PROVOST&PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP

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MEMORANDUM

To:	Steph Thisius North of the River Recreation & Park District
From:	Jackie Lancaster, Provost & Pritchard Project Administrator, Planning Service Sector
Subject:	Cultural Resources Desktop Review for the Parcel Merger, Zone Change, and Annexation Assistance for Austin Creek Park
Date:	February 18, 2026

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND LOCATION:

North of the River Recreation & Parks District (District) is applying for a parcel merger, zone change, and annexation for the future creation of Austin Creek Park. These parcels (APN 529-012-10 and 529-012-11) are located at the northeast corner of Austin Creek Ave. and Jenkins Rd. in Bakersfield, California. The parcels total approximately 9.3 acres and are currently under the District's service and the City's sphere of influence, with the goal to incorporate the parcels into the City of Bakersfield jurisdiction. See Error! Reference source not found. for a map of the Project site.

INTRODUCTION

This technical memo summarizes our review of potential cultural and historical resources for the proposed North of the River Recreation and Park District - Parcel Merger, Zone Change, and Annexation Assistance for Austin Creek Park Project (Project) and evaluates potential Project-related impacts to those resources.

This memo addresses historic properties including any prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are eligible for or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and known cultural resources including any artifacts, records, and remains (surface or subsurface) that are related to and located within the Project area. Additionally, any Native American Tribal Cultural Resources known to be located in the Project area.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

State

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) Regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, State, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American Tribes, researchers, and the public.

Local

The Project site is located within Kern County, California. Kern County addresses Archaeological, Paleontological, Cultural, and Historical Preservation in the goals, policies, and standards of the County's General Plan.[1]

[1] Kern County General plan //efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_Complete.pdf

GENERAL PLAN OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The General Plan identifies policies to protect local resources and are provided below. These standards must be met before Project approval.

POLICY 25 – The County will promote the preservation of cultural and historic resources which provide ties with the past and constitute a heritage value to residents and visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE

K. Coordinate with the California State University, Bakersfield's Archaeology Inventory Center.

L. The County shall address archaeological and historical resources for discretionary projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

M. In areas of known paleontological resources, the County should address the preservation of these resources where feasible.

N. The County shall develop a list of Native American organizations and individuals who desire to be notified of proposed discretionary projects. This notification will be accomplished through the established procedures for discretionary projects and CEQA documents.

O. On a project specific basis, the County Planning Department shall evaluate the necessity for the involvement of a qualified Native American monitor for grading or other construction activities on discretionary projects that are subject to a CEQA document.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

A review was conducted of State and local databases for the presence of archaeological or architectural resources listed or historic resources eligible for listing on the NRHP or applicable state registries. Additionally, a cultural resources Records Search and a Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands Search was also performed, and a summary of this research is outlined below.

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CHRIS) - RECORDS SEARCH

As stated above, California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) Regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information regarding historical resources inventory, and provides the data to local, State, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. A records search request was submitted to the regional Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) at California State University, Bakersfield in January of 2026 to access this database and research whether or not any cultural or historical resources are known in the Project area. A response letter from SSJVIC, dated January of 2026, was received with the results of the requested records and database search (see Attachment A).

The results of the CHRIS records search includes known and recorded historic or cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with the SSJVIC office, and a culmination of resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. The following is a summary of the results from this records search.

- There have been three cultural resource study completed within the Project area: KE-01399, KE-03454, and KE-04464.
- There have been 17 additional cultural resource study completed within the one half-mile radius: KE-00686, 01352, 01439, 02396, 02424, 03025, 03128, 03278, 03487, 03512, 03824, 04292, 04676, 04767, 04768, 05005, and 05085.
- There are no recorded resource within the Project area, and it is not known if any exist there.

- There are four recorded cultural resources within a one-half mile radius: P-15-000560, 003029, 007975, and 008104. These resources consist of an historic era railroad, a historic era trash scatter, and two historic era buildings.
- 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, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION - SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), created in statute in 1976 (Chapter 1332, Statutes of 1976), is a nine-member body whose members are appointed by the Governor. The NAHC identifies, catalogs, and protects Native American cultural resources, ancient places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans and known ancient graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private and public lands in California. The NAHC is also charged with ensuring California Native American tribes' accessibility to ancient Native American cultural resources on public lands, overseeing the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and burial items, and administering the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, among many other powers and duties.

The NAHC in Sacramento was contacted in January 2026 to perform a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) to determine if any Native American resources have been recorded in the immediate Project area. The response letter dated January 21, 2026, confirms there are no known records associated with the Project (see Attachment B). The NAHC also provided a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the area. To provide a greater understanding beyond the results of the SLF, it is customary to reach out to local tribes during the CEQA process to further identify any potential impacts to cultural resources. Below is a list of local tribes that may be notified of the Project activities, if CEQA is required. Should any ground disturbing activities be planned in the future, it is recommended that you consult with local tribes on the provided list for their knowledge of the Project area.

1. *Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians, Delia Dominguez, Chairperson*
2. *Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Violet Walker, Chairperson*
3. *Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Nichole Escalon, Cultural Specialist I*
4. *Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Shana Powers, THPO*
5. *Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Samantha McCarty, Cultural Specialist II*
6. *Table Mountain Rancheria, Bob Pennell, Cultural Resource Director*
7. *Table Mountain Rancheria, Michelle Heredia-Cordova, Chairperson*
8. *Tejon Indian Tribe, Curtis Alcantar, Cultural and Natural Resource Manager*
9. *Tejon Indian Tribe, Candice Garza, CRM Scheduler*
10. *Tule River Indian Tribe, Felix Christman, THPO*
11. *Tule River Indian Tribe, Kerri Vera, Environmental Department*

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

California Historical Landmarks (CHLs) are buildings, structures, sites, or places that have been determined to have statewide historical significance and must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors or City Council, recommended by the State Historical Resources Commission, and designated by the Director of California State Parks. A determination of statewide significance is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and an identification plaque is posted on-site.

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, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Project would involve a parcel merger, zone change, and annexation for the future creation of Austin Creek Park. These parcels (APN 529-012-10 and 529-012-11) are located at the northeast corner of Austin Creek Ave and Jenkins Rd in Bakersfield, California. The parcels total approximately 9.3 acres and are currently under the District's service and the City's sphere of influence, with the goal to incorporate the parcels into the City of Bakersfield jurisdiction. There are no ground disturbing activities proposed as part to of this Project Description. No immediate mitigation measures are required.

In the future, if ground disturbing activities are proposed, the following mitigation measures would be required for any discoveries during ground disturbing activities:

- In the event that archaeological remains are encountered at any time during development or ground-moving activities within the entire project area, all work in the vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery. The District would require that contractor implement all recommendations of the archaeologist necessary to avoid or reduce to a less than significant level potential impacts to cultural resource. Appropriate actions could include a Data Recovery Plan or preservation in place.
- If human remains are uncovered, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Kern County Coroner will be notified to arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will determine the manner in which the remains are treated.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Jackie Lancaster, Senior Project Administrator
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Phone: (559) 636-1166
Email: Jlancaster@ppeng.com

Attachment A: CHRIS Record Search Results
Attachment B: NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results

Attachment A: CHRIS Record Search Results

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

To: Jackie Lancaster
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
455 W. Fir Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Record Search 26-031

Date: January 26, 2026

Re: North of the River Recreation and Park District – Parcel Merger, Zone Change, & Annexation for Austin Creek Park Project

County: Kern

Map(s): Rosedale 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP 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.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there have been three previous cultural resource studies completed within the project area: KE-01399, KE-03454, and KE-04464. There have been 17 additional cultural resource studies conducted within a one-half mile radius: KE-00686, 01352, 01439, 02396, 02424, 03025, 03128, 03278, 03487, 03512, 03824, 04292, 04676, 04767, 04768, 05005, and 05085.

Record Search 26-031

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there are no recorded cultural resources within the project area. There are four recorded cultural resources within a one-half mile radius: P-15-000560, 003029, 007975, and 008104. These resources consist of an historic era railroad, an historic era trash scatter, and two historic era buildings.

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.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand this project consists of the application of a parcel merger, zone change, and annexation for the future creation of Austin Creek Park. Because no ground disturbance will take place as a result of this project, no further cultural resource investigation is recommended at this time. However, prior to any future ground disturbance, we recommend a qualified, professional consultant conduct a field survey to determine if any cultural resources are present. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By: 

Celeste M. Thomson, Coordinator **Date**: January 26, 2026

Please note that invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

Attachment B: NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Results

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseño Indians

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Andrew Alejandre
Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

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

January 21, 2026

Jackie Lancaster
Provost & Pritchard Consulting

Via Email to: jlancaster@ppeng.com

Re: Austin Creek Annexation Project, Kern County

To Whom It May Concern:

As requested, a search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed based on information submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. Be aware that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the SLF, nor are they required to do so. As such, an SLF search is not a substitute for consultation with all tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a project's geographic area.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project's geographic area. Please contact all of the listed tribes as they may have information about sacred sites within the project area that is not listed with the NAHC.

If within two weeks of notification, a response has not been received, the Commission requests that you follow up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information was received.

If you receive notification of a change of address or phone number from a tribe, please inform the NAHC so that we can assure that our lists contain current information.

In addition to engaging in tribal consultation, you should consult the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) information center to determine whether it has information regarding the presence of recorded archaeological sites within the project area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at Mathew.lin@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Mathew Lin

Mathew Lin, MPP
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Kern County
1/21/2026

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Kern	Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians	N	Delia Dominguez, Chairperson	115 Radio Street Bakersfield, CA, 93305	(626) 339-6785		2deedominguez@gmail.com	Kitanemuk Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Los Angeles,Madera,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	
	Northern Chumash Tribal Council	N	Violet Walker, Chairperson	P.O. Box 6533 Los Osos, CA, 93412	(760) 549-3532		violetsagewalker@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern,Los Angeles,San Luis Obispo,Santa Barbara,Ventura	6/5/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Nichole Escalon, Cultural Specialist I	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 924-1278		nescalon@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	Samantha McCarty, Cultural Specialist II	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 633-3440		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) 423-3900			Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Merced,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	10/3/2023
	Table Mountain Rancheria	F	Bob Pennell, Cultural Resource Director	P.O. Box 410 Friant, CA, 93626	(559) 325-0351	(559) 325-0394	rpennell@tmr.org	Yokut	Fresno,Kern,Kings,Madera,Monterey,San Benito,San Luis Obispo,Tulare	
	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
	Tejon Indian Tribe	F	Curtis Alcantar, Cultural and Natural Resource Manager	4941 David Road Bakersfield, CA, 93307	(661) 699-5138		calcantar@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov	Kitanemuk	Kern	3/4/2025
	Tejon Indian Tribe	F	Candice Garza, CRM Scheduler	4941 David Road Bakersfield, CA, 93307	(661) 345-0632		cgarza@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov	Kitanemuk	Kern	3/4/2025
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Kerri Vera, Environmental Department	340 North Reservation Road Porterville, CA, 93257	(559) 781-4271		kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda,Amador,Calaveras,Contra Costa,Fresno,Inyo,Kern,Kings,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Monterey,Sacramento,San	8/12/2025
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Felix Christman, THPO	340 North Reservation Road Porterville, CA, 93257	(559) 719-0420		felix.christman@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda,Amador,Calaveras,Contra Costa,Fresno,Inyo,Kern,Kings,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Monterey,Sacramento,San	8/12/2025

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 contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Austin Creek Annexation Project, Kern County.

Record: PROJ-2026-000276
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Kern
NAHC Group: All