

**PHASE I SURVEY,  
LACEY RANCH PROJECT,  
LEMOORE, KINGS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

*Prepared for:*

Mr. Travis Crawford  
Principal Environmental Planner  
Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc.  
113 N. Church Street, Suite 302  
Visalia, California 93291

*Prepared by:*

David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA

and

Sherri Andrews, M.A., J.D., RPA

ASM Affiliates, Inc.  
20424 West Valley Blvd., Suite A  
Tehachapi, California 93561

May 2021  
PN 36790.02



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 PROJECT LOCATION .....	1
1.2 PROJECT AND STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION.....	1
1.3 REGULATORY CONTEXT .....	2
1.3.1 California Environmental Quality Act .....	2
<b>2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY .....	5
2.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND .....	5
2.3 PRE-CONTACT ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	7
2.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	10
<b>3. ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH AND TRIBAL COORDINATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH.....	13
3.2 TRIBAL COORDINATION .....	13
<b>4. METHODS AND RESULTS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 FIELD METHODS.....	15
4.2 SURVEY RESULTS .....	15
<b>5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	17
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Confidential Appendix A: Records Search</i>	

## LIST OF FIGURES

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Figure 1.	Location of the Lacey Ranch Project, Kings County, California. .... 3
Figure 2.	Overview of Project area before harvest looking northwest..... 16
Figure 3.	Overview of Project area after harvest at time of survey looking southwest ..... 16

## LIST OF TABLES

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Table 1.	Survey Reports within the Study Area..... 13
Table 2.	Resources within 0.5-mi of the Study Area. .... 13

---

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted for the Lacey Ranch Project (Project). The Project study area totals approximately 156 acres and consists of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 021-030-057-000. It is located approximately 1 mile (mi.) north of the City of Lemoore in Section 35, Township 18 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM), Kings County, California. The Phase I survey included background research and an intensive pedestrian survey of the entire Project area. ASM Affiliates, Inc. conducted this study, with David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA, serving as principal investigator. The study was undertaken to assist with compliance with the California Environmental Protection Act. The City of Lemoore is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

A records search of site files and maps related to the Project area and a 0.5-mi. radius surrounding it was conducted on April 4, 2021 at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield. The search results indicated that a very small portion of the Project area is adjacent to a prior linear survey but the parcel itself had not been surveyed and no cultural resources had been previously documented within the Project parcel. The search also indicated that no other previous projects have been conducted within the 0.5-mi. records search radius, but one cultural resource has been documented within the search radius, an historical canal segment.

The City of Lemoore conducted their required tribal outreach related to the proposed Project in 2020. ASM did not request a Sacred Lands File Request from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) or engage in any additional outreach related to the Project.

The Phase I survey fieldwork was conducted on April 26, 2021. The entire 156-acre Project area was surveyed in parallel transects spaced at 15-meter intervals by a team of three archaeologists. No cultural resources of any kind were identified on the Project property.

The results of both the records search and intensive pedestrian survey conducted for the current study are negative and Project area exhibits low archaeological sensitivity. Development of the Lacey Ranch will not result in adverse impacts to significant or unique cultural resources. It is recommended, however, that an archaeologist be contacted in the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during the development or use of the property, to evaluate the discovery.



# 1. INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

ASM Affiliates, Inc. was retained by Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc. to conduct a Phase I cultural resources study for the Lacey Ranch Project, located in Kings County, California (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to assist with compliance with the California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA). The City of Lemoore is the lead agency for the proposed Project. The investigation was conducted, specifically, to ensure that significant impacts or adverse effects to historical resources do not occur as a result of project construction.

This current study included:

- A background records search and literature review to determine if any known cultural resources were present in the project zone and/or whether the area had been previously and systematically studied by archaeologists; and
- An on-foot, intensive inventory of the study area to identify and record previously undiscovered cultural resources.

David S. Whitley, Ph.D., RPA, served as principal investigator. ASM Associate Archaeologist Robert Azpitarte, B.A., led the fieldwork effort, with assistance in the field from ASM Assistant Archaeologists Stacey Escamilla, M.A., Maria Silva, B.A., and Maggie Lemos, B.A.

This document constitutes a report on the Phase I survey. Subsequent chapters provide background to the investigation, including historic context studies; the findings of the archival records search; Native American coordination; field methodology; and the fieldwork results. We conclude with management recommendations for the study area.

## 1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located approximately 1-mi. north of the City of Lemoore, Kings County, California. It encompasses most of the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 18 South, Range 20 East, MDBM, as illustrated on the USGS Lemoore, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The Project parcel lies on the open flats of the San Joaquin Valley. Elevation within the study area, which is flat, is approximately 230 feet (ft.) above mean sea level (amsl). The study area is an active alfalfa field that is bordered on the north by Lacey Boulevard, on the west by 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, by residential development along the south boundary, and by active almond orchards on the east.

## 1.2 PROJECT AND STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

The Project proposes the construction of a housing development and associated infrastructure on APN 021-030-057-000. This development will comprise a residential community with a mixture of single-family and multi-family housing units. Exact numbers may vary but there will be a maximum of 825 housing units in total. The Project includes a total of four parks for a total of 7.9 acres and 1.64 acres of trails. The survey study area totals approximately 156 acres and consists of all construction, staging, and lay-down areas for this Project.

## 1.3 REGULATORY CONTEXT

### 1.3.1 California Environmental Quality Act

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

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

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

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

An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC § 21083.2(g)).

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

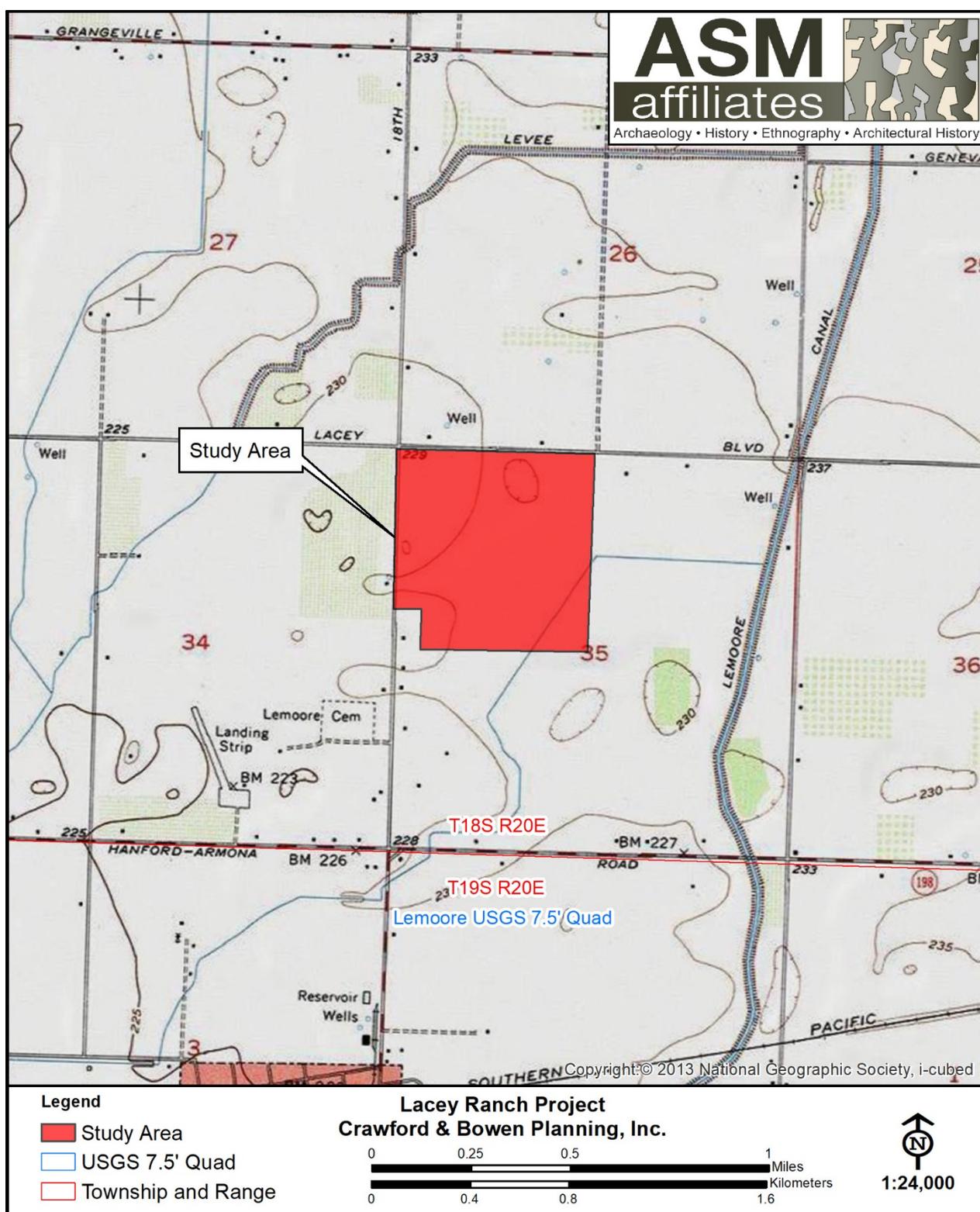


Figure 1. Location of the Lacey Ranch Project, Kings County, California.



## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY**

The study area is located at an elevation of 230 ft. amsl on the open flats of the San Joaquin Valley north of the City of Lemoore, Kings County, California. Currently this region can be characterized as a dry open valley bottom now utilized for suburban or agricultural uses. The study area is north of the former shoreline of Tulare Lake, at roughly 200 ft. amsl. Prior to reclamation and channelization, the region would have been a low-lying, water-rich area characterized by streams, sloughs, marshes, and swamps. Occasionally inundated by floodwaters, in many years portions of this region would have been swampy during the winter rainy season and marsh land during other parts of the year. Historical and recent land-use has changed the vegetation that was once present within and near the Project area. The immediate Project location historically most likely fell within the Valley Grassland community, however, with Riparian Woodlands present along streams and freshwater marshes common in the area (see Schoenherr 1992).

A Caltrans geoarchaeological study that included the Project area classified this location as having Low to Moderately Low sensitivity for subsurface sites (Meyer et al. 2010). This study involved first determining the location and ages of late Pleistocene (>25,000 years old) landforms in the southern San Joaquin Valley. These were identified by combining a synthesis of 2,400 published paleontological, soils, and archaeological chronometric dates with geoarchaeological field testing. The ages of surface landforms were then mapped to provide an assessment for the potential for buried archaeological deposits. These ages were derived primarily from the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) and the State Soils Geographic (STATSGO) database. A series of maps were created from this information that ranked locations in seven ordinal classes for sensitivity for buried soils, from Very Low to Very High. Given its low sensitivity for buried deposits according to this analysis, it is therefore unlikely that the Project study area would contain subsurface archaeological deposits.

### **2.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND**

Penutian-speaking Yokuts tribal groups occupied the southern San Joaquin Valley region and much of the nearby Sierra Nevada. Ethnographic information about the Yokuts was collected primarily by Powers (1971, 1976 [originally 1877]), Kroeber (1925), Gayton (1930, 1948), Driver (1937), Latta (1977), and Harrington (n.d.). For a variety of historical reasons, existing research information emphasizes the central Yokuts tribes who occupied both the valley and particularly the foothills of the Sierra. The northernmost tribes suffered from the influx of Euro-Americans during the Gold Rush and their populations were in substantial decline by the time ethnographic studies began in the early twentieth century. In contrast, the southernmost tribes were partially removed by the Spanish to missions and eventually absorbed into multi-tribal communities on the Sebastian Indian Reservation (on Tejon Ranch), and later the Tule River Reservation and Santa Rosa Rancheria to the north. The result is an unfortunate scarcity of ethnographic detail on

southern Valley tribes, especially in relation to the rich information collected from the central foothills tribes where native speakers of the Yokuts dialects are still found. Regardless, the general details of indigenous life-ways were similar across the broad expanse of Yokuts territory, particularly in terms of environmentally influenced subsistence and adaptation and with regard to religion and belief, which were similar everywhere.

This scarcity of specific detail is particularly apparent in terms of southern valley tribal group distribution. Latta (1977) places the north shore of Tulare Lake east of Fish Slough in Nutúnutu territory, with the closest village being *Wiu* nearer the Mussel Slough inlet. Kroeber (1925:484), however, indicates that Nutúnutu territory did not include the north shore of Tulare Lake, but that the north shore, including Fish Slough, was Tachi territory. The village of *Wiu* (*Wiau* in Kroeber 1925) remains near the inlet of Cottonwood Creek and Mussel Slough.

The Yokuts settlement pattern was largely consistent, regardless of specific tribe involved. Winter villages were typically located along lakeshores and major stream courses (as these existed circa AD 1800), with dispersal phase family camps located at elevated spots on the valley floor and near gathering areas in the foothills.

Most Yokuts groups, again regardless of specific tribal affiliation, were organized as a recognized and distinct tribelet; a circumstance that almost certainly pertained to the tribal groups noted above. Tribelets were land-owning groups organized around a central village and linked by shared territory and descent from a common ancestor. The population of most tribelets ranged from about 150 to 500 peoples (Kroeber 1925).

Each tribelet was headed by a chief who was assisted by a variety of assistants, the most important of whom was the *winatum*, a herald or messenger and assistant chief. A shaman also served as religious officer. While shamans did not have any direct political authority, as Gayton (1930) has illustrated, they maintained substantial influence within their tribelet.

Shamanism is a religious system common to most Native American tribes. It involves a direct and personal relationship between the individual and the supernatural world enacted by entering a trance or hallucinatory state (usually based on the ingestion of psychotropic plants, such as jimsonweed or more typically native tobacco). Shamans were considered individuals with an unusual degree of supernatural power, serving as healers or curers, diviners, and controllers of natural phenomena (such as rain or thunder). Shamans also produced the rock art of this region, depicting the visions they experienced in vision quests believed to represent their spirit helpers and events in the supernatural realm (Whitley 1992, 2000).

The centrality of shamanism to the religious and spiritual life of the Yokuts was demonstrated by the role of shamans in the yearly ceremonial round. The ritual round, performed the same each year, started in the spring with the jimsonweed ceremony, followed by rattlesnake dance and (where appropriate) first salmon ceremony. After returning from seed camps, fall rituals began in the late summer with the mourning ceremony, followed by first seed and acorn rites and then bear dance (Gayton 1930:379). In each case, shamans served as ceremonial officials responsible for specific dances involving a display of their supernatural powers (Kroeber 1925).

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

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

## 2.3 PRE-CONTACT ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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

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

Both fluted and stemmed points are particularly common around lake margins, suggesting a terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene lakeshore adaptation similar to that found throughout the far west at the same time; little else is known about these earliest peoples. Over 250 fluted points have been recovered from the Witt Site (CA-KIN-32), located along the western shoreline of ancient Tulare Lake south of the study area, demonstrating the importance of this early occupation in the San Joaquin Valley specifically (see Fenenga 1993). Additional finds consist of a Clovis-like projectile point discovered in a flash-flood cut-bank near White Oak Lodge in 1953 on Tejon Ranch (Glennan 1987a, 1987b). More recently, a similar fluted point was found near Bakersfield (Zimmerman et al. 1989), and a number are known from the Edwards Air Force Base and Boron area of the western Mojave Desert. Although human occupation of the state is well-established during the Late Pleistocene, relatively little can be inferred about the nature and distribution of this occupation with a few exceptions. First, little evidence exists to support the idea that people at that time were big-game hunters, similar to those found on the Great Plains. Second, the western Mojave Desert evidence suggests small, very mobile populations that left a minimal archaeological

signature. The evidence from the ancient Tulare Lake shore, in contrast, suggests much more substantial population and settlements which, instead of relying on big game hunting, were tied to the lacustrine lake edge. Variability in subsistence and settlement patterns is thus apparent in California, in contrast to the Great Plains.

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

Environmental conditions improved dramatically after about 4000 YBP during the *Middle Horizon* (or Intermediate Period). This period is known climatically as the Holocene Maximum (circa 3,800 YBP) and was characterized by significantly warmer and wetter conditions than previously experienced. It was marked archaeologically by large population increase and radiation into new environments along coastal and interior south-central California and the Mojave Desert (Whitley 2000). In the Delta region to the north, this same period of favorable environmental conditions was characterized by the appearance of the Windmiller culture which exhibited a high degree of ritual elaboration (especially in burial practices) and perhaps even a rudimentary mound-building tradition (Meighan, personal communication, 1985). Along with ritual elaboration, Middle Horizon times experienced increasing subsistence specialization, perhaps correlating with the appearance of acorn processing technology. Penutian speaking peoples (including the Yokuts) are also posited to have entered the state roughly at the beginning of this period and, perhaps to have brought this technology with them (cf. Moratto 1984). Likewise, it appears the so-called “Shoshonean Wedge” in southern California, the Takic-speaking groups that include the Gabrielino/Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Kitanemuk, may have moved into the region at that time (Sutton 2009), rather than at about 1500 YBP as first suggested by Kroeber (1925).

Evidence for Middle Horizon occupation of interior south-central California is substantial. For example, in northern Los Angeles County along the upper Santa Clara River, to the south of the San Joaquin Valley, the Agua Dulce village complex indicates occupation extending back to the Intermediate Period, when the population of the village may have been 50 or more people (King et al. n.d.). Similarly, inhabitation of the Hathaway Ranch region near Lake Piru, and the Newhall Ranch near Valencia, appears to date to the Intermediate Period (W&S Consultants 1994). To the west, little or no evidence exists for pre-Middle Horizon occupation in the upper Sisquoc and Cuyama River drainages; populations first appear there at roughly 3,500 YBP (Horne 1981). The Carrizo Plain, the valley immediately west of the San Joaquin, experienced a major population expansion during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007), and recently collected data indicates the Tehachapi Mountains region was first significantly occupied during the Middle Horizon (W&S Consultants 2006). A parallel can be drawn to the inland Ventura County region where a similar pattern has been identified (Whitley and Beaudry 1991), as well as

the western Mojave Desert (Sutton 1988a, 1988b), the southern Sierra Nevada (W&S Consultants 1999), and the Coso Range region (Whitley et al. 1988). In all of these areas a major expansion in settlement, the establishment of large site complexes and an increase in the range of environments exploited appear to have occurred sometime roughly around 4,000 years ago. Although most efforts to explain this expansion have focused on local circumstances and events, it is increasingly apparent this was a major southern California-wide occurrence, and any explanation must be sought at a larger level of analysis (Whitley 2000). Additionally, evidence from the Carrizo Plain suggests the origins of the tribelet level of political organization developed during this period (W&S Consultants 2004; Whitley et al. 2007). Whether this same demographic process holds for the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the study area, is yet to be determined.

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

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

One extensively studied site that shows evidence of intensive occupation during the Middle-Late Horizons transition (~1500 to 500 YBP) is the Redtfeldt Mound (CA-KIN-66/H), located south of the current study area, near the north shore of ancient Tulare Lake. There, Siefkin (1999) reported on human burials and a host of artifacts and ecofacts excavated from a modest-sized mound. He found that both Middle Horizon and Middle-Late Horizons transition occupations were more intensive than Late Horizon occupations, which were sporadic and less intensive (Siefkin 1999:110-111).

The Late Horizon can then be understood as a period of recovery from a major demographic collapse. One result is the development of regional archaeological cultures as the precursors to

ethnographic Native California, suggesting that ethnographic life-ways recorded by anthropologists extend roughly 800 years into the past.

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

## 2.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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

In the 1840s, Mexican rancho owners along the Pacific Coast allowed their cattle to wander and graze in the San Joaquin Valley (JRP Historical Consulting 2009). But the Mexican government did not grant ranchos in the San Joaquin Valley until the early 1840s, and even then these did not result in significant permanent settlement. The *Laguna de Tache Rancho* was granted by Governor Pio Pico in 1846 to Manuel de Jesus Castro, a former captain in the Mexican army. The rancho extended for 26 mi. down the north bank of the Kings River from modern Kingsburg to approximately Riverdale. It was sometimes called the “River Ranch.” Castro’s ownership of the Laguna de Tache Rancho grant was confirmed by the U.S. Public Land Commission in 1866, at which point it was sold to Jeremiah Clark.

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

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

With the increase of ranching in the southern San Joaquin came the dramatic change in the landscape, as non-native grasses more beneficial for grazing and pasture replaced native flora (Preston 1981). After the passing of the Arkansas Act in 1850, efforts were made to reclaim small tracts of land in order to create more usable spaces for ranching. Eventually, as farming supplanted ranching as a more profitable enterprise, large tracts of land began to be reclaimed for agricultural use, aided in part by the extension of the railroad in the 1870s (Pacific Legacy 2006).

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

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

Three competing partnerships developed during this period which had a great impact on control of water, land reclamation and ultimately agricultural development in the San Joaquin Valley: Livermore and Chester, Haggin and Carr, and Miller and Lux, perhaps the most famous of the enterprises. Livermore and Chester were responsible, among other things, for developing the large Hollister plow (3 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep), pulled by a 40-mule team, which was used for ditch digging. Haggin and Carr were largely responsible for reclaiming the beds of the Buena Vista and Kern lakes, and for creating the Calloway Canal, which drained through the Rosedale area in Bakersfield to Goose Lake (Morgan 1914). Miller and Lux ultimately became one of the biggest private property holders in the country, controlling the rights to over 22,000 square miles. Miller and Lux’s impact extended beyond Kern County, however. They recognized early-on that control of water would have important economic implications, and they played a major role in the water development of the state. They controlled, for example, over 100 miles of the San Joaquin River with the San Joaquin and Kings River Canal and Irrigation System. They were also embroiled for many years in litigation against Haggin and Carr over control of the water rights to the Kern River.

The San Joaquin Valley was dominated by agricultural pursuits until the oil boom of the early 1900s, which saw a shift some parts of the region, as some reclaimed lands previously used for farming were leased to oil companies. Nonetheless, the shift of the San Joaquin Valley towards oil production did not halt the continued growth of agriculture (Pacific Legacy 2006). The Great Depression of the 1930s brought with it the arrival of great number of migrants from the drought-

affected Dust Bowl region, looking for agricultural labor. These migrants established temporary camps in the valley, staying on long past the end of the drought and the Great Depression, eventually settling in towns such as Bakersfield where their descendants live today (Boyd 1997).

In 1877, what is now Kings County received its first SPRR stop in what would become the town of Hanford. This was named after James Madison Hanford, a rail executive, at what was originally a sheep camp. The rail-stop, with the SPRR tracks running east-west, quickly developed into a small community. A post office opened there in 1887. Lemoore is named after Dr. Lovern Lee Moore who came to the area in 1871, near the north shore of Tulare Lake. Moore developed the first subdivision in 1872, subdividing 10-ac near Lemoore High School. A post office was built in 1875 with the town originally called “Latache.” Eventually it was renamed Lemoore, combining Dr. Moore’s first and last names. The town was incorporated in 1900. In 1941, the U.S. Army Air Corps acquired land for an Army Air Force training field. This was eventually converted into Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore which is the largest major jet base in the U.S. Navy ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemoore,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemoore,_California)). Lemoore today has a population of approximately 28,000 people, many of whom work in direct or indirect support for NAS Lemoore. Farming and the Tachi Palace on the Santa Rosa Rancheria are the other major employers in the region.

### 3. ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH AND TRIBAL COORDINATION

#### 3.1 ARCHIVAL RECORDS SEARCH

The project began with an archival records search conducted by the staff of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (IC), California State University Bakersfield, on April 5, 2021. The records search was completed to determine: (i) if prehistoric or historical archaeological sites had previously been recorded within the study areas; (ii) if the project area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists prior to the initiation of this field study; and/or (iii) whether the general area within which the project lies was known to contain archaeological sites and to thereby be archaeologically sensitive. Records examined included archaeological site files and maps, the NRHP, Historic Property Data File, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the California Points of Historic Interest.

According to the IC records search (Confidential Appendix A), a very small portion of the southwest corner of the study area was adjacent to a portion of an earlier linear survey. However, the Project parcel itself had not been previously surveyed and no resources had been documented within it. No other studies had been conducted within 0.5 mi. of the study area (Table 1). One previously recorded resource, a segment of the Lemoore Canal, has been documented within the search radius (Table 2).

**Table 1. Survey reports within the Study Area.**

Report No	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
KE-00191	2009	Girado, Amy and Orfila, Rebecca S./ Center for Archaeological Research., California State University, Bakersfield	A Cultural Resources Assessment of Approximately 70 Acres of Land for the City of Lemoore Arsenic Mitigation Program, Kings County, California

**Table 2. Resources within 0.5-mi of the Study Area.**

Primary #	Type	Description
P-16-000129	Irrigation canal	Segment of the Lemoore Canal

#### 3.2 TRIBAL COORDINATION

The City of Lemoore conducted their required tribal outreach related to the proposed Project in 2020.



---

## 4. METHODS AND RESULTS

### 4.1 FIELD METHODS

An intensive Phase I cultural resources survey for the Lacey Ranch Project study area was conducted by ASM Associate Archaeologist Robert Azpitarte, B.A., with the assistance of ASM Assistant Archaeologists Stacey Escamilla, M.A., and Maggie Lemus, B.A. An initial attempt was made to conduct the survey on April 12, 2021, but the entirety of the project parcel was planted in mature alfalfa, severely limiting ground surface visibility (Figure 2). The crew returned to the parcel on April 26, 2021, after the field had been harvested, allowing for the survey to be undertaken with good to excellent surface visibility.

The field methods employed included intensive pedestrian examination of the ground surface for evidence of archaeological sites in the form of artifacts, surface features (e.g., bedrock mortars, historical mining equipment), and archaeological indicators (e.g., organically enriched midden soil, burnt animal bone); the identification and location of any discovered sites, should they have been present; tabulation and recording of surface diagnostic artifacts; site sketch mapping; preliminary evaluation of site integrity; and site recording, following the California Office of Historic Preservation Instructions for Recording Historic Resources, using DPR 523 forms.

### 4.2 SURVEY RESULTS

The approximately 156-ac Project parcel is an active alfalfa field bordered by paved roads on the north (Lacey Blvd.) and west (18th Ave.), residential development along the south boundary, and active almond orchards on the east. The parcel is bisected by a north-south dirt road with contemporary water treatment infrastructure (i.e., standing pipes, generators, pumps) adjacent to it. A water treatment facility abuts the southwest corner of the parcel. Just prior to the current study, an alfalfa harvest had recently occurred, providing good to excellent surface visibility for the Phase I survey (Figure 3).

No cultural resources were identified within the Project area as a result of the intensive pedestrian survey.



**Figure 2. Overview of Project area before harvest looking northwest.**



**Figure 3. Overview of Project area after harvest at time of survey looking southwest.**

---

## **5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An intensive Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted for the Lacey Ranch Project, Kings County, California. A records search conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield indicated that the study area had not been previously surveyed and that no cultural resources had been previously documented within it.

The intensive Phase I pedestrian survey was conducted on April 26, 2021, with parallel transects spaced at 15-m intervals walked across the entire Project study area. No cultural resources were identified during the survey.

### **5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of both the records search and intensive pedestrian survey conducted for the current study are negative and Project area exhibits low archaeological sensitivity. Development of the Lacey Ranch will not result in adverse impacts to significant or unique cultural resources. It is recommended, however, that an archaeologist be contacted in the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during the development or use of the property, to evaluate the discovery.



---

## REFERENCES

Boyd, W.H.

- 1997 *Lower Kern River Country 1850-1950: Wilderness to Empire*. Lemoore: Kings River Press.

Cook, S. F.

- 1978 Historical Demography. In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 91-98. Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institute.

Culleton, Brendan J.

- 2006 Implications of a freshwater radiocarbon reservoir correction for the timing of the late Holocene settlement of the Elk Hills, Kern County, California. *Journal of Science* 33:1331-1339.

Driver, H.E.

- 1937 Cultural Element Distributions: VI, Southern Sierra Nevada. *University of California Anthropological Records* 1(2):53-154. Berkeley

Elsasser, A.

- 1962 *Indians of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks*. Three Rivers: Sequoia Natural History Association.

Fenenga, F.

- 1952 The Archaeology of the Slick Rock Village, Tulare County, California. *American Antiquity* 17:339-347.

Fenenga, G.

- 1993 Test Excavations at the Witt Site (CA-KIN-32). In *Finding the Evidence: The Quest for Tulare Lake's Archaeological Past*, edited by W.J. Wallace and F.A. Riddell, pp. 25-38. Contributions to Tulare Lake Archaeology II. Redondo Beach: Tulare Lake Archaeological Research Group.

Fredrickson, D.A., and J. Grossman

- 1977 A San Dieguito Component at Buena Vista Lake, California. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 4:173-190.

Gayton, A.H.

- 1930 Yokuts-Mono Chiefs and Shamans. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 24:361-420. Berkeley.
- 1948 Yokuts and Western Mono Ethnography. *University of California Anthropological Records* 10:1-290. Berkeley.

Gifford, E.W., and W.E. Schenck

- 1926 Archaeology of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 23(1):1-122.

Glennan, W.S.

- 1987a Concave-Based Lanceolate Fluted Projectile Points from California. Prehistory of the Antelope Valley, California: An Overview, edited by R.W. Robinson. *Antelope Valley Archaeological Society, Occasional Papers No. 1*: 21-24.
- 1987b Evidence for Paleoeastern Culture Type in the Southwestern Great Basin. Prehistory of the Antelope Valley, California: An Overview, edited by R.W. Robinson. *Antelope Valley Archaeological Society, Occasional Papers No. 1*:11-20.

Harrington, John Peabody

- n.d. Yokuts ethnographic notes. National Anthropological Archives.

Hewes, G.

- 1941 Archaeological reconnaissance of the central San Joaquin Valley. *American Antiquity* 7:123-133.

Horne, S.P.

- 1981 The Inland Chumash: Ethnography, Ethnohistory and Archaeology. Ph.D. dissertation, UCSB. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms.

Jones, T.L., G.M. Brown, L.M. Raab, J.L. McVickar, W.G. Spaulding, D.J. Kennett, A. York, and P.L. Walker

- 1999 Demographic Crisis in Western North America during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly. *Current Anthropology* 40:137-170.

JRP Historical Consulting

- 2009 *North Kern Water Storage District, Lateral Canal 8-1: Inventory and Evaluations, Kern County, California*. Prepared for North Kern Water Storage District.

King, C., C. Smith, and T. King

- n.d. *Archaeological Report Related to the Interpretation of Archaeological Resources Present at the Vasquez Rocks County Park*. Report on file, SCCIC.

Kroeber, A.L.

- 1925 Handbook of the Indians of California. *Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 78*. Washington, D.C.

Latta, F.F.

- 1977 *Handbook of the Yokuts Indians*. Santa Cruz: Bear State Books.

- Meyer, J., D. Craig Young, and Jeffrey S. Rosenthal  
2010 *Volume I: A Geoarchaeological Overview and Assessment of Caltrans Districts 6 and 9*. Submitted to California Department of Transportation.
- Moratto, M.  
1984 *California Archaeology*. New York: Academic Press.
- Morgan, W.A.  
1914 *History of Kern County, California with Biographical Sketches*. Los Angeles: Historic Record Company.
- Pacific Legacy, Inc.  
2006 *Southern San Joaquin Valley Oil Fields Comprehensive Study*. Manuscript on file, BLM Bakersfield office.
- Powers, Stephen  
1971 The Yokuts Dance for the Dead. In *The California Indians: A Source Book* (second edition), edited by R.F. Heizer and M.A. Whipple, pp. 513-519. Berkeley: University of California Press (original 1877).  
1976 *Tribes of California*. Berkeley: University of California Press (original 1877).
- Preston, William L.  
1981 *Vanishing Landscapes: Land and Life in the Tulare Lake Basin*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rosenthal, J.S., G.G. White, and M.Q. Sutton  
2007 The Central Valley: A view from the catbird's seat. In *California Prehistory: Colonization, Culture, and Complexity*, edited by T.L. Jones and K.A. Klar, pp. 147-163. AltaMira Press.
- Schiffman, R.A. and A.P. Garfinkel  
1981 Prehistory of Kern County: An Overview. *Bakersfield College Publications in Archaeology, Number 1*.
- Schoenherr, A.A.  
1992 *A Natural History of California*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Siefkin, Nelson  
1999 Archaeology of the Redfeldt Mound (CA-KIN-66), Tulare Basin, California. M.A. thesis, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, California State University, Bakersfield.
- Sutton, M.Q.  
1988a An Introduction to the Archaeology of the Western Mojave Desert, California. *Archives of California Prehistory, No. 14*. Salinas, Coyote Press.

## References

---

- 1988b On the Late Prehistory of the Western Mojave Desert. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 24(1):22-29.
- 2009 People and Language: Defining the Takic Expansion into the Southern California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 40(2, 3):31-73.

### W&S Consultants

- 1994 *Phase II Test Excavations and Determinations of Significance at CA-LAN-2133, -2233, -2234, -2235, -2236, -2240, -2241 and -2242, Los Angeles County, California.* Manuscript on file, SCCIC.
- 1999 *Class III Inventory/Limited Archaeological Testing Program for the Ducor Telephone Project, Kennedy Meadows, Tulare County, California.* Manuscript on file, SCCIC.
- 2004 *Class II Inventory of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, San Luis Obispo County, California.* Report on file, BLM Bakersfield office.
- 2006 *Phase II Test Excavations and Determinations of Significance for the Tejon Mountain Village Project, Kern County, California.* Report on file, Tejon Ranch Company.

### Wedel, W.

- 1941 Archaeological Investigations at Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, California. *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 130.

### Whitley, D.S.

- 1992 Shamanism and Rock Art in Far Western North America. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 2(1):89-113.
- 2000 *The Art of the Shaman: Rock Art of California.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.

### Whitley, D.S., and M.P. Beaudry

- 1991 Chiefs on the Coast: The Development of Complex Society in the Tiquisate Region in Ethnographic Perspective. *The Development of Complex Civilizations in Southeastern Mesoamerica*, W. Fowler, ed., pp. 101-120. Orlando: CRC Press.

### Whitley, D.S., G. Gumerman IV, J. Simon, and E. Rose

- 1988 The Late Prehistoric Period in the Coso Range and Environs. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 24(1):2-10.

### Whitley, D.S., J. Simon, and J.H.N. Loubser

- 2007 The Carrizo Collapse: Art and Politics in the Past. In *A Festschrift Honoring the Contributions of California Archaeologist Jay von Werlhof*, edited by R.L. Kaldenberg, pp. 199-208. Ridgecrest: Maturango Museum Publication 20.

### Zimmerman, K.L., C.L. Pruett, and M.Q. Sutton

- 1989 A Clovis-Like Projectile Point from the Southern Sierra Nevada. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 11:89-91.

## **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX A: RECORDS SEARCH**



4/5/2021

David Whitley  
ASM Affiliates, Inc.  
20424 West Valley Blvd., Suite A  
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Re: Lacey Ranch Project – Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc.  
Records Search File No.: 21-125

The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Lemoore USGS 7.5' quads. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and the 0.5 mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format:  custom GIS maps  GIS data

Resources within project area:	None
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-16-000129
Reports within project area:	KI-00191
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	None

- Resource Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Digital Database Records:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (list):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (details):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Digital Database Records:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Resource Record Copies:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Report Copies:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- OHP Built Environment Resources Directory:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed
- CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):**  enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Caltrans Bridge Survey:** Not available at SSJVIC; please see  
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/cultural-studies/california-historical-bridges-tunnels>

**Ethnographic Information:** Not available at SSJVIC

**Historical Literature:** Not available at SSJVIC

**Historical Maps:** Not available at SSJVIC; please see  
<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>

**Local Inventories:** Not available at SSJVIC

**GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:** Not available at SSJVIC; please see  
<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx#searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=1> and/or  
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb8489p15p;developer=local;style=oac4;doc.view=items>

**Shipwreck Inventory:** Not available at SSJVIC; please see  
<https://www.slc.ca.gov/shipwrecks/>

**Soil Survey Maps:** Not available at SSJVIC; please see  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

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

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

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Celeste M.  
Thomson  
Date: 2021.04.05 09:06:59 -07'00'

Celeste M. Thomson  
Coordinator

## Report List

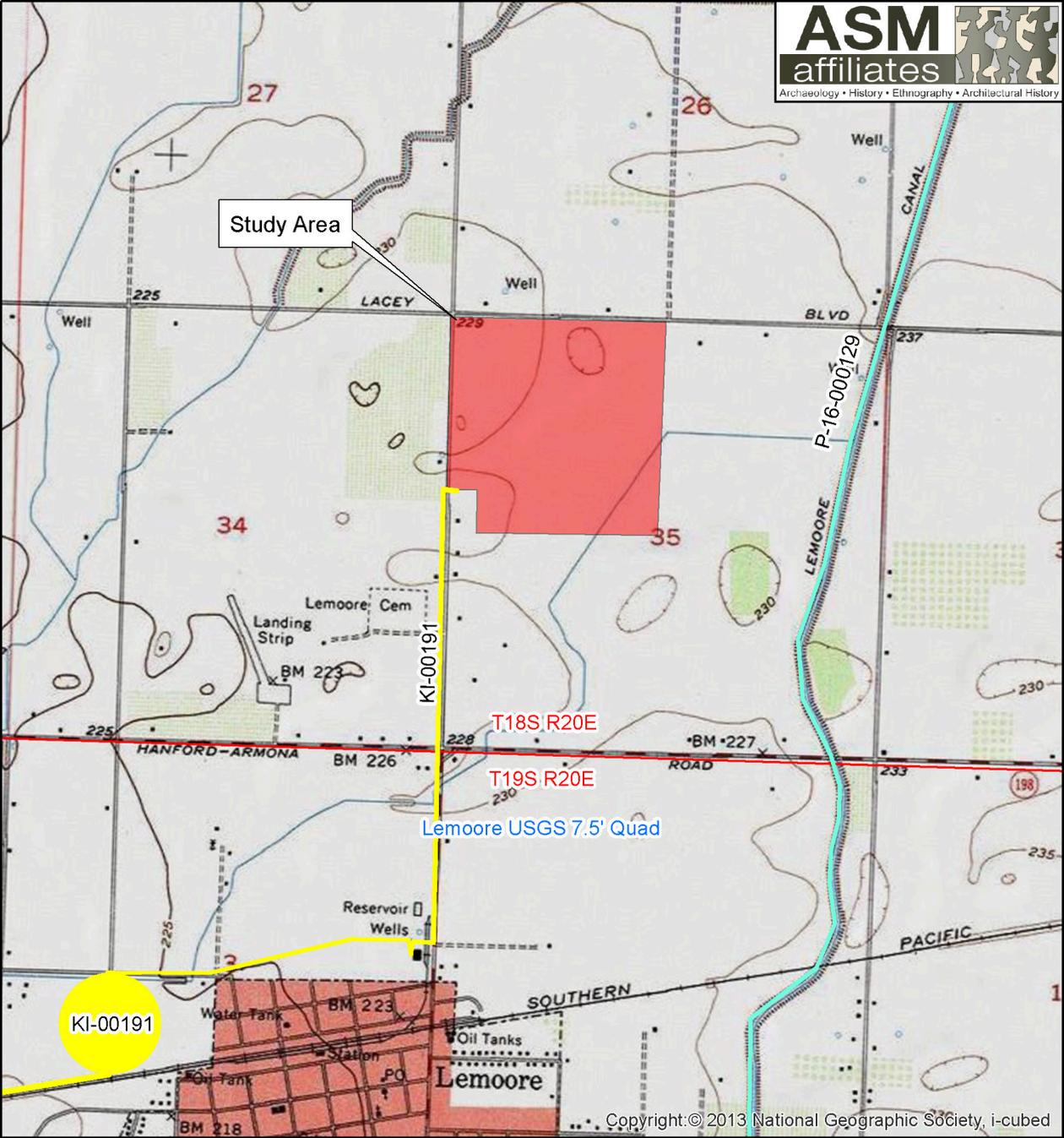
SSJVIC Record Search 21-125

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
KI-00191	Submitter - CAR Project No. 09-30	2009	Girado, Amy and Orfila, Rebecca S.	A Cultural Resources Assessment of Approximately 70 Acres of Land for the City of Lemoore Arsenic Mitigation Program, Kings County, California	Center for Archaeological Research., California State University, Bakersfield	

## Resource List

### SSJVIC Record Search 21-125

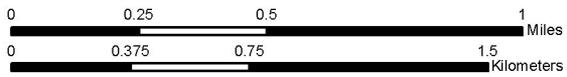
Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-16-000129	CA-KIN-000192H	Resource Name - Lemoore Canal	Structure	Historic	AH06; HP20	2001 (Bai "Tom" Tang, Daniel Ballester, CRM Tech); 2017 (Ryan Tubbs, Kristina Lindgren, ECORP Consulting, Inc.); 2017 (Jessica Jones, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.)	KI-00310, KI-00319



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

- Legend**
- Study Area
  - P-16-000129
  - KI-00191
  - USGS 7.5' Quad
  - Township and Range

**Lacey Ranch Project**  
**Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc.**



**1:24,000**