

Appendix 4.8-2:

Archaeological
Investigation Report,
Greentree Development Project

Archaeological Investigation Report

Greentree Development Project

September 4, 2019



Prepared by
EMC Planning Group

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

GREENTREE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PREPARED FOR
Greentree Development Group, Inc.

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September 4, 2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1.0 | INTRODUCTION..... | 1-1 |
| 1.1 | Purpose..... | 1-1 |
| 1.2 | Location, Setting, and Survey Area Conditions..... | 1-1 |
| 2.0 | RESEARCH AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA..... | 2-1 |
| 2.1 | Archival Research..... | 2-1 |
| 2.2 | Sacred Lands File Search..... | 2-1 |
| 2.3 | Significance Criteria..... | 2-1 |
| 3.0 | BACKGROUND..... | 3-1 |
| 3.1 | Ethnographic Background (Pre-History)..... | 3-1 |
| 3.2 | Historic Background..... | 3-2 |
| 4.0 | SURFACE RECONNAISSANCE PEDESTRIAN SURVEY RESULTS..... | 4-1 |
| 4.1 | Pedestrian Survey..... | 4-1 |
| 4.2 | Results..... | 4-1 |
| 5.0 | CONCLUSIONS..... | 5-1 |
| 5.1 | Conclusions..... | 5-1 |
| 5.2 | Recommended Mitigation Measures..... | 5-1 |
| 6.0 | REFERENCES..... | 6-1 |

Appendices

| | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | Sacred Lands Search Documentation |
| Appendix B | EMC Planning Group Archaeologist Resume |

Figures

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----|
| Figure 1-1 | Location Map | 1-3 |
| Figure 1-2 | Search Area | 1-5 |
| Figure 4-1 | Site Photographs | 4-3 |

1.0 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

Greentree Development Group, Inc. contracted with EMC Planning Group to assist with obtaining land use entitlements from the City of Vacaville for future development of the former Greentree Golf Course site. This archaeological resources evaluation has been prepared to support Greentree Development Group's entitlement application package and the environmental review process to be conducted by the city under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5: Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archaeological and Historical Resources describes the process for local and state agencies to evaluate potential impacts to archaeological and historical resources that may result from a proposed project. This archaeological resources evaluation evaluates the significance of such impacts and includes mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts.

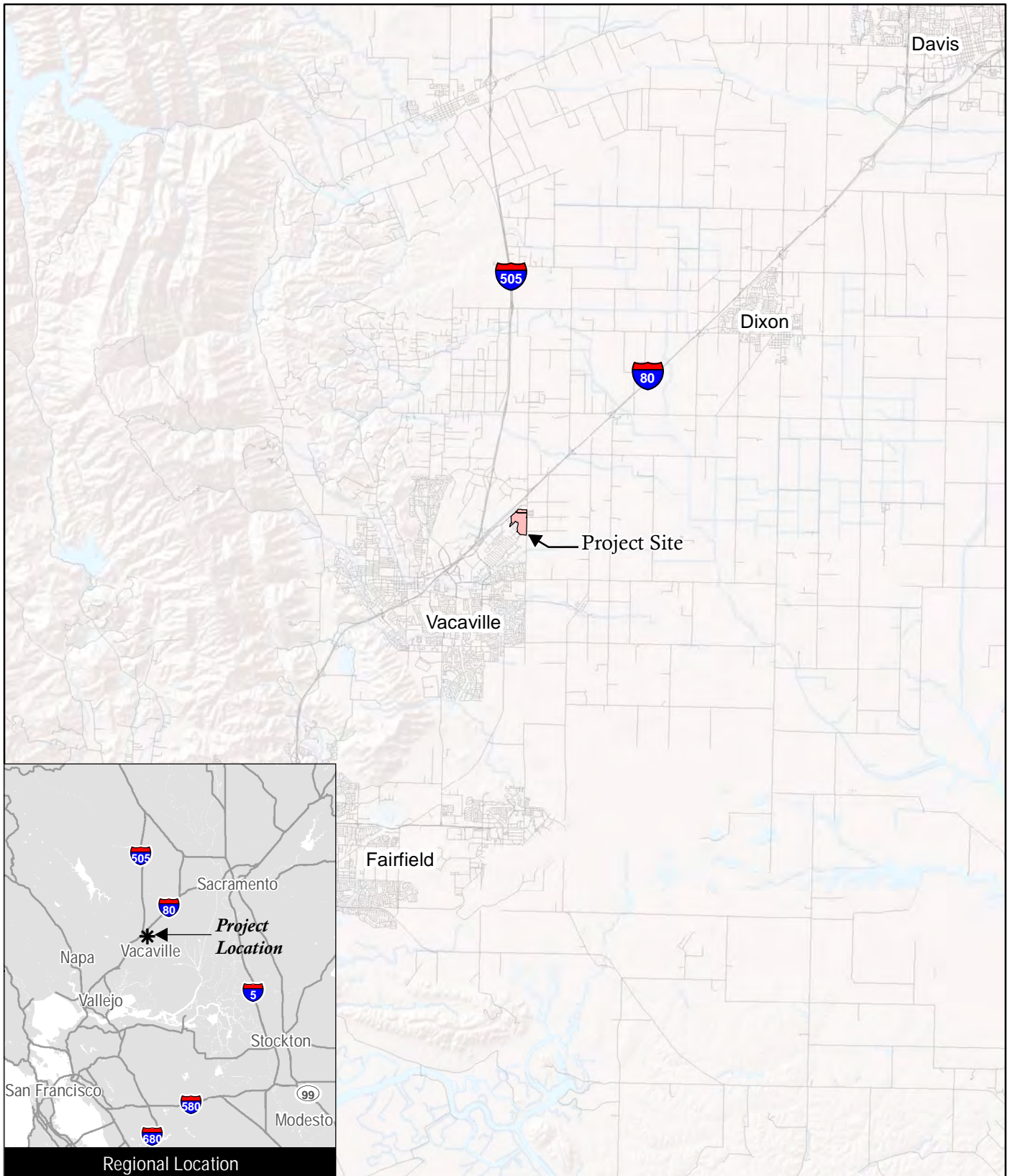
1.2 LOCATION, SETTING, AND SURVEY AREA CONDITIONS

The property site is located in Vacaville, California, Solano County, along Leisure Town Road, on the Elmira and Allendale USGS quadrangles, UTM 10S 592952 easting, 4247947 northing. The property site is located to the east of U.S. Highway 80. Surrounding properties include commercial, residential, and agricultural uses.

The property site is an approximately 180 in size and consists of APNs 0134-020-460, 0133-120-190, 0134-480-110, 0134-020-240, 0133-130-190, 0134-020-450, 0134-020-180, and 0133-120-340. A reconnaissance-level archaeological survey was conducted to assess the potential of future ground-disturbing actions associated with development of the project site to significantly impact archaeological resources. Where significant impacts are identified, measures to avoid or minimize those impacts are identified. [Figure 1-1, Location Map](#), presents an overview of the property location. [Figure 1-2, Search Area](#), presents an aerial view of the survey area.

1.0 Introduction

The project site is an abandoned golf course, containing paved paths and several ponds. The elevation ranges from approximately 79 to 87 feet above mean sea level. Landscaped trees and plants including English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), bur-clover (*Medicago polymorpha*), bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), and non-native grasses such as ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and ruderal (weedy) plants are found throughout the site.



Source: ESRI 2019

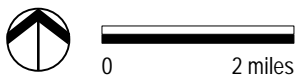


Figure 1-1

Location Map



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0 900 feet



Project Boundary

Source: ERSI 2019, Solano County GIS 2016

Figure 1-2

Search Area



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Research and Significance Criteria

The research for this archaeological investigation included an archival database search and a Sacred Lands database search through the Native American Heritage Commission.

2.1 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

The database search was conducted through the Northwest Information Center, file #18-2005, of the California Historical Resources Information System, affiliated with the State of California Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento. The Northwest Information Center was provided with a location map and coordinates of the site to be surveyed, with a request for any recorded sites or surveys within a quarter mile of the site.

The archival search revealed no recorded archaeological resources within the property site, but three previous studies have been recorded overlapping parts of the property site, and date from 1965-1996. There is one recorded archaeological resource within a quarter mile of the site; an historic site recorded in 1992, and nine studies within a quarter mile of the project site, ranging from 1984-2016.

2.2 SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

Gail Bellenger, EMC Planning Group Registered Professional Archaeologist, requested a Sacred Lands File Search from the Native American Heritage Commission. The Commission responded with negative results and a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of archaeological resources in the survey area. A letter was sent to each tribal representative requesting any information they may have regarding cultural resources in the survey area. Correspondence with the Commission and tribes is included in Appendix A.

2.3 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The significance of an archaeological resource is determined by whether it qualifies as eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). One or more the criteria for determination of eligibility must be met. Most prehistoric sites are considered eligible under Criterion 4.

2.0 Research and Significance Criteria

The California Register criteria are:

- Criterion 1: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States;
- Criterion 2: Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history;
- Criterion 3: Embodies the distinctive characteristics or a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; and
- Criterion 4: Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

3.0 Background

3.1 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND (PRE-HISTORY)

The Wintun, Maidu, and Miwok indigenous people inhabited northern California around what is now Solano County (UC Berkeley 2019). Current research indicates that the earliest people to migrate from northeast Asia into the Americas travelled via a Pacific coastal route approximately 15,000-17,000 years ago when glaciers were receding, thereby allowing marine passage along the west coast where massive kelp beds provided ample food resources. This has become known as the kelp highway. These people have been dubbed Paleoindians or Paleo-coastal Indians (Erlandson 2015).

At the time of European contact in the 1770s, there were various tribes inhabiting northern and central California, including the Wintu, Yana, Nomlaki, Patwin, Maidu, Atsugewi, Nisenan, Sierra Miwok, Northern Valley Yokuts, and Konkow, all speaking different dialects of the root languages Penutian and Hokan (Northern California Indian Development Council 2019). The Wintun included the northern Wintu, central Nomlaki, and the southern Patwin. Neighboring tribes such as the Yana would trade food and goods. Like throughout most of California, northern central tribes were non-agricultural, relying instead on the plentiful resources such as fish, deer, squirrels, quail, bears, acorns, buckeye nuts, hazel nuts, seeds, roots, and other plant materials (Warpaths2peacepipes 2012). Tribal populations once numbered over 10,000, but once the missions were developed and the indigenous people were forced from their lands, steep declines in population followed (Milliken et.al. 2009). Continuing conflict with European settlers further reduced the populations (Winnemem Wintu 2019).

Culture sequences for northern and central California (Gamble 2015) are most widely accepted as described below.

11,500-8,000 Before the Current Era-Paleoindian Era

The Paleoindian Era encompasses the time period of migration from the landmass of Beringia into the Americas, recently thought to be a route along the Pacific Coast where the massive kelp beds would have provided ample food resources and the coast would have allowed for periods of rest (Gamble 2015).

8,000-3,500 Before the Current Era-Early Archaic/Millingstone Culture

The Millingstone Culture is identified by large numbers of milling materials designed for food resource processing, including manos and metates, fewer flaked tools and debitage, and few, if any, side-notched projectile points. These sites are generally found no more than 15 miles away from the shoreline, (Jones et. al. 2007:137)

3,500-600 Before the Current Era-Early Period in Central California

The Early Period was a transitional time where mortars and pestles began to replace manos and metates, although some of the latter were still used. Projectile points such as the side-notched and square-stemmed points were being used (Jones et. al. 2007:138).

1250-1769 of the Current Era-Late Period in Central California

The Late Period assemblages include bedrock mortars, desert side-notched and cottonwood projectile points, and stone and shell beads (Jones et al. 2007:140). During this period, people became more sedentary, staying in one area due to increased storage of food resources like acorns, rather than being mobile, developed more complex societies, replaced the atlatl with the bow and arrow, and increased trade (Breschini 1983).

3.2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

California was first explored by Europeans such as Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, Sir Francis Drake, and Don Sebastian Vizaiño between the years 1542 and 1603 for the establishment of potential trading ports. These explorers interacted with the indigenous people for supplies and knowledge of the land. No further explorations were conducted until 1769 when Gaspar de Portolá came to Alta California for the purpose of colonizing the land for Spain.

The Franciscan priests soon followed. Prior to entering Alta California, Junipero Serra founded the first mission, San Fernando de Velicatá, in Baja, California in 1768. Under Serra, a series of missions were built in the late 1700s along the coast of Alta California. After Serra died in 1784, three additional missions were built in the early 1800s, with Mission San Francisco Solano in the San Francisco Presidio District being the last constructed in 1823. The missions were protected by presidios or fortifications that were positioned nearby. Each mission was designed to be self-supporting through agriculture with labor forces of indigenous people who were taken from their villages and kept at the missions (Lightfoot 2006).

Disease was prevalent among the indigenous people who had little to no resistance to European disease such as measles. In 1806, an outbreak killed thousands of native people. A steady decrease in population followed. The diseases spread rapidly due to unsanitary, close quarters at the missions (Milliken et. al. 2009).

There were several uprisings against the Spanish during the late 1700s and early 1800s, but they were suppressed by the military from the presidios. The California missions were officially closed on August 17, 1833 by the Decree of the Congress of Mexico Secularizing the Missions. The Decree allotted land parcels and livestock to the natives, who lived at the missions, however, another legal system called the Hacienda, gave the lands to the Hispanic families in the area instead. After this period, ranches took over as the Spanish ruled over California. As the ranches grew, the displaced natives worked as laborers, cooks, personal attendants, or farm workers. The system was similar to a peonage, where the natives received board, food, and clothing in exchange for work (Milliken et al 2009).

Solano County

At the time of European contact, the Patwin tribe inhabited what is now Solano County. Place names such as Suisun, Soscol, Ulatis, and Putah are taken from the local village names. The Solano County boundaries were set in 1850, which made it one of the original 27 counties in California. When the local chief, Sem Yeto, was baptized, he was given the name Solano, after the Franciscan padre, Father Francisco Solano. Mexican Commandante General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo declared that the county be named for Chief Solano (Solano County 2019)

Vacaville

Vacaville was named after Juan Manuel Vaca, who owned the land through a Mexican land grant. Prior to its purchase by William McDaniel, Vaca insisted that one square mile would be called Vacaville. In 1892, Vacaville was incorporated into a city. The area began as small ranches and farms, but eventually became known for large-scale agricultural production, including fruits and nuts. The once small Nut Tree roadside fruit stand that opened in 1921 and closed in 1996 was reopened in 2009 as a world-renowned large collection of restaurants and shops along Interstate 80. Vacaville is also home to several life-science companies, including Genentech, Alza, and Chiron (City of Vacaville 2019).

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Surface Reconnaissance Pedestrian Survey Results

4.1 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

The pedestrian survey took place on April 18, 2019. It was conducted by Ms. Bellenger, who meets the professional qualifications for a principal investigator according to the Society for California Archaeology, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Qualifications for Professional Archaeologists. Ms. Bellenger's resume is included as Appendix B. A surface survey is conducted to determine if there are surface traces of historic or prehistoric materials on the site.

4.2 RESULTS

The survey consisted of meandering transects. The property site is a defunct golf course composed of non-native grasses, including ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), plantain (*Plantago* sp.), bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), cheese weed (*Malva parviflora*), and bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*); and landscaped trees and shrubs. Non-native grass obscured the surface in many areas. The survey was conducted during bird nesting season, so areas with bird activity, especially burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), were avoided as much as possible to avoid disturbing birds. An area adjacent to Orange Drive was avoided due to this possibility. Areas where birds were nesting in grass, trees, or burrows were not surveyed, but open areas and areas around the perimeter of the site were examined carefully for traces of archaeological resources.

Several red brick fragments and white glazed ceramic were found at the northern portion of the site, adjacent to Leisure Town Road. Fill gravel and cobble-sized rocks included some chalcedony and quartzite. Several clam shells were seen in the central portion of the site in the middle of an asphalt foot path and in a culverted drainage ditch. These materials are shown in [Figure 4-1, Site Photographs](#). No evidence of unique archaeological resources was noted.

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① Looking north



② Red brick fragments



Project Site

Source: ESRI 2019

Photographs: EMC Planning Group 2019



③ White glazed ceramic fragment



④ Clam shells

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5.0 Conclusions

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

No evidence of unique archaeological resources was found at the project site. However, it is possible that unknown archaeological resources or human remains could be accidentally uncovered and damaged during future ground-disturbing activities. This would constitute a significant impact on archaeological resources. Implementation of the following recommended mitigation measures would reduce this potentially significant impact to less than significant.

5.2 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

1. If archaeological resources are discovered during construction, then work should be halted within 50 meters (165 feet) of the find until a qualified professional archaeologist can evaluate it. If the find is determined to be significant, then appropriate mitigation measures will be formulated and implemented.
2. If human remains are found during construction, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the coroner of Solano County is contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required.

If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendent (MLD) from the deceased Native American. The MLD may then make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

The landowner or their authorized representative will rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods, with appropriate dignity, on the property in a location not subject to further disturbance if: a) the Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify the MLD or the MLD failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being notified by the commission; b) the

5.0 Conclusions

descendent identified fails to make a recommendation; or c) the landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.”

6.0 References

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6.0 References

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<https://www.winnememwintu.us/who-we-are/>

APPENDIX A

SACRED LANDS SEARCH DOCUMENTATION

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 373-3710
Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>
Twitter: @CA_NAHC



May 1, 2019

Gail Bellenger
EMC Planning Group

VIA Email to: bellenger@emcplanning.com

RE: Greentree Planning Services Project, Solano County

Dear Ms. Bellenger:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

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 lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Quinn".

Steven Quinn
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
5/1/2019**

Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians
Charlie Wright, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1630 Wintun / Patwin
Williams CA 95987
(530) 473-3274 Office
(530) 473-3301 Fax

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson
10720 Indian Hill Road Maidu
Auburn CA 95603 Miwok
bguth@auburnrancheria.com
(530) 883-2390 Office
(530) 883-2380 Fax

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18 Wintun (Patwin)
Brooks CA 95606
aroberts@yochadehe-nsn.gov
(530) 796-3400
(530) 796-2143 Fax

This list is current as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

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, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans Tribes for the proposed:
Greentree Planning Services Project.**



Planning for Success.

May 14, 2019

Sent via email

Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

Re: Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File
Greentree Planning Services-Vacaville, Solano County

Dear Mr. Roberts:

EMC Planning Group has been contracted to prepare an archaeological survey report for obtaining entitlements from the City of Vacaville to develop the former Green Tree Golf Course into a mix of residential, commercial, and parks/open space/trails.

According to the Native American Heritage Commission, the file search results were negative; however they provided a list of local tribes to contact for additional information. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have regarding cultural resources or sacred site issues within the immediate project area.

If you could provide your comments in writing to the address below, via email, or a phone call to me, we will make sure the comments are incorporated into our report. We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience, should you have information relative to this request. I am including a site map for your convenience. I can be reached at (831) 649-1799 ext. 221 or via email at bellenger@emcplanning.com.

Sincerely,

Gail Bellenger, MA, RPA
Registered Professional Archaeologist

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A LAND USE PLANNING & DESIGN FIRM

301 Lighthouse Avenue Suite C Monterey California 93940 Tel 831-649-1799 Fax 831-649-8399
www.emcplanning.com



Planning for Success.

May 14, 2019

Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson
United Auburn Indian of the Auburn Rancheria
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File
Greentree Planning Services-Vacaville, Solano County

Dear Mr. Whitehouse:

EMC Planning Group has been contracted to prepare an archaeological survey report for obtaining entitlements from the City of Vacaville to develop the former Green Tree Golf Course into a mix of residential, commercial, and parks/open space/trails.

According to the Native American Heritage Commission, the file search results were negative; however they provided a list of local tribes to contact for additional information. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have regarding cultural resources or sacred site issues within the immediate project area.

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Sincerely,

Gail Bellenger, MA, RPA
Registered Professional Archaeologist

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Planning for Success.

May 14, 2019

Sent via email

Charlie Wright, Chairperson
Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987

Re: Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File
Greentree Planning Services-Vacaville, Solano County

Dear Mr. Wright:

EMC Planning Group has been contracted to prepare an archaeological survey report for obtaining entitlements from the City of Vacaville to develop the former Green Tree Golf Course into a mix of residential, commercial, and parks/open space/trails.

According to the Native American Heritage Commission, the file search results were negative; however they provided a list of local tribes to contact for additional information. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have regarding cultural resources or sacred site issues within the immediate project area.

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Sincerely,

Gail Bellenger, MA, RPA
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APPENDIX B

EMC PLANNING GROUP ARCHAEOLOGIST RESUME



Gail Bellenger, M.A., RPA

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Bellenger joined the firm in 2018 and has been working in the field of archaeology since 2004. She is responsible for conducting archaeological surveys, conducting database inquiries and Sacred Lands records searches, Native American consultation, archaeological testing, recommendations for listing through the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places, and report preparation. She also prepares cultural resources sections of environmental documentation in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

As Principal Investigator, she has conducted numerous intensive-level archaeological surveys for projects in California; for roadway extensions for the Utah Department of Transportation; and for proposed trail construction clearances for the cities of Draper and Riverton in Utah. Additionally, in Nevada, she conducted Trust land cultural resource investigations for the Indian Health Services in Elko and Ely.

In addition, Ms. Bellenger has previously worked as a curatorial assistant in the Anthropology Department of the Nevada State Museum, where she identified and sorted human from faunal bone fragments to prepare the human remains for reburial according to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. She also examined and identified clothing and artifacts from a historic burial stored at the Museum. Additionally, in coordination with the Anthropology Department at the University of Nevada, Reno, she recorded and accessioned Native American cordage fragments from a private collection turned over to the university.

EDUCATION

- M.A. California State University, Northridge, Public Archaeology
- B.A. University of Nevada, Reno, Anthropology/Paleo-Archaeology
- B.S. University of Nevada, Reno, Environmental Resource Management/Conservation and Wildlife Biology

REGISTRATIONS

- The Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)

CERTIFICATES AND TRAINING

- Construction Management/BMPs, Utah Department of Transportation, 2016
- Plant Taxonomy, Nevada Department of Transportation, 2002
- 20 Hour NEPA/Section 4(f) Practical Project Development and Environmental Documentation Course, Salem, Oregon, 2001
- 14-day Pre-Celtic Excavation in the Balbithan Forest in Aberdeenshire Scotland

PUBLICATIONS

- Master's Thesis: Analysis and Interpretation of The Van Norman Archaeological Complex Orphan Collection. 2016. California State University, Northridge, Department of Anthropology