

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Santa Nella County Water District
Water Treatment Project
4.7-mile linear corridor and 2<1-acre well/storage sites
Merced County, California.**

Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey of the Santa Nella County Water District's (SNCWD) proposed water treatment project, involving approximately 4.7 miles of pipeline corridor extending from a proposed well site (circa 1-acre) in the community of Volta, westerly along Henry Miller Road to the existing water storage and distribution system located west of the intersection of Henry Miller Road and State Route 33. A new storage, filtration and distribution system would be constructed at this latter location. The entire project is located within the communities of Volta and Santa Nella, in Merced County, California.

SNCWD proposes to construct a new domestic water well which is needed to correct water quality issues associated with the existing potable water treatment system. The proposed well site is adjacent to Henry Miller Road near the community of Volta. Water would be transported in a pipeline extending west along Henry Miller Road from the well to the existing water storage and distribution system at Henry Miller Road and SR 33 in Santa Nella. It is anticipated that the pipeline will be placed within or immediately adjacent to the Henry Miller Road prism.

The line work spans approximately 4.7 miles long, and the project will be confined either within the existing pavement or the dirt right-of-way primarily south of Henry Miller Avenue.

Existing records at CCIC document that portions of the APE have been subjected to previous archaeological survey, and that no prehistoric resources have been documented within APE, nor within 1/2-mile of the APE. CCIC records indicate that two historic-era resources (P-24-000082 and P-24-000434) have been documented within the APE. Both resources, the Main Canal, and the Outside Canal, were recommended not eligible for NRHP listing due to a lack of integrity by JRP (Byrd 1996), and in 2000 they received a consensus determination of ineligibility and both were given the status code of 6Y in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Properties Directory (Program reference number DOE 24-00-0027-0000/FHWA 000623D and DOE 24-00-0025-0000/FHWA 000623D, respectively).

An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on December 21, 2016. To date, no response has been received from the NAHC. As no prehistoric cultural material was identified during either the records search or pedestrian survey, no additional consultation was undertaken.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources/historic properties within the APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed.

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ATTACHMENTS

Project Location and Archaeological Survey Area Map.
Copy of Records Search from CCIC, File # 10137I, dated December 22, 2016.
Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey of the Santa Nella County Water District's (SNCWD) proposed water treatment project, involving approximately 4.7 miles of pipeline corridor extending from a proposed well site (circa 1-acre) in the community of Volta, westerly along Henry Miller Road to the existing water storage and distribution system located west of the intersection of Henry Miller Road and State Route 33. A new storage, filtration and distribution system would be constructed at this latter location. The entire project is located within the communities of Volta and Santa Nella, in Merced County, California.

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The line work spans approximately 4.7 miles long, and the project will be confined either within the existing pavement or the dirt right-of-way primarily south of Henry Miller Avenue.

Since the project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with well placement, storage tank construction, and pipeline placement, it has the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the APE. In this case, the APE would consist of the 4.7-mile pipeline corridor, the proposed well location, and the water storage facility. Evaluation of the project's potential to impact cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with Merced County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Additionally, the project must also conform with federal guidelines for assessing effects to cultural resources, including in particular Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and other rules and regulations.

Scope of Work

Compliance with CEQA requires completion of projects in conformity with Section 15064.5 of the amended CEQA Guidelines and other Sections. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA requires completion of projects in conformity with the standards, guidelines, and

principles in the Advisory Council's Treatment of Archaeological Properties: A Handbook (1980), and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (1983). Based on CEQA and NEPA requirements, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for this project:

- Conduct a records search at the Central California Information Center at CSU-Stanislaus and consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and interested Native American representatives. The goals of the records search and consultation are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all significant/eligible cultural resources are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.
- Conduct a pedestrian survey of the APE in order to record and evaluate any previously unidentified cultural resources. Based on map review, a complete coverage, intensive survey was considered appropriate, given the presence of moderate archaeological sensitivity within the property. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously identified sites are re-located and evaluated in relation to the present project/undertaking. For any previously undocumented sites discovered, the field survey would include formally recording these resources on State of California DPR-523 Forms.
- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare a Final Report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for sites that might be affected by the undertaking and that are considered significant or potentially significant per CEQA, and/or eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the Final Report for this project, detailing the results of the records search, consultation and pedestrian survey and providing recommendations for treatment of significant/eligible archaeological and historic sites. All field survey work followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and conforms to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

Location

The project area is located within an existing water storage and treatment facility and along an existing paved road, which is flanked primarily by agricultural fields, with limited commercial and residential developments on adjacent lands. Lands affected are located within a portion of Sections 1-6 of Township 10 South, Range 9 East, and a portion of Sections 31-36 of Township 9 South, Range 9 East, as shown on the USGS San Luis Dam and Volta, California, 7.5' Series Quadrangles (see attached *Project Location Map*).

Environment

Situated within the central San Joaquin Valley, the APE occupies relatively flat terrain which has been subjected to agricultural development throughout the past 150 years, and more recently commercial and residential development. Elevation within the APE from 99 to 150 feet above mean sea level, with lands sloping gently to the east. The San Luis Wasteway is located immediately north of the APE's western terminus, but no naturally occurring sources of surface water are located within the APE.

Prehistory

The San Joaquin Valley area generally has a long and complex cultural history with distinct regional patterns that extends back more than 11,000 years. The first generally agreed-upon evidence for the presence of prehistoric peoples in the area is represented by the distinctive fluted spear points (e.g. Heizer 1938), some resembling Clovis Points, found on the margins of extinct lakes in the San Joaquin Valley. The Clovis points are found on the same surface with the bones of extinct animals such as mammoths, sloths, and camels. Based on evidence from elsewhere, the ancient hunters who used these spear points existed during a narrow time range between about 10,900 BP and 11,200 BP (Moratto 2004).

The next cultural period represented, the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition and thought by most to be subsequent to the Clovis period, is another widespread complex that is characterized by stemmed spear points. This poorly defined early cultural tradition is regionally known from a small number of sites in the Central Coast Range, San Joaquin Valley lake margins, and Sierra Nevada foothills. The cultural tradition is dated to between about 8,000 and 10,000 years ago and its practitioners may be the precursors to the subsequent cultural pattern (Wallace 1978c).

About 8,000 years ago, many California cultures shifted the main focus of their subsistence strategies from hunting to seed gathering as evidenced by the increase in food-grinding implements found in archeological sites dating to this period. This cultural pattern is best known for southern California, where it has been termed the Milling Stone Horizon (Wallace, 1954, 1978a). However, subsequent research suggests that the horizon may be more widespread than originally described and likely extended throughout the Valley (Moratto 2004); radiocarbon dates suggest a maximum age range between about 8,000 and 2,000 BP, but with most clustering between about 6,000 to 4,000 BP.

Cultural patterns as reflected in the archeological record, particularly specialized subsistence practices, became codified within the last 3,000 years. The archeological record becomes more complex, as specialized adaptations to locally available resources were developed and populations expanded. Many sites dated to this time period contain mortars and pestles and/or are associated with bedrock mortars implying the intense exploitation of the acorn. The range of subsistence resources utilized along with regional exchange systems expanded significantly. Along the coast and in the Central Valley, archeological evidence of social stratification and craft specialization is indicated by well-made artifacts such as charmstones and beads, often found as mortuary items. Ethnographic lifeways serve as good analogs for this period.

Ethnography

The project area is located near the center of lands claimed by the Penutian-speaking Northern Valley Yokuts at the time of initial contact with European American populations *circa* AD 1850 (Kroeber 1925; Wallace 1978b). These Yokuts occupied an area extending from the crest of the Coast Diablo Range easterly into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, north to the American River, and south to a line north of Tulare Lake.

The basic social unit for the Yokuts was the family, although the village may also be considered a social, political and economic unit. Often located on flats adjoining streams, villages were inhabited mainly in the winter because it was necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food-gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer, and fall). Villages typically consisted of a scattering of small structures, numbering from four or five to several dozen in larger villages, each house containing a single family of from three to seven people. Larger villages, with from twelve to fifteen or more houses, might also contain an earth lodge.

As with most California Indian groups, economic life for the Yokuts revolved around hunting, fishing, and collecting plants, with deer, acorns and avian and aquatic resources representing primary staples. The Yokuts used a wide variety of wooden, bone, and stone artifacts to collect and process their food, and were very knowledgeable of the uses of local animals and plants and the availability of raw material sources which they used to manufacture an immense array of primary and secondary tools and implements. However, only fragmentary evidence of their material culture remains, due in part to perishability and in part to impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later (historic) land uses.

Resource Considerations, Native American Sites. The discussion of regional prehistory and ethnography (above) provides insight into the *types* of Native American sites that have been documented within the region generally. These include:

- Large village sites located along the margins of streams, particularly at confluences, and at or near other natural surface water sources (springs, marshes and other wetlands) and on naturally elevated ground.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts without buried cultural deposits, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Petroglyphs, often in the form of cupped boulders, at or close to village sites or encampments.
- Bedrock food-processing (milling) stations, including mortar holes and metate slicks, most likely associated with surface occurring water sources.
- Trails.
- Mortuary sites, often but not exclusively associated with large village complexes.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

Clearly, it is not expected that all of these site types would be documented during the present pedestrian survey, but rather that these would be the most likely *types* to be encountered based on the results of previous regional research.

Historic Context

Interior California was initially visited by Anglo-American fur trappers, Russian scientists, and Spanish-Mexican expeditions during the early part of the 19th Century. These early explorations were followed by a rapid escalation of European-American activities, which culminated in the massive influx fostered by the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848.

Early Spanish expeditions arrived from Bay Area missions as early as 1804, penetrating the northwestern San Joaquin Valley (Cook 1976). By the mid-1820s, hundreds of fur trappers were annually traversing the Valley on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company (Maloney 1945). By the late 1830s and early 1840s, several small permanent European-American settlements had emerged in the Central Valley and adjacent foothill lands, including Ranchos in the interior Coast Range, and of course the settlement at New Helvetia (Sutter's Fort) at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers (Sacramento).

In 1843, Jose Mejia and Juan Perez Pacheco petitioned the Mexican governor for rights to over 48,000 acres in and around Pacheco Pass. The Rancho San Luis Gonzaga was granted in November of that year and bordered the ranch (Rancho Ausaymas y San Felipe) owned by Pacheco's father since 1833. Through further grants and the purchase of additional lands in the region, the Pacheco family holdings exceeded 150,000 acres by the middle of the 19th century (Hill et al. 1996).

Pacheco saw to the construction of the area's first adobe building in 1846, which included gun ports and other defensive capabilities to combat Indians and bandits. The original location of the adobe and of the entire Rancho complex was destroyed during construction of the San Luis Reservoir Dam and associated facilities (ibid.).

Several roads were built through Pacheco Pass, several miles west of the present APE, in historic times, including the original Pacheco Pass toll road constructed by Andrew Firebaugh in the late 1850s. The general route of Firebaugh's highway was improved upon by the state in the early 1900s, and finally with construction of Highway 152 in the 1960s.

However, the most traveled route in the region, historically, was the Butterfield Stage route. Beginning in 1858 the Butterfield Overland Mail Route began operations, providing service from St. Louis to Los Angeles and then on to San Francisco. From Los Angeles the route climbed Tejon Pass, north to Fresno City, then northwest to Lone Willow (near the current town of Los Banos), west to the Rancho San Luis Gonzaga, over Pacheco Pass to Gilroy and then north to San Francisco (Beck and Haase 1974). The Butterfield Overland Mail Route roughly corresponded with the alignment of present-day State Highway 152 and Firebaugh's road, several miles to the south of the APE.

The most significant road in the Central Valley and Santa Nella area is Interstate 5 (I-5). Construction of the highway began in the early 1960s, and proceeded in three phases during the 1960s-1970s. The Santa Nella area witnessed gradual growth associated with the community's proximity to the highway.

In addition to these early trails and roads, of particular importance to the transformation of the region was brought about by the railroads. The Southern Pacific and Central Pacific

Railroads and a host of smaller interurban lines to the north and east around the cities of Sacramento, Stockton and Modesto began intensive projects in the late 1860s. Completed by 1891, the Southern Pacific's West Side Line, the railroad route that extended from Tracy along the western margin of the San Joaquin Valley, and generally paralleling the present I-5 corridor, continued through Patterson, Gustine and Los Banos before continuing to Fresno, facilitated the growth of many communities, including Volta.

The Volta Improvement Company established the community in 1890, as a sheep camp, complete with a post office (Wood 2007). A number of structures and conveniences were established within the community over the coming decades, most of which supported, or were brought about by ranching and agriculture, and maintained by the railroad. Wood (2007:56) reports that "Most of the old businesses have disappeared. A vacant lot now stands where the old Post Office was. Only a concrete slab near the street remains of the entrance to the grocery store. The railroad tracks have been removed and the warehouses have gone."

Agricultural development intensified through the end of the 19th and into the 20th Centuries, spurred initially and then supported by the railroads that provided the means for bulk product to be transported to a much larger market. By the end of the 19th Century, a very substantial portion of the Valley was being intensively cultivated, with increasing mechanization occurring throughout all of the 20th Century and substantial expansion of cultivated acreage occurring with the arrival of water from the Central Valley Project (CVP).

Prior to the inception of the CVP, John Bensley was instrumental in the formation of the San Joaquin Canal Company (SJCC) in 1866. The company planned to connect the Tulare Lake Basin with the San Joaquin River, at the Mendota Pool, via a canal system. Encountering financial difficulties, SJCC came under control of the land and cattle company Miller & Lux during the 1870s, at which time canal construction immediately began.

Between the 1870s and the 1920s, irrigation infrastructure, which would ultimately come under control of the Central California Irrigation District (CCID), was constructed, including the Main Canal and the Outside Canal, both of which bisect the present APE.

Although a significant component of the CCID infrastructure and an important part of the larger Central Valley Project (CVP), both the Main Canal, and the Outside Canal were recommended not eligible for NRHP listing due to a lack of integrity by JRP (Byrd 1996), and in 2000 they received a consensus determination of ineligibility and both were given the status code of 6Y in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Properties Directory (Program reference number DOE 24-00-0027-0000/FHWA 000623D and DOE 24-00-0025-0000/FHWA 000623D, respectively).

Organization of the CCID occurred in 1951, and shortly thereafter, CCID purchased the assets, including the water rights and distribution system, of the SJCC. In 1954, the newly formed district took over operation of the SJCC and today provides water from the Mendota Dam northward approximately 110 miles to its service area of approximately 120,000 irrigated acres.

Resource Considerations, Historic Resources. Historic overviews for the region document the presence of a wide range of historic site and feature types and complexes throughout the area generally. These include:

- Historic railroad alignments.
- Two-track historic trails/wagon roads, most of which are now paved over and represent fully contemporary features.
- Water distribution systems, including small and large ditch, canal and channel systems, and levees dating to historic time periods.
- Occupation sites and homesteads with associated features such as refuse disposal features, privy pits, barns, and sheds.
- Commercial undertakings and associated buildings and structures.
- Refuse disposal site(s) associated with historic communities.
- Ranch features, including structures, structural remnants, corrals, other feature types.

As with prehistoric sites, it was not expected that all of these would be encountered within the APE. Rather, these sites and features represented the most likely *types* to be encountered during the pedestrian archaeological survey.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several types of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting the pedestrian survey includes data maintained by the Central California Information Center (CSU-Stanislaus), and available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

Central California Information Center Records

The official Merced County archaeological records were examined on December 22, 2016 (CCIC File # 101371). This search documented the following existing conditions for the entire APE, as well as a 1/2-mile radius search area:

- According to the Information Center's records, portions of the APE have been subjected to cultural resources investigations. Seventeen (17) investigations have been conducted within, adjacent to, and/or within 1/2-mile of the present APE. These investigations include:

Report #	Date	Author
00621	1990	Moratto, et al.
00679	1978	Pope
01724	1992	Napton
01975	1991	Peak & Associates, Inc.
02630	1995	Werner and Teixeira

02630	1995	Werner and Teixeira
02753	1994	Moratto, Pettigrew, Price, Ross and Schalk
03063	1996	JRP Historical Consulting Services
03369	1995	Werner
03584	1997	Parks
05538	2002	Pacific Legacy, Inc.
06099	2006	EDAW, Inc.
06989	2008	Chotkowski
07302	2010	Chotkowski
07979	2013	Ludwig
08048	2014	Wills and Crawford
08201	2014	Peterson, Wills and Crawford

- According to the Information Center's records, two historic-era resources (P-24-000082 and P-24-000434) have been documented within the APE. As well, a proposed historic district (which includes P-24-000082) has been documented within the APE. Two historic-era resources (P-24-001848 and P-24-002123) have been documented within the ½-mile search radius.

Although a significant component of the CCID infrastructure and an important part of the larger Central Valley Project (CVP), both the Main Canal, and the Outside Canal were recommended not eligible for NRHP listing due to a lack of integrity by JRP (Byrd 1996), and in 2000 they received a consensus determination of ineligibility and both were given the status code of 6Y in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Properties Directory (Program reference number DOE 24-00-0027-0000/FHWA 000623D and DOE 24-00-0025-0000/FHWA 000623D, respectively).

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining the archaeological site and survey records of Merced County maintained at the Central California Information Center, the following sources were also included in the search conducted at the Information Center, or were evaluated separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1986, Supplements).
- The California Register of Historical Resources.
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Data File (OHP 3-20-14).
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (OHP 3-20-14).
- Caltrans State and Local Bridge Survey (1989 and updates).
- The Survey of Surveys (1989).
- GLO Plat T9S/R9E (sheet # 44-617, dated 1853-1859).
- GLO Plat T9S/R10E (sheet # 44-618, dated 1853-1861).
- GLO Plat T10S/R9E (sheet # not on copy, date illegible).
- GLO Plat T10S/R10E (sheet # 44-694, dated 1854-1855).

- 1920 Pacheco Pass USGS 15' (1:62500).
- 1947 Volta USGS 7.5' (1:24000).
- 1953 San Luis Creek USGS 7.5' (1:24000).
- Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources, reviewed below, provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Strategy and Field Work

All of the present APE was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey by means of walking systematic parallel transects along both sides of the APE.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor took into account the results of background research and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Principal Investigator, Sean Michael Jensen, M.A., accompanied by Archaeological Technician Asher Levin, B.A., undertook the present pedestrian field survey on Saturday, December 31, 2016. Mr. Jensen is a professional archaeologist, with 30 years experience in archaeology and history, who meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Professional Qualification, as demonstrated in his listing on the California Historical Resources Information System list of qualified archaeologists and historians. No special problems were encountered and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

General Field Observations

Fieldwork identified the following general conditions within the project area. Intensive disturbance was observed throughout the APE. The western portion of the APE consists of the existing water storage and distribution system, and exhibits evidence of intensive ground disturbance in the form of graded and an excavated storm detention basin and contemporary structures and features. The majority of the APE is located within the Henry Miller Road and Volta Road alignments. Both of these roads exhibit intensive disturbance associated with road construction and ongoing maintenance, as well as period widening and placement of both buried and overhead utilities (see photo, below). The proposed well site exhibits livestock pasture which has utilized most recently for soil stockpiling, with graded areas and soil mounds situated throughout this particular portion of the APE.



Prehistoric Resources

No evidence of prehistoric use or presence was noted during the pedestrian survey. The absence of these resources may best be explained by the presence of more suitable habitation settings located west of the APE where prehistoric resources have been documented.

Historic Resources

As noted in the Records Search section, above, two historic-era resources (P-24-000082 and P-24-000434) have been documented within the APE. Both resources, the Main Canal, and the Outside Canal, were recommended not eligible for NRHP listing due to a lack of integrity by JRP (Byrd 1996), and in 2000 they received a consensus determination of ineligibility and both were given the status code of 6Y in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic

Properties Directory (Program reference number DOE 24-00-0027-0000/FHWA 000623D and DOE 24-00-0025-0000/FHWA 000623D, respectively).

No additional historic-era resources were identified during the present pedestrian survey.

5. PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources/historic properties if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the historic resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair a cultural resource or historic property are actions that would alter or diminish those attributes of a site that qualify the site for inclusion in State site registers or the National Register of Historic Places.

Based on the specific findings detailed above under *Pedestrian Survey and Inventory*, no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources/historic properties are present within the project area and no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

6. NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on December 21, 2016. To date, no response has been received from the NAHC. As no prehistoric cultural material was identified during either the records search or pedestrian survey, no additional consultation was undertaken.

7. PROJECT SUMMARY

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An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on December 21, 2016. To date, no response has been received from the NAHC. As no prehistoric cultural material was identified during either the records search or pedestrian survey, no additional consultation was undertaken.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources/historic properties within the APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed, although the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

1. *Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:* In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.
2. *Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:* The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future gravel extraction or other activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., agricultural development) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Santa Nella County Water District
Water Treatment Project
4.7-mile linear corridor and 2<1-acre well/storage sites
Merced County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- Archaeological Survey Area Map
- Records Search from CCIC
- Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INFORMATION CENTER

California Historical Resources Information System
Department of Anthropology – California State University, Stanislaus
One University Circle, Turlock, California 95382
(209) 667-3307

Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties

Date: 12/22/2016

Records Search File No.: 101371

Re: Project: Santa Nella Water

Access and Use Agreement No.: 136

Sean Jensen
Genesis Society
7053 Molokai Drive
Paradise, CA 95969

Email: seanjensen@comcast.net

Dear Mr. Jensen,

The Central California Information Center received your **Priority Response** record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the San Luis Dam and Volta USGS 7.5' quadrangles in Merced County. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a one-half-mile radius:

As per data currently available at the CCalC, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format: ☒ custom GIS maps ☐ shapefiles ☐ hand-drawn maps

Summary Data:

Resources within project area:	0 prehistoric or historic archaeological resources reported. 2 historic-era canals: P-24-000082 CCID/San Joaquin & Kings River Main Canal P-24-000434 Outside Canal 1 proposed district: P-24-002104 Los Banos Miller-Lux Canal District, partly recorded and including the Main Canal.
Resources within ½-mile radius:	0 prehistoric or historic archaeological resources reported or recorded; however there is a note (with question marks), source unknown, on our base maps to the effect that there may be house pits somewhere between the town of Volta and the large pond in the NW ¼ Section 1. 2 historic buildings or structures: P-24-001848 San Luis Wasteway P-24-002123 Romero School
Reports within project area:	9 reported to the CCalC: ME-00679 (see notes on page 2), 1975, 2630, 2631, 3063, 3369, 3584, 5538, 6099.
Reports within ½-mile radius:	8 reported: ME-00621, 1724, 2753, 6989, 7302, 7979, 8048, 8201.

Resource Database Printout (list): ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Database Printout (details): pdfs ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Digital Database Records (spreadsheet): ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies: pdfs ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Copies attached for resources in project: Main Canal, Outside Canal, Los Banos Miller-Lux Canal District.

Resource Shapefiles: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (list): ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Database Printout (details): pdfs ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Digital Database Records (spreadsheet): ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Report Copies: pdfs for all ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Notes:

ME-00679 The report has no map showing the project or survey area, so it is plotted for the whole service district (based on map in ME-01975). It is possible that the project or survey area is actually on the Los Banos quad--???

ME-00621 Only a partial copy of the report is available at the CCalC.

ME-00621 and ME-02753 Only the "half-mile study area" (archival, etc.) overlaps the search area; the survey corridor is outside of it.

Report Shapefiles: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

OHP Historic Properties Directory: ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Hardcopy pages 5-7 attached, showing 6 entries for the CCID Main Canal and 4 entries for the Outside Canal.

Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility: ☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976): ☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☒ nothing listed

Caltrans Bridge Survey: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Ethnographic Information: ☐ enclosed ☒ not requested ☐ nothing listed

Historical Literature: hardcopy pages ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

The town of Volta is discussed in *Ghost Towns of Merced County* (Wood, 2007:55-56)

Historical Maps: hardcopies ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

1920 Pacheco Pass USGS 15' (1:62500)

1947 Volta USGS 7.5' (1:24000)

1953 San Luis Creek USGS 7.5' (1:24000)

Other historic maps are available at usgs.gov

Local Inventories:

None on file or maintained by the CCalC for Merced Co.

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps: hardcopies ☒ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

T9S/R9E	Sheet # 44-617	Date	1853-1859
T9S/R10E	44-618		1853-1861
T10S/R9E	not on copy		barely readable
T10S/R10E	44-694		1854-1855

Soil Survey Maps:☒ not available at CCIC; please go to<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>**Resources known to have value to local cultural groups:**

None have been formally reported to the CCalC.

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation 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. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Note: Billing will be transmitted separately via email by our Financial Services office* (\$1,123.80), payable within 60 days of receipt of the invoice.

Sincerely,

Robin Hards, Assistant Research Technician
Central California Information Center
California Historical Resources Information System

*Invoice to: Laurie Marroquin, Financial Services (lamarroquin@csustan.edu or MSR270@csustan.edu)

GENESIS SOCIETY

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7053 MOLOKAI DRIVE
PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969
(530) 680-6170 VOX
seanjensen@comcast.net

December 21, 2016

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Boulevard,
West Sacramento, California 95691

Subject: Santa Nella Water Delivery Project, circa 5-acres and 4.7-mile linear corridor, Merced County, California.

Dear Commission:

We have been requested to conduct the archaeological survey, for the above-cited project, and are requesting any information you may have concerning archaeological sites or traditional use areas for this area. Any information you might supply will be used to supplement the archaeological and historical study being prepared for this project.

Project Name: Santa Nella Water Delivery Project
County: Merced
Maps: USGS San Luis Dam and Volta, 7.5'
Location: Portion of T9S, R9E; T10S, R9E; T10S, R10E.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen, Administrator

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a Corporation Sole*