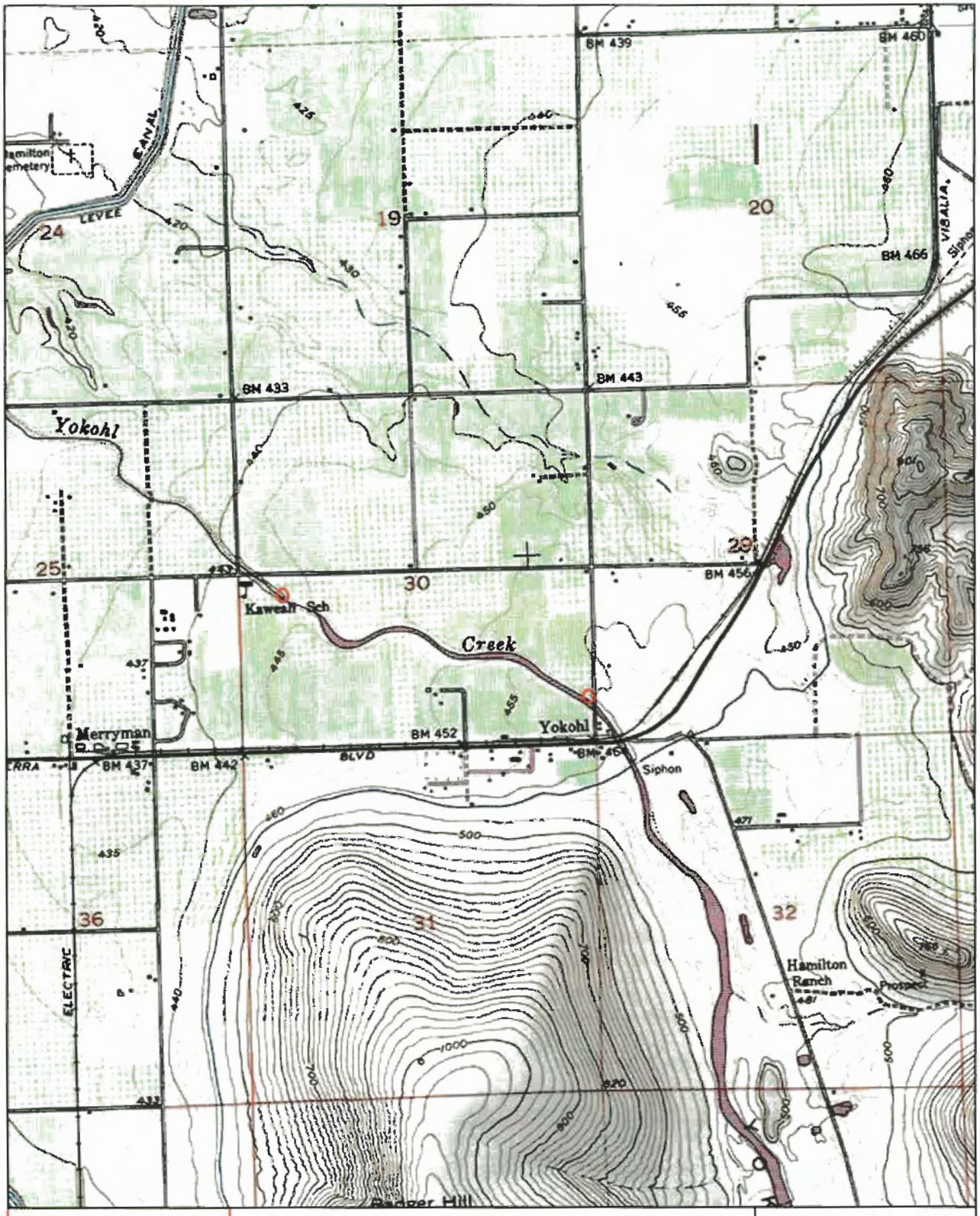
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

Soar contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on April 1, 2025. On April 14, 2025, SSJVIC results reported no historic cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites are known within the project area. No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Two (2) historic cultural resources were identified within the ½-mile search radius of the project area. No historic properties on federal, state, or local inventories have been evaluated within the project area. Six (6) previous surveys have been conducted within a ½-mile radius of the project area. On April 17, 2025, Soar conducted an archeological pedestrian field survey of the project area. **No cultural resources** were identified during the field survey.

Soar is contacting you to determine if you have any concerns regarding the proposed development. Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d), you have **30 days** from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with Soar. Should you have any concerns or knowledge of cultural resources in the specific project area, please contact me at hfroshour@soarhere.com or at (207) 232-8912 at your earliest convenience. If Soar does not hear from you within this time, we shall assume that you have no comments regarding this project.

Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

Fresno County Dept. PWT, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Copyright© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

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Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Table Mountain Rancheria
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA, 93626
Phone: (559) 822-2587
mhcordova@tmr.org

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Michelle Heredia-Cordova, Chairperson,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

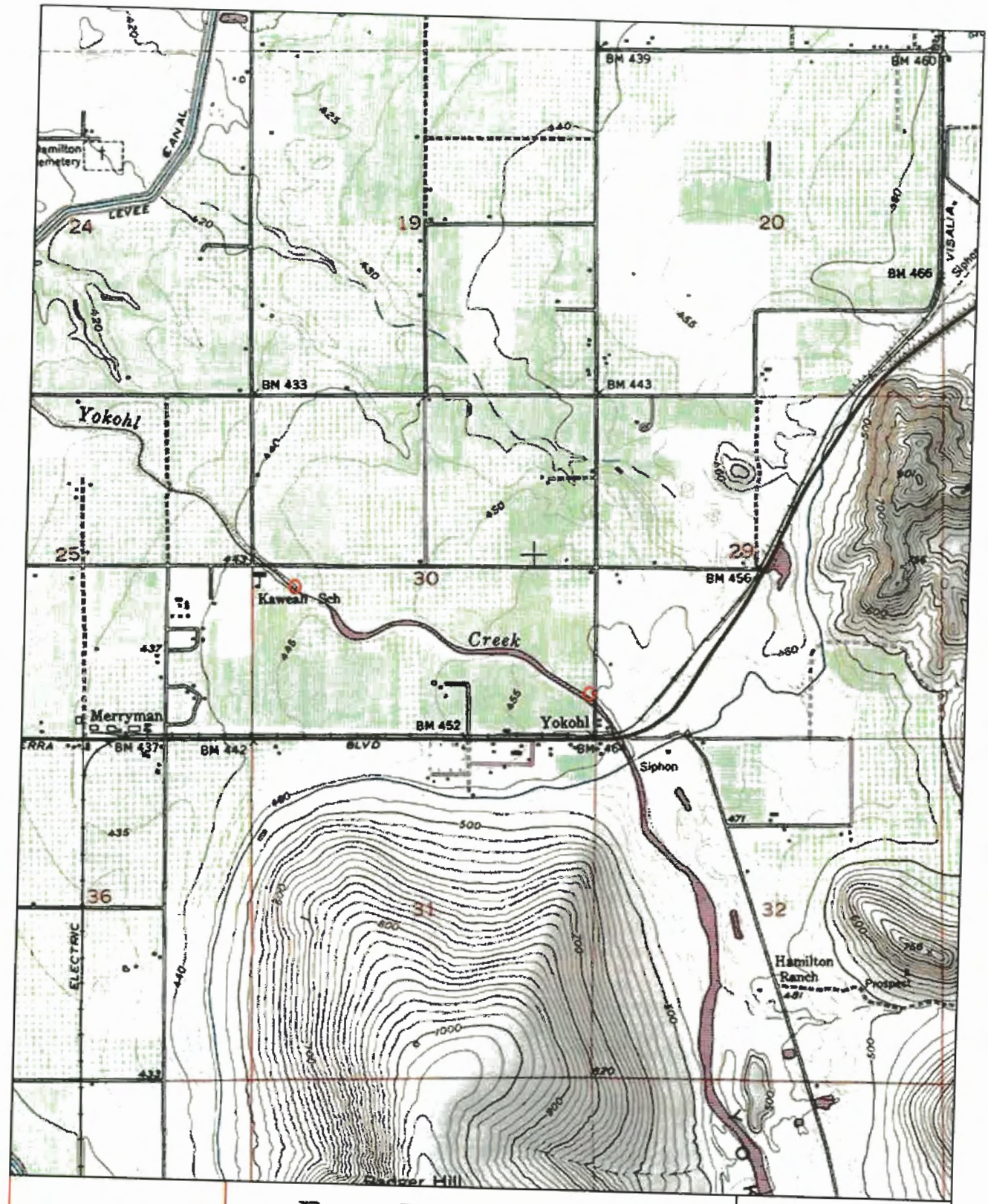
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

Soar contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on April 1, 2025. On April 14, 2025, SSJVIC results reported no historic cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites are known within the project area. No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Two (2) historic cultural resources were identified within the ½-mile search radius of the project area. No historic properties on federal, state, or local inventories have been evaluated within the project area. Six (6) previous surveys have been conducted within a ½-mile radius of the project area. On April 17, 2025, Soar conducted an archeological pedestrian field survey of the project area. **No cultural resources** were identified during the field survey.

Soar is contacting you to determine if you have any concerns regarding the proposed development. Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d), you have **30 days** from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, *in writing, with Soar.* Should you have any concerns or knowledge of cultural resources in the specific project area, please contact me at hfroshour@soarhere.com or at (207) 232-8912 at your earliest convenience. If Soar does not hear from you within this time, we shall assume that you have no comments regarding this project.

Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

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Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Traditional Choinumni Tribe
2415 E. Houston Avenue
Fresno, CA, 93720
Phone: (559) 217-0396
davealvarez@sbcglobal.net

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear David Alvarez, Chairperson,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

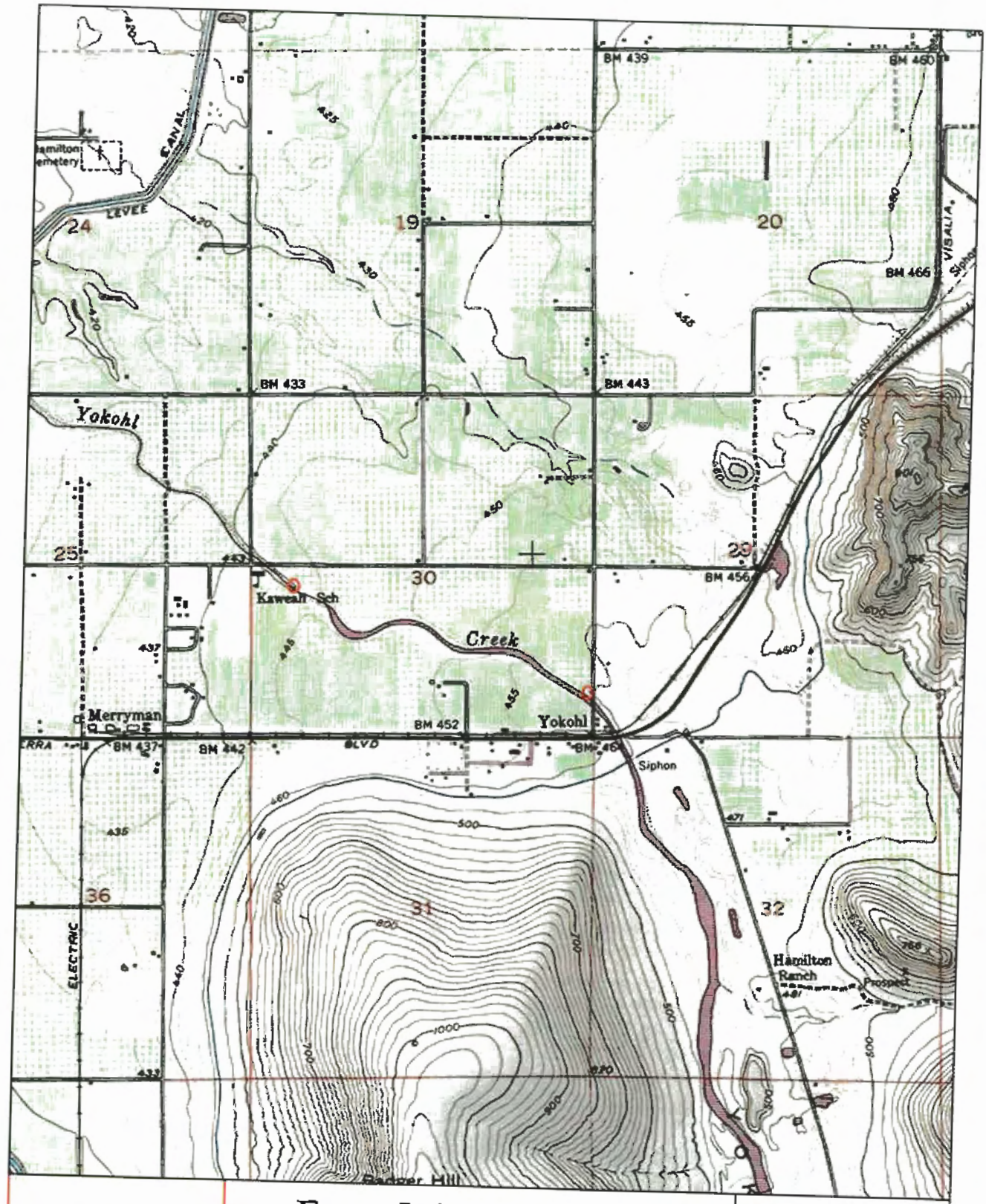
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

Soar contacted the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on April 1, 2025. On April 14, 2025, SSJVIC results reported no historic cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites are known within the project area. No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area. Two (2) historic cultural resources were identified within the ½-mile search radius of the project area. No historic properties on federal, state, or local inventories have been evaluated within the project area. Six (6) previous surveys have been conducted within a ½-mile radius of the project area. On April 17, 2025, Soar conducted an archeological pedestrian field survey of the project area. **No cultural resources** were identified during the field survey.

Soar is contacting you to determine if you have any concerns regarding the proposed development. Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d), you have **30 days** from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with Soar. Should you have any concerns or knowledge of cultural resources in the specific project area, please contact me at hfroshour@soarhere.com or at (207) 232-8912 at your earliest convenience. If Soar does not hear from you within this time, we shall assume that you have no comments regarding this project.

Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

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and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 781-4271
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Neil Peyron, Chairperson,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase 1) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase 1 study for the present project.

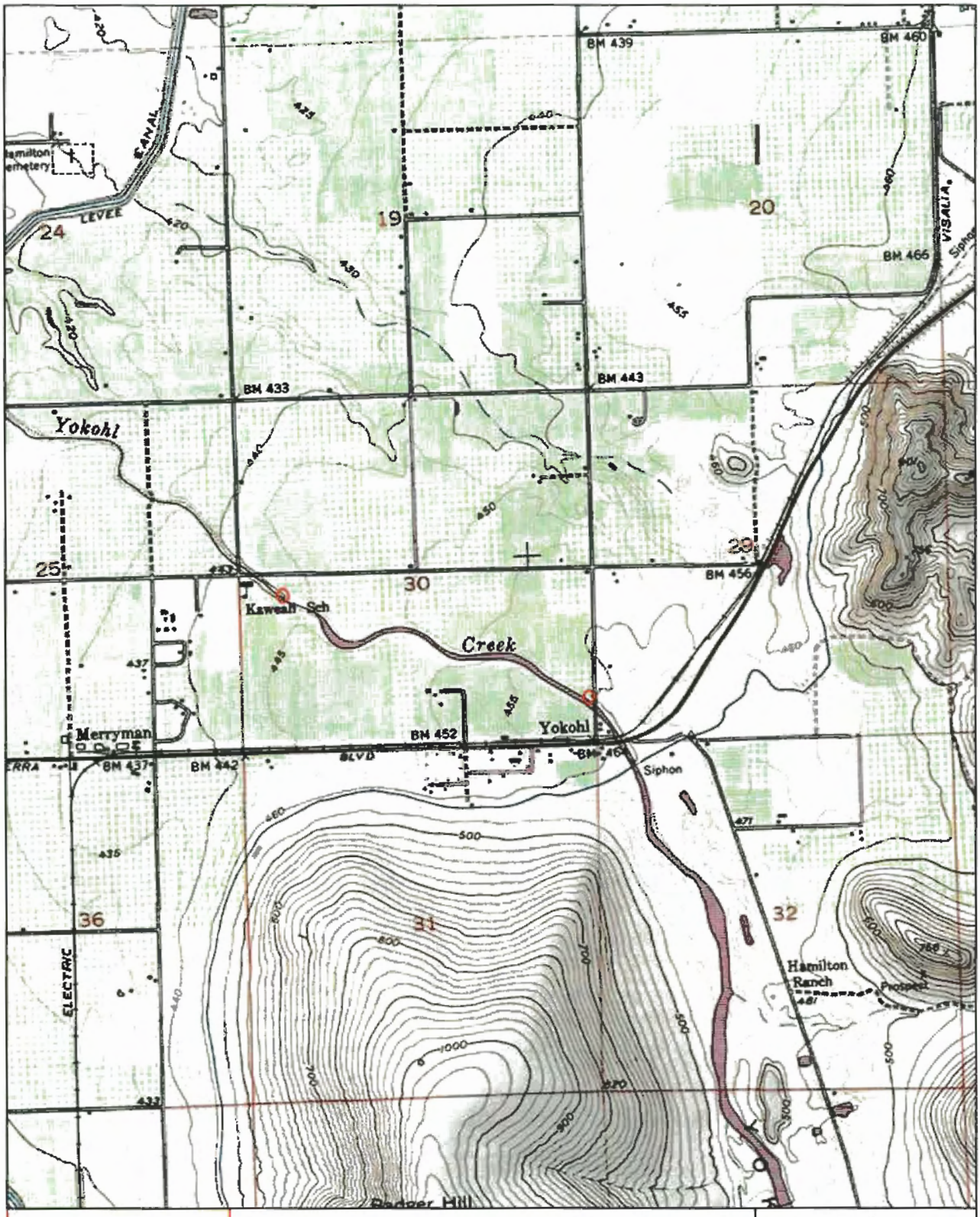
An important element of a Phase 1 study is to identify sites, resources, or locations of cultural importance to the local Native American community. As part of the process, Soar Environmental contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 1, 2025. On April 2, 2025, Soar received a response letter from the NAHC indicating **negative results** of the Sacred Lands File search. Furthermore, the NAHC identified your organization as a point of contact regarding potentially known recorded sites or cultural resources within Tulare County.

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Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

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Statewide in Sacramento, Pasadena, Bakersfield,
and Corporate Headquarters: 1322 E. Shaw Avenue #400,
Fresno, California 93710

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA, 93906
Phone: (831) 443-9702
kwood8934@aol.com

RE: Exeter Irrigation District CEQA Cultural Resource Assessment for proposed irrigation development between Ave 296 and Ave 300, Exeter, CA 93221. APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020.

Dear Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson,

Below, please find a description of the proposed project, a map showing the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1 (d).

The proposed project is situated on the Rocky Hill, California (2021), USGS 7.5' Series Quad. The approximately 2-acre project area is located on APNs 115-170-010, 011, & 020 with two locations, the first at the intersection of Ave 296 and Rd 220 and the second 485 feet south of Ave 300, Exeter, CA, 932221, California. The project is for proposed instillation of a concrete check structure and a pipeline discharge structure.

The Exeter Irrigation District has requested a Phase 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment (Phase I) to determine the potential for cultural resources prior to development, pursuant to state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tulare County guidelines. Soar Environmental Consulting Inc. (Soar Environmental) proposes to complete the Phase I study for the present project.

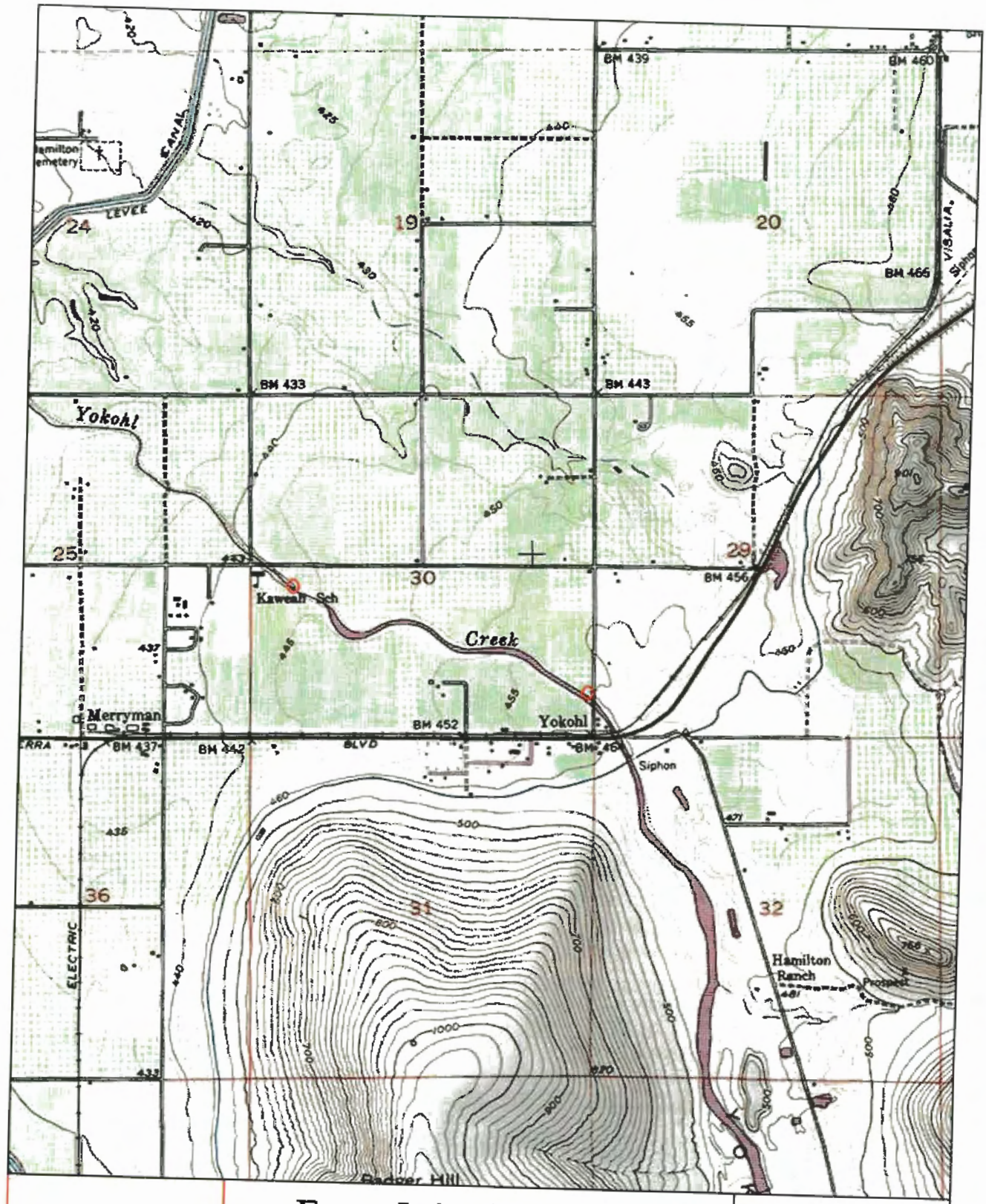
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Respectfully,

Heather Froshour, M.A., R.P.A.
Principal Archaeologist
Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Exeter Irrigation District- Yokohl

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Friant, CA 93626

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City, State, ZIP+4®: Friant, CA 93626

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Porterville, CA 93258

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- Adult Signature Required $0.00
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $

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Sent To: Neil Payan
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No.: P.O. Box 589
City, State, ZIP+4®: Porterville, CA 93258

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Salinas, CA 93906

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- Adult Signature Required $0.00
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $

Postage $1.50
Total Postage and Fees $6.35

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Sent To: Kenneth Woodrow
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No.: 109 Rock Haven Ct
City, State, ZIP+4®: Salinas, CA 93906

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- Adult Signature Required $0.00
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $

Postage $1.50
Total Postage and Fees $6.35

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Sent To: Samantha McCarty
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No.: P.O. Box 8
City, State, ZIP+4®: Lemoore, CA 93245

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Lemoore, CA 93245

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- Adult Signature Required $0.00
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $

Postage $1.50
Total Postage and Fees $6.35

Postmark Here: APR 17 2025 0612 10
04/17/2025

Sent To: Shana Powers
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No.: P.O. Box 8
City, State, ZIP+4®: Lemoore, CA 93245

PS Form 3800, January 2023 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

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For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

Bakersfield, CA 93305

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Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)
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- Return Receipt (electronic) $0.00
- Certified Mail Restricted Delivery $0.00
- Adult Signature Required $0.00
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $

Postage $1.50
Total Postage and Fees $6.35

Postmark Here: APR 17 2025 0612 10
04/17/2025

Sent To: Delia Dominguez
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No.: 115 Radio Street
City, State, ZIP+4®: Bakersfield, CA 93305

PS Form 3800, January 2023 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

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Lemoore, CA 93245

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Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)
- Return Receipt (hardcopy) $0.00
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APPENDIX D

Staff Resume



Heather Froshour

Senior Archaeologist

12 Years of Relevant Experience

Biography

Ms. Froshour's background emphasises archaeology, anthropology, and cultural resources monitoring.

Education

- M.A. in Historical Archaeology, November 2014. University of Leicester, Leicester, UK.
- B.A. in Anthropology/Geography, June 2010. University of Southern Maine, Gorham/Portland, ME.

Professional Development

- 8 hr training in Firest Aid
- Adult, Child, Infant CPR & First Aid Training
- Driver/Operator

Professional Affiliations

- Register of Professional Archaeologists
- CHRIS Qualified Archaeologist
- BLM Permitted Archaeologist
- Society of American Archaeology – SAA
- Society of Historical Archaeology – SHA
- Society of California Archaeology – SCA

Technical Expertise

- Lithic Analysis
- Technical Report Writing
- Lab analysis
- Cultural Monitoring
- Site Surveying – Phases 1-3
- Excavation
- Metal Detection
- Auguring
- Research
- MS Office and Excel
- Collector and Survey 123 for ArchGIS

Practical Experience

Ms. Froshour is a registered professional archaeologist and cultural resources specialist with extensive experience in field and technical work. This experience including cultural resources monitoring, site survey, phase 1-3 excavations, and anthropology on various projects throughout the United States. She has a combined 8 years of experience in academic, consulting, museum, and public archaeology, and has worked in CRM since 2013 throughout various regions of the United States. Primary states of focus have included Maine, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Georgia, Virginia, Arizona, and California. She routinely assesses cultural resources for project related effects and their significance, provides cultural resource mitigation services, directs archaeological surveys of both excavation and pedestrian methods, and prepares documents for Section 106 of the NHPA, CEQA, and NRHP. Ms. Froshour also has experience working alongside trial monitors through survey within the Colorado River and Mendocino National Forest regions. She has worked alongside the USDA Forest Service to provide post-fire monitoring and mitigation recommendations.

Ms. Froshour is certified by the Register for Professional Archeologists (Registrant ID: 5457).

Highlighted Projects

California High-Speed Rail Authority Construction Package 1, Fresno and Madera Counties, Cultural Resources Support, March 2023-Present
Heather is the Cultural Resources Support for this construction package. As such, she oversees staff archaeologist cultural reporting, monitoring, and artifact processing on the 33-mile right of way between Madera and Fresno.

SOAR Environmental Consulting, Senior Archaeologist, January 2023-Present
Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessments, CDFW, Various California Locations in Butte, Lassen, Orange, Plumas, Sacramento, San Diego, and Sierra Counties, California
Provided desktop research, supervised site pedestrian surveys, co-wrote full Phase 1 reports, and tribal consultation for 8 separate mitigation management projects throughout California.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Ivanhoe, Tulare County, California
Provided desktop research, supervised site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation for well replacement project.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Terra Bella, Tulare County, California
Provided desktop research, supervised site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation for aggregate quarry construction project.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Dixon, Solano County, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, cultural resources portion of full Environmental Assessment, and tribal consultation for ranch subdivision.

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Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Lone Pine, Inyo and Mono Counties, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report/ cultural resources section of full Initial Study report, and tribal consultation for broadband fiber optic project.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Lindsay, Tulare County, California
Provided desktop research, supervised the 2-person crew site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation for highline pipeline replacement project.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment/Evaluation, Farmersville, Tulare County, California
Provided desktop research, supervised the 2-person crew site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation, Cultural Resources Initial Study/Environmental Assessment for roundabout and road extension construction project.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Wildomar, Riverside County, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation for two small retail construction projects.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Visalia, Tulare County, California
Provided desktop research, supervised the 2-person crew site pedestrian survey, full Phase 1 report, and tribal consultation, Cultural Resources Initial Study for two rezoning and housing subdivision construction projects.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation, Yokuts Valley, Fresno County, California
Provided desktop research, tribal consultation, and full Phase 1 report for the construction a new saber transmission tower to accompany existing USACE and CAL FIRE structures on a 100 square feet area on top of Bear Mountain.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation, Shirley Meadows, Kern County, California
Provided desktop research, tribal consultation, and full Phase 1 report with DPR forms for the construction a new saber transmission tower, and concrete masonry shelter enclosed in an 8 foot tall wire fence on a 100 square feet area on top of Shirley Peak.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation, Mountain Ranch, Calaveras County, California
Provided desktop research, tribal consultation, and full Phase 1 report with DPR forms for the construction a new saber transmission tower, and propane tank enclosed in an 8 foot tall wire fence on a 100 square feet area on top of Quiggs Mountain.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Glennville, Kern County, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, tribal consultation, and full Phase 1 report for the construction a new saber transmission tower, CMU block shelter, and parking lot enclosed in a wire fence on a 100 square feet area on top of Mount Pheasant.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Bakersfield, Kern County, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, and full Phase 1 report for rezoning project and multiple family residence construction project located in downtown Bakersfield.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Fresno, Fresno County, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, and full Phase 1 Historic Resources Identification Report for mobile home park wastewater collection and disposal project located in downtown Fresno.

Senior Archaeologist, Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, Joshua Tree, California
Provided desktop research, site pedestrian survey, and full Phase 1 report for upscale yurt campground construction project located in San Bernadino County.

Post Fire Fuels and Priority Heritage Asset Assessment Surveys, Grindstone Region, Tehama & Glenn Counties, CA (June 2022-December 2022). The Great Basin Institute, Archaeological Crew Lead.
Phase I pedestrian surveys and site recording on post-wildfire burned landscapes within the Mendocino National Forest. Overseeing a small crew in the field survey, site recording, and completion of extensive USDA Forest Service site reports and mapping of cultural resources in the area. Ensured that all pertinent data is documented and reported to Forest Services standards with specific attention to current field conditions, disturbances, vegetation, terrain, and geospatial data of cultural resources. Provided day to day support of the crew and worked as a liaison between the Great Basin Institute and Mendocino National Forest personnel. Conducted Section 106 and Section 110 Priority Heritage Asset assessments of archaeological resources throughout the eastern region of the Mendocino. Assisted in final Phase 1 survey report writing.

2021-2022
Various Cultural Resource Management Survey Projects, GA & NC (June 2021- April 2022). TerraXplorations, Inc., Archaeology Field Director.
Phase I shovel testing in various locations throughout Georgia, in addition to a single project just outside of Raleigh, NC. These projects include road, bridge, and culvert improvement surveys as well as solar tract, farm, and generator surveys. All projects were conducted in 30m intervals along transect within the ESB of the survey area. All positive shovel tests were then delineated in 15m interval cruciform to determine site boundaries. Several projects required the use of metal detection grids in order to thoroughly survey areas of known Civil War activity. A number of projects for the Georgia Department of Transportation also required the probing of areas within the project ESB that were located within 1km from a known cemetery, with potential anomalies delineated and all results fully recorded. Duties include overseeing and directing field crews in locating, collecting, recording, and interpreting data from the survey. The supervision of personnel, including aiding in hiring and firing, performance reviews, training, work allocation, and problem resolution. Ensuring safe work practices and directing morning safety meetings to address potential hazards and safety concerns in the areas scheduled for fieldwork that day. Participation in field and office meetings with PIs and company owners to address scheduling and management procedures based on client needs as well as those of state and federal regulations and requirements.

Cultural Resource Management Survey Project, VAM-1 and Glasgow Pipeline Replacement, VA (May 2021-June 2021). TerraXplorations, Inc., Archaeology Crew Chief.

Phase I shovel test excavations from the replacement of the VAM-1 and Glasgow natural gas pipelines in the Blue Ridge Mountains, near the Appalachian Trail. Evaluated and conducted field work in various conditions in primarily mountainous terrain. Under direct supervision helped to manage and organize field crew in order to complete the project in a timely and efficient manner. Maintained field equipment and assisted in the writing and compilation of all field paperwork. Personally in charge of the majority of all mappings of and oversight of field crew for sites throughout the project area.

Various Cultural Resource Management Survey Projects, LA & MS (August 2020-May 2021). TerraXplorations, Inc., Archaeology Field Technician.

Phase I shovel test excavations for bank mitigation in Northeastern Mississippi along the Buttahatchee River. Phase III survey of two projects; the historic St. Amelia Plantation in Welcome, Louisiana and an unnamed prehistoric village in Plaquemine, Louisiana. The phase III projects both required excavating the foundations of various structures, and in the case of the prehistoric site excavating and mapping postholes within pits. The projects also required drawing plan views, and stratigraphic profiles, as well as feature and level write-ups. Unit excavations included 1mx1m to 3mx3m units, with a few requiring the extension of existing units to chase out observed features and artifact clusters.

Various Cultural Resource Management Survey Projects, ID & WI (June 2020 -July 2020). Tetra Tech, Inc., Archaeology Field Technician.

Phase I pedestrian surveying of various wind and solar farm projects throughout corn and soybean fields.

Cultural Resource Management Survey, Acadiana to Gillis, LA (January 2020-March 2020). BGE, Inc., Archaeology Field Technician.

Phase I shovel test excavations of proposed natural gas pipeline between Acadian and Gillis, Louisiana. This project entailed the excavation of 30mx30m units with distance varying based on HPA and LPA guidelines (a spacing of 30m to 50m respectively). A requirement of the survey was to maintain daily investigation point forms for individual shovel test units. In addition to this, it was required to aid in recording artifacts and photos of sites found throughout the project.

Various Cultural Resource Management Survey Projects, MN & IA (November 2019-December 2019). In Situ Archeological Consulting LLC, Archaeology Field Technician.

Phase I pedestrian surveying of various natural gas and cellular tower projects, as well as Phase II field work entailing the excavation of 45cmX45cm test units and GPS data collection. The projects also occasionally required the writing of site forms, and research for future projects at the Minnesota SHPO collections.

Cultural Resource Management Survey, Ten West Link Project, CA & AZ (August 2019-October 2019). POWER Engineers Inc., Archaeology Field Technician.

Phase I pedestrian survey of the proposed 500 kV transmission line connecting electrical substations in Tonopah, Arizona and Blythe, California. This project entailed working in one of five teams, and often included 1-2 tribal monitors from the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The right of way crews used a 400ft buffer for the corridor, with each team using a 15m spread to survey the proposed transmission line. This survey required the use of a Trimble GPS system to navigate the corridor and plot both isolate and site locations for GIS and recording crew use. As part of the recording crew later in the survey, it was also required to conduct thorough site

analysis and recordation via site forms and Trimble points of each observed artifact and feature, both historic and prehistoric.

Authored Publications

2024 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Well No. 6 Replacement Project, Ivanhoe, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather, and Jamie Neitenbach. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Terra Bella Aggregate Quarry Construction Project, Terra Bella, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Realized Dreams Ranch Subdivision Project, Dixon, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather, and Rowland, Kevin. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District Highline Pipeline Replacement Project, Lindsay, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather, and Rowland, Kevin. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment/ Evaluation: Rd 168 & E Walnut Ave Roundabout Project, Farmersville, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather, and Rowland, Kevin. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Cameron Ranch Housing Subdivision Project, Visalia, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment Cake House Cannabis Small Retail Centers, Wildomar, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Lagomarsinio Housing Subdivision Project, Tulare, California."

2024 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: Elliot Housing Subdivision Project, Visalia, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation: 30811 Bear Mountain Rd., Yokuts Valley, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation: Shirley Peak, Rd. 622, Kern County, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation: Sierra Vista Lookout., Quiggs Mountain, Mountain Ranch, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Evaluation: Granite Rd., Mount Pheasant, Glennville, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: 4415 Wilson Rd., Bakersfield, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Cultural Resources Desktop Assessment: 1941 N. Golden State Blvd., Fresno, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment: 3174 Bonair Ave., Joshua Tree, California."

2023 Froshour, Heather. "Cultural Resources Desktop Assessment: 3200 Rio Linda Blvd., Sacramento, California."

2023 Hawley, Maria and Froshour, Heather. "Cultural Resources Assessment, 18644 16th Ave., Stratford, California."

2022 Lashway, Nick, Hovis, Chad, and Froshour, Heather. "Upper Thomes Forestwide Fuels Phase I Report: U.S.D.A. Forest Service Mendocino National Forest Covelo and Grindstone Ranger Districts, California."

Academic Publications

2024 Harvey, Amanda R., Atherton, Heather, MacKinnon, Amy, Rushing, Brett, Zimmer, Paul, Froshour, Heather D., & Kubal, Kathleen. "Over a Decade of Design-Build Archaeology on the California High-Speed Rail, Construction Package 1 from Madera to Fresno, California."

2013 Hamilton, Nathan D. and Froshour, Heather D (presenter). "Explore 5,000 Years of History in Danvers, Massachusetts."

2013 Froshour, Heather D. "Preserving the Past: Public and Historical Archaeology at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead, Danvers, Massachusetts."

2012 Froshour, Heather D (presenter). "17th-18th Century Occupations in Danvers, Massachusetts."



Julie Federico

Archaeologist

Biography

Julie's background emphasises historical and physical anthropology

Education

- M.A. Interdisciplinary Subjects-Oregon State University, Oregon-2004
- B.A. Anthropology (Archaeology)-University of California, Berkley, California-2000

Professional Development

- Driver/Operator

Technical Expertise

- Report writing
- Lab analysis
- Archival Research
- Excavation
- Archaeological survey
- Construction monitoring
- Artifact analysis
- Data collection

Practical Experience

Julie Federico is a passionate Archeologist with over 10 years of experience in both Historical and Physical Archaeology. Julie's impressive research and data collection skills have helped her aid in the Historic Preservation of the City of Fresno.

Highlighted Projects

CITY OF FRESNO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—FRESNO, CA 2022-PRESENT

- One of seven Commissioners serving the City of Fresno, appointed by Mayor Jerry Dyer.
- Considerations of properties already on one of the Registers (Local, State, and Federal) and voting in new ones.
- Visiting homes, buildings, and sites for compliance with the Mills Act for keeping up repairs and preservation.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST, ECORP CONSULTING, INC.--2004-2005

- Conducted Archaeological Survey.
- Monitored construction activity.
- Determined eligibility for National and Local Registers of Historic Places.
- Clerical and fieldwork.
- Effectively ensured that complacency was within regulations

FIELD AND LABORATORY TECHNICIAN—2001, APPLIED EARTHWORKS, INC.

- Excavated on a Victorian-era neighborhood in Sacramento, CA
- In-field lab techniques on excavated material.

MUSEUM PREPARATOR 1998-1999 AND 1996-1997, UC BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY

- Part-time employment for UC Berkeley Museum of Paleontology, preparing fossils and acquiring new inventory.
- Prepared teaching collections for Professors to teach the Integrative Biology Department classes.

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APPENDIX E

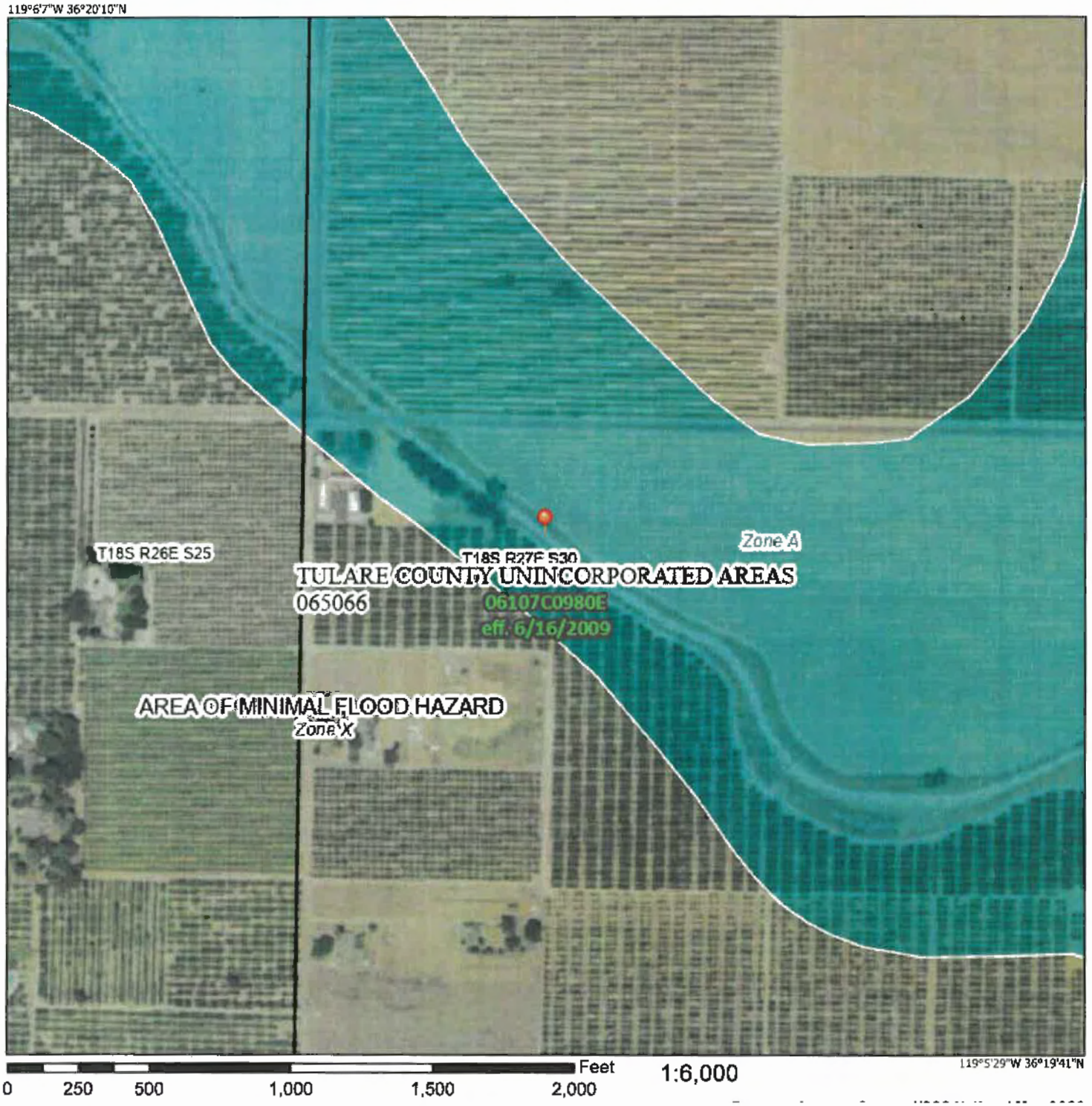
FLOOD HAZARD MAP

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

FEMA



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) *Zone A, V, A99*
- With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR*
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Area of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainag areas of less than one square mile *Zone*
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. *Zone X*
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee *Zone D*

OTHER AREAS
- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard *Zone*

GENERAL STRUCTURES
- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES
- 20.2 / 17.5 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance / Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS
- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

N

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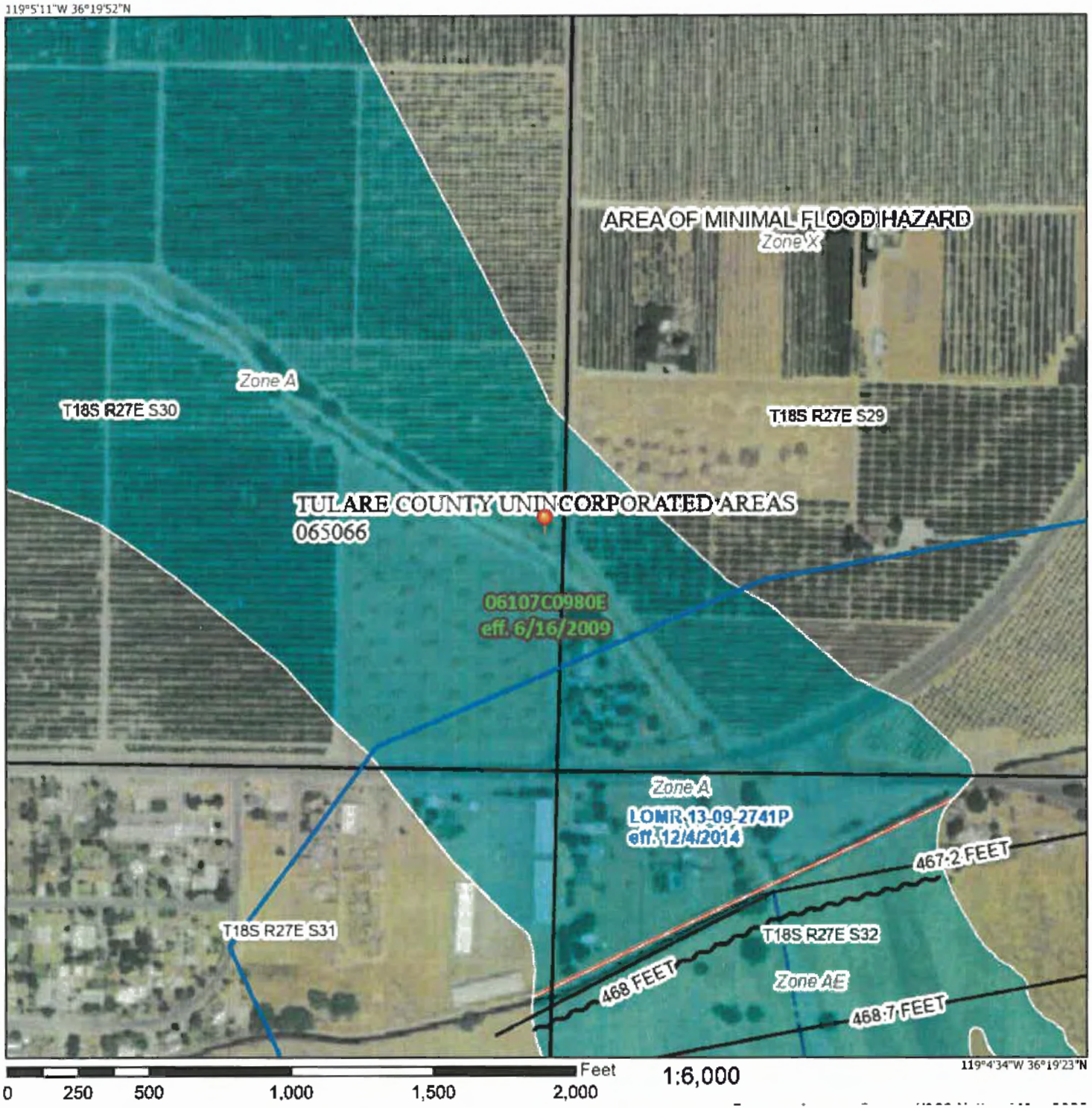
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National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

FEMA



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
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- With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR*
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Area of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainag areas of less than one square mile *Zone*
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*
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OTHER FEATURES
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- Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS
- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

N

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represe an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

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