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August 14, 2020  
Project No: 18-06601

Juliet Martin  
Senior Associate Environmental Planner  
Circlepoint  
46 South First Street  
San Jose, California 95113

**Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for the I-80/Hiddenbrooke Interchange Roundabout Project, Vallejo, Solano County, California**

Dear Ms. Martin:

Circlepoint retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to conduct a Phase I cultural resources assessment for the I-80/Hiddenbrooke Interchange Roundabout Project (project), in the City of Vallejo, Solano County, California. The purpose of this letter report is to document the results of the tasks Rincon performed, specifically: a cultural resources records search, Native American outreach, and a pedestrian field survey. This project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Vallejo (City) is the lead agency under CEQA.

## Project Site

The project site consists of the current eastbound and westbound ramps and four-way stops at the McGary Road, Hiddenbrooke Parkway and American Canyon Road along Interstate 80 (I-80), totaling approximately 3.4 acres in Vallejo, Solano County, California. The project site lies within the *Cordelia* quadrangle, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, Sections 20 through 22, and 27 through 29 (Figure 1, Attachment A). The project proposes to update the existing eastbound and westbound I-80 ramps at McGary Road, Hiddenbrooke Parkway and American Canyon Road to include roundabouts (Figure 2, Attachment A). The project site is currently utilized as active roads.

## Project Description

The proposed project would involve the construction of two roundabouts at the I-80/Hiddenbrooke interchange. The existing bridge over I-80 would remain; however, modifications would be made to the I-80 westbound and eastbound ramps, McGary Road, Hiddenbrooke Parkway, and American Canyon Road. The interchange improvements are part of a long-standing agreement between the City of Vallejo and the Hiddenbrooke Community developer as a means to mitigate for traffic impacts generated by population growth related to the development of the Hiddenbrooke residential community near the project site .



Project construction would commence in spring 2022 and would occur over the course of approximately 24 months.

The project would include demolition on portions of I-80 westbound and eastbound ramps, McGary Road, Hiddenbrooke Parkway, and American Canyon Road. Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of soil would be exported during construction.

## Cultural Resources Records Search

Rincon received search results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) located at Sonoma State University on July 14, 2020. The purpose of the records search was to identify previously conducted cultural resources studies and previously recorded cultural resources within the project site and a 0.5-mile radius. The CHRIS search included a review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), the Office of Historic Preservation Historic Properties Directory, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility list.

The NWIC records search identified nine previously conducted cultural resources studies performed within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site (Table 1 and Attachment B), of which six include portions of the current project site (S-002181, S-008274, S-0044488, S-045643, S-045643a, and S-045643b). Studies S-044488 (Leach-Palm and Meyer 2012) and S-045643 (Leach-Palm and Bunse 2014) recorded resource P-48-000908 within the project site, as detailed below.

**Table 1 Previous Cultural Resource Studies within 0.5 mile of the Project Site**

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Relationship to Project Site
S-002181	Terry Jones and David A. Fredrickson	1980	<i>An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed PG&amp;E Transmission Line from the Lakeville Substation, Sonoma county of the Sobrante Substation, Contra Costa County, California</i>	Within
S-008274	Miley Paul Holman	1981	<i>Sky Valley Development Area: A Preliminary Report of Findings</i>	Within
S-009124	John Holson and Lori Hager	1987	<i>A Cultural Resources Study for the Vaca Dixon-Moraga 230kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project, Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano Counties, California</i>	Outside
S-025323	John A. Nadolski	2000	<i>Archaeological Investigations for the American Canyon Cell Tower Site</i>	Outside
S-038627	William Hildebrant, Jack Meyer, Julia Costello, Patricia Mikkelsen, and John Berg	2012	<i>Survey and Extended Phase I Investigations for the Solano 80 Corridor Project, Solano County, California EA/ID 4A2500/0400001121, Solano 80 Post Miles 0.0-44.4</i>	Outside



Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Relationship to Project Site
S-044488	Laura Leach-Palm and Jack Meyer	2012	<i>Archaeological Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Pedestrian and Bike Paths Improvement Project, Solano County</i>	<b>Within</b>
S-045643	Laura Leach-Palm and Meta Bunse	2014	<i>Historic Property Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California</i>	<b>Within</b>
S-045643a	Laura Leach-Palm and Jack Meyer	2014	<i>Archaeological Survey Report of the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California</i>	<b>Within</b>
S-045643b	Meta Bunse and Steven J. Melvin	2014	<i>Historical Resources Evaluation Report, Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California</i>	<b>Within</b>

Source: Northwest Information Center, 2020

The NWIC search identified two previously recorded cultural resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site (Table 2). Resource P-48-000908 was previously recorded within the northern portion of the current project site to the northeast portion of American Canyon Road. Resource P-48-000908 was first recorded by Leach-Palm and Asan in 2011 as historic-era debris, modern refuse, and a part gravel two-track driveway associated with a demolished residence present on the 1898 *Karquinez* quadrangle 15-minute topographic map. Melvin and Root (2011) updated the resource to include the entire 110.91-acre rural parcel and associated historic features therein, adding two wood spring boxes within the drainage and a concrete trough. Although the resource/parcel boundaries intersect with the project site, the features are found approximately 0.80 miles north-northwest of the project site. No resource features were recorded or observed within the project site.

**Table 2 Previously Recorded Resources within 0.5-mile of the Project Site**

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Description	Recorder(s) and Year(s)	NRHP/CRHR Status	Relationship to Project Site
P-48-000908	CA-SOL-477H	Historic Site	Souza Property/Azevedo Ranch	2011 (L. Leach-Palm, A. Asan); 2011 (S. Melvin, G. Root)	6Z: Found ineligible for NR, CR or local designation through survey evaluation	<b>Within</b>
P-48-000909	-	Historic Structure	Brown Property	2011 (L. Leach-Palm, A. Asan); 2011 (S. Melvin, G. Root)	6Z: Found ineligible for NR, CR or local designation through survey evaluation	Outside



Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Description	Recorder(s) and Year(s)	NRHP/CRHR Status	Relationship to Project Site
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Source: Northwestern Information Center, 2020

## Aerial Imagery and Historical Topographic Maps Review

Rincon completed a review of historical topographic maps and aerial imagery to ascertain the development history of the project site. Historic topographic maps from 1898 to 1943 show a northeast-southwest trending road prior to the construction of I-80. Aerial imagery available from 1948 to 1958 show a northwest-southeast trending road within the project boundaries, not associated with resource P-48-000908 (NETR Online 2020). By 1968, with the development of American Canyon Road and Hiddenbrooke Parkway ramps, the road is no longer present on the aerial view (NETR Online 2020). The road feature associated with resource P-48-000908 is visible on the 1948 aerial imagery through the recent 2016 imagery, outside of current project site boundaries (NETR Online 2020). By 1987 the freeway ramps are complete and in use and the project site is shown in its current condition (NETR Online 2020). The historic topographic maps from 1969 confirm the 1968 aerial imagery of American Canyon Road and Hiddenbrooke Parkway ramps construction (NETR Online 2020). Currently, I-80 follows the same trend as the road first evident in maps from 1898 and sits within the same pathway.

## Sacred Lands File Search

Rincon contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on June 16, 2020, to request a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project site. As part of this request, Rincon asked the NAHC to provide a list of Native American groups and/or individuals culturally affiliated with the area who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project site (Attachment C). The NAHC emailed a response on June 18, 2020, stating that the SLF search was returned with negative results. Rincon sent letters to the Native American contacts provided by the NAHC to request information regarding their knowledge of cultural resources within the vicinity that may be impacted by the project on June 18, 2020. As of the date of this report, Rincon has not received a response from any of the identified contacts.

## Pedestrian Field Survey

Rincon Archaeologist Elaine Foster conducted a pedestrian field survey of the project site on July 22, 2020. The project site has been disturbed by the construction of American Canyon Road, Hiddenbrooke Parkway, McGary Road, as well as the east and westbound I-80 entrance and exit ramps. Ms. Foster inspected areas of exposed ground for prehistoric artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, ceramics, fire-affected rock), ecofacts (marine shell and bone), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions, and features that indicate the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations) or historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances such as burrows and drainages were also visually inspected. Development, modern debris, dense vegetation, paving of the roads, and landscaping reduced visibility from 10 to 15 percent of the project site (Figures 3-6). Rincon did not identify any



cultural resources during the pedestrian survey. No evidence of resource P-48-000908 was observed during the survey.

## Findings and Recommendations

The background research identified one resource within the project site. During the pedestrian survey of the project site, the Rincon archaeologist did not identify any recorded or newly identified cultural resources. Resource P-48-000908 was originally recorded as a road and associated refuse deposits; however, the resource was later updated to include the entire parcel. Due to the development of American Canyon Road and the resource features being recorded north/northwest of the project site, it is unlikely that resources exist within the current project site. Given the results of the background research and the current pedestrian survey, Rincon recommends a finding of ***less than significant impact to archaeological resources*** for the purposes of CEQA and does not recommend any additional cultural resources work at this time. The following mitigation measures are recommended in the case of unanticipated discoveries during ground-disturbing activities. Also included below is a summary of existing regulations regarding the discovery of human remains.

### *Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources*

If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area should be halted and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If necessary, the evaluation may require preparation of a treatment plan and archaeological testing for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility. If the discovery proves to be eligible for the CRHR and cannot be avoided by the project, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts to historical resources.

### *Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains*

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground-disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the county coroner makes a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the county coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site and provide recommendations for treatment to the landowner within 48 hours of being granted access.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rincon with any questions regarding this cultural resources assessment.



Sincerely,  
**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney Montgomery", enclosed in a thin yellow rectangular border.

Courtney Montgomery  
Archaeologist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Haas".

Hannah Haas, M.A., RPA  
Senior Archaeologist & Project Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher A. Duran".

Christopher A. Duran, M.A., RPA  
Principal/ Senior Archaeologist

**Attachment:**

- Attachment A. Figures
- Attachment B. CHRIS Cultural Resources Report List
- Attachment C. NAHC SLF Results

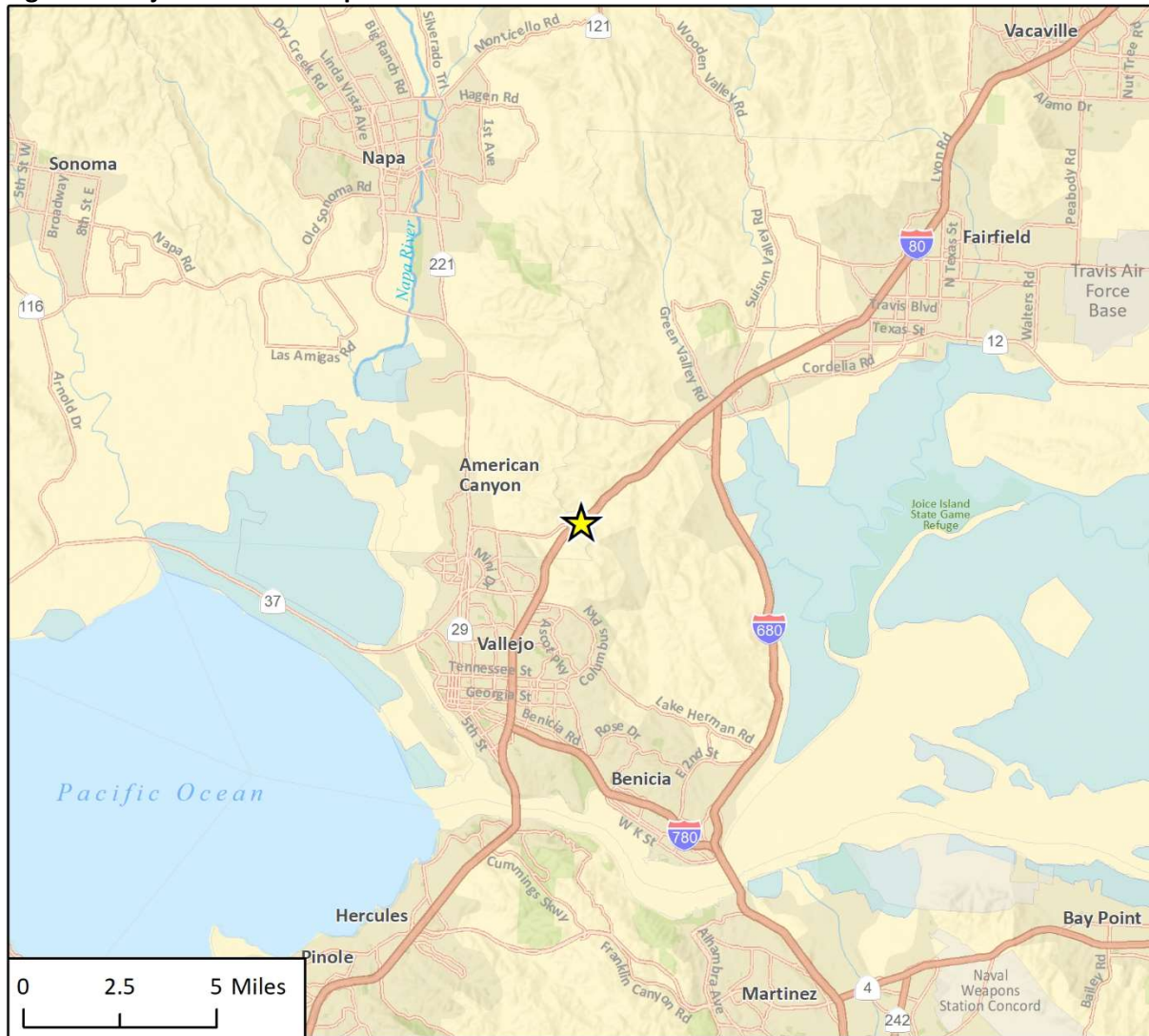
**References**

- Leach-Palm, Laura and Meta Bunse  
2014 Historic Property Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California
- Leach-Palm, Laura and Jack Meyer  
2012 Archaeological Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Pedestrian and Bike Paths Improvement Project, Solano County, California
- National Park Service  
1983 Archaeological and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines. Electronic document, online at [http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law-Arch\\_Standards.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law-Arch_Standards.htm) accessed December 6, 2011.
- NETR Online  
2020 Historic Aerials. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>. Accessed July 2020.

**Attachment A.**  
**Figures**



Figure 1. Project Location Map



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2020.

★ Project Location

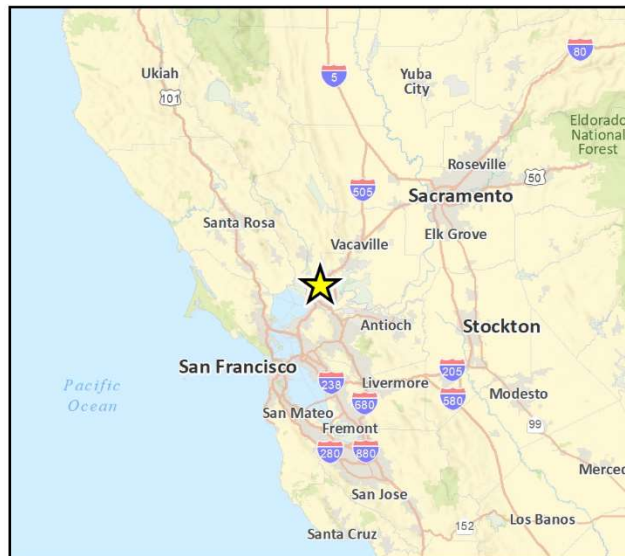
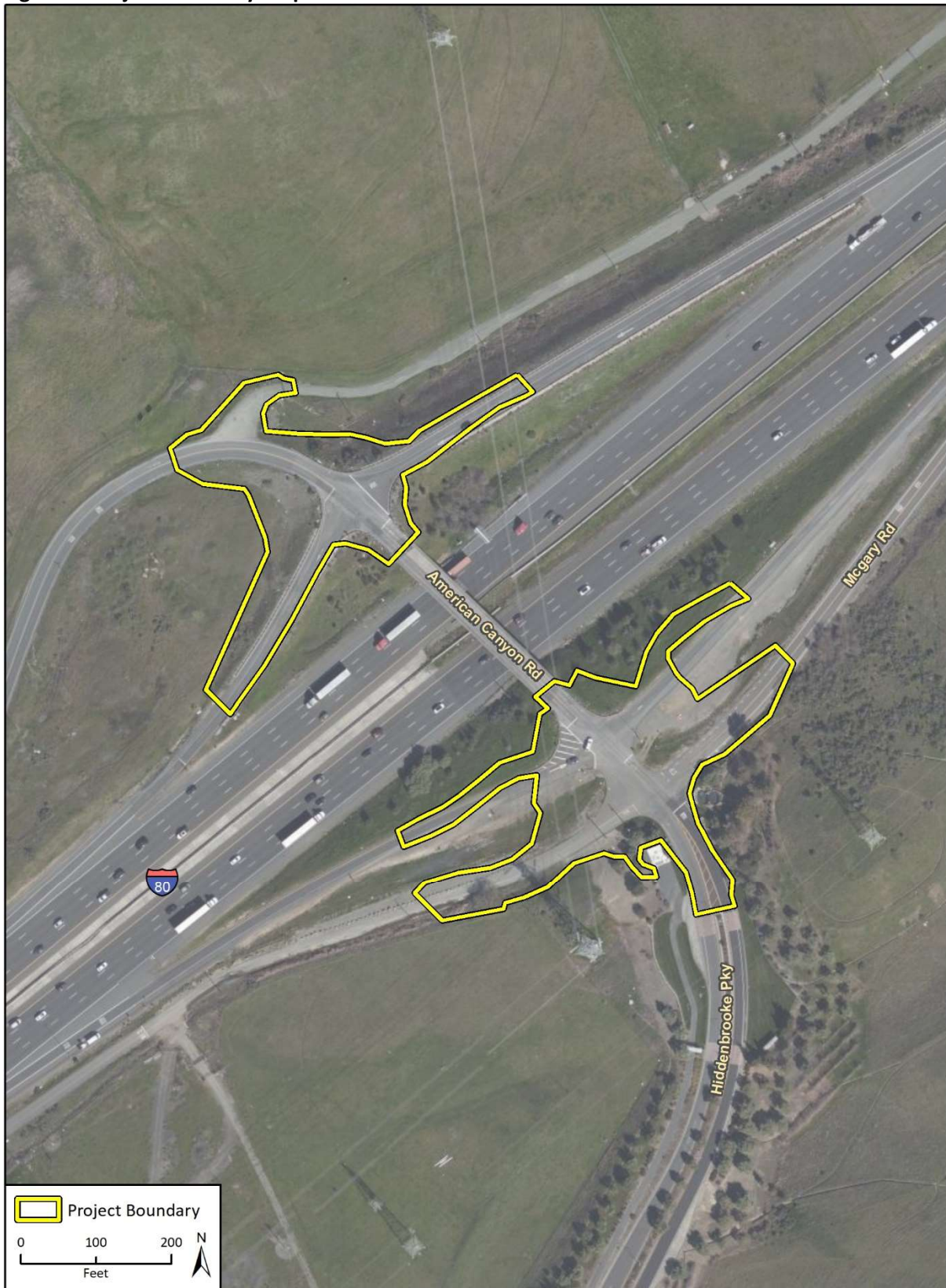


Fig. 1. Regional Location



Figure 2. Project Boundary Map



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.

Fig. 2 Project Location



**Figure 3. McGary Road, facing northeast**





**Figure 4. McGary Road and Hiddenbrooke Parkway, dense vegetation and fence along road, facing east**





**Figure 5. American Canyon Road with modern debris and dense vegetation, facing southeast**



**Figure 6. American Canyon Road with dense vegetation, facing southwest**

**Attachment B.**  
**CHRIS Cultural Resource Report List**



## Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
S-009124		1987	John Holson and Lori Hager	A Cultural Resources Study for the Vaca Dixon-Moraga 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project, Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano Counties, California	Hager/Holson and Associates	48-000067, 48-000068, 48-000076, 48-000159, 48-000160, 48-000161, 48-000162, 48-000163, 48-000164, 48-000167, 48-000168, 48-000169, 48-001001, 48-001003, 48-001004, 48-001005, 48-001006, 48-001007
S-025323		2000	John A. Nadolski	Archaeological Investigations for the American Canyon Cell Tower Site	Pacific Legacy, Inc.	
S-038627	Caltrans - EA/ID 4A2500/0400001121	2012	William Hildebrandt, Jack Meyer, Julia Costello, Patricia Mikkelsen, and John Berg	Survey and Extended Phase I Investigations for the Solano 80 Corridor Project, Solano County, California, EA/ID 4A2500/0400001121, Solano 80 Post Miles 0.0-44.4	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	48-000038, 48-000111, 48-000897, 48-000898, 48-000899, 48-000900



## Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
S-002181		1980	Terry Jones and David A. Fredrickson	An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed PG&E Transmission Line From the Lakeville Substation, Sonoma County to the Sobrante Substation, Contra Costa County, California	Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University	48-000115, 48-000116
S-008274	Voided - ASC #718	1981	Miley Paul Holman	Sky Valley Development Area: A Preliminary Report of Findings	Holman & Associates	48-000155, 48-000156
S-044488		2012	Laura Leach-Palm and Jack Meyer	Archaeological Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Pedestrian and Bike Paths Improvement Project, Solano County	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	48-000907, 48-000908, 48-000909
S-045643	Agency Nbr - HPLUL 5923 (094)	2014	Laura Leach-Palm and Meta Bunse	Historic Property Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	48-000908, 48-000909
S-045643a		2014	Laura Leach-Palm and Jack Meyer	Archaeological Survey Report for the Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Enhancement Project, Solano County, California	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	
S-045643b		2014	Meta Bunse and Steven J. Melvin	Historical Resources Evaluation Report, Cordelia Hills Sky Valley Project, Solano County, California	JRP Historical Consulting, LLC	

**Attachment C.**  
**NAHC SLF Results**

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 18, 2020

Courtney Montgomery, Archaeologist  
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Via Email to: [cmontgomery@rinconconsultants.com](mailto:cmontgomery@rinconconsultants.com)

**Re: Hiddenbrooke Interchange Improvement Project, Solano County**

Dear Ms. Montgomery:

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

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

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: [Sarah.Fonseca@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Sarah.Fonseca@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Sarah Fonseca

*Cultural Resources Analyst*

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Laura Miranda**  
*Luiseño*

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
*Chumash*

SECRETARY  
**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
*Luiseño*

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**William Mungary**  
*Paiute/White Mountain Apache*

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**Julie Tumamait-Stenslie**  
*Chumash*

COMMISSIONER  
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**Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Solano County  
6/18/2020**

***Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel  
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***Guidiville Indian Rancheria***

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Rancheria***

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***Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation***

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Fax: (530) 796-2143  
aroberts@yochadehe-nsn.gov

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Hiddenbrooke Interchange Improvement Project, Solano County.