

Cultural Resources Assessment for the Oaks Marketplace Master Conditional Use Permit Project, City of Visalia, Tulare County, California

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USGS Visalia 7.5' topographic quadrangle;
43.27 total project acres; 43.27 acres surveyed
Keywords: Negative findings

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Taylorred Archaeology performed a cultural resources assessment for the Oaks Marketplace Master Conditional Use Permit Project (Project). A private developer proposes to construct a commercial development within the Project boundary. The Project site comprises 43.27 acres.

To assist the private developer in meeting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance requirements, Taylorred Archaeology, under contract to 4Creeks, Inc., conducted a cultural resources assessment to determine whether cultural resources are present within the Project area. The investigation included a records search through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) to identify previously recorded cultural resources and prior studies in the project vicinity, a request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to review its Sacred Lands File for known resources, and a pedestrian survey of the proposed Project area.

The records search results from SSJVIC indicated that there were two recorded resources. One resource, from the historic era, within the Project area and one recorded resource, from the historic era, within a 0.5-mile radius. However, further review of SSJVIC records indicated the historic era resource within the Project area is actually located outside the Project area to the north. The NAHC's Sacred Lands File results revealed that there were no known identifications of sacred or important tribal cultural sites within the Project area, and no archaeological cultural resources were identified during Taylorred Archaeology's pedestrian survey of the Project area.

Due to the Project's close proximity of 0.25 miles to Packwood Creek, which historically contained a Native American Yokut village within the general region, Taylorred Archaeology recommends a Native American monitor and archaeological monitor be present during initial ground disturbance during Project construction activities.

In the event of accidental discovery of unidentified archaeological remains during development or ground-moving activities in the Project area, all work within the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot radius) should be halted until a qualified archaeologist can identify the discovery and assess its significance.

If human remains are uncovered during construction, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to investigate the remains and arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits to be those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and PRC 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will be afforded an opportunity to make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of the remains.

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1 INTRODUCTION

A private developer is currently proposing to construct a 43.27-acre commercial use project within the City of Visalia. 4Creeks, Inc. as the prime contractor to the private developer for environmental compliance services retained Taylored Archaeology to conduct a Phase I cultural resource assessment of the Oaks Marketplace Master Conditional Use Permit Project (Project) for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and at the request of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe during Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project area is in the City of Visalia in Tulare County (Figure 1-1). The Project area is within Section 7 of Township 19 South, Range 25 East, Mount Diablo Meridian of the Visalia, California 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle (Figure 1-2).

The Project area covers approximately 43.27 acres of row crops within Assessors Parcel Numbers 126-080-025 and 126-080-056. The proposed Project will involve construction and operation of a regional commercial development. Specifically, the Project will potentially include a grocery store, drive-thru restaurant, sit-down restaurant, convenience store, and a car wash. The total building space proposed is 211,520 square feet.

1.2 REGULATORY SETTING

1.2.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Pursuant to CEQA, a historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources. Historical resources may include, but are not limited to, “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically or archaeologically significant” (PRC §5020.1[j]). In addition, a resource included in a local register of historical resources or identified as significant in a local survey conducted in accordance with the state guidelines are also considered historic resources under California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1.

According to CEQA guidelines §15064.5 (a)(3), criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources includes the following:

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

According to CEQA guidelines §21074 (a)(1)(2), criteria for tribal cultural resources includes the following:

- (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following: (A) included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources. (B) included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

1.3 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Principal Investigator/Archaeologist Consuelo Y. Sauls (M.A.), a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA 41591505), served as project manager, providing technical and administrative oversight for all cultural resource tasks conducted, and as report author for the Project study. Ms. Sauls meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications in Archaeology. Statement of Qualifications for key personnel is provided in Appendix A.



Figure 1-1 Project vicinity in Tulare County, California.

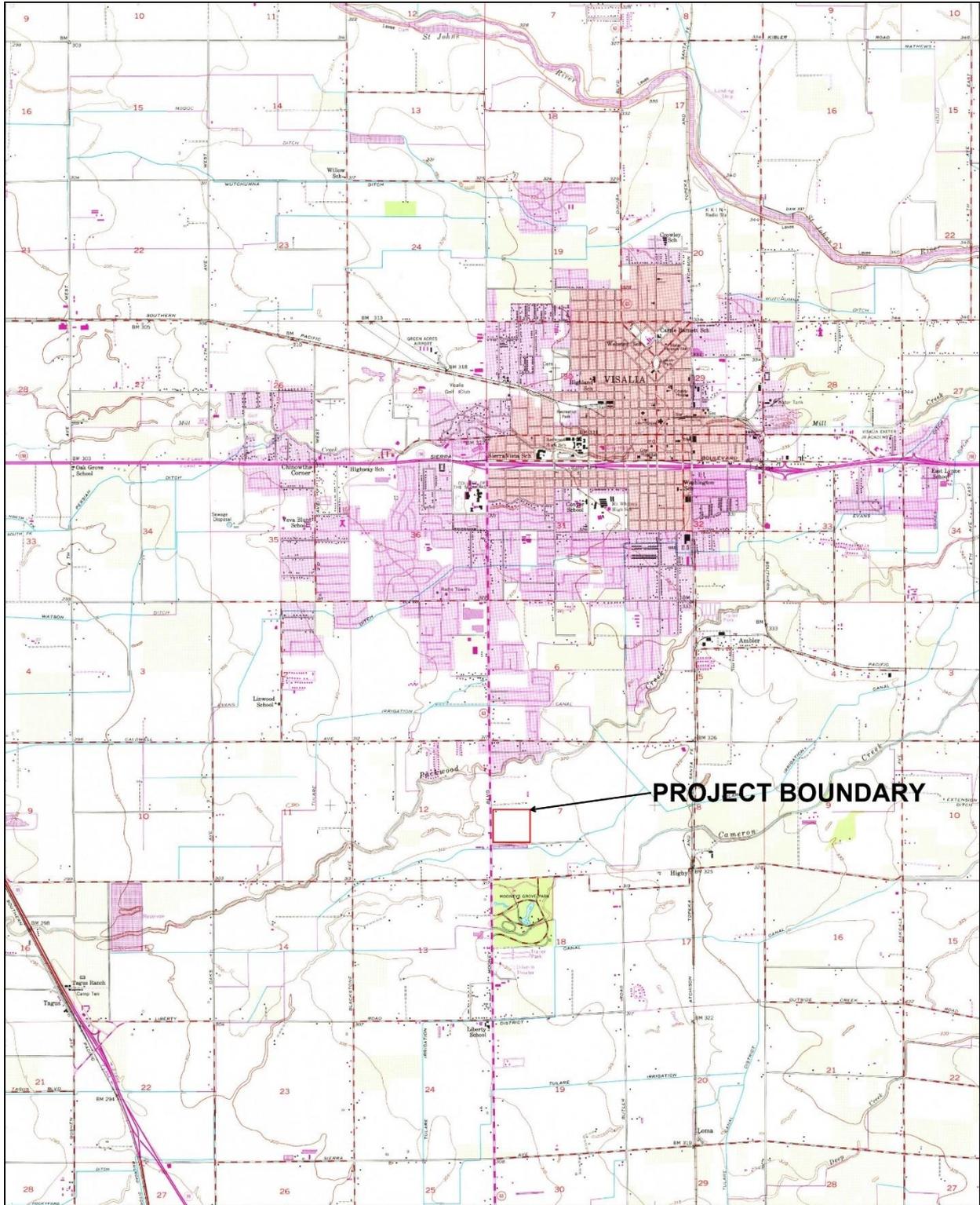


Figure 1-2 Project location on the USGS Visalia, CA 7.5-minute quadrangle.

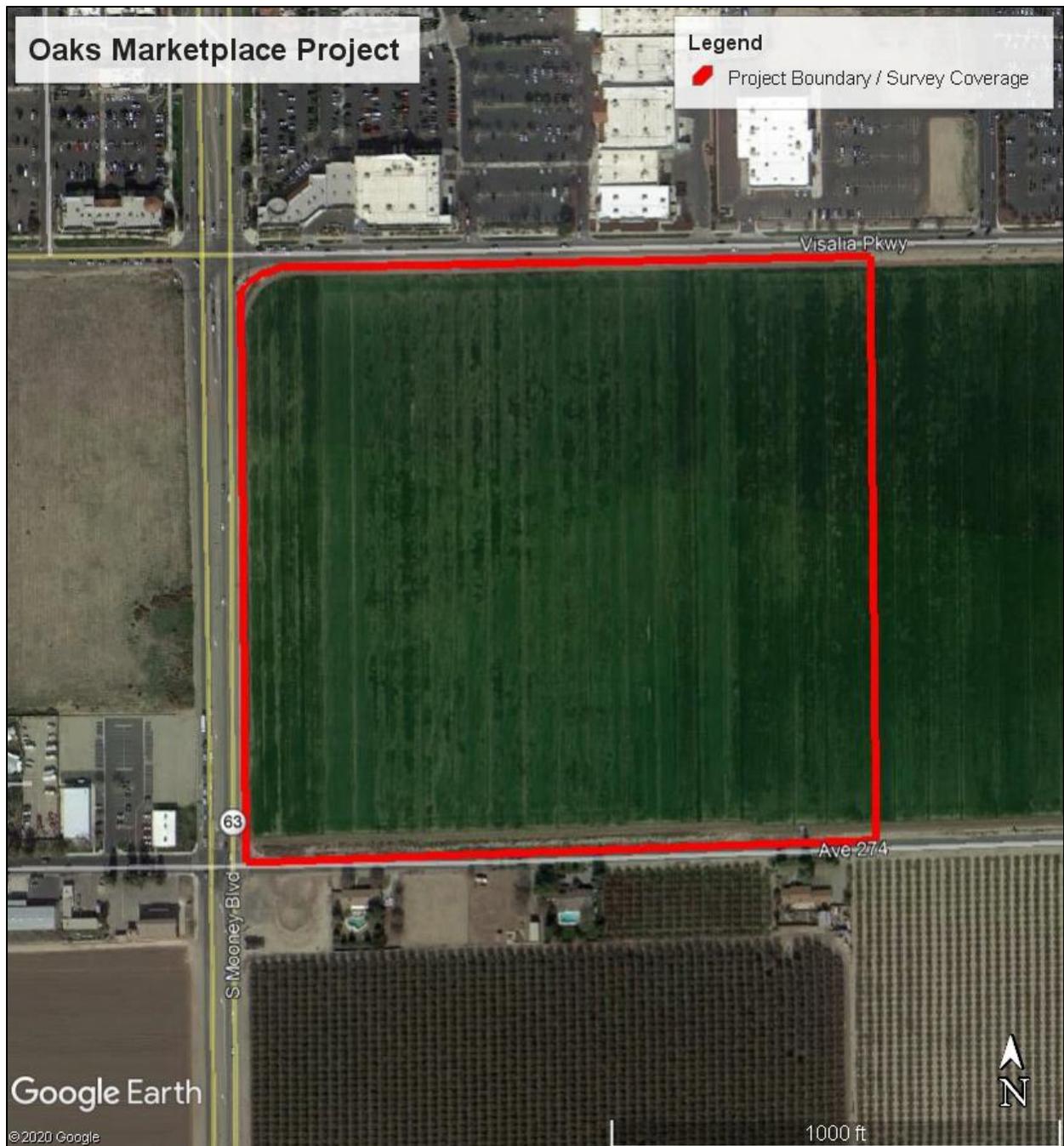


Figure 1-3 Aerial view of the Project boundary showing survey coverage.

1.4 REPORT STRUCTURE

In order to comply with California regulations for CEQA, the following specific tasks were completed: (1) requesting a records search from the Southern San Joaquin Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), at California State University, Bakersfield; (2) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and list of interested parties from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and initiating outreach to local Native American individuals and tribal representatives; (3) conducting an archaeological pedestrian survey, and (4) preparing this technical report.

Taylor Archaeology prepared this report following the California Office of Historic Preservation standards in the 1990 Archaeological Resources Management Report Recommended Contents and Format. Chapter 1 includes the Project description, the Project boundary, and identifies the key personnel involved in this report. Chapter 2 presents the Project setting, including the natural, prehistoric, historic, and ethnohistoric background for the Project area. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the methods and findings of the archival studies, Native American outreach, and pedestrian survey. Chapter 5 summarizes the Project findings and offers management recommendations. Chapter 6 is a bibliography of references cited within this report. The report also contains the following appendices: Qualifications of key personnel (Appendix A), the CHRIS records search results (Appendix B), and Taylor Archaeology's nongovernmental Native American outreach (Appendix C).

2 PROJECT SETTING

2.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Project area is located at approximately 315 feet above sea level on the open flat plains of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley is a comprised of structural trough created approximately 65 million years ago, and is filled with nearly 6 miles of sediment (Bull 1964). The San Joaquin can be split between the San Joaquin River hydrologic area and the Tulare Lake Drainage Basin. Tulare County is located within the latter of the two hydrologic units. The Kaweah, Tule, Kern, and Kings rivers flowed into large inland lakes with no outflow except in high flood events, in which the lakes would flow from through the Fresno Slough into the San Joaquin River. The largest of these inland lakes was the Tulare Lake, which occupied a vast area of Tulare and Kings Counties.

The Project is in northern Tulare County on the valley floor of the San Joaquin Valley, and is located approximately 0.25 miles south of Packwood Creek, which is a distributary of the Kaweah River. Before the appearance of agriculture in the nineteenth century, the Project location would have been comprised of prairie grasslands with scatter oak tree savannas near the foothills, and along the various streams and drainages (Preston 1981). Riparian environments would also have been present along various waterways, including drainages and marshes. Native vegetation likely would have consisted of needle grasses and other perennial bunchgrasses before the introduction of non-native species in the 1800s.

The valley floor of the region was largely dominated by marshlands, lakes, and annual grasslands. Historically, these habitats provided a lush environment for large animals, including various migratory birds and other waterfowl, grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos californicus*), tule elk (*Cervus* sp.), pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) (Preston 1981). Native trees and plants observed in the Project vicinity include various blue, live, and white oaks (*Quercus* sp.), cottonwood (*Populus aegiros*), and willow (*Salix* sp.). The introduction of agriculture to region resulted in large animals being forced out of their habitat. Common land mammals now include valley coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), gray fox, kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), and rabbits (Leporidae). Rivers and lakes throughout the valley provide habitat for freshwater fish, including rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Sacramento sucker (*Catostomidae* sp.), and Sacramento perch (*Archoplites interruptus*), (Preston 1981).

2.2 PREHISTORIC SETTING

To better understand the past, archaeologists develop models of prehistoric resource chronologies and description of lifestyles based on data collected at the archaeological sites they investigate. Models of prehistoric life patterns are developed from both archaeological and ethnographic research. Within archaeology, models of prehistoric lifestyles are based on data collected from archaeological sites. The Southern San Joaquin Valley is of one of the least understood areas within California (Rosenthal et al. 2007). This is largely due to the valley floor being filled with thick alluvial deposits, and from human activity largely disturbing much of the valley floor due to a century and a half of agricultural use (Dillon 2002; Siefken 1999). Much of the early to middle

Holocene archaeological sites may have been as deep as 10 meters due to millennia of erosion and alluvial deposits from the western Sierras (Moratto 1984).

Agricultural activities have heavily disturbed and changed the landscape of the Southern San Joaquin Valley, from the draining of marshes and the vanishing of the extensive Tulare Lake, to grading nearly the entire valley for agricultural operations (Garone 2011). These activities have impacted or scattered much of the shallow surface deposits and mounds throughout the valley (Rosenthal et al 2007). Riddell suggested that potentially as much as 90 percent of all Central California archaeological sites have been destroyed (Riddell 2002).

The cultural traits and chronologies which are summarized below are largely based upon information discussed in multiple sources, including Bennyhoff and Fredrickson (Fredrickson 1973, 1974), Garfinkel (2015), McGuire and Garfinkel (1980), Moratto (1984), and Rosenthal et al. (2007).

The Paleo-Indian Period (13,500-10,600 cal B.P.) was largely represented by ephemeral lake sites which were characterized by atlatl and spear projectile points. Around 14,000 years ago, California was largely a cooler and wetter place, but with the retreat of continental Pleistocene glaciers, California largely experienced a warming and drying trend. Lakes filled with glacial meltwater were located in the valley floor and used by populations of now extinct large game animals. A few prehistoric sites were discovered near the southwestern shore of Tulare Lake, but none were located near the Project Area (Garfinkel 2015). Foragers appear to have operated in small groups which migrated on a regular basis.

During the Lower Archaic Period (10,500-7450 cal B.P.), climate change created a largely different environment which led to the creation of larger alluvial fans and flood plains. Most of the archaeological records of the prior period wound up being buried by geological processes. During this time, cultural patterns appear to have emerged between the foothill and valley populations of the local people. The foothill sites were often categorized by dense flaked and ground stone assemblages, while the valley sites were instead characterized by a predominance of crescents and stemmed projectile points. Variations in consumption patterns emerged as well, with the valley sites more marked by consumption of waterfowl, mussels, and freshwater fish, while the foothills sites saw an increase in nuts, seeds, and a more narrowly focused diet than the valley sites.

The Middle Archaic (7450-2500 cal B.P.) saw an increase in semi-permanent villages along river and creek settings, with more permanent sites located along lakes with a more stable supply of water and wildlife. Due to the warmer and drier weather of this period, many lakes within the valley dramatically reduced in size, while some vanished completely (Garone 2011). Cultural patterns during this time saw an increase in stone tools, while a growth in shell beads, ornaments, and obsidian evidence an extensive and ever-growing long-distance trade network. Little is known of cultural patterns in the valley during the Upper Archaic (2500-850), but large village structures appeared to be more common around local rivers. An overall reduction of projectile point size suggests changing bow and arrow technologies. Finally, the Emergent Period (850 cal B.P.-Historic Era) was generally marked by an ever-increasing specialization in tools, and the bow and arrow generally replaced the dominance of the dart and atlatl. Cultural traditions ancestral to those recorded during ethnographic research in the early 1900s are identifiable.

2.3 ETHNOGRAPHY

While the prehistoric record of the San Joaquin Valley has not been extensively studied, the ethnography of the region has been intensively researched. The Project area is located within the ethnographic territory of the Penutian-speaking Yokuts tribal groups, who occupied the southern San Joaquin Valley and the surrounding Sierra Nevada. The Yokuts are a sub-group of the Penutian language that covers much of coastal and central California and Oregon (Callaghan 1958). The Yokuts language contained multiple dialects spoken throughout the region, though many of them were mutually understandable (Merriam 1904). The Yokuts were generally divided into three major groups, the Northern Valley Yokuts, the Southern Valley Yokuts, and the Foothill Yokuts.

The Yokuts have been extensively researched and recorded by ethnographers, including Powers (1877), Kroeber (1925), Gifford and Schenck (1926, 1929), Gayton (1930, 1945), Driver (1937), Harrington (1957), Latta (1977), and Wallace (1978). Much of the research from these ethnographers focuses on the central Yokuts tribes due to the northernmost tribes being impacted by Euro-Americans during the California Gold Rush of the mid 1800s, and by the southernmost tribes often being removed and relocated by the Spanish to various Bay Area or coastal missions. The central Yokuts tribes, and especially the western Sierra Nevada foothill tribes, were the most intact at the time of ethnographic study.

Based upon Kroeber's map of Southern and Central Yokuts (1925: Plate 47), the Project area is likely within the Tulamni Yokuts territory. The main village for this area was *Waitatahulul*, which was 7 miles north of the City of Tulare on the bank of Packwood Creek, a distributary of the Kaweah River (Kroeber 1925). Primary Yokuts villages were typically located along lakeshores and major stream courses, with scattered secondary or temporary camps and settlements located near gathering areas in the foothills. Yokuts were organized into groups originally designated as tribelets by Kroeber, with one or more linked villages and smaller settlements within a territory (Kroeber 1925). Designation of these units as 'tribelets' is often viewed as pejorative by many Native Americans, and for the remainder of this report will be referred to as 'local tribes' instead. Each local tribe was a land-owning group that was organized around a central village, and shared common territory and ancestry. Most local tribe populations ranged from 150 to 500 people (Kroeber 1925). These local tribes were often led by a chief, who was often advised by a variety of assistants including the winatum, who served as a messenger and assistant chief (Gayton 1930).

Prior to Euro-American contact, the Yokuts were one of the densest populations of Native Americans in western North America due to the substantial natural resources surrounding Tulare Lake (Cook 1955). Six Native American tribal groups are currently associated with the Project area, including the Tubatulabals of Kern Valley, Wukasache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band, the Kern Valley Indian Community, the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, and the Tule River Indian Tribe.

2.4 HISTORIC SETTING

While the California coast saw European contact as early as the 1500s, the San Joaquin valley did not experience contact until the early 1800s (Starr 2007). The initial excursions to the valley were for exploration such as those led by Lieutenant Bariel Moraga in 1806, but also to find sites for suitable missions and to track down Native Americans fleeing the coastal missions (Cook 1960).

Subsequent expeditions were also sent to pursue outlaws from the coast who would often flee to the valley for safety. One of the subsequent explorations was an expedition in 1814 to 1815 with Sargent Juan Ortega and Father Juan Cabot, who left the Mission San Miguel with a company of approximately 30 Spanish soldiers, and explored the San Joaquin Valley (Smith 2004). This expedition passed through the Kaweah Delta and modern-day Visalia, and made a recommendation to establish a mission near modern-day Visalia. Some of the first Euro-Americans to reside in what would become modern-day Tulare County were Jedediah and Pegleg Smith (Menefee and Dodge 1913). As the valley was still relatively lawless in the 1830s, those drawn to it were often either trappers like Jedediah Smith or horse thieves like Pegleg Smith (Clough and Secrest 1984). In fact, horse and other livestock theft was so rampant that ranching operations on the Rancho Laguna de Tache by the Kings River and Rancho del San Joaquin Rancho along the San Joaquin River could not be properly established (Cook 1962). With the end of the Mexican-American War and the beginning of the gold rush in 1848, the San Joaquin Valley became more populated with ranchers and prospectors. By 1850, California became a state and Tulare County was established in 1853.

The City of Visalia is one of the oldest cities within the Southern San Joaquin Valley and was founded in 1852. A wooden stockade fort was built at the time, named Fort Visalia after Visalia, Kentucky (Robert 1988). By the mid-1850s the town of Visalia was a major station along the Butterfield Overland Mail state route as it traveled north from Los Angeles to Stockton (Helmich 2008; OHP 2019). During the first few decades, Visalia was a supply center for nearby gold rushes, and had an agricultural economy based on livestock (Dyett and Bhatia 2014). The Southern Pacific Railroad was extended from Fresno into Tulare County in the early 1870s and brought a population to towns such as Goshen that served as a regional stop (ESA 2010). With it, the rail line brought an increased in agriculture and farms that clashed with existing ranching operations in the local area. Escalating conflicts and livestock disputes between ranchers and farmers lead to the “No Fence Law” in 1874, which forced ranchers to pay for crop and property damage caused by their cattle (Ludeke 1980). With the passage of this law and the expansion of irrigation systems, predominant land use in the 1870s switched from grazing to farming (Mitchell 1976). This led to the beginning of the vast change of the San Joaquin Valley from native vegetation and grasslands to irrigated crops (Varner and Stuart 1975). One exception of this conversion from native vegetation to irrigated crops present-day Mooney Grove Park, located approximately 0.25 miles south of the Project site. Mooney Grove Park was a tract of land originally settled by Benjamin Willis in 1853 and later sold to the Mooney family in 1878. Significant, the valley oak trees were never cut down for lumber on the property, and the area was sold to Tulare County as the first county park in California in 1909 (Tweed 2012).

Water conveyance systems were developed throughout the region in order to minimize flooding and to divert water to the dryer areas (PID 2012). Surface waters and local wells were only able to satisfy the water demands of the valley for so long, and in 1911 California created the State Reclamation Board to solve water issues in the valley. Various reports were commissioned and 12 years later the California State Water Plan was proposed (Stene 2015). The Central Valley Project was approved in 1933, but funds were stalled until funded by the Rivers and Harbors Act in 1937. Construction on the Central Valley Project began soon after and continued until the mid-1950s (Stene 2015). One cornerstone of this project was the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC), located immediately east of the study area. The FKC, built between 1945 and 1951, is over 150 miles long and represents one of the largest lined canals in the western US (Hundley 2001). Creation of the

FKC brought new opportunities for irrigation to the region and led to the creation of new irrigation districts.

3 METHODS

3.1 RECORDS SEARCH

Taylorred Archaeology requested a copy of the prior reports stated in the results letter that the SSJVIC of the CHRIS at California State University in Bakersfield, California, provided to 4Creeks on December 28, 2020. The records search encompassed the Project area and all the land within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project. Sources consulted included archaeological site and survey base maps, historical USGS topographic maps, reports of previous investigations, cultural resource records (DPR forms) as well as listings of the Historic Properties Directory of the Office of Historic Preservation, General Land Office Maps, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and the California Inventory of Historic Resources (Appendix B).

3.2 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Taylorred Archeology conducted archival research of books, articles, historical US Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, historical maps, historical aerial photographs, Google Earth aerial photographs, Google Street View photos, and other records regarding the prehistory and history of the Project area. The results of this research are presented in Chapters 2 and 4.

3.3 NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH

4Creeks reached out to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of its Sacred Lands File and the contact information for local Native American tribal representatives who may have an interest in sharing information about the Project area and surrounding area. The NAHC responded to 4Creeks on December 15, 2020, with its search findings and attached a list of Native American tribes and individuals culturally affiliated with the Project area. Additionally, the City of Visalia sent AB 52 consultation letters to local Native American tribes.

3.4 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

On January 16, 2021, Archaeologist Consuelo Sauls conducted an archaeological survey of the 43.27-acre Project site using parallel transects spaced 15 meters apart. Visible landmarks, plan maps and Gaia GPS application were used for navigation and GPS to locate and survey the Project area. Ms. Sauls photographed the survey area using an iPhone 11 Pro digital camera and recorded location data using the Gaia GPS application. Ms. Sauls recorded her observations on a Survey Field Record and compiled a Photographic Record. Copies of photographs and field notes are on file at Taylorred Archaeology's office in Fresno, California.

4 FINDINGS

4.1 RECORDS SEARCH

The SSJVIC provided the results of the records search in a letter dated December 7, 2020 (Records Search File No. 20-436; Appendix B). The results letter indicated that there were two investigations that have been conducted within the Project area, and there have been six additional investigations within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. The SSJVIC also reported that there is one previously recorded resource in the Project area, a history era farm (P-54-003650), and one recorded resource, “The Pioneer” monument (P-54-004006), within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area.

Further review of the two previous investigations the results letter identified as within the Project area (TU-01078 and TU-1080) determined these two investigations are not within the Project area, but instead are adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project area. The historic era farm (P-54-003650) that the results letter identified as within the Project area was instead adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project area. Therefore, upon further review, it appears that no prior cultural resources investigations or cultural records in the SSJVIC archives are located within the Project area.

4.2 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Available historic aerial photograph coverage of the Project area began in 1969, and the first available USGS map covering the APE began in 1927. The Project area appears with no specific details on USGS topographic maps dating in 1927 and 1942. USGS topographic maps, starting in 1950, show an unidentified structure in the northwest corner of the project site. Historic aerial photographs in 1969 show a rural residence in the northwest corner of the Project area. The rural residence last appears in aerial photographs in August 2006. The next available aerial photograph, dated June 2009, shows the rural residence as demolished and replaced by row crops.

The earliest Google Street View photographs available date to August 2007, which shows no structures on the Project area. Based upon the available archival information, the residential structure was built on the northwest corner of the Project area sometime between 1942 and 1950 and demolished sometime between August 2006 and August 2007. No other structures, either former or present, appear in the Project area.

4.3 NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH

In a December 15, 2020 response to 4Creeks request for information, the NAHC stated that a search of the Sacred Lands File did not indicate the presence of resources in the immediate Project area or surrounding 0.5-mile radius (see Appendix C). The NAHC supplied a list of tribal representatives and recommended that 4Creeks contact the following representatives for information regarding Native American cultural resources in the study locale:

- Chairperson Elizabeth D. Kipp of Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians;

- Tribal Chair Benjamin Charley Jr. of Dunlap Band of Mono Indians;
- Tribal Secretary Dirk Charley of Dunlap Band of Mono Indians;
- Secretary Julie Turner of Kern Valley Indian Community;
- Chairperson Robert Robinson of the Kern Valley Indian Community;
- Brandy Kendricks of the Kern Valley Indian Community;
- Chairperson Leo Sisco of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe;
- Tribal Chairperson Robert L. Gomez, Jr. of the Tubatulabals of Kern Valley;
- Chairperson Neil Peyron of the Tule River Indian Tribe; and
- Chairperson Kenneth Woodrow of the Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band.

The City of Visalia conducted AB 52 consultation with local Native American tribes. During the consultation process, Samantha McCarty, a Cultural Specialist for the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe responded. Her response requested a cultural survey, CHRIS record search, and a NAHC record search to be completed with the results sent to the Santa Rosa Rancheria Cultural Department.

4.4 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY RESULTS

Taylor Archaeology conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the 43.27-acre Project site (Figure 4-1). Field recording and photo documentation of features and the Project area was completed. A series of overview photographs was taken to document the current conditions. Soils consisted of a dark brown silty loam (Figure 4-2). The Project site was bounded by Visalia Parkway on the north, South Mooney Boulevard on the west, and West Midvalley Avenue on the south (Figure 4-3). The eastern boundary of the Project area consisted of the same corn field as the Project area. A recently dug irrigation ditch, was observed around the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the Project site (Figure 4-4).

Vegetation within the Project site was comprised of regularly spaced small corn plants approximately six inches in height (Figure 4-5). No water features, either natural or artificial, were observed in the Project site. No animals were observed within the Project site during the survey. Two irrigation pipes were observed on the southern boundary of the Project site adjacent to West Midvalley Avenue (Figure 4-6). Ground visibility was approximately 85 percent. Natural or artificial erosion exposures were inspected for evidence of buried cultural deposits. No artifacts were identified or collected during the survey.

No cultural resources (e.g. isolated artifacts, features, archaeological sites, or historic-era built environment properties) were found during the survey. No evidence was found of the demolished rural residence in the northwestern corner of the Project site.



Figure 4-1 Northwest portion of project site, facing south. South Mooney Boulevard on the right.



Figure 4-2 Central portion of project site, dark brown silty loam soil in foreground.



Figure 4-3 Northwest corner of project site, facing east. Visalia Parkway on the left.



Figure 4-4 Northeastern corner of project site, facing west. Irrigation ditch in foreground.



Figure 4-5 Central portion of project site, facing east.



Figure 4-6 Southern boundary of project site. Irrigation pipe in foreground.

5 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Taylorred Archaeology conducted a cultural resource study for the Oaks Marketplace Master Conditional Use Permit Project. The Project will construct a commercial development on the Project site. As a subconsultant to 4Creeks, Inc., Taylorred Archaeology conducted a cultural resource assessment of the Project area to determine if cultural resources are present that could be affected by the proposed Project. Accordingly, background research, a records search from the SSJVIC of the CHRIS, a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File, and an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project area were conducted.

The SSJVIC records search identified one historic era cultural resource within the Project area. However, further review of SSJVIC records indicated the historic era resource misidentified as within the Project area is actually located outside the Project area to the north. Eight prior cultural resource studies and two previously recorded resources were found to be located within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area (Appendix B). Both recorded resources were historical in age. No cultural or tribal resources were identified in the Project area as a result of the NAHC Sacred Lands File search, archival research, or pedestrian survey.

Due to the Project's close proximity of 0.25 miles to Packwood Creek, which historically contained a Native American Yokut village on its banks within the general region, Taylorred Archaeology recommends a Native American monitor and archaeological monitor be present during initial ground disturbance during Project construction activities.

In the event of accidental discovery of unidentified archaeological remains during development or ground-moving activities in the Project area, all work should be halted in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot radius) until a qualified archaeologist can identify the discovery and assess its significance.

If human remains are uncovered during construction, the Tulare County Coroner is to be notified to investigate the remains and arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits to be those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and PRC 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will be afforded an opportunity to make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of the remains.

6 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Personnel Qualifications

Areas of Expertise

- Prehistoric archaeology
- Rock art recordation and analysis
- Laboratory management

Years of Experience

- 12

Education

- M.A., Archaeology, University of Durham, 2014
- B.A., Anthropology, California State University, Fresno, 2009

Registrations/Certifications

- Registered Professional Archaeologist 41591505

Professional Affiliations

- California Rock Art Foundation
- Coalition for Diversity in California Archaeology
- Society for American Archaeology
- Society for California Archaeology
- Society of Black Archaeologists

Professional Experience

- 2019 – 2021 Principal Investigator, Taylored Archaeology, Fresno, California
- 2018 – 2019 Staff Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., Fresno, California
- 2016 – 2018 Principal Investigator, Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc., Fresno, California
- 2015 Archivist/Database Technician, Development and Conservation Management, Inc., Laguna Beach, California
- 2013 Laboratory Research Assistant, Durham University Archaeology Department and Archaeology Museum, Durham, England, UK
- 2011 – 2012 Laboratory Technician (volunteer), University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2008 – 2009 Laboratory Technician (intern), California State University, Fresno
- 2008 Field School, California State University, Fresno

Technical Qualifications

Ms. Sauls meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards as an archaeologist. She has conducted pedestrian surveys, supervised Extended Phase I survey, authored technical reports, and completed the Section 106 process with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Her experience includes data recovery excavation at Western Mono sites and processing recovered artifacts in the laboratory as well as conducting archival research about prehistory and ethnography of Central California. Ms. Sauls has authored and contributed to technical and letter reports in compliance with of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). She also has supported NHPA tribal consultation and responded to Assembly Bill 52 tribal comments. Ms. Sauls also has an extensive background supervising laboratory processing, cataloging, and conservation of prehistoric and historical archaeological collections. In addition, she worked with the Rock Art Heritage Group in the management, preservation, and presentation of rock art in museums throughout England, including a thorough analysis of the British Museum's rock art collections. At Durham University Archaeology Museum, Ms. Sauls processed the excavated skeletal remains of 30 individuals from the seventeenth century.

APPENDIX B

Records Search Results



To: Molly McDonnel
4 Creeks, Inc.
324 S. Santa Fe Street, Suite A
Visalia, CA 93292

Record Search 20-436

Date: December 7, 2020

Re: Oaks Marketplace

County: Tulare

Map(s): Visalia 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP 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.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

According to the information in our files, there have been two previous cultural resource studies conducted within the northern most portion of the project area, TU-01078 and TU-1080. There have been six additional within the one-half mile radius, TU-00603, 00627, 01079, 01085, 01110, and 01659.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS

There is one recorded resource within the project area, P-54-003650, an historic era farm. There is one recorded resource within the one-half mile radius, P-54-004006, "The Pioneer" monument.

Resource P-54-004006, located at 27000 S. Mooney Blvd., has been given a National Register Status Code of 1S, indicating the individual property has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper. It is also listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. There are no other recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand this project consists of construction of a regional commercial development project on approximately 43.27 gross acres of land that is currently vacant. Because most of this project area has not been studied for cultural resources, it is not known if any exist there. Therefore, prior to any ground disturbance activities, we recommend a qualified, professional consultant conduct a field survey to determine if any cultural resources are present. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

We also recommend that you contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento. They will provide you with a current list of Native American individuals/organizations that can assist you with information regarding cultural resources that may not be included in the CHRIS Inventory and that may be of concern to the Native groups in the area. The Commission can consult their "Sacred Lands Inventory" file to determine what sacred resources, if any, exist within this project area and the way in which these resources might be managed. Finally, please consult with the lead agency on this project to determine if any other cultural resource investigation is required. If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (661) 654-2289.

By:

Celeste M. Thomson, Coordinator

Date: December 7, 2020

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

APPENDIX C

Native American Outreach

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

December 15, 2020

Cristobal Carrillo

City of Visalia

Via Email to: Cristobal.Carrillo@visalia.city

Re: TMT Visalia Shopping Center Project, Tulare County

Dear Mr. Carrillo:

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: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez

Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
Marshall McKay
Wintun

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

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

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
December 15, 2020**

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairperson PO. Box 337 Auberry, CA 93602 lkipp@bsrnation.com (559) 374-0066 (559) 374-0055	Western Mono	Kern Valley Indian Community Brandy Kendricks 30741 Foxridge Court Tehachapi, CA 93561 krazykendricks@hotmail.com (661) 821-1733 (661) 972-0445	Kawaiisu Tubatulabal
Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Benjamin Charley Jr., Tribal Chair P.O. Box 14 Dunlap, CA 93621 ben.charley@yahoo.com (760) 258-5244	Mono	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Leo Sisco, Chairperson P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245 (559) 924-1278 (559) 924-3583 Fax	Tache Tachi Yokut
Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Dirk Charley, Tribal Secretary 5509 E. McKenzie Avenue Fresno, CA 93727 dcharley2016@gmail.com (559) 554-5433	Mono	Tubatulabals of Kern Valley Robert L. Gomez, Jr., Tribal Chairperson P.O. Box 226 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (760) 379-4590 (760) 379-4592 Fax	Tubatulabal
Kern Valley Indian Community Julie Turner, Secretary P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (661) 340-0032 Cell	Kawaiisu Tubatulabal	Tule River Indian Tribe Neil Peyron, Chairperson P.O. Box 589 Porterville, CA 93258 neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov (559) 781-4271 (559) 781-4610 Fax	Yokuts
Kern Valley Indian Community Robert Robinson, Chairperson P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 bbutterbredt@gmail.com (760) 378-2915 Cell	Tubatulabal Kawaiisu	Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson 1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA 93906 kwood8934@aol.com (831) 443-9702	Foothill Yokuts Mono Wuksache

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

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans Tribes for the proposed:
TMT Visalia Shopping Center Project, Tulare County.**