Appendix E Cultural Resources Letter Report

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MEMORANDUM

| То: | Albert Enault, Senior Planner – City of Vacaville |
|--------------|--|
| From: | Nicholas Hanten – Archaeologist (Dudek) |
| Subject: | Cultural Resources Letter Report for the Fields at Alamo Creek Project, Vacaville, California |
| Date: | October 23, 2023 |
| cc: | Adam Giacinto, MA, RPA (Dudek) |
| | Angelica Chiu (Dudek) |
| Attachments: | A – Figures |
| | B – NWIC Record Search Results – Confidential |
| | C - Fuerstenberg and Web 2017. Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report, The Farm at Alamo Creek, Solano County, California D -NAHC SLFS Search Results |

Dear Mr. Enault,

This letter report documents the cultural resources study conducted by Dudek for the proposed Fields at Alamo Creek project (Project), located in the Vacaville, California. The City of Vacaville (City) is the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This cultural resources study included a Northwest Information Center (NWIC) records search, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, an intensive pedestrian survey, and a review of results from a cultural resources survey of the area conducted for the adjacent Farm at Alamo Creek project (Fuerstenberg and Web 2017) which addressed the current Project site. The cultural resources study was conducted by Dudek in accordance with the standards and guidelines defined by the California Office of Historic Preservation and CEQA.

Project Location and Description

The Project proposes development of subdivision on an approximately 34-acre area located in unincorporated Solano County adjacent to the Farm at Alamo Creek Specific Plan. The Project site is located in Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Section 24 of the Elmira, CA 7.5' USGS quadrangle map. The Project is bordered by Hawkins Road to the north, the adopted Farm at Alamo Creek Specific Plan to the west and south, and PG&E overhead transmission lines and undeveloped agricultural lands to the east (Figure 1, Appendix A). The proposed subdivision would include 241 residential lots, a 0.6-acre park, 7.2 acres of open space, and associated roadways and utility connections. The project site itself consists of undeveloped, tilled and actively farmed agricultural land. The area surrounding the project site consists primarily of undeveloped agricultural or ranching land, with an existing PG&E easement east of the project site for 500 kilovolt (kV) and 230 kV overhead transmission lines that are part of the statewide electrical system.

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations

The California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term "historical resource" includes but is not limited to "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] Section 5020.1(j)). 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" (PRC Section 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources in the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), enumerated below. According to PRC Section 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.

In order 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 (see California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 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 NRHP, and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are the state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

California Environmental Quality Act

As described further below, the following CEQA statutes and CEQA Guidelines are of relevance to the analysis of archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources:

- PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines "unique archaeological resource."
- PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) defines "historical resources." In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase "substantial adverse change in the

significance of an historical resource;" it also defines the circumstances when a project would materially impair the significance of an historical resource.

- PRC Section 21074(a) defines "tribal cultural resources."
- PRC Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e): Set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.
- PRC Sections 21083.2(b)-(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4: Provide information regarding the
 mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including examples of preservation-inplace mitigation measures; preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to
 significant archaeological sites because it maintains the relationship between artifacts and the
 archaeological context, and may also help avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups
 associated with the archaeological site(s).

More specifically, under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause "a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource" (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)). If a site is either listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or if it is included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(q)), it is a "historical resource" and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource even if it does not fall within this presumption (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

A "substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource" reflecting a significant effect under CEQA means "physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); PRC Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

- (1) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or
- (2) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
- (3) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(2)).

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA inquiry begins with evaluating whether a project site contains any "historical resources," then evaluates whether that project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource's historical significance is materially impaired.

If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Section 21083.2[a], [b], and [c]).

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as 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.

Impacts to non-unique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (PRC Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)). However, if a non-unique archaeological resource qualifies as tribal cultural resource (PRC Sections 21074(c); 21083.2(h)), further consideration of significant impacts is required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described below, these procedures are detailed in PRC Section 5097.98.

Native American Historic Cultural Sites

State law 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 establishes the Heritage Commission to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains. In addition, the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail to deface or destroy a Native American historic or cultural site that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

California Health and Safety Code Section 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. Health and Safety Code Section 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 shall occur until the County coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5b). PRC Section 5097.98 also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If the coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours (Section 7050.5c). The NAHC will notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner, the MLD may inspect the site of discovery. The MLD may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and items associated with Native Americans.

Background Research

Cultural Records Search Results

A records search was completed for the current proposed Project site and a 1/2-mile radius on behalf of Dudek by staff at the NWIC at Sonoma State University on March 14, 2023 (Confidential Appendix B). This search included a review of their collection of mapped prehistoric, historical, and built-environment resources, Department of Parks and Recreation Site Records, technical reports, historical maps, and local inventories. Additional consulted sources included the NRHP, California Inventory of Historical Resources/CRHR and listed Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, California Points of Historical Interest, and California Historical Landmarks. Because the record search completed for the cultural resource study for the adjacent Farm at Alamo Creek Project adequately and recently addressed the current project area, only resources and studies recorded since the completion of that study (i.e. after 2017) were requested for the current study. A summary of the results of the 2017 records search results and the results of the updated record search for the current study follows.

Previously Conducted Studies

A search of NWIC records for the Farm at Alamo Creek Project (Fuerstenberg and Web 2017, Appendix C) identified ten previous cultural resource studies within ½-mile of the Project. The record search conducted for this study found no additional studies conducted within the record search area since the completion of the study for the Farm at Alamo Creek.

Table 1.Previous Technical Studies

| Report Number | Date | Title | Author |
|---------------|------|--|---|
| S-22736 | 2000 | Final Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Williams Communications, Inc. Fiber Optic Cable system Installation Project, Point Area to Sacramento, California | Jones and Stokes |
| S-22817 | 2000 | Cultural Resources Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long haul Fiber Optics Project Segment WS01: Sacramento to Oakland | Far Western Archaeological Research Group, Inc. |
| S-23471 | 1998 | Cultural Resources Evaluation of the Hawkins Property, An approximately 32 acre parcel of land located within the City of Vacaville, Solano County, California | Archeo-Tec |
| S-33061 | 2006 | Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project, State of California | SWCA Environmental Consultants |
| S-34833 | 2008 | Cultural Resources Assessment of the Brighton Landing Project Area, Solano County, California | Peak & Associates, Inc. |
| S-37992 | 2010 | Field Office Report of Cultural Resources Ground Survey Findings | Negroni, Sally |

Table 1.Previous Technical Studies

| Report Number | Date | Title | Author | |
|---------------|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| S-39243 | 2012 | Archaeological Survey Report, Vacaville-Dixon Bike Route Phase 5 Project, Hawkins Road, Solano County, California | Peak & Associates, Inc. | |
| S-44980 | 2012 | Cultural Resources Study for the Brighton Landing Project, Vacaville, Solano County, California | LSA Associates, Inc. | |
| S-050082 | 2017 Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report, The Farm at Alamo Creek, Solano County, California | | | |

Previously Identified Cultural Resources

The NWIC records searches conducted for the current study and the Farm at Alamo Creek Project identified 14 archaeological or built-environment resources on file within $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile of the Project site (Table 2). One of these resources, a segment of the Byrnes canal (P-48-001852), intersects the Project site.

Table 2.Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

| Primary Number | Trinomial | Period | Name | Туре | NRHP/CRHR Status | |
|-------------------|---|--------------|---|---|---------------------|--|
| Resources wi | Resources within the Project Site | | | | | |
| P-34-001852 | CA-SOL-000503H | Historic-era | FAC-001; Byrnes Canal | Canal/aqueduct | Not eligible | |
| Resources wit | Resources within ½-Mile of the Project Site | | | | | |
| P-48-000419 | | Precontact | | lsolate (Obsidian flake) | Unevaluated | |
| P-48-000546 | | Historic-era | Elmira Water Tower | | Unevaluated | |
| P-48-000549 | | Historic-era | Southern Pacific Railroad | | Unevaluated | |
| P-48-000745 | | Historic=era | | Single family property | Unevaluated | |
| P-48-001025 | | Historic-era | Vaca Valley RR Southern Pacific RR; Vaca Valley & Clear Lake RR; Union Pacific; Resource Name - Vaca Valley RR Route (District); Vaca Valley Railroad Grade | AH07; HP02; HP11; HP17; HP19; HP33; HP39; HP45 | Not eligible | |

Table 2.Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

| Primary Number | Trinomial | Period | Name | Туре | NRHP/CRHR Status |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---|---------------------|
| P-48-001026 | | Historic-era | Elmira Depot | AH07; HP02; HP11; HP17; HP19; HP33; HP39; HP45 | Unevaluated |
| P-48-001853 | | Historic-era | FAC-004 | AH02; HP04 | Not Eligible |

P-34-0001852

The Byrnes Canal, P-34-0001852, is an open, concrete-lined irrigation canal with two weirs, a culvert/vehicle crossing, and a water control gate. The canal runs north-south just ouside the western edge of the Project site. The canal was constructed after 1962 as an auxiliary of the Putah South Canal. This resource was recorded and evaluated by ECORP as a part of the Farm at Alamo Creek Project (Fuerstenberg and Web 2017) and recommended not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR.

Archival and Building Development Research

Dudek consulted historic maps and aerial photographs to understand development of the proposed Project site and surrounding properties. Topographic maps were available from 1908, 1917, 1922, 1944, 1955, 1959, 1965, 1969, 1974, 1981, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2022 (NETR 2023a). The historic topographic maps show very little change to the area over time. The 1908 map depicts no development within the project site, however, Hawkins Road and a small segment of Katleba Lane are depicted along the northern edge of the Project site. The map also shows Meridian Road to the east and a railroad to the south of the project site. While no structures are present within the Project site, there are structures depicted at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hawkings Road and Ketleba Lane and on the property immediately south of the Project site adjacent to Alamo Creek. The nearest substantial development at that time is Elmira, with a grid of small roads and numerous structures depicted approximately one kilometer southeast of the Project site. No changes are evident within the Project site or its immediate surroundings on any of the subsequent topographic maps.

Aerial photographs were available for the project area from 1957, 1968, 1984, 1993, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 (NETR 2023b). The aerial images are consistent with the topographic maps showing the Project site as undeveloped agricultural land on all of the available images. The 1957 image shows Hawkins Road and a structure and trees immediately north of the project site; however, it does not show the Byrnes canal or any of the dirt roads along the periphery of the parcel. The 1968 image shows the canal and dirt road along the western edge of the property, but no other changes within the Project site. No development is apparent within the Project site on any of the subsequent images.

Based on review of the available historic topographic maps and aerial images, the Project site appears to have been undeveloped, aside from the construction of canal along its western edge, and has been under agricultural use since at least the 1950s.

NAHC and Tribal Correspondence

On February 6, 2023, Dudek requested a NAHC search of their Sacred Lands File for the area of the Project site. The NAHC results, received March 9, 2023, indicated the Sacred Lands File search failed to identify any cultural resources within the records search area (Appendix D). The NAHC then provided a list of Native American tribes culturally affiliated with the location of the Project site and recommended contacting them for further information. None of the Native American tribes were contacted by Dudek; follow-up communication and formal consultation with Native American tribes pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52 will be the responsibility of the County.

The proposed Project is subject to compliance with Assembly Bill 52 (PRC Section 21074), which requires consideration of impacts to "tribal cultural resources" as part of the CEQA process and requires the CEQA lead agency to notify any groups (who have requested notification) of the Project who are traditionally or culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project. Because AB 52 is a government-to government process, all records of correspondence related to AB 52 notification and any subsequent consultation are the responsibility of with the City.

Intensive Pedestrian Survey

On September 18, 2023, Dudek archaeologist Walter Tovar Saldana, MA conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area using standard archaeological procedures and techniques that meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for cultural resources inventory. Exposed ground surfaces were observed for surface artifacts, undisturbed areas, archaeological deposits, and historic structures; periodic boot scrapes were employed to expose additional ground surface. Evidence of artifacts and archaeological deposits were also opportunistically sought after in animal burrows and other areas with disturbed soils.

Surface visibility was very low (less than 5-percent) throughout the Project site due to dense grasses and other vegetation. P-48-0001852 was relocated along the western edge of the Project site and was found to be in the same condition as described on the site record. No previously unrecorded historic structures or archaeological resources were observed within the Project site during the field survey.

Geomorphology

Potential for yet identified cultural resources in the vicinity was reviewed against geologic and topographic GIS data for the area and information from other nearby projects. The "archaeological sensitivity," or potential to support the presence of a buried prehistoric archaeological deposits, is generally interpreted based on geologic landform and environmental parameters (i.e., distance to water and landform slope).

The Project site is located within the Great Valley Geomorphic Province of California, a large basin comprised of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, bounded by the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges to the east and west respectively. Specifically, the Project site is situated in the Sacramento River Delta region with Suisun Bay approximately 25 km to the southwest. Alamo Creek, a partial channelized waterway, is located approximately 250 m south of the southwest corner of the Project site.

Soils within the site are primarily Yolo Loam (66%) and Yolo Loam, clay substratum (29%), with only the southeast corner of the Project site comprised of Capay silty clay (2%). All of these soils are deep to very deep alluvium derived from mixed or sedimentary sources which form on alluvial fans and flood plains (USDA 2023). Slopes within the Project site are between 0–4 percent. While alluvial soils can support intact buried archaeological deposits, there are no conditions indicating that this area would be of elevated potential for prehistoric use than other surrounding areas. There is no major water source or other specific resources documented as important to indigenous populations occupying the area. In general, project site has low potential for the presence of unknown buried cultural deposits. The history of agricultural activity within the project site also suggests that there is also low probability of undisturbed surface or near-surface archaeological manifestations within the Project site.

Summary and Management Recommendations

Archaeological Resources

Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources

In the event that archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities for the proposed Project, all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted. Assessment of the find would be based on significance consideration as defined by CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5(f); PRC Section 21082). If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery may be warranted.

Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within 2 working days of notification of the discovery, if the potential remains are human in origin. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, the County Coroner shall notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) from of the deceased Native American. The MLD shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at nhanten@dudek.com

Sincerely,

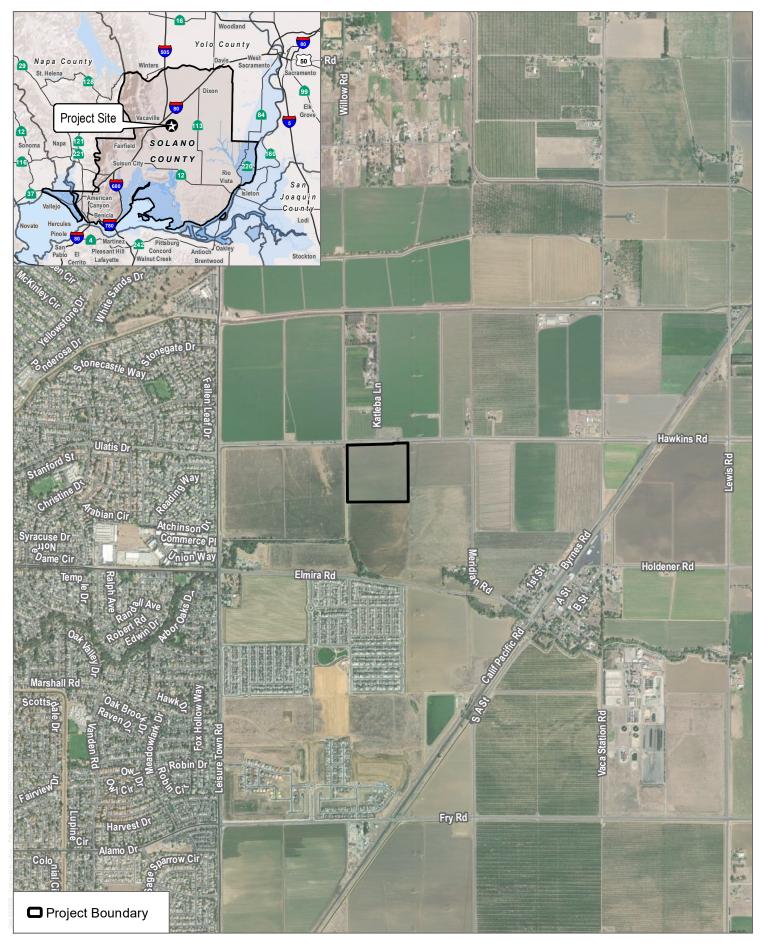
Nicholas Hanten, MA Archaeologist

cc: Adam Giacinto, MA, RPA, Dudek

References Cited

- Fuerstenberg, Theadora and Megan Web. 2017. Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report, The Farm at Alamo Creek, Solano County, California. On file at the Northwest Information Center.
- NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research). 2023. Historical Topographic Maps 1908, 1917, 1922, 1944, 1955, 1959, 1965, 1969, 1974, 1981, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2022. Accessed October 12, 2023. www.historicaerials.com.
- NETR 2023b. Historical Aerials 1957, 1968, 1984, 1993, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020. Accessed October 12, 2023. www.historicaerials.com.
- USDA (Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture). 2023. Web Soil Survey. Accessed October 12, 2023. http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/.





SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2017, Open Street Map 2019

DUDEK & <u>1,000</u> 2,000 Feet FIGURE 1 Project Location Fields at Alamo Creek

Appendix B NWIC Record Search Results (Confidential)

Appendix C

Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report, The Farm at Alamo Creek, Solano County, California (Fuerstenberg and Web 2017) (Confidential)

Appendix D NAHC SLF Search Results



CHAIRPERSON Laura Miranda Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON Reginald Pagaling Chumash

SECRETARY Sara Dutschke Miwok

COMMISSIONER Isaac Bojorquez Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER Buffy McQuillen Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

Commissioner Wayne Nelson Luiseño

COMMISSIONER Stanley Rodriguez Kumeyaay

Commissioner [VAVANT]

Commissioner [VACANT]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Raymond C. Hitchcock Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS

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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

March 9, 2023

Elizabeth Sivell Dudek

Via Email to: <u>esivell@dudek.com</u>

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, Fields at Alamo Creek (14994) Project, Solano County

Dear Ms. Sivell:

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 any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was <u>negative</u>.
- 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: <u>Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List Solano County 3/9/2023

Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community

Daniel Gomez, Chairman 3730 Highway 45 Wintun Colusa, CA, 95932 Phone: (530) 458 - 8231 dgomez@colusa-nsn.gov

Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel

Dehe Band of Wintun IndiansCharlie Wright, ChairpersonP.O. Box 1630WintunWilliams, CA, 95987Phone: (530) 473 - 3274Fax: (530) 473-3301

Guidiville Indian Rancheria

Donald Duncan, Chairperson P.O. Box 339 Pomo Talmage, CA, 95481 Phone: (707) 462 - 3682 Fax: (707) 462-9183 admin@guidiville.net

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Yvonne Perkins, THPO, Cultural Resources Chairman P.O. Box 18 Patwin Brooks, CA, 95606 Phone: (530) 796 - 3400 thpo@yochadehe-nsn.gov

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Laverne Bill, Director of Cultural Resources P.O. Box 18 Patwin Brooks, CA, 95606 Phone: (530) 796 - 3400 thpo@yochadehe-nsn.gov

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Anthony Roberts, Chairperson P.O. Box 18 Patwin Brooks, CA, 95606 Phone: (530) 796 - 3400 thpo@yochadehe-nsn.gov

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 Fields at Alamo Creek (14994) Project, Solano County.