APPENDIX D - CULTURAL ASSESSMENT

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PHASE I SURVEY, TORTUGA BAY WATER PARK PROJECT, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

City of Bakersfield Planning Department
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

and

Quad Knopf, Inc.
5080 California Ave., Suite 400
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Prepared by:
David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA Principal Investigator

and
Robert Azpitarte, B.A. Associate Archaeologist

ASM Affiliates
4800 Stockdale Hwy Suite 405
Bakersfield, CA 93309
September 2026
PN 30430.00

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

An Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted for the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project. This involves a 160-acre (ac) property located in Bakersfield, Kern County, California. This study was conducted by ASM Affiliates, Inc., with David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA, serving as principal investigator. Background studies and fieldwork for the survey were completed in June - August 2018. The study was undertaken to assist with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

A records search of site files and maps was conducted on June 19, 2017, at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center (SSJVIC), California State University, Bakersfield. An updated record search was conducted July 8, 2026. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) Request was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in 2018 with a follow up conducted in 2026. These investigations determined that four previous studies had been conducted within the Project area and that two cultural resources were known to exist within it. An additional 11 surveys had been completed within 0.5-mi of the Project area, resulting in the identification of five cultural resources.

The Phase I survey fieldwork was conducted in July 2018, with parallel transects spaced at 15-meter (m) intervals walked across the study area. Two previously recorded resources – one historic ditch and one prehistoric lithic and ground stone scatter – were relocated and updated within the study area. One resource is a component of a historic water conveyance system (Beardsley One Ditch; P-15-17237) which was evaluated in 2010 and determined not significant. We concur with that evaluation, and the construction of the proposed Project does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts to this resource.

The other resource is a prehistoric site. The surface artifacts at the site were collected in 1990 but the site was argued, at that time, to potentially include a subsurface deposit. Two surface artifacts were identified at the site location during the current survey, supporting the possibility that a deposit may still be present. We recommend that the area of this site be preserved in open-space, or that a Phase II test excavation and determination of significance be conducted, to establish whether adverse impacts could occur to this archaeological site.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

ASM Affiliates was retained by Quad Knopf, Inc., to conduct an Phase I cultural resources survey for the approximately 160-ac Tortuga Bay Water Park Project area, Bakersfield, Kern County, California. The purpose of this archaeological investigation was to assist with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for development of the above locations. The investigation was undertaken, specifically, to ensure that significant impacts to historical resources do not occur as a result of project construction.

This current included:

- A background records search and literature review to determine if any known archaeological sites were present in the project zone and/or whether the area had been previously and systematically studied by archaeologists;
- An on-foot, intensive inventory of the study area to identify and record previously undiscovered cultural resources and to examine known sites; and
- A preliminary assessment of any such resources found within the subject property.
- This study was conducted by ASM Affiliates, Inc., of Tehachapi, California, during June - August 2018. David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA, served as principal investigator and Robert Azpitarte, B.A., ASM Associate Archaeologist, conducted the fieldwork with the assistance of Archaeological Technicians Stacey Escamilla, B.A., and Steve Teteak, B.A.

This document constitutes a report on the Phase I survey. Subsequent chapters provide background to the investigation, including historic context studies; the findings of the archival records search; a summary of the field surveying techniques employed; and the results of the fieldwork. We conclude with management recommendations for the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 160-ac Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area is in north Bakersfield, Kern County, California, in Section 15 and 22, Township 29 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Figure 1), approximately 0.5-miles southwest of State Highway 99. Mohawk St. and Hageman Rd. border the study area on the east and north, respectively, while Calloway Canal forms the southern boundary. Beardsley Canal runs parallel to the east boundary of the Project study area and then trends to the southwest into the southern portion of the study area. The southeast corner of the study is bordered by the Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, Calloway Canal, and Beardsley Canal.

The proposed Project includes an application for a change in zoning classification for a portion of the Project site. The project site is currently zoned light industrial (M-1), medium industrial (M-2), and heavy industrial (M-3). The proposed Project will re-zone a portion of the Project site to recreation (RE) and regional commercial (C-2), M-1 and M-2. These zoning changes will occur in five locations (Figure 2). The northeast location will comprise general commercial uses consisting of a surgery center, medical offices, and one hotel. The northwest will be zoned into general commercial uses consisting of a commercial retail village, restaurants, and gas; a central location will include a water park, state-of-the-art golf range, and parking. The southwest will comprise light industrial uses consisting of contractor's plants and storage yards, tool rental and

equipment, truck repairing and overhauling shops, welding, metal fabricating and blacksmith shops, wholesale businesses, storage buildings and warehouses, and light manufacturing. The southeast will be utilized as service industrial use consisting of uses allowed in the M-1 and alcohol and alcoholic beverages manufacture, automobile and truck parts manufacturer, freighting and trucking yards and terminals, and glass product manufacture

1.2 REGULATORY CONTEXT

1.2.1 CEQA

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

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

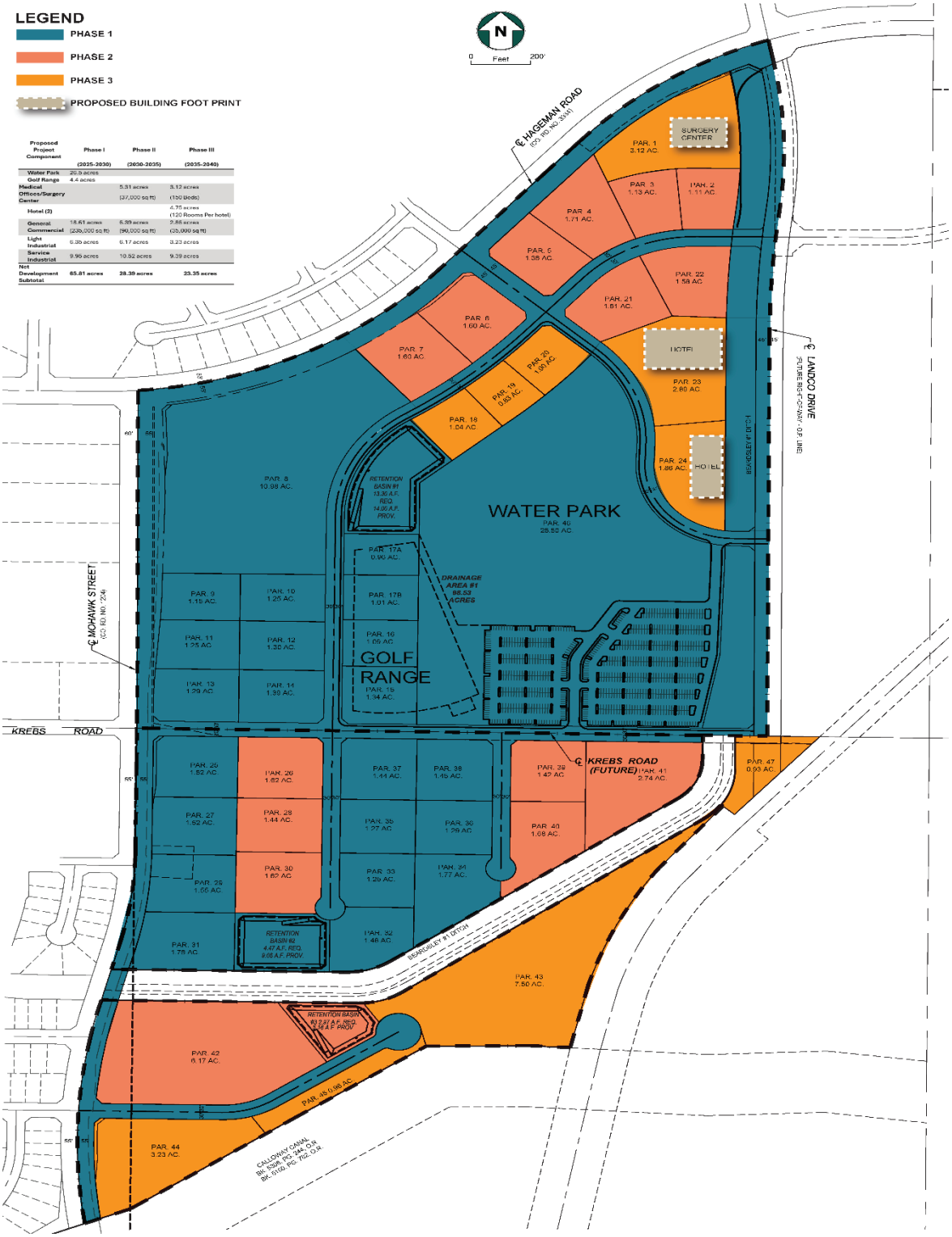
(A) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
(B) Are associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
(C) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction,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

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

> an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:
> (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
> (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
> (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC § 21083.2(g)).

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

Figure 1. Location of the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area, Kern County, California.



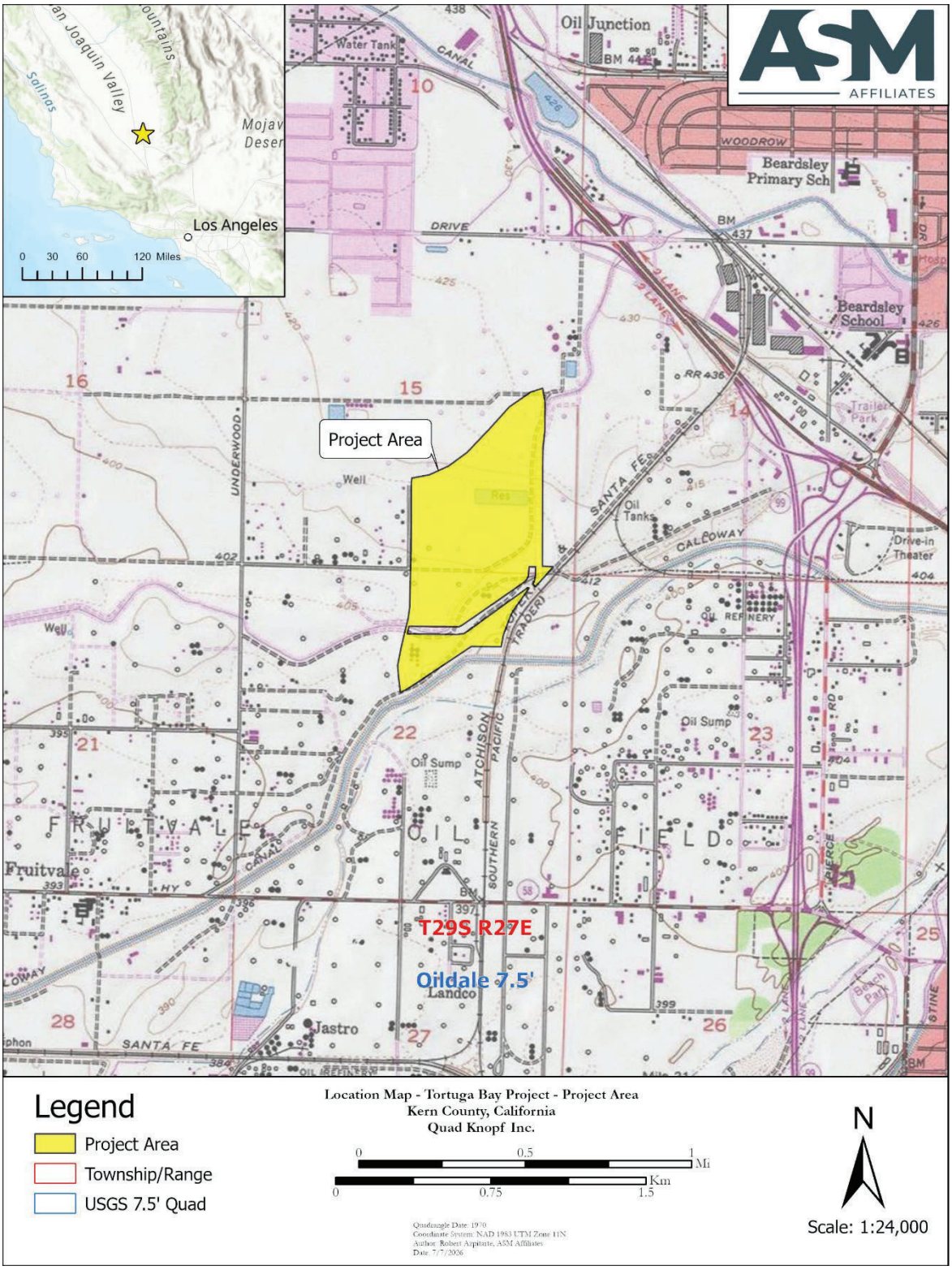


Figure 2. Proposed General Plan Designations of the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area, Kern County, California.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTUAL BACKGROUND

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

The Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area is located in an industrial portion of urban Bakersfield. The entire study area had been previously graded and recently disked, and is disturbed by past agricultural and oil extraction activities (Figure 2 and 3). Existing development within the study area includes well pads and the Beardsley Canal and associated reservoir, which is heavily disturbed (Figure 4). Most of the Project study area, however, is undeveloped and contained seasonal grasses, abundant tumbleweeds, and modern debris at the time of the survey.

As its location suggests, the study area is within an urbanized zone which itself is on open flats of the southern San Joaquin Valley, abutting the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the northeast. Elevation in the study area varies minimally, ranging from approximately 399-ft in the southwest corner to 424-ft in the northeast corner. Historical and recent land-use has changed the vegetation that was once present within and near the study area. Currently the study area contains introduced grasses and Russian thistle. Prior to development in the 19th century, however, this most likely included the Salt Bush community (see Schoenherr 1992).

Figure 3. Overview of the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area from northwest corner, looking southeast.

Figure 4. Overview of approximate center of study area from west boundary, looking east.

Figure 5. Overview of southeast portion of study area, looking northeast.

2.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Penutian-speaking Yokuts tribal groups occupied the southern San Joaquin Valley region and much of the nearby Sierra Nevada. Ethnographic information about the Yokuts was collected primarily by Powers (1971, 1976 [originally 1877]), Kroeber (1925), Gayton (1930, 1948), Driver (1937), and Harrington (n.d.). For a variety of historical reasons, existing research information emphasizes the central Yokuts tribes which occupied both the valley and particularly the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The northernmost tribes suffered from the influx of Euro Americans during the Gold Rush and their populations were in substantial decline by the time ethnographic studies began in the early twentieth century. In contrast, the southernmost tribes were partially removed by the Spanish to missions and eventually absorbed into multi-tribal communities on the Sebastian Indian Reservation (on Tejon Ranch), and later the Tule River Reservation and Santa Rosa Rancheria to the north. The result is a 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.

Following Kroeber (1925: Plate 47), the City of Porterville region lies in a contact zone between a series of Yokuts tribal groups. Kroeber places the Bokninuwad to the south of the APE, along Deer Creek, the Yaudanchi to the east, and the Koveti immediately west. The village of Ohohowisho appears to be close to the Project area near Porterville according to Kroeber (1925).

The Yokuts settlement pattern was largely consistent, regardless of the 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 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 people (Kroeber 1925).

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

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

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

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The southern San Joaquin Valley region has received minimal archaeological attention compared to other areas of the state. In part, this is because the majority of California archaeological work has been concentrated in the Sacramento Delta, Santa Barbara Channel, and central Mojave Desert areas (see Moratto 1984). Although knowledge of the region's prehistory is limited, enough is known to determine that the archaeological record is broadly similar to south-central California as a whole (see Gifford and Schenk 1926; Hewes 1941; Wedel 1941; Fenenga 1952; Elsasser 1962; Fredrickson and Grossman 1977; Schiffman and Garfinkel 1981). Based on these sources, the general prehistory of the region can be outlined as follows.

Initial occupation of the region occurred at least as early as the *Paleoindian Period*, or prior to about 10,000 years before present (YBP). Evidence of early use of the region is indicated by characteristic fluted and stemmed points found around the margin of Tulare Lake, in the foothills of the Sierra, and in the Mojave Desert proper.

Both fluted and stemmed points are particularly common around lake margins, suggesting a terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene lakeshore adaptation similar to that found throughout western North America at the same time; little else is known about these earliest peoples. More than 250 fluted points have been recovered from the Witt Site (CA-KIN-32), located along the western shoreline of ancient Tulare Lake, west of the Project APE, demonstrating the importance of this early occupation in the San Joaquin Valley (see Fenenga 1993). Additional finds consist of a

Clovis-like projectile point discovered in a flash-flood cut-bank near White Oak Lodge in 1953 on Tejon Ranch (Glennan 1987a, 1987b). More recently, a similar fluted point was found near Bakersfield (Zimmerman et al. 1989), and a number are known from the Edwards Air Force Base and Boron area of the western Mojave Desert. Although human occupation of the state is well-established during the Late Pleistocene, relatively little can be inferred about the nature and distribution of this occupation with a few exceptions. First, little evidence exists to support the idea that people at that time were big-game hunters, similar to those found on the Great Plains. Second, the western Mojave Desert evidence suggests small, very mobile populations that left a minimal archaeological signature. The evidence from the ancient Tulare Lake shore, in contrast, suggests much more substantial population and settlements which, instead of relying on big-game hunting, were tied to the lacustrine lake edge. Variability in subsistence and settlement patterns is thus apparent in California, in contrast to the Great Plains.

There is substantial evidence for human occupation across California; however, the first evidence in the Project vicinity occurs during the middle Holocene, roughly 7500 to 4000 YBP. This period is known as the *Early Horizon*, or alternatively as the Early Millingstone, along the Santa Barbara Channel. To the south, populations concentrated along the coast with minimal visible use of inland areas. Adaptation emphasized hard seeds and nuts with tool-kits dominated by mullers and grindstones (manos and metates). Additionally, little evidence for Early Horizon occupation exists in most inland portions of the state, partly due to a severe cold and dry paleoclimatic period occurring at this time; although, one site deposit dating to this age has been identified along the ancient Buena Vista shoreline in Kern County to the south (Rosenthal et al. 2007). Regardless of specifics, Early Horizon population density was low with a subsistence adaptation more likely tied to plant-food gathering than hunting.

Environmental conditions improved dramatically after about 4000 YBP during the *Middle Horizon* (or Intermediate Period). This period is known climatically as the Holocene Maximum (circa 3800 YBP) and was characterized by significantly warmer and wetter conditions than previously experienced. It was marked archaeologically by large population increase and a radiation of groups into new environments along coastal and interior south-central California and the Mojave Desert (Whitley 2000). In the Delta region to the north, this same period of favorable environmental conditions was characterized by the appearance of the Windmiller culture which exhibited a high degree of ritual elaboration (especially in burial practices) Along with ritual elaboration, Middle Horizon times experienced increasing subsistence specialization, perhaps correlating with the appearance of acorn processing technology. Penutian-speaking peoples (including the Yokuts) are also posited to have entered the state roughly at the beginning of this period and, perhaps, to have brought this technology with them (cf. Moratto 1984). Likewise, it appears the so-called "Shoshonean Wedge" in southern California, the Takic-speaking groups that include the Gabrielino/Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Kitanemuk, may have moved into the region at that time (Sutton 2009), rather than at about 1500 YBP as first suggested by Kroeber (1925).

Evidence for Middle Horizon occupation of interior south-central California is substantial. For example, in northern Los Angeles County along the upper Santa Clara River, to the south of the San Joaquin Valley, the Agua Dulce village complex indicates occupation extending back to the Intermediate Period, when the population of the village may have been 50 or more people (King et al. n.d.). Similarly, inhabitation of the Hathaway Ranch region, near Lake Piru and the Newhall

Ranch near Valencia, appears to date to the Intermediate Period (W&S Consultants 1994). To the west, little or no evidence exists for pre-Middle Horizon occupation in the upper Sisquoc and Cuyama River drainages; archaeologically, populations first appear there at roughly 3500 YBP (Horne 1981). The Carrizo Plain, the valley immediately west of the San Joaquin, experienced a major population expansion during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007), and recently collected data indicates the Tehachapi Mountains region was first significantly occupied during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2006). A parallel can be drawn to the inland Ventura County region where a similar pattern has been identified (Whitley and Beaudry 1991), as well as the western Mojave Desert (Sutton 1988a, 1988b), the southern Sierra Nevada (W&S Consultants 1999), and the Coso Range region (Whitley et al. 1988). In all of these areas a major expansion in settlement, the establishment of large site complexes, and an increase in the range of environments exploited appear to have occurred sometime roughly around 4000 YBP. Although most efforts to explain this expansion have focused on local circumstances and events, it is increasingly apparent this was a major occurrence throughout southern California, and any explanation must be sought at a larger level of analysis (Whitley 2000). Additionally, evidence from the Carrizo Plain suggests the origins of the tribelet level of political organization developed during this period (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007). Whether this same demographic process holds for the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the current APE, is yet to be determined.

The beginning of the *Late Horizon* is set variously at 1500 and 800 YBP, with a growing archaeological consensus for the shorter chronology. Increasing evidence suggests the importance of the Middle-Late Horizons transition (AD 800 to 1200) in the understanding of south-central California prehistory. This corresponds to the so-called Medieval Climatic Anomaly, followed by the Little Ice Age, and this general period of climatic instability extended to about AD 1860. It included major droughts matched by intermittent "mega-floods," and resulted in demographic disturbances across much of western North America (Jones et al. 1999). It is believed to have resulted in major population decline and abandonments across south-central California, involving as much as 90 percent of the interior populations in some regions, including the Carrizo Plain (Whitley et al. 2007). It is not clear whether site abandonment was accompanied by a true reduction in population or an agglomeration of the same numbers of peoples into fewer but larger villages in more favorable locations. Population along the Santa Barbara coast appears to have spiked at about the same time that it collapsed on the Carrizo Plain (Whitley et al. 2007). Along Buena Vista Lake, in Kern County, population appears to have been increasingly concentrated toward the later end of the Medieval Climatic Anomaly (Culleton 2006). Population intensification also appears to have occurred in the well-watered Tehachapi Mountains during this same period (W&S Consultants 2006).

What is clear is that Middle Period villages and settlements were widely dispersed across the south-central California landscape, including in the Sierra Nevada and the Mojave Desert. Many of these sites are found at locations that lack existing or historically known freshwater sources. Late Horizon sites, in contrast, are typically concentrated in areas where fresh water was available during the historical period, if not currently.

One extensively studied site that shows evidence of intensive occupation during the Middle-Late Horizons transition (~1500–500 YBP) is the Redtfeldt Mound (CA-KIN-66/H), located west of

the current APE, near the north shore of ancient Tulare Lake. There, Siefkin (1999) reported on human burials and a host of artifacts and ecofacts excavated from a modest-sized mound. He found that both Middle Horizon and Middle-Late Horizons transition occupations were more intensive than Late Horizon occupations, which were sporadic and less intensive (Siefkin 1999:110-111).

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

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

2.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Spanish explorers visited the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley in 1772, but its lengthy distance from the missions and presidios along the Pacific Coast delayed permanent settlement for many years, including during the Mexican period of control over the Californian region. In the 1840s, Mexican rancho owners along the Pacific Coast allowed their cattle to wander and graze in the San Joaquin Valley (JRP Historical Consulting 2009). The Mexican government granted the first ranchos in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley in the early 1840s, but these did not result in permanent settlement. It was not until the annexation of California in 1848 that the exploitation of the southern San Joaquin Valley began (Pacific Legacy 2006).

The discovery of gold in northern California in 1848 resulted in a dramatic increase of population, consisting in good part of fortune seekers and gold miners, who began to scour the rest of the state. In 1851, when gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in eastern Kern County, the population of the area grew rapidly. Some new immigrants began ranching in the San Joaquin Valley to supply the miners and mining towns. Ranchers grazed cattle and sheep, and farmers dry-farmed or used limited irrigation to grow grain crops, leading to the creation of small agricultural communities throughout the valley (JRP Historical Consulting 2009).

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

With the dramatic increase of ranching in the southern San Joaquin came the dramatic change in the lands, as non-native grasses more beneficial for grazing and pasture replaced native flora (Preston 1981). After the passing of the Arkansas Act in 1850, efforts were made to reclaim small tracts of land in order to create more usable spaces for ranching. Eventually, as farming supplanted

ranching as a more profitable enterprise, large tracts of land began to be reclaimed for agricultural use, aided in part by the extension of the railroad in the 1870s (Pacific Legacy 2006).

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

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

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

3. ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

An archival records search was conducted at the California State University, Bakersfield, Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center (SSJCIV, Confidential Appendix A) in 2019, and an update SSJVIC was conducted in 2026 to determine: (i) if precontact or historical archaeological sites had previously been recorded within the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area; (ii) if the project area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists prior to the initiation of this field study; and/or (iii) whether the region of the field project was known to contain archaeological sites and to thereby be archaeologically sensitive. The results of this archival records search are summarized here.

The records search at the SSJCIV indicated that four previous studies had covered the study area in its entirety (Table 1) and that two cultural resources were known to exist within it (Table 2). An additional eleven surveys had been undertaken within 0.5-mi of the study area (Table 3), resulting in the identification of five cultural resources (Table 4).

The two previously recorded resources are P-15-002837, a groundstone and lithic scatter that was first identified in 1990 and surface collected by CSUIB at that time; and P-15-017237, a historic ditch connected to the Beardsley Canal.

In addition to the records search, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) Request was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in 2018 with a follow up conducted in 2026.. No specific concerns were identified as a result of the request. Results of the request are presented in Confidential Appendix A.

Table 1. Survey Reports within the Study Area.

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-00689	1991	P Murphy and MQ Sutton/Cultural Resource Facility, CSUB	An Archaeological Assessment of 450 Acres of Land Owned by North of the River Sanitation District, Northwest of Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-00866	1992	RE Parr and R Osborne / Cultural Resource Facility, CSUB	Archaeological Survey Report for the Proposed Route Adoption Study on Highway 58, Bakersfield, Kern County, California
KE-04511	2013	GR Romani/ Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc.	Archaeological Survey Report Standard Street Secondary Access Project, Kern County, California.
KE-04598	2013	K Hobbs / Caltrans	Finding of No Adverse Effect Without Standard Conditions.

Table 2. Resources within the Study Area.

Primary #	Type	Description
P-15-002873	Site	Prehistoric lithic and groundstone
P-15-017237	Structure	Historic Beardsley One ditch

Table 3. Survey Reports within 0.5 miles of the Study Area.

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-00654	1986	J McManus and Chuster/Caltrans	TInterchange Modification - Extension of Right-of-Way, 58/99 and 204/99.
KE-00777	1994	R Osborne / Caltrans	Negative Archaeological Survey Report for DOT-06-KER-99, PM 27.32
KE-01015	2002	C Duke/ LSA Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment Cingular Wireless Facility No. VY 167-02 Kern County, California.
KE-01169	1991	Unknown / CSUB	Ongoing Fieldwork for the Buena Vista Slough Near Lokern.
KE-02369	1999	K Hovey / Caltrans	Negative Archaeological Survey Report: Rehabilitation of 57 On & Off Ramps, Route 5 & 99 0.0/15.0 and 0.0/47.406 PM.
KE-02394	1999	D Laylander et al./ Caltrans	Negative Archaeological Survey Report to Install Traffic Surveillance Stations at 21 Locations in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties.
KE-02396	2000	WJ Nelson / Far Western, Inc.	Cultural Resource Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project: Segment WS04: Sacramento to Bakersfield.
KE-02807	1993	RF Herbert / JRP Consulting Services	Historic Resource Evaluation Report: Tier 1, Route Adoption on Route 58 Between I-5 and State Route 99.
KE-02853	2003	S Billat / earthTouch, Inc.	Nextel Communications Project: Site CA- 1830D.
KE-03200	2006	J Romani / Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc.	Archaeological Survey Report: Rehabilitation on Fruitvale Avenue from SR 58 North to Hageman Road, Bakersfield, Kern Co., CA.
KE-04011	2010	JF Romani / Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc.	Archaeological Survey Report Auxiliary Lane Construction - Southbound State Route 99 Between Olive Drive/Knudsen Drive and State Route 204 (Approximately 5.4 Acres), Kern County, California.
KE-05153	2018	D.S. Whitley, R. Azpitarte / ASM Affiliates	PHASE I SURVEY, SAN LAUREN PROJECT, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
KE-05235	2020	S.M Hudlow / Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY, APNS 116-080-056, AND 059, HAGMAN ROAD AND KNUDSEN DRIVE, CITY OF BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA
KE-05583	2022	S.M Hudlow / Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR WELL PAD LOCATION KCL-B 50, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
KE-05585	2022	S.M Hudlow / Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR WELL PAD LOCATION KCLB 40, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
KE-05586	2022	S.M Hudlow / Hudlow Cultural Resource Associates	A PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR WELL PAD LOCATION KCL-B 16, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Table 4. Resources within 0.5 miles of the Study Area.

Primary #	Type	Description
P-15-000560	Structure, Site	Historic railway
P-15-002874	Site	Prehistoric lithic and groundstone scatter
P-15-007042	Structure	Historic bridge

P-15-007233	Structure	Historic canal (Calloway Canal)
P-15-017238	Isolate	Prehistoric quartzite hammerstone
P-15-020638	Site	Historic Abandoned natural gas well
P-15-020640	Site	Historic drilled well
P-15-020641	Site	Historic drilled well
P-15-020642	Site	Historic drilled well
P-15-020643	Site	Historic industrial foundation remains
P-15-020645	Isolate	Prehistoric mano fragment

Due to the age of the previous study conducted within the study area, re-survey was necessary to satisfy CEQA data requirements. Based on the results of the records search, the Project study area was considered to have low sensitivity with respect to archaeological resources.

4. METHODS AND RESULTS

The approximately 160-ac Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area was examined with the field crew walking parallel transects spaced at 15-m intervals, in order to identify surface artifacts, archaeological indicators (e.g., shellfish or animal bone), and/or archaeological deposits (e.g., organically enriched midden soil); tabulation and recording of surface diagnostic artifacts; site sketch mapping; preliminary evaluation of site integrity; and site recording, following the California Office of Historic Preservation Instructions for Recording Historic Resources, using DPR 523 forms.

Special attention was paid to rodent burrow back dirt piles, in the hope of identifying sub-surface soil conditions that might be indicative of archaeological features or remains. No cultural resources were collected during the survey.

Fieldwork was conducted in July 2018. As noted above, the study area had previously been disked and graded and was heavily disturbed. In general, ground visibility was good and adequate for a Phase I survey. Where grasses, planted or invasive, obscured ground visibility, special attention was paid to rodent burrow back dirt piles and areas with visible soil to ensure ground surface visibility

4.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Based on the archival records search, two previously recorded cultural resources were known to have existed within the study area: P-15-017237 (Beardsley One Ditch), and P-15-002873 (precontact lithic and groundstone scatter). This precontact site was surface collected by CSUB in 1990, and was assumed to no longer exist. As discussed below, however, two isolated lithic flakes were found to still be present at the site location.

No new or additional cultural resources were identified during the field survey, confirming the results of previous surveys of this study area.

The two previously recorded cultural resources were re-identified, photographed, mapped, and their site records updated (Confidential Appendix B). Maps and photographs of these two resources are included in their site record updates.

P-15-17237/ CA-KER-009435H UPDATE

This resource is the Beardsley One Ditch, consisting of late 19th/early 20th century lateral connecting the Beardsley and Calloway canals, with an associated mid-century reservoir. It is located on the east side of the Project study area. The recorded segment of the ditch begins at the eastern edge of Mohawk St. and terminates near the intersection of Hageman Rd. and Knudsen Dr. to the northeast. The recorded segment measures approximately 300-feet (ft) (northeast-southwest) by 60-ft wide by 5-ft deep and is situated at an elevation between 402-ft on the southwest and 417-ft amsl on the northeast. The immediate area has been impacted by decades of farming activity, canal maintenance, and road grading.

Beardsley One Ditch was initially recorded by ICF Jones and Stokes Associates (D. Paul) in 2009.

It was revisited in 2013 by both Compass Rose Archaeological (J.J. Schmidt & J.A. Schmidt) and FirstCarbon Solutions (M.H. Dice & A. Said-Abdelwahed). The ditch is earthen construction with gradually sloped banks and adjacent dirt roads on either side. The canal was dry when its site record was updated and an average depth of about 5-ft was noted. Multiple dirt crossings bisect the canal, with a series of steel and wooden plank weirs with corrugated steel pipe culverts. These components are contemporary in age and were added after 1968. In addition, an associated mid-20th century earthen reservoir adjacent to the ditch on the west (Feature 1), was recorded. Modern refuse in the form of plastics, paper, aluminum wrappings, Styrofoam and concrete fragments were noted within the canal.

The Beardsley One Ditch is associated with Louis Augustus Beardsley (1832-1886), a native of New York who moved to California in 1853. Beardsley found little success in mining and later enlisted in the Federal army where he served for three years (1861-64) during the Civil War. After an honorable discharge, Beardsley became involved in teaching, starting in Plano, Tulare County, and then moving to Kern County in 1869 before eventually securing a position as a superintendent of schools in Bakersfield. Beardsley would later acquire 160-acres of land three miles north of Bakersfield where he built a homestead and planted alfalfa. In addition, Beardsley set aside a one-acre tract to donate for school purposes. This would later become the site of Beardsley School, where Beardsley himself taught for two years and which is still in operation to this day. Beardsley largely dedicated his land to growing alfalfa and experimenting in its cultivation, inadvertently becoming a regional pioneer in agricultural development. Eventually the need for a reliable source of irrigation water encouraged Beardsley and two other men to build a canal system thereby permanently linking their properties to the Kern River (Morgan 1914: 1232).

The initial manifestation of this ditch segment within the study area was as early as 1906 (1906 Oildale USGS 7.5' Quadrangle; historicaerial.net). According to the City of Bakersfield, Department of Water Resources, Beardsley Ditch Map (cited in the 2009 ICF Jones and Stokes site record), the route of the ditch was altered circa 1960 due to the construction of Highway 99. Both historic aerial photographs and USGS quadrangles, in addition, suggest that approximately 370-ft of the recorded l segment – along the southeast end - was again altered between 1979 and 1981. Before ca. 1980, this section of the canal meandered through the agricultural field north of the current path, before continuing north and northeast towards Oildale. The north – south path of the canal was extended between 1979 and 1981, and its southwestward and westward were regularized. It has been unused at least since 2009, when it was first recorded.

Feature 1, the dual-basin earthen reservoir, measures approximately 600-ft (north-south) by 1300-ft (east-west). It is located along the western bank of the ditch. A search of historic aerial photographs and USGS quadrangles (historicaerial.net) suggests that construction of the southern reservoir basin began between 1947 and 1952. Construction of the larger northern basin began between 1952 and 1968. The construction of Hageman Rd. (after 1994) to the northwest, has led to partial destruction of the northern basin. Modifications to the existing reservoir were ongoing at the time of this 2018 study.

In summary, P-15-017237, the historic (early twentieth century) Beardsley One Ditch and associated reservoir, is a common property type in the Bakersfield and southern San Joaquin Valley region. The route of the canal segment within the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area has

been altered, with the canal itself changed by the addition of weirs and steel culverts. The associated reservoir, itself a mid-century addition to this water conveyance system, likewise has been altered, expanded and maintained over time. Although the ditch is associated with an identified individual, Louis Augustus Beardsley, Beardsley himself is not a notable historical figure nor does this ditch constitute a significant aspect of his historical legacy.

According to an assessment of the resource in the 2009 original ICF Jones & Stokes recording: Because of severe alterations over time and corresponding loss of integrity, the Beardsley One Ditch does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. The Beardsley One Ditch does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA because it does not meet the criteria outlined in PRC section 5024.1 (Site record for P-15-017237, 2010).

We concur with this assessment. P-15-017237 does not comprise a significant or unique historical resource under CEQA.

P-15-002873/ CA-KER-002873 UPDATE

This cultural resource was originally recorded as a sparse groundstone and lithic scatter by the CSUB Cultural Resources Facility (P. Murphy et al.) in 1990. Nine artifacts were surface collected at that time in an area measuring approximately 30- by 39-meters. These included three pieces of groundstone, one core and six lithic flakes, of different materials. A sandstone bowl had also been collected earlier from the site. The site area had been plowed shortly before the 1990 surface collecting which, according to the original recorders, "suggests a sub-surface deposit." No sub-surface testing was conducted at that time but the recovered artifacts were accessioned at CSUB under number CRF 90-93.

The location of the surface collected site was identified and examined during the current study. Two isolated pieces of crypto-crystallite (CCS) debitage were located within the previously recorded site area: one piece of CCS shatter and one CCS secondary flake. The debitage measures 4.5 x 3.3 x 1.4-cm and 3.3 x 1.9 x 1.1-cm, respectively.

Although no interpretation of the site was provided in the 1990 site record, it appears to represent a plant processing area, or perhaps a small camp site, of unknown precontact age. Whether a subsurface deposit is present at this location has not been determined.

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5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted for the Tortuga Bay Water Park Project study area, Bakersfield, Kern County, California. This involved an intensive pedestrian survey of an approximately 160-ac parcel, located in northern Bakersfield. This study area had been surveyed in its entirety in 1990, but was re-surveyed to meet current CEQA requirements. Two previously recorded cultural resources were reidentified and recorded within the study area. One is a historic ditch (P-15-017237, Beardsley One Ditch) and the other is a precontact archaeological site (P-15-002873). No new or additional cultural resources were identified during the current survey, confirming the results of the previous study.

P-15-017237, the Beardsley One Ditch, was first constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. An associated reservoir was added in the mid-twentieth century and, ca. 1960 and again ca. 1980, the route of the ditch segment within the Project study area was changed. The ditch segment has also been modified through the addition of new features (e.g., steel culverts under road crossings) and through regular maintenance. These modifications and changes have impacted its integrity. This resource, furthermore, is a common property type and is not associated with a significant historic individual. A 2009 evaluation of this resource determined it not eligible for the NRHP and not significant under CEQA. We concur with that assessment. Based on these facts and considerations, P-15-017237, the Beardsley One Ditch, is not a significant or unique cultural resource, and it is not eligible for the CRHR. Any development and use of the proposed Tortuga Bay Water Park Project that will affect this resource therefore will not result in an adverse impact to a significant historical resource.

Precontact archaeological site P-15-002873 was first recorded in 1990, with all observed surface artifacts collected by CSUB at that time. Because these artifacts were found shortly after the site area had been plowed, the original recorders of the site suggested that a sub-surface deposit might be present. Two additional surface artifacts were identified within the site area during the current survey, potentially supporting that inference. Due to the possibility that a sub-surface archaeological deposit may be present at this location, there is the potential for an adverse impact to a significant historical resource as a result of Project construction and development. Based on this circumstance, we recommend that the site area be preserved in open space, or that a Phase II test excavation and determination of significance be conducted at this location, to determine whether an extant sub-surface deposit is present. If the resource is avoided, archaeological monitoring should occur for ground disturbing activities in the study area.

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CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES

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