APPENDIX J: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT & TRIBAL CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

Adams Pond Restoration Project
CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

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Lori MacDonald,
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Dear Lori MacDonald,

On August 19th, 2025, an archaeological survey requested by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District associated with the Adams Pond Restoration Project was undertaken by Shane Davis, M.A., RPA, with Mountain Engineering. This letter presents the background, methodology, results and conclusions of the survey for this project.

Background

The project area is located within the foothills of the Coastal Range Mountains of California. The project area is close to Adams Pond, a manmade pond that is surrounded by rolling, grassy foothills. The environment of the survey consisted of grassland dominated by an overstory of Oak trees. The vicinity has been heavily affected by erosion and moderately affected by agricultural, pastoral, and residential development. The project area has been heavily affected by the creation of Adams Pond and the associated dirt roads, as well as natural erosion.

The project area is located within the foothills west of the northern Sacramento Valley. Prior to European contact, the area was inhabated by hunter-gatherers. The prehistory of this area can be divided up into the Paleoindian Period (13,400 – 12,800 cal. BP), the Paleoarchaic Period (12,800 – 7800 cal BP), Early Archaic Period (7800 – 5200 cal BP), Middle Archaic Period (5200 – 1000 cal BP), Late Archaic Period (1000-200 cal BP), and the Contact Period (200 -100 cal BP) (Stone 2018:8-9). Europeans and Euro-Americans arrived in the area in the 1820s. Successive waves of immigrants came to the area during the mid-nineteenth century. Agriculture, ranching and mining were major economic pursuits (Stone 2018:11).

In historic times, the area was inhabited by the Nomlaki, a Native American group of hunter-gatherers native to the Sacramento Valley and Coastal Range Mountains. This group speaks Nomlaki, a Wintun language branch which is part of the Penutian language family (University of California Berkeley 2025). At the time of contact, they utilized the abundance of local resources for food, clothing, shelter and tools.

References

GLO
1881 Historic Survey Plat Map. United States Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior. https://glorecords.blm.gov/details/survey/default.aspx?dm_id=304304&sid=0ss1aiwh.saw#surveyDetailsTabIndex=1

Stone, David
2018 Cultural and Paleontological Resources Overview and Existing Information Summary Hazard Removal and Vegetation Management Project. Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure, Inc. Submitted to the Bureau of Land Management. https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/nepa/109991/150522/184749/HRVM_Cultural_and_Paleontological_Resources_Summary__PUBLIC_FINAL_7-5-18_(2).pdf

University of California, Berkeley
2025 "Nomlaki". California Language Archive. https://cla.berkeley.edu/languages/nomlaki.html

Methodology

The project area consisted of the four areas shown on the map below. Although the large, temporary impact zone shown on the map (3.2 acres) was within the project area, it is part of Adams Pond, and therefore, no prehistoric or historic context, features or artifacts would have been preserved. For this reason, it was excluded from the survey. The permanent impact area to the disposal drainage (0.025 acres) was located on a slope that exceeded 30%, and while it was unlikely to have cultural resources, it was not possible for archaeologists to safely survey. However, the haul road, shown in gray on the map, and the temporary impact to south drainage (0.003 acre), were surveyed because the presence of cultural resources was not precluded by adverse environmental conditions.

Before the survey, a historic record search was conducted by Shane Davis, M.A., RPA, through the Northeast Information Center at California State University. He also researched the area via the pertinent historic and ethnographic sources (GLO 1881; Stone 2018; UC Berkeley 2025). During the survey, a mixed strategy was utilized within the parts of the project area that were accessible.

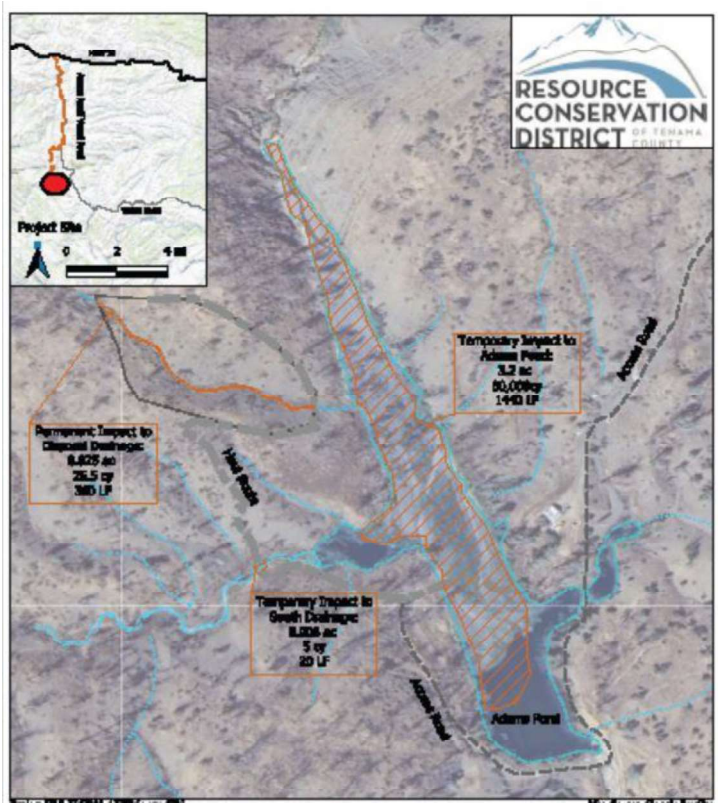

Image 1. The project area for the Adams Pond Restoration Project.

Results

The record search showed no prehistoric or historic cultural resources within the project area. There was one prehistoric cultural resource located within ¼ mile of the project area (Treganza 1953). Furthermore, the relevant BLM plat map did not show that any historic properties were located near the project area (GLO 1881).

The findings of the archaeological survey were negative. No previously recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources were identified during the survey. Furthermore, no new prehistoric or historic cultural resources were identified during the survey.

Conclusion

Based on the archaeological survey undertaken by Mountain Engineering, there are no cultural resources within the project area. Therefore, we request a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties for the properties listed in this document, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1).

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during the work of the work associated with the Adams Pond Restoration Project, that work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist/architectural historian can assess the significance of the find.

Although it is unlikely, if human remains are encountered, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the discovered remains. The county coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be immediately notified and an evaluation must take place. If the human remains are found to be Native American and of prehistoric age, then the coroner must contact the Native American Heritage Commission so that they can designate a Most Likely Descendant. They will then provide further recommendations regarding the treatment of the remains.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, or any other project-related items, please contact Mr. Davis at 916-597-5892 or skd@mgeinc.com.

Thank You,

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