Appendix H

Cultural Resources Assessment Report

Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility Annual Maintenance and Repair Program

Cultural Resources Assessment Report

prepared for

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Executive Summary

The Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to conduct a cultural resources assessment in support of Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility Annual Maintenance and Repair (R&M) Program (project). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns the Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility (Facility), and Casitas operates and maintains this Facility. The facilities include the Robles Diversion Dam, fishway (e.g., screenbay, high-flow bypass, and fish ladder), forebay, a timber cutoff wall, entrance pool, rock weirs and measurement weir, and access roads (Robles Diversion Dam Facility). The Robles Diversion Dam, fishway, forebay and timber cut-off wall facilities are designed to channel a portion of the Ventura River water down the Robles Diversion Canal, which empties into Lake Casitas, and to divert another portion into the Fish Passage Facility structures. The approximately 5.70-acre forebay is located directly upstream of the other structures, extending nearly 800 feet along the Ventura River floodplain.

The project includes six maintenance and repair activities, starting with 1) Forebay sediment removal, which has the most significant ground disturbance. This area has experienced a significant amount of sedimentation over the last several years. High-precipitation events caused mudslides and debris flows in the watershed following the Thomas Fire, which burned from December 2017 to January 2018. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000[1] cubic yards of sediment accumulated in the forebay area as a result of post-fire storm events. In 2019, Casitas received permits from the resource agencies to remove and relocate 100,000 cubic yards of sediment downstream over a three-year period in order to restore storage capacity of the forebay and maintain effective diversion and fish ladder operations. In accordance with the existing 2003 Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued to Reclamation by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Casitas must maintain the storage capacity of the forebay for effective diversion and fish ladder operations. As described in the BiOp, sediment and debris accumulate in the forebay and require periodic removal, and large storm events can create the need to shore up the earthen dam and forebay banks. The project proposes to restore functionality to the forebay by 1A) removing accumulated sediment and 1B) redepositing it downstream to restore storm eroded areas. In addition, the proposed project includes annual repair and maintenance for 2) Fish ladder, Screenbay, High-flow Bypass, 3) Rock Weir and Measurement Weir, 4) Entrance Pool, 5) Concrete repair, 6) Routine Maintenance of A. timber cut-off wall, B. debris fence, C. radial gates, D. instrumentation, and E. access roads.

The Annual R&M Program requires federal approval from United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and NMFS. As such, it is considered a federal undertaking and requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This cultural resource study has been prepared to meet the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Section 106 of the NHPA. This study comprises a cultural resources records search at the South

[1] In 2019, Casitas received permits from the resource agencies to remove and relocate 100,000 cubic yards of sediment downstream over a three-year period. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a letter of concurrence to remove up to 50,000 cubic yards in 2019, as proposed. Casitas relocated approximately 32,600 cubic yards of sediment trapped in the forebay to the designated placement area downstream of the cut-off wall, in November 2019. According with the permits, Casitas may proceed in August 2020 to remove up to 30,000 cubic yards of trapped sediment behind the forebay and relocate it downstream to the same designated areas where sediment was placed in November 2019. Similarly, Casitas may again proceed in August 2021 to remove/relocate up to 20,000 cubic yards of sediment from the forebay to the same designated areas downstream of the timber cut-off wall, if needed.

Central Coastal Information Center, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search with the Native American Heritage Commission, a pedestrian survey, evaluation of an historic period built-environment resource, and the preparation of this technical report. Reclamation will conduct the Section 106 consultation efforts with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Native American tribes, and other consulting parties.

One historic-era built environment resource, the Robles Diversion Dam Facility, is in the APE. The dam Facility was previously evaluated and determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by Reclamation, a finding that received concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Officer in September 2010. As part of the current study, the dam Facility was evaluated and found ineligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); it therefore does not qualify as a historical resource under CEQA or an historic property per Section 106 of the NHPA. The cultural resources records search did not identify any archaeological resources in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). Two isolated lithic flakes were identified in imported fill-soil during the pedestrian survey. Because they were identified in fill soils, they lack a discernable context and were not formally recorded. No other archaeological resources were identified during the survey. However, the SLF results were positive and the records search identified five prehistoric archaeological sites within a 1.0-mile radius of the APE. Although none of these sites extend into the APE, two are large habitation sites (P-56-000139 and P-56-000194) and two are confirmed to contain human remains (P-56-000139 and P-56-000306). These resources are located upstream from the Diversion Dam and it is possible that artifacts or remains associated with the sites could have washed downstream over time from erosion. These factors increase the likelihood of encountering buried archaeological deposits during project-related ground disturbance. However, these deposits would have been the result of recent erosion and not the result of prehistoric human activity.

Significant project-related ground disturbance is limited to Activities 1A, 1B, which include periodic removal and downstream redeposition of accumulated sediments, and may occur during road grading and excavation during Activity 6E. Therefore, Rincon recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring as a standard condition for project-related ground disturbance during Activities 1A and 1B and for grading and excavation during Activity 6E, detailed below. Although any encountered resources in these areas are likely to be within a secondary context, the heritage value of any such resources to local tribal groups remains. Monitoring is consistent with tribal concerns and precedent existing for the general area.

Based on the results of this cultural resources assessment, Rincon recommends a finding of ***no impact to historical resources and less than significant impact to archaeological resources with mitigation*** under CEQA and ***no historic properties affected*** under Section 106 of NHPA. Additionally, Rincon presents the following recommendation in case of unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during project development. The project is also required to adhere to regulations regarding the unanticipated discovery of human remains, detailed below.

Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Rincon recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring of all project-related ground disturbance during Activities 1A and 1B and of grading and excavation during Activity 6E by a qualified archaeologist and Native American consultant. Archaeological monitoring should be performed under the direction of an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983). Native American

monitoring should be provided by a locally affiliated tribal member. Monitors will have the authority to halt and redirect work should any archaeological resources be identified during monitoring. If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and the find evaluated for listing in the CRHR and NRHP. Archaeological or Native American monitoring or both may be reduced to spot-checking or eliminated at the discretion of the monitors, in consultation with the lead agency, as warranted by conditions such as encountering bedrock, sediments being excavated are fill, or negative findings during the first 60 percent of rough grading. If monitoring is reduced to spot-checking, spot-checking shall occur when ground-disturbance moves to a new location within the APE and when ground disturbance will extend to depths not previously reached (unless those depths are within bedrock).

Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt 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 the discovery proves to be eligible for the NRHP and/or CRHR, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts/adverse effects.

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 no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) 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 would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which would determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance.

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1 Introduction

The Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to conduct a cultural resources assessment in support of Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility Annual Maintenance and Repair (R&M) Program (project). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns the Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility (Facility), and Casitas operates and maintains this Facility. The facilities include the Robles Diversion Dam, fishway (e.g., screenbay, high-flow bypass, and fish ladder), forebay, a timber cutoff wall, entrance pool, rock weirs, measurement weir, and access roads (Robles Diversion Dam Facility). The Robles Diversion Dam, fishway, forebay and timber cut-off wall facilities are designed to channel a portion of the Ventura River water down the Robles Diversion Canal, which empties into Lake Casitas, and to divert another portion into the Fish Passage Facility structures. The approximately 5.70-acre forebay is located directly upstream of the other structures, extending nearly 800 feet along the Ventura River floodplain.

This area has experienced a significant amount of sedimentation over the last several years. High-precipitation events caused mudslides and debris flows in the watershed following the Thomas Fire, which burned from December 2017 to January 2018. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 cubic yards of sediment accumulated in the forebay area as a result of post-fire storm events. In 2019, Casitas received permits from the resource agencies to remove and relocate 100,000 cubic yards of sediment downstream over a three-year period in order to restore storage capacity of the forebay and maintain effective diversion and fish ladder operations. In accordance with the existing 2003 Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued to Reclamation by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Casitas must maintain the storage capacity of the forebay for effective diversion and fish ladder operations. As described in the BiOp, sediment and debris accumulate in the forebay and requires periodic removal, and large storm events can create the need to shore up the earthen dam and forebay banks. The project proposes to restore functionality to the forebay by removing accumulated sediment. In addition, the proposed project includes typical maintenance and repair activities to be performed annually at the Facility: sediment removal from the fishway and entrance pool; vegetation control; concrete repair within the existing footprint of the Facility; repair and maintenance of the timber cut-off wall and radial gates (at the entrance to the headworks and spillway), rock weirs and measurement weirs, debris fence, instrumentation, and access roads.

The Annual R&M Program requires federal approval from Reclamation, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and NMFS. As such, it is considered a federal undertaking and requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This cultural resource study has been prepared to meet the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Section 106 of the NHPA. This study comprises a cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search with the Native American Heritage Commission, a pedestrian survey, evaluation of an historic period built-environment resource, and the preparation of this technical report. The Reclamation will conduct the Section 106 consultation efforts with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Native American tribes, and other consulting parties.

1.1 Project Location and Description

Casitas operates the Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility (Facility), which includes the dam and the forebay constructed in the late 1950s, and the fish passage components (fish ladder, fish screen,

high and low flow fish exit channels, a spillway energy dissipater, concrete measurement weir and a series of low-head rock weirs) constructed in 2004, after Southern California (SC) Distinct Population Segment of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; steelhead) were listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Facility is located on the Ventura River, two miles downstream of Matilija Dam and 14.5 miles upstream of the Pacific Ocean, in unincorporated Ventura County, California. The project location is depicted on the Matilija, California United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in Township 4N Range 23W Section 04, and in Township 5N Range 32W Section 33 (Figure 1).

The primary objective of the Casitas routine maintenance and repair program is to ensure the proper operation of the Facility. By maintaining the Facility consistent with its original design, Casitas reduces or prevents ineffective operation of the water diversion and fish ladder. The Facility allows a portion of Ventura River flows to be diverted into the Robles Canal, which transports the water to Lake Casitas for storage and ultimately municipal, industrial, and agricultural use. Casitas provides drinking water for approximately 70,000 western Ventura County residents (City of Ventura, City of Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County areas). Additionally, Casitas provides irrigation water for roughly 5,000 acres of mostly permanent agricultural crops. Lake Casitas is the only reservoir from which Casitas supplies its customers, and adequate lake levels are dependent on receiving sufficient inflows from the Robles Canal. The proposed maintenance and repair activities preserve the conveyance capacity of the Facility by preventing the accumulation of obstructing vegetation and sediments that could impede Facility fish passage and water diversion operations.

Most of the maintenance and repair activities are considered routine. Maintenance work is scheduled in advance based on the results of regular inspections and consists of activities to keep the Facility operating in accordance with its design specifications. Work takes place in accordance with a detailed schedule which takes into account the time of year, hydrologic and environmental conditions, staff and equipment resources, and budget. The extent and frequency of maintenance varies greatly from year to year depending upon the frequency and intensity of storm events, conditions of the Facility, and environmental constraints.

Emergency actions which require immediate repair to protect life and property are covered under emergency state and federal authorizations on a case-by-case basis and are not part of the proposed R&M Program assessed herein.

1.1.1 Activities Descriptions

Activities included in the R&M Program are grouped as follows:

- No. 1 (Forebay Sediment)
    a. Forebay Sediment Removal
    b. Forebay Sediment Placement
        i. Stockpile area
- No. 2 (Fish Ladder, Screenbay, High-flow Bypass)
- No. 3 (Rock Weir and Measurement Weir)
- No. 4 (Entrance Pool and entrance box)
- No. 5 (Concrete Repair)

Figure 1 Project Vicinity Map

- No. 6 (Routine Repair and Maintenance)
  a. Timber Cut-off Wall
  b. Debris Fence
  c. Radial Gates
  d. Instrumentation and measuring devices
  e. Roads and access surfaces

Activity No. 1 Forebay Sediment

Permit History

Maintaining the depth and volume of the forebay is critical to the operation of the Robles Diversion Facility and fish passage. When the forebay was designed in 1957, the footprint of the earthen basin was larger than it is now (Appendix C). Following the severe storms in 1978, the forebay decreased in size to 5.70 acres, and Casitas has continued to maintain this footprint (Appendix D). Sediment and vegetation are removed from the Robles forebay on average every four years. The forebay requires regular maintenance, especially after heavy rainfall years, or during post-fire watershed recovery periods. Casitas currently acquires several state and federal agency agreements and/or permits on an as-needed basis for restoration of the forebay.

In accordance with the NMFS BiOp issued to Reclamation for operation of the Facility (NMFS 2003), Casitas must maintain the storage capacity of the forebay for effective diversion and fish ladder operations. As described in the BiOp, sediment and debris accumulate in the forebay and requires periodic removal, and large storm events can create the need to shore up the earthen dam (timber cutoff wall) and forebay banks. The BiOp allows Casitas to create a shallow channel within the forebay to direct low-flows to the diversion structure. This shallow channel is re-constructed after high runoff events and may not be required every year. The creation of the shallow channel and removal of excess sediment is accomplished by heavy equipment when the channel is dry.

In 2019, Casitas completed permitting and consultations through the resource agencies for the action to remove and relocate 100,000 cubic yards of sediment downstream over a three-year period. NMFS issued a letter of concurrence (LOC) to remove up to 50,000 cubic yards in 2019, as proposed. Approximately 32,600 cubic yards of sediment trapped in the forebay was relocated by Casitas to the designated placement area downstream of the cut-off wall, in November 2019. Provisions for removing additional sediment had been arranged through 2021 but may be forestalled.

Sediment Removal (1A)

The annual maintenance and repair program (proposed action) sediment removal would occur during the dry season, when surface water is absent in the forebay. It is anticipated the project would require up to 60 working days to complete. Access to the forebay and downstream sediment placement area will be from the north end of Rice Road located east of the forebay. The northern and southern access roads would be utilized.

The heavy equipment needed for this activity will be staged in disturbed areas created previously during Facility construction. This includes amenable areas located immediately west of the forebay adjacent to the high-flow bypass and also due east of the forebay, with each having a supportive gravel base and providing ready access, requiring minimal travel.

Maintenance of the forebay requires moving sediment, rock, and emergent vegetation within the channel using heavy equipment. The solids would be removed from the forebay with equipment that could include for example, a backhoe, Caterpillar 950 loader, Caterpillar dozer (D8 & D6), Caterpillar excavator 320, Caterpillar 120 grader, Caterpillar excavator 350, Caterpillar articulated dump truck 725, work trucks (Ford F350 type), and a water truck or similar types of equipment (e.g., generically – excavators, graders, bulldozers, dump truck, etc.) or other similar equipment suitable to the purpose. This equipment is used to transport and spread the sediment and shore up the channel banks of the timber cut-off wall eroded by heavy storms (Activity No. 1A; please see Figure 2). This activity may occur annually. The quantity sediment/debris to be removed is highly dependent on storm load deposition, but generally will not exceed approximately 56,500 cubic yards per year, unless a greater amount of sediment accumulates at the upstream end of the forebay as it has in the past. In which case, there may be a need to remove an additional 15,000 cubic yards of sediment. To restore the forebay's operational volume each year, the project will return the forebay closer to its historic operational grade (Appendix D) by removing the amount of accumulated sediment necessary to restore the forebay's capacity, and relocate it downstream (Activity No. 1B; shown on Figure 2), or to a stockpile area. Remaining sediment excavated may be exported offsite to a landfill or other appropriate designated soil disposal areas.

Sediment Placement (1B)

When flows are sufficiently high to overtop the cut-off wall, erosion of the streambed and banks of the overflow channel downstream occurs. Sediment removed during forebay maintenance activities is first used to restore these storm-eroded areas. For the purpose of routine maintenance, Casitas proposes to restore the forebay area by removing the accumulated sediment annually, typically when 10 percent of basin capacity is occupied by sediment and debris, subject to flow and sediment conditions. The sediment removed will be used to restore storm-eroded areas within 1,100 linear feet downstream of the timber cut-off wall, in the designated primary placement area. The sediment would be deposited downstream of the timber cut-off wall over approximately 4.12 acres, where forebay sediment has been placed in the past, and where active flow within the channel would not be impeded (Figure 2).

Prior to placing sediments in 2019 maintenance, Casitas developed a fill design for the downstream placement area, determining what the contours and elevation of the streambed would be after 50,000 cubic yards of sediment was placed in the area in November 2019. In December 2019, following the placement of approximately 32,600 cubic yards[2] of sediment downstream of the timber cut-off wall, a photogrammetric aerial survey was conducted, and will be utilized in conjunction with the fill design plan to determine how much sediment can be placed downstream in in subsequent actions. Because overtopping of the cut-off wall does not occur unless flow in the Ventura River generally exceeds 7,000 to 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), it may not be possible to relocate sediment from the forebay to the placement area every year. Therefore, before initiating

[2] Preliminary calculations revealed the volume of sediment to be removed from the forebay in 2019, 2020, 2021 totaled 100,000 cubic yards. Based on more extensive post-placement surveys and review of Casitas' historic sediment removal practices, Casitas determined the forebay can hold up to approximately 56,500 cubic yards of sediment (maximum volume of water to a flat surface at the top of the timber cut-off wall). Post-placement comparison of the LiDAR data revealed that approximately 32,600 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the forebay in November 2019 and deposited in the primary placement area and approximately 15,500 cubic yards of sediment remains in the forebay. Going forward, Casitas will maintain the forebay footprint (5.70 acres) by typically removing up to approximately 56,500 cubic yards of sediment each year. Typically, the sediment removal project will occur when 10 to 20 percent of basin capacity is occupied by sediment and debris.

Figure 2 Activity 1 Forebay Sediment

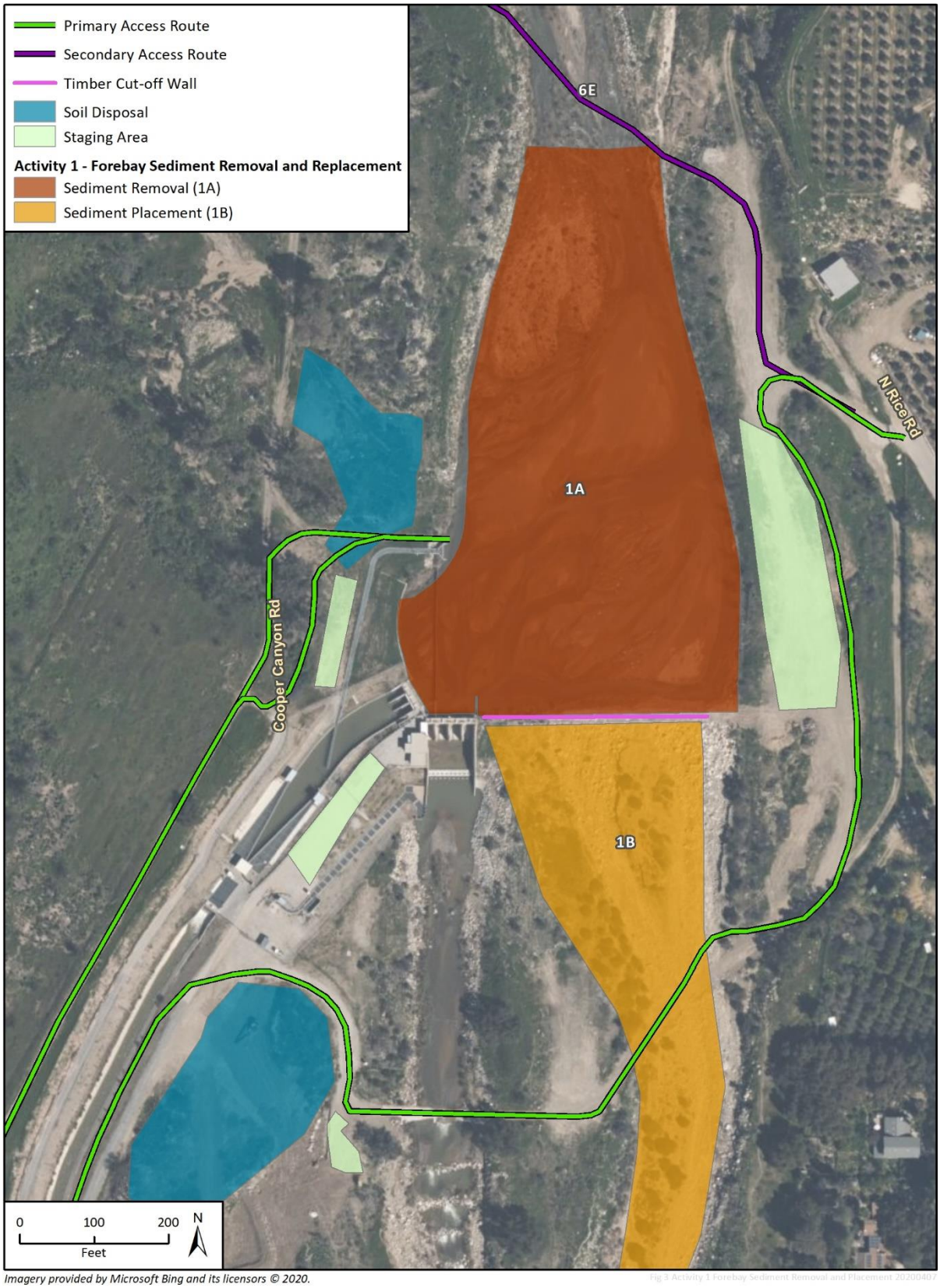

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Fig 3 Activity 1 Forebay Sediment Removal and Placement 20200407

sediment removal actions, Casitas will evaluate conditions of the sediment placement area at the end of the storm season (April/May) to determine how much sediment can be placed there. If the amount of sediment to be excavated exceeds the capacity of the placement area, the excess sediment that cannot be placed downstream will be stockpiled above the ordinary high-water mark of the Ventura River in designated soil disposal areas, or exported offsite. If sediment is stockpiled in designated disposal areas onsite, Casitas will evaluate whether stockpiled sediment can be placed back into the river each year, pending capacity established in the survey of the deposition area.

Prior to placement of sediment, any noxious vegetation identified by a qualified biological monitor within pre-selected soil disposal areas shall be removed (Figure 2). Noxious vegetation shall be disposed of in a manner and at a location to prevent its re-establishment. Casitas or contractors will perform chipping of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and disperse chipped material in designated locations where materials would not wash downstream or be allowed to propagate. All cut/removed noxious vegetation will be taken to a dump as a destruction load. Noxious species will be removed by hand or by hand-operated power tools, rather than by chemical means. Casitas will monitor the soil disposal areas following sediment placement in these areas, and remove noxious species by hand, if necessary, before seeds ripen.

Activity No. 2 Fish Ladder, Screenbay, High-flow Bypass

Permit History

The construction of the fish ladder (2A) , screenbay (2B) , and high-flow bypass (2C) occurred as part of the permitted Robles Diversion Fish Passage Project in 2003/2004, and provides fish passage through the Facility (Figure 3). Casitas provided compensatory mitigation in the form of onsite restoration to compensate for permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas. No additional temporary or permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas requiring compensatory mitigation for USACE, RWQCB, or CDFW requirements will result from maintenance of the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass structures.

In accordance with the NMFS BiOp, during the fish flow operations season, January through June, the Robles Diversion Facility is monitored for large debris by on-site staff. During operation, sediment and debris can accumulate in the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass and impede fish passage and proper operation of the fish screens. When this occurs, small debris is removed by hand, including hand tools, via the access grating above the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass. Depending on flow conditions, sediment may be removed mechanically from the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass. If Casitas must use mechanical equipment to remove sediment/debris or make repairs in these areas, the Facility is shut down temporarily and water diversions cease until sediment/debris is removed and/or repairs are made.

Facility Maintenance

It is anticipated the Facility can operate throughout a single fish passage season without the need for any extensive repairs or maintenance. Whenever possible, extensive maintenance or repairs are performed during dry periods when the fishway is not in operation. The potential still exists, however, for substantial damage to result from debris accumulation during the fish passage season. For example, debris or sediment accumulation in the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass could impede the function of the baffles, flow meter, entrance gates, and sill blocks. Should this happen during the fish flow operations season (January 1 through June 30), Casitas will evaluate whether maintenance and repair activities are critical to maintain diversion and fish passage

Figure 3 Activity 2 Fish Ladder, Screenbay, High-flow Bypass

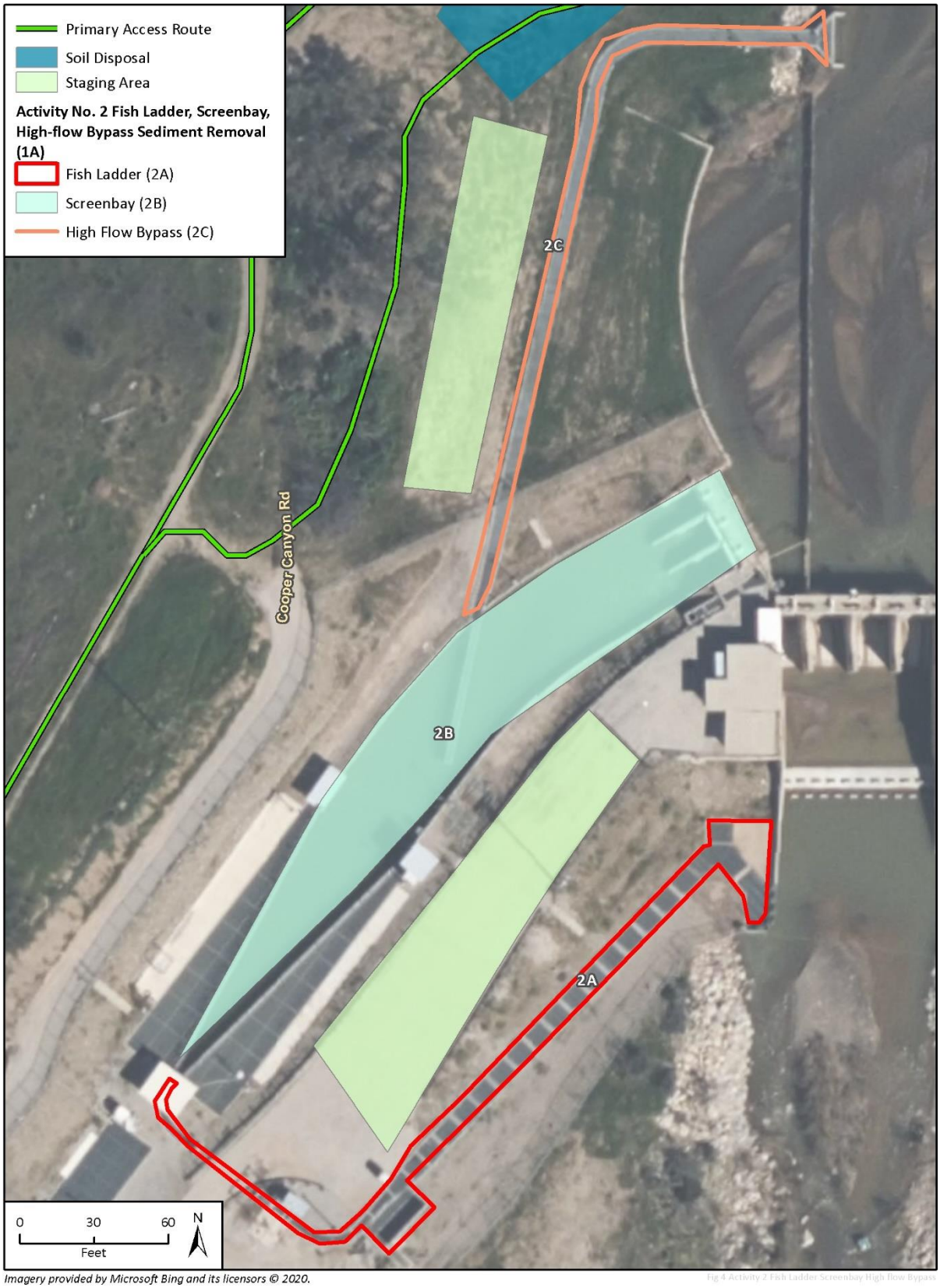

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Fig 4 Activity 2 Fish Ladder Screenbay High Flow Bypass

operations. If Casitas determines maintenance and repair of Facility components (e.g., removal of accumulated debris in the fishway) is critical during the fish passage season, the portion of the facilities requiring repair or maintenance will be temporarily shut down. The necessary repairs or maintenance on the facility will be conducted as soon as possible and the structure(s) will be put back in service once it is fixed. In all cases, maintenance of the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass will not result in permanent impacts or alterations to the design of these facilities.

Maintenance and repair which is determined non-critical to address during the fish passage season will be addressed during the dry season prior to the next passage season. In some years between June and October (typical dry period), limited baseflow in the Ventura River may persist, and no dry period will materialize. If this condition occurs, maintenance and repair activities will be addressed outside of fish passage season when there is little or no flow. It is essential to address maintenance and repair issues outside of the fish passage season (e.g., debris and sediment accumulation) which have potential to compound into larger issues during the subsequent passage season, if not addressed.

Access to the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass is from the north end of Rice Road located east of the forebay, from the northern access road at the upper limit of the forebay, and from the south along the canal road. Staging of heavy equipment occurs on the west of the forebay adjacent to the high-flow bypass, which is unpaved. It is anticipated the maintenance and repair activities would require up to 1 to 2 weeks to complete annually; and heavy equipment will be used for up to 6 days.

REMOVAL OF SMALL DEBRIS

Small debris will be removed by hand via the access grate above the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass. Removal of small debris by hand will occur throughout the year provided that it can be safely removed without shutting down the facilities. It is possible that removal of small debris may require a partial shutdown of facilities during wet conditions; in which case, the work would only be conducted if necessary to maintain operations of the diversion and fish passage.

REMOVAL OF LARGE DEBRIS AND SEDIMENT

Removal of large debris and sediment will occur during dry periods when the fishway is not in operation, unless the work is necessary to maintain operations of the diversion and fish passage. Prior to removal of large debris and sediment, the Facility (canal or headworks) gates is closed to initiate a full shut down of the Facility and allow flows to recede such that equipment is not operated in flowing water. After the gates are closed, flow is redirected through the spillway and the remaining water within the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass is allowed to gravity flow out of the Facility via the canal or fish ladder. A bank survey for federal listed species (e.g. southern California steelhead and California red-legged frog) will be conducted as the water recedes. If no listed species are observed in the Facility work will proceed.

An excavator will be staged adjacent to the access grates above the fish ladder, screenbay, and high-flow bypass, and will remove debris as needed by reaching the bucket into the Facility. Once flowing water has been re-directed through the spillway and no water is present in the fishway, it may be necessary to lower a small loader into the screenbay to remove, push, pile, or load debris. The excavated material will be loaded into dump trucks and removed to a disposal/storage site on Casitas property outside the river channel.

It is possible for water to pool within the lower portion of the fish ladder (i.e., entrance box). If this portion of the fishway needed critical repair, block nets will be used to encourage fish and frogs to leave the Facility via the fish ladder, and prevent individuals from re-entering the Facility while the fish ladder entrance gates are closed. Any remaining water would be lowered only enough to conduct repairs by pumping water out of the fish ladder via two doubly screened pumps (5-10 horsepower) with 3 millimeter (mm) mesh to prevent impingement. This 'residual water' pump system would be operational for up to 2 days depending on extent of repairs. The water would be directed to the canal which flows to Lake Casitas. Visual monitoring for listed species would be performed periodically while repair and maintenance activities are performed.

Activity No. 3 Rock Weir and Measurement Weir

Permit History

The construction of the rock weirs and measurement weir modification occurred as part of the permitted Robles Diversion Fish Passage Project in 2003/04. Due to the lack of funding, four rock weirs were installed as an interim project in consultation with CDFW and NMFS. Ongoing fish passage monitoring conducted by Casitas at the diversion has detected 11 steelhead adults, with the last detection occurring in 2011 prior to the recent drought. In addition, Casitas has documented approximately 1,300 juvenile and resident *O. mykiss* moving upstream and downstream through Robles from 2006-2018. Given the interim project has demonstrated passage, Casitas has postponed the installation of additional rock weirs due to the current uncertain timing of the Matilija Dam Removal Project upstream of the Robles Facility, which will affect the area of the rock weirs. Casitas provided compensatory mitigation in the form of onsite restoration to compensate for permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas. Therefore, no additional temporary or permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas requiring compensatory mitigation will result from maintenance of the maintenance of the rock weirs.

Facility Maintenance

The proposed maintenance activity would occur during the dry season when surface water is absent. It is anticipated maintenance and repair activities associated with the weirs would require 1 to 2 weeks to complete, depending on level of activities. Staging of heavy equipment will occur in upland areas on bare ground west of the channel where the weirs are located (Figure 4). Access to the weirs will be from Rice Road located east of the forebay across the Ventura River via the southern access road.

The existing concrete measurement weir may need repair if damaged to accurately measure flow from Robles diversion, which is critical to operation of the water diversion and downstream BiOp-required releases (NMFS, 2003). Repair of the bubbler line which runs down the upstream face of the weir may be necessary. Maintenance associated with the measurement weir should be minimal and limited to removal of debris by hand, and will occur only during dry conditions.

Since the weirs were modified in 2006 to include larger rock and more cabling, a total of five storms have occurred generating flows in the river of 8,000 cfs or more:

- 10,000 cfs, 2/17/17;
- 8,485 cfs, 1/9/18;
- 9,100 cfs, 1/17/19;
- 12,000 cfs, 2/2/19; and

Figure 4 Activity 3 Rock Weir and Measurement Weir

- 8,000 cfs, 2/14/19.

Additionally, 19 storms after the 2006 weir modification generated flows greater than 1,000 cfs in the Ventura River. Following the larger storm events, only minor modifications to the weir passage slots and placement of gravel on the upstream face of the weirs to fill the interstitial spaces and enhance flow through the passage slots was needed. Typically, overtopping of the cut-off wall occurs when flows exceeds 7,000 to 8,000 cfs. Therefore, the maximum flow in the spillway channel (low flow channel) where the weirs are located is 7,000 to 8,000 cfs. When flows exceed this amount, overtopping of the timber cut-off wall occurs and flow is directed to the high-flow channel to the east. Given that large storm events have occurred in the Ventura River channel since weir modification were made in 2006, and weirs have not incurred significant damage, it is not likely Casitas would need to make substantial repairs to the existing rock weirs.

The four rock weirs downstream of the measurement weir may need occasional realignment of boulders and re-cabling following large storm events to maintain fish passage slots and water elevation control. Every effort would be made to realign boulders by hand; mechanical equipment may be required to adjust larger boulders, as necessary. Large- and medium-sized woody debris will be removed and placed downstream of the weirs with heavy equipment (e.g., excavator or backhoe) to relocate the large woody material. It is anticipated heavy equipment would be used for up to 4 days to make necessary adjustments to boulders and relocate large woody material.

Activity No. 4 Entrance Pool

Permit History

The construction of the entrance pool occurred as part of the permitted Robles Diversion Fish Passage Project in 2003/04, and its purpose is to provide attraction flows to the fish ladder. Water flows through the entrance box to the entrance pool, providing attraction flows to the fish ladder. The entrance pool extends approximately 130 feet below the spillway and baffled apron structure and encompasses approximately 0.19 acres (8,238 square feet) of the Ventura River low-flow channel. Casitas provided compensatory mitigation in the form of onsite restoration to compensate for permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas resulting from the construction of the entrance pool as part of the Robles Diversion Fish Passage Facility Project. Therefore, no additional temporary or permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas requiring compensatory mitigation will result from maintenance of the entrance pool. The entrance pool will be maintained to original design contours as shown on Figure 2 in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Robles Diversion Dam Fish Screen and Fishway Project.

Facility Maintenance

The entrance pool is designed to enable fish to make the transition from the natural river channel into the fish ladder structure. Cleaning sediment/debris and emergent vegetation out of the entrance pool is necessary to maintain the energy-dissipating hydraulic jump, allow proper fish entrance gate operation, and ensure overall uniform hydraulic flow patterns throughout the entrance pool. This maintenance activity will include the excavation of the entrance pool to an 8 to 10-foot depth, and removal of a cluster of willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) in the downstream portion of the entrance pool. The sediment/debris became trapped in the entrance pool during intense storm events.

Sediment and vegetation removed would be stockpiled outside of jurisdictional areas in designated soil disposal sites (Figure 5). Re-contouring with boulder/cobbles/sediment will occur in the bottom of the entrance pool and adjacent areas to repair erosion along existing concrete abutments and riprap. The proposed maintenance activity would occur during times when surface water is absent.

The sediment/debris and vegetation would be removed from the entrance pool with equipment including a bulldozer, excavator or other loader and supporting vehicles (e.g., one dump truck, etc.) to transport and spread the sediment/debris in designated soil disposal areas (Figure 5). It is anticipated maintenance of the pool would require up to 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Staging of heavy equipment will occur in upland areas on bare ground west and east of the channel adjacent to the entrance pool. Access to the entrance pool will be from Rice Road located east of the forebay across the Ventura River via the southern access road.

Activity No. 5 Concrete Structures

The Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility includes many concrete structures. Concrete repair may be necessary, on an as-needed basis, to preserve the structural integrity of the Facility. No changes to the existing footprint of the Facility will occur.

Concrete repairs may be made to the spillway, concrete protective rip-rap, measurement weir, and baffled apron, as needed (Figure 6) during dry conditions. In addition, concrete repairs may be made to the existing concrete-lined screenbay and extended upstream across the canal gates, and include, the high-flow fish exit. Casitas staff or a contractor will clean and prepare the damaged area; build and place forms as necessary; place and finish concrete; remove forms and backfill area, as needed. All work will implement Best Management Practices for concrete repair.

Heavy equipment will be used to remove damage concrete and perform concrete repairs. Equipment may include a pick-up truck, flat-bed, dump truck, concrete mixer, excavator, or other similar equipment and concrete pump (if needed). It is anticipated concrete repairs would require 1 to 2 weeks to complete. Heavy equipment will be staged in upland areas on bare ground west or east of the channel adjacent to the entrance pool. Access to the spillway will be either from Rice Road located east of the forebay across the Ventura River via the southern access road; or from Cooper Canyon Road headed north toward the Facility.

Work on the concrete structures would not expand the existing footprint of the facility, and no permanent or temporary impacts to jurisdictional areas requiring compensatory mitigation are anticipated.

Figure 5 Activity 4 Entrance Pool

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Fig 6 Activity 4 Entrance Pool Maintenance

Figure 6 Activity 5 Concrete Structures

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Activity No. 6 Routine Maintenance

Timber Cut-off Wall (6A)

The timber cut-off wall is 325 feet long and approximately 30 feet deep; rocks and boulders are placed at depth on the upstream and downstream sides then native material is placed to fill the voids. The timber wall has been damaged by extremely high river flows and fire, and it will occasionally need maintenance and repair/replacement of the timbers and rocks/backfill. The maintenance/repair will include replacement of the timbers and rocks/backfill and compacting and recontouring the approach and downstream slopes. Repair of the timber cut-off wall also may require excavation to the foundation elevation, timbers in damaged section replaced, the wall straightened, and placement and re-compaction of the boulders/rocks and replacement of the native backfill within a 15,757 square foot area (0.36 acres) surrounding the base of the wall. Emergent and woody vegetation along the wall within this area will be removed during excavation to assess the extent of the damage and access the timber cut-off wall. Repair and maintenance will not be performed under the routine maintenance programmatic agreements if surface water is present.

Equipment that may be used includes an excavator, bobcat, dump trucks, front-end loader, backhoe, light-duty pickup trucks, hand operated power tools, and vibratory compactor.

The duration for the work would depend on the extent of damage and the required remedy. Casitas made significant repairs to the timber cut-off wall in November 2019 to repair damaged portions of the wall, which were burned in the Thomas Fire. It is anticipated that future repairs made to the wall would require up to 30 working days to complete. It is anticipated that repairs could be needed once every five years, although the frequency will depend on the degree of damage to the structure.

Vegetation that develops near the top of the timber cut-off wall prevents uniform overtopping of flows. In the years when repairs to the timber wall are not made, woody vegetation with a diameter of three inches or less will be cut to ground level with hand operated power tools. Maintaining low or no vegetation along the wall will help to ensure that overtopping flows are dissipated over a larger area, minimizing erosion at constricted sections within the Ventura River and reducing water elevations in forebay as designed. Cut vegetation will be disposed of outside of jurisdictional areas, offsite. Vegetation trimming will occur outside the bird nesting season, and will usually require 2 to 5 days to complete.

Access to the timber cut-off wall will be from Rice Road to through the staging area located east of the forebay (Figure 7).

Debris Fence (6B)

The timber debris fence lies upstream of the diversion headworks in the forebay (Figure 7). The racks of the fence deflect debris away from the headwork gates and toward the spillway gates. Over time the fence collects woody debris, which can require removal. This maintenance activity will involve the removal of debris from the fence, and the repair or replacement of damaged wood timbers as needed to preserve the structural integrity and functionality of the fence.

A backhoe and light trucks are usually needed to remove larger debris and support repairs to the timber debris fence. As possible, debris will be removed by hand. Removed debris will be disposed of outside of jurisdictional areas. Repair of the timbers will be completed in dry conditions. It is anticipated that most debris removal and repairs would require up to 1 to 2 weeks to complete.

Figure 7 Activity 6 Routine Maintenance

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Fig 8 Activity 6 Routine Maintenance

Repairs made to the fence would coincide with Activity 1's schedule. Therefore, access to the debris fence will be through the forebay from the entrance to the Facility off Rice Road, located east of the forebay. Removing material from the debris fence would not result in permanent or temporary impacts to the river channel, and no compensatory mitigation would be required for these activities.

Radial Gates (6C)

The radial gates are painted periodically to prevent deterioration (rusting). Painting is anticipated to occur approximately once every two to five years, and work will be completed within 1 to 2 weeks. Access to the radial gates is along the timber cut-off wall (Figure 7). This effort will occur when the spillway area is dry. Small equipment and hand tools are used to sandblast and prime the gates before they are painted. Best Management Practices will be implemented during this maintenance work to minimize deposition of debris (i.e., paint chips) and other materials into the Ventura River. A lift, light trucks, and scaffolding are utilized to complete the painting project. Replacement of seals may also be necessary, as they wear or become damaged. Seals are replaced by hand using a ladder and hand tools. Additional unplanned maintenance on the radial gates may be periodically required in order to maintain proper functionality of the gates. Painting the radial gates would not result in permanent or temporary impacts to the river channel, and no compensatory mitigation would be required for this activity.

Instrumentation (6D)

Data is collected to document that the Robles Diversion Dam and Fish Passage Facility is operated in compliance with the operations approved by NMFS (NMFS 2003). Sensors installed at the Facility allow for calculating the amount of inflow into the Robles forebay, diversion, and the flow routed through the fishway, auxiliary water supply pipeline, and the spillway (Figure 7). Information collected is provided to NMFS and CDFW on an annual basis. Levelers, bubblers, transducers, etc. will require replacement when they malfunction or become damaged.

A flow measurement structure equipped with multi-path, ultrasonic velocity and water level measurement transducers is located in the fishway, downstream of the screenbay and upstream of the fish counter. A second flow measurement structure is located in the high-flow fish bypass behind the debris fence. The Auxiliary flow pipe is also equipped with a flow measurement transducer.

Level sensors are located in the forebay between the spillway and canal gates; in the high-flow fish bypass; screenbay; fishway (upstream and downstream of the Vaki Riverwatcher fish counter); and within the fish ladder (inside the fish ladder and outside the entrance to the fish ladder at the entrance pool). Two level sensors will be installed behind the fish screens to provide additional input to support screen testing that is underway and for operational and monitoring improvements. Additionally, there is one sensor located in the canal, outside of the Ventura River.

A bubbler is located at the measurement weir, upstream of the four rock weirs. The bubbler has a conduit mounted to the upstream face of the measurement weir. The conduit is occasionally damaged during heavy storms and the hose inside the conduit may need to be replaced. The conduit can also become buried with sediment, preventing its operation. The sediment will be removed to restore operation.

During the course of operations, instruments on the measurement weir may become damaged by flows or have operation interrupted due to accumulation of sediment or debris. In most cases instrumentation can be accessed allowing for its removal, repair, and subsequent reinstallation. Due to the shape of the weir, the amount of sediment that accumulates is expected to be minor and

removal would be accomplished by hand or with hand tools. If the removal cannot be accomplished using hand tools, maintenance would be deferred to a period of dry conditions. Similarly, any major repairs to the measurement weir itself, which would require heavy equipment, would be conducted under dry conditions. Repair and maintenance of instruments will typically be completed within 1 to 2 weeks, and would not expand the footprint of the measurement weir or result in alterations to the river channel. These repairs would not expand the existing footprint of the weir, and no permanent or temporary impacts to jurisdictional areas requiring compensatory mitigation are anticipated.

If maintenance requires heavy equipment, there may be a delay before the onset of dry conditions when the maintenance can be performed. During this time, some or all of the instruments may be out of service and unable to make measurements. Casitas will use other methods, such as calculations based on other measuring instruments within the facility, to estimate river flows. In addition, a staff gauge will be painted onto the measurement weir in summer 2021 and will be resistant to damage. Using these methods will ensure that river flows can continue to be estimated while the primary instruments are pending repairs.

Road Maintenance (6E)

Road maintenance and repair would occur as needed (estimated annually) on Reclamation property during dry river conditions (Figure 7). It is anticipated road maintenance will require 2 to 3 weeks to complete, annually. The southern access road begins at the entrance gate to the Facility at the terminus of North Rice Road and continues southwest across the Ventura River. This road is typically used by light trucks and passenger vehicles at flows under 15 cfs. The northern access road transverses the Ventura River upstream of the forebay. This road is generally used by contractors to complete the forebay restoration project (Activity 1), annually. The roads will be graded and shaped each year, if needed, during dry conditions. Road maintenance may involve use of heavy equipment to re-contour and re-compact access roads including an excavator, grader, bulldozer or backhoe.

1.2 Area of Potential Effects

The area of potential effects (APE) of a project is defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.16(d) as the “geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such property exists.” The APE generally depicts all areas expected to be affected by the project, including staging and construction areas (Figure 8). As defined for this project, the APE is comprised of 36.06 acres and encompasses the proposed project footprint described in Section 1.1.

The APE must also be considered as a three-dimensional space and include any ground disturbance associated with the project. The maximum depth of ground disturbance for the project is expected

Figure 8 Area of Potential Effects

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to generally be approximately 10 feet in the forebay and 8 feet in the entrance pool located downstream of the spillway at the entrance to the fish ladder. Therefore, the vertical depth of the APE varies, but is not expected to exceed 10 feet in all areas.

The project APE is limited to the direct project footprint as most of the project work involves removed sediment build up at- or below-grade and as such, this work would not introduce any intrusive elements which may indirectly affect historic properties. The sediment removal is therefore not expected to have an indirect effect on the surroundings.

1.3 Regulatory Setting

1.3.1 Federal Regulations

This Project may involve the use of funds provided by the federal government. Projects that involve federal funding or permitting (otherwise known as a federal nexus) must comply with the provisions of the 1966 NHPA, as amended (16 United States Code 470f). Cultural resources are considered during federal undertakings chiefly under Section 106 of NHPA, through one of its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800 (Protection of Historic Properties), and under the National Environmental Policy Act. Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native Americans are considered under Section 101(d) (6) (A) of the NHPA. Other relevant federal laws include the Archaeological Data Preservation Act of 1974, American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1989.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the NHPA (16 United States Code 470f) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings (36 CFR 800.1). Under Section 106, the significance of any adversely affected cultural resource is assessed and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce any impacts to an acceptable level. Significant cultural resources are those resources listed in or are eligible for listing in the NRHP per the criteria listed below (36 CFR 60.4). Cultural resources eligible for the NRHP are labeled as historic properties.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and that:

(a) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

(b) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

(c) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of installation, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction

(d) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

PRC, Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be demonstrated clearly 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

1.3.2 State Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on historical resources (Public Resources Code [PRC], Section 21084.1) or tribal cultural resources (PRC Section 21074[a][1][A]-[B]). A historical resource is a resource listed, or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR; a resource included in a local register of historical resources; or an object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be *historically significant* (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5[a][1-3]).

A resource shall be considered *historically significant* if it meets any of the following criteria:

1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
2) Is associated with the lives of persons important to our past
3) 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
4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Generally, a cultural resource must be at least 50 years of age to be considered for listing on the CRHR. Resources that have achieved significance within the past 50 years may also be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, provided enough time has lapsed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource (Office of Historic Preservation n.d.:3).

If it can be demonstrated a project will cause damage to a *unique archaeological resource*, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that resources cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Section 21083.2[a], [b]).

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a *unique archaeological resource* as an artifact, object, or site about which it can be demonstrated clearly 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

Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person

Assembly Bill 52

California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) was enacted July 1, 2015; it expands CEQA by defining a new resource category called *tribal cultural resources* (TCR). AB 52 establishes "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.2). It further states the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a TCR, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Section 21074(a)(1)(A) and (B) defines TCRs as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" and meets either of the following criteria:

1) Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k)
2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding TCRs. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to "begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project." Native American tribes to be included in the process are those requesting notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the lead agency. The consultation process for a project must take place prior to the adoption of a negative declaration or mitigation negative declaration or the certification of an environmental impact report.

1.3.3 Local Regulations

County of Ventura

Ventura County Ordinance No. 4225, known as the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, delineates the criteria utilized to assess the eligibility of a potential Cultural Heritage Site, and the manner by which Cultural Heritage Sites are designated. An improvement, natural feature or site may become a designated Cultural Heritage Site if it meets the following applicable criteria:

A. To be designated as a Landmark, a property must meet one of the following criteria
    1. It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the County's social, aesthetic, engineering, architectural or natural history;
    2. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Ventura County or its cities, regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States;
    3. It is associated with the lives of persons important to Ventura County or its cities, California or national history;

4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of Ventura County or its cities, California or the nation.
5. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values;
6. Integrity. Establish the authenticity of the resource's physical identity by evidence of lack of deterioration and significant survival of the characteristics that existed during its period of importance. This shall be evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

B. Site of Merits – Satisfy the following criteria:
   1. Sites of historical, architectural, community or aesthetic merit which have not been designated as a landmark or point of interest, but which are deserving of special recognition; and
   2. County approved surveyed sites with a National Register status code of 5 or above.

C. Point of Interests – Satisfy any one the following criteria:
   1. That is the site of a building, structure or object that no longer exists, but was associated with historic events, important persons or embodied a distinctive character or architectural style; or
   2. That it has historical significance, but has been altered to the extent that the integrity of the original workmanship, materials or style has been substantially compromised; or
   3. That the site of a historic event which has no distinguishable characteristics other than that a historic event occurred at that site, and the site is not of sufficient historical significance to justify the establishment of a landmark.

D. District – Meets the criteria below:
   1. Possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.
   2. Has precisely mapped and defined exterior boundaries, which requires a description of what lies immediately on the edge of the district to allow rational exclusion of adjoining areas.
   3. Has at least one of the criteria for significance of Section 1365-5.a. 1-8
   4. Complies with the criteria for integrity contained in Section 1365-5.a.6.

In addition to meeting the criteria in Sec. 1365-5 et seq., all the following standards must be met before a site becomes a designated Cultural Heritage Site:

A. It shall have historic, aesthetic or special character or interest for the general public, and not be limited in interest to a special group of persons
B. Its designation shall not require the expenditure by the County of Ventura of any amount of money not commensurate with the value of the object to be preserved
C. Its designation shall not infringe upon the rights of a private owner thereof to make any and all reasonable uses thereof which are not in conflict with the purposes of this Article

1.4 Project Personnel

Rincon Senior Archaeologist Hannah Haas, MA, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), served as Principal Investigator for this study. Ms. Haas meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology (National Park Service 1983). Rincon Archaeologist Gena Granger, MA, RPA, submitted the SLF search request for this cultural resources assessment and is the primary author of this report. Archaeologist Mark Strother, MA, RPA, is a contributing author of this report. Architectural Historian Alexandra Madsen, MA, completed the evaluation of the Robles Diversion Dam Facility and is a contributing author of this report. Archaeologist Mary Pfeiffer conducted the field survey. Geographic Information Systems Analysts Allysen Valencia and Aubrey Brown prepared the figures found in this report. Senior Technical Editor April Durham, PhD, Senior Architectural Historian, Steven Treffers, MHP, and Principal and Senior Archaeologist, Christopher Duran, reviewed this report for quality control.

2 Natural and Cultural Setting

2.1 Natural Setting

The project APE is in northern Ventura County, north of the community of Meiners Oaks; it occurs in the Ventura River watershed. Specifically, the APE is located along Ventura River in the western portion of unincorporated Ventura County in the Meiners Oaks community. The project occurs between 764 to 775 feet above mean sea level and is located in the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province of southern California. The project occurs in the Santa Ynez-Sulphur Mountains subsection of the Southern California Coast Eco Region. The Mediterranean climate is characterized by hot, dry summers and rainy, mild winters. Annual maximum temperatures range from 66 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 91°F, minimum temperatures range from 35°F to 54°F. The Ventura River watershed is approximately 226 square miles (144,833 acres) and extends from the Matilija Creek headwaters in the steep Transverse Ranges of the Matilija Wilderness to the Pacific Ocean, 33.5 miles downstream. The topography of the watershed can be described as rugged in the upper basins and flat valleys toward the downstream areas. Approximately 15 percent of the watershed can be classified as valley area. Forty percent can be classified as foothill area and 45 percent can be classified as mountainous.

Rainfall varies geographically, seasonally, and from year to year. Cycles of drought and flood are the norm. Many parts of the stream network are typically dry during much of the year. Approximately 90 percent of rainfall occurs between November and April (Reclamation 2006). Near Matilija Dam, the upstream portion of the Ventura River averages approximately 23.9 inches of rainfall per year, while the average near the mouth of the Ventura River at the Pacific Ocean is approximately 16.9 inches per year (Ventura County Water Protection District 2019). For the entire watershed, the average rainfall is approximately 20 inches per year. This rain sometimes comes in large storms that can produce fast-moving floodwaters, when combined with the steep topography. Major or moderate floods have occurred once every five years on average since 1933.

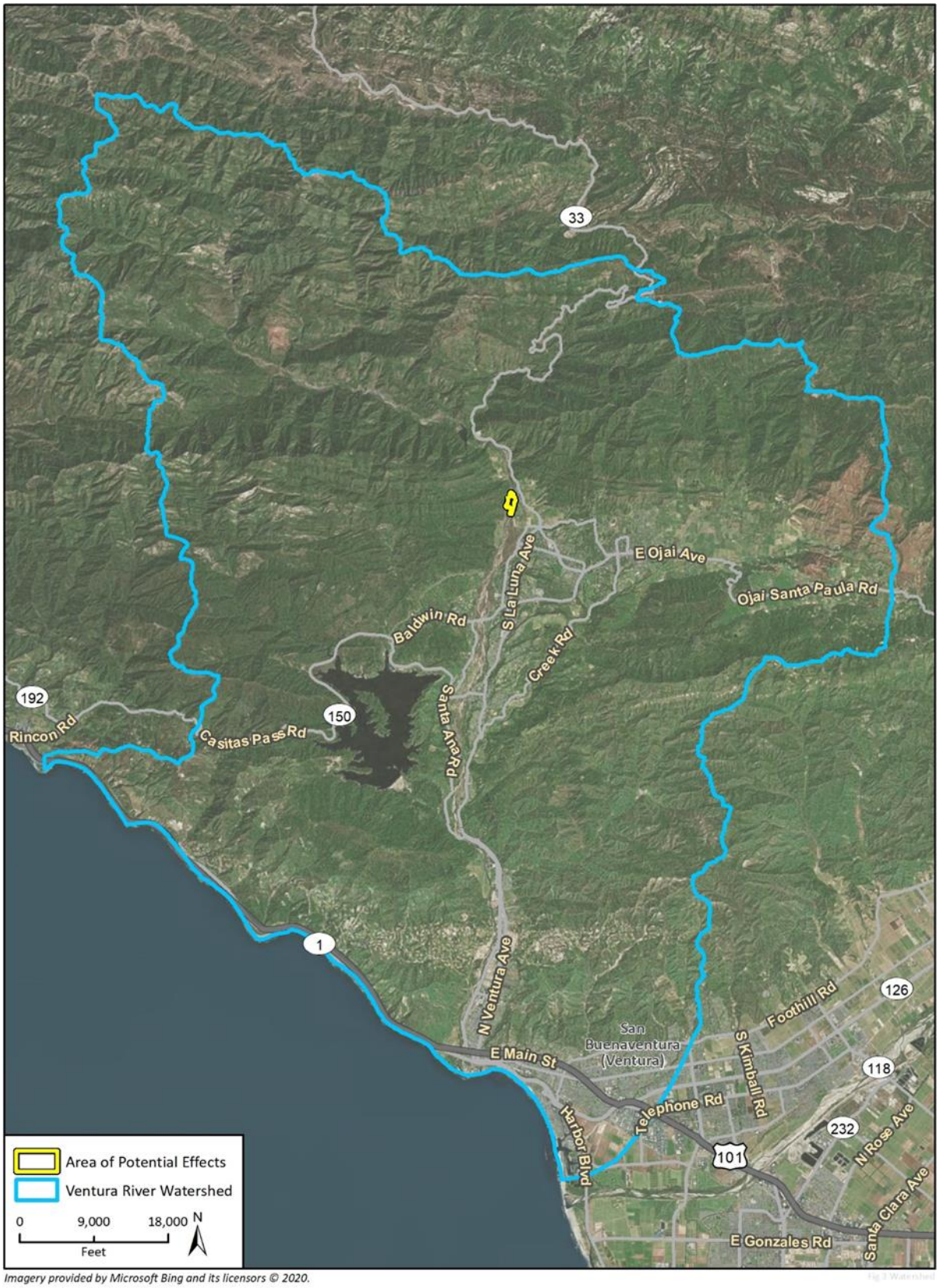
2.2 Prehistoric Setting

The APE is in what has been defined as the Northern California Bight (Northern Bight) archaeological region, one of eight organizational divisions of the state (Moratto 1984; Glassow et al. 2007; Moratto and Chartkoff 2007). The Northern Bight archaeological region encompasses the area from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the coast, south to Point Conception, including the Channel Islands, south along the coast to Rancho Palos Verdes, into the Los Angeles Basin, and north to the "northern margins of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties" (Glassow et al. 2007:191).

2.2.1 Paleo-Coastal Tradition (ca. 10,000 – 7000 BCE)

The Paleo-Indian Period, also referred to as the Paleo-Coastal Tradition, defines the earliest human occupation of the Northern Bight, and describes the cultural trends and subsistence strategies of prehistoric populations from approximately 10,000 to 7000 BCE (Glassow et al. 2007). The Paleo-Indian Period in North America is recognized largely by projectile points associated with extinct large mammal remains, such as mammoth, bison, and dire wolves, particularly in the Southwest and Plains regions (Reed 1992; Slaughter et al. 1992; Huckell 1996; Erlandson et al. 2007). These

Figure 9 Ventura River Watershed



projectile points have been classified as the Clovis style, which exhibit a lanceolate shape with a flute initiated from the base extending as far as the midline (Justice 2002; Hollenshead 2007).

The earliest accepted dates for human occupation in California were recovered from archaeological sites on two of the Northern Channel Islands, located off the southern coast of Santa Barbara County. The earliest radiocarbon dates known for the region, calibrated to approximately 11,000 years before present, were derived from human remains and rodent bones recovered from within the same deposits on Santa Rosa Island (Johnson et al. 2002; Erlandson et al. 2007; Glassow et al. 2007). Archaeological deposits from the Daisy Cave site on San Miguel Island establishes the presence of people in this area approximately 10,000 years ago (Erlandson 1991; Erlandson et al. 2007). In San Luis Obispo County, archaeological sites CA-SLO-1764 (Lebow et al. 2001), Cross Creek (CA-SLO-1797; Fitzgerald 2000), and CA-SLO-832 (Jones et al. 2001) yielded radiocarbon dates from approximately 9,000 years ago (Jones and Ferneau 2002).

Recent data from Paleo-Indian sites in southern California indicate the economy was a diverse mix of hunting and gathering, with a major emphasis on aquatic resources in many coastal areas (e.g., Jones and Ferneau 2002; Erlandson et al. 2007). Archaeological deposits at the Daisy Cave site yielded an assemblage of "the oldest known fishhooks in the Americas" (Erlandson et al. 2007:57). Shell middens discovered on the mainland of California have also yielded dates from 8000 to 7000 BCE (Erlandson et al. 2007).

A fluted projectile point fragment was recovered from site CA-SBA-1951 on the Santa Barbara Channel coastal plain (Erlandson et al. 1987; Erlandson 1994). Another fluted projectile point was reportedly found on the surface in Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County (Mills et al. 2005; Rondeau et al. 2007). Large side-notched projectile points of the Central Coast Stemmed series in this area date to as early as 8,000 years ago (Justice 2002) suggesting some overlap with the Clovis type. Central Coast Stemmed projectile points have been recovered along the Central Coast, which is located immediately north of the Northern Bight region. These sites include Diablo Canyon (CA-SLO-2; Greenwood 1972), Cross Creek (CA-SLO-1797; Fitzgerald 2000), Little Pico Creek (CA-SLO-175; Jones and Waugh 1995), and the Honda Beach site (CA-SBA-530; Glassow 1997), among others. At the Metcalf site (CA-SCL-178), in the southern Santa Clara Valley, Hildebrandt (1983) recovered two large side-notched points associated with charcoal dates ranging from 9,960 to 8,500 years ago.

2.2.2 Millingstone Horizon (ca. 7000 – 5000 BCE)

It is generally accepted human occupation of California originated from small, dispersed occupations during the Paleo-Indian period. Populations increased from the Paleo-Indian Period to the Millingstone Horizon, possibly as a result of an ecological adaptation to collecting plant resources. Rogers (1929) originally identified the Millingstone Horizon along the Santa Barbara Channel. Wallace (1955, 1978) further defined the period, noting the appearance and abundance of milling implements in archaeological sites from this period. The milling implements, including milling stones (e.g., metates, milling slabs) and hand stones (e.g., manos, mullers), are associated with the horizontal motion of grinding small seeds and nuts, and lend to the name Millingstone Horizon (Desautels and Leach 1978; Glassow et al. 2007).

These milling implements are particularly noted in archaeological sites along the coast of California and become even more prevalent near the end of the horizon (Wallace 1955, 1978; Warren 1968; Desautels and Leach 1978). Excavations at the Tank Site (CA-LAN-1) in Topanga Canyon from 1947 to 1948 confirmed the presence of a significant number of milling implements corresponding with

the Millingstone Horizon (Treganza and Bierman 1958). Although the milling implements suggest an emphasis on seed and nut gathering, Millingstone populations likely employed a mixed food procurement strategy which included hunting. Flaked stone assemblages, which include crude core and cobble-core tools, flake tools, large side-notched projectile points, and pitted stones (Desautels and Leach 1978; Glassow et al. 2007; Jones et al. 2007), shell middens, and faunal remains in coastal Millingstone Period sites point to broad-spectrum hunting and gathering of shellfish, fish, birds, and mammals. This mixed food procurement strategy demonstrates adaptation to regional and local environments, lending to population increase.

2.2.3 Early Period (ca. 5000 – 2000 BCE)

The Early Period of the Northern Bight is marked by a lower frequency of radiocarbon dated archaeological sites as well as changes in artifact forms. Differences in artifact forms, particularly in ground stone implements, likely represent changes in subsistence (Glassow et al. 2007). The material culture recovered from Early Period sites within the Northern Bight region provides evidence for continued exploitation of inland plant and coastal marine resource as well as the incorporation of "newly important food resources" found in specific habitats (Glassow et al. 2007:197). In addition to the use of metates and manos, prehistoric populations began to use mortars and pestles, such as those recovered from the Sweetwater Mesa (CA-LAN-267) and Aerophysics (CA-SBA-53) sites (Glassow et al. 2007).

Artifact assemblages recovered from Early Period sites also include bi-pointed bone gorge hooks used for fishing, Olivella beads, bone tools, and pendants made from soapstone. The frequency of projectile points in Early Period assemblages also increased, while the style began to change from lanceolate forms to side-notched forms (Glassow et al. 2007). This projectile point style trend, first identified by David Banks Rogers in 1929, was confirmed by Greenwood (1972) at Diablo Canyon. The projectile point trend has become apparent at numerous sites along the California coast as well as a few inland sites (e.g., CA-SBA-210 and CA-SBA-530). In many cases, manifestations of this trend are associated with the establishment of new and larger settlements, such as at the Aerophysics site (Glassow et al. 2007; Jones et al. 2007).

2.2.4 Middle Period (ca. 2000 BCE – CE 1)

The Middle Period describes a pronounced trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources as well as the development of socioeconomic and political complexity in prehistoric populations (Glassow et al. 2007). The remains of fish, land mammals, and sea mammals are increasingly abundant and diverse in archaeological deposits along the coast.

Coastal populations developed shell fishhooks, and projectile points changed from side-notched dart points to contracting stem styles. Flaked stone tools used for hunting and processing—such as large side-notched, stemmed, lanceolate or leaf-shaped projectile points, large knives, edge modified flakes, and drill-like implements—occurred in archaeological deposits in higher frequencies and are more morphologically diversified during the Middle Period. Bone tools, including awls, are more numerous than in the preceding period, and the use of asphaltum adhesive became common. Circular fish hooks which date from between 1000 and 500 BCE, compound bone fish hooks which date between CE 300 and 900, notched stone sinkers, and the tule reed or balsa raft, indicative of complex maritime technology, became part of the toolkit during this period (Kennett 1998; King 1990; Arnold 1995; Jones and Klar 2005; Glassow et al. 2007).

Populations continued to follow a seasonal settlement pattern until the end of the Middle Period; large, permanently occupied settlements with formal architecture, particularly in coastal areas, appear to have been the norm by the end of the Middle Period (Kennett 1998; Glassow et al. 2007). Prehistoric populations began to bury the deceased in formal cemeteries with artifacts which may represent changes in ideology and the development of ritual practices (Glassow et al. 2007).

2.2.5 Middle – Late Transition Period (ca. CE 1 – 1000)

The Middle-Late Transition period is marked by major changes in settlement patterns, diet, and interregional exchange. Prehistoric populations continued to occupy more permanent settlements, with the continued use of formal, though crowded cemeteries, and the burial of goods with the deceased. Burials are normally flexed, placed face down, and oriented toward the north or west (Warren 1968). The interments are typically marked by vertical pieces of whalebone, and have abundant grave goods, such as ornaments, effigies, and utensils.

After CE 500, a wealth of ornaments, ceremonial, and artistic items characterize the Northern Bight "Chumash Tradition" along the central coast and offshore islands (Warren 1968). Ground stone items include bowls, mortars and pestles, balls, grooved stones, doughnut stones, stone beads, pendants, pipes, tubes, and mammal effigies. Projectile points, both large and small, were typically non-stemmed and leaf-shaped, with convex or concave bases. Chipped stone implements also included drills and scrapers. Utilitarian objects were made from bone (e.g., awls, fishhooks, whistles, and tubes) and shell (e.g., fishhooks and abalone shell dishes). Shell beads and ornaments were abundant, bowls, pestles, pipes, and stone tubes were inlaid with shell beads and engraved. Bowls, pipes, and ornaments were commonly manufactured from steatite.

The manufacture of the plank canoe lined with naturally occurring asphaltum, called tomol, allowed coastal prehistoric populations to catch larger fish in deeper waters (Glassow et al. 2007). Following the introduction of the tomol, populations began to use harpoons, hooks and lines, and nets to catch deep-sea fish and mammals (Van Horn 1979). The plank canoe appears to have influenced "commerce between the mainland coast and the Channel Islands," and fish remains indicate "a noticeable increase in the acquisition of large deep-sea fish such as tuna and swordfish" (Glassow et al. 2007:204).

Projectile points diagnostic of both the Middle and Late periods are found in Northern Bight archaeological sites (Glassow et al. 2007). These projectile points include large, contracting-stemmed types typical of the Middle Period, as well as small, leaf-shaped Late Period projectile points, which likely reflect the introduction of the bow and arrow. Middle-Late Transition Period sites indicate populations replaced atlatl (dart) technologies with the bow and arrow, which required smaller projectile points.

Mortars and pestles became more common during this transitional period, gradually replacing manos and metates as the dominant milling equipment. Many archaeologists believe this change in milling stones signals a change from the processing and consuming of hard seed resources to the increasing reliance on acorn (e.g., Glassow et al. 1988; True 1993).

2.2.6 Late Period (ca. CE 1000 – Historic Contact)

Late Period archaeological sites indicate sociopolitical and economic complexity among populations in the Northern Bight. Glassow et al. (2007:205) notes between 1200 and 1300 a social stratification becomes clear archaeologically. Climatic change may have stimulated the development of

specialized crafts, regional trade, and changes in food procurement. Unlike the large Middle Period shell middens, Late Period sites are more frequently single-component deposits. There are also more inland sites, with fewer and less visible sites along the Pacific shore during the Late Period. The settlement pattern and dietary reconstructions indicate a lesser reliance on marine resources than observed for the Middle and Middle-Late Transition periods, as well as an increased preference for deer and rabbit (Jones 1995). An increase in the number of sites with bedrock mortar features dating to the Late Period suggests nuts and seeds began to take on a more significant dietary role in Late Period populations.

Late Period sites are distinguished by small, finely worked projectile points and temporally diagnostic shell beads. These shell beads were used as monetary currency to trade with inland populations. Trade brought many maritime goods, such as fish, shellfish, and steatite bowls to inland locations, such as CA-SBA-3404, CA-SBA-485, and CA-SBA-2358, particularly during the latter part of the Late Period. Small, finely worked projectile points are typically associated with bow and arrow technology, which is believed to have been introduced to the area by the Takic migration from the deserts into southern California.

2.3 Ethnographic Context

The APE lies within Chumash ethnographic territory, which extends from the current city of Malibu, north beyond San Luis Obispo, and inland as far as 42 miles (Glassow 1996). The Chumash also inhabited the northern Channel Islands. The Chumash spoke six closely related languages, divided into two broad groups – Northern Chumash, consisting of only Obispeño and Southern Chumash, including Purisimeño, Ineseño, Barbareño, Ventureño, and Island Chumash (Mithun 1999). The Chumash are divided into three main groups, including Interior, Coastal, and Northern Channel Islands Chumash. The coastal Barbareño Chumash referred to themselves as the Wal-wa-ren-na, and “occupied the narrow coastal plain from Point Conception to Punta Gorda in Ventura County” (Grant 1978:509).

Chumash villages generally ranged between 30 and 200 people, with the largest settlements numbering anywhere from 500 to 800 people (Glassow 1996:14). Grant (1978b) describes a typical Chumash village along the Santa Barbara Channel as consisting of “several houses, a sweathouse, store houses, a ceremonial enclosure, gaming area, and a cemetery usually placed well away from the living area.” Archaeological investigations have recognized separate areas within cemeteries for elites and non-elites (King 1969).

Permanent Chumash villages included hemispherical or rounded mud-covered (insulated) pole and thatch dwellings arranged in close groups (Brown 2001). Thatching was made from tule, Carrizo grass, wild alfalfa, and fern (Grant 1978). Smaller Chumash groups correspondingly occupied short-term special-purpose camps throughout the year to acquire seasonal resources (Glassow 1996). Cooking fires were centered within the dwelling to allow smoke to ventilate through a hole in the roof (Grant 1978).

The Chumash are well-known for their wooden plank canoe, also called tomol. The tomol facilitated the procurement of marine resources and the trade network between the mainland and the Channel Islands. Sea mammals were hunted with harpoons, while deep-sea fish were caught using nets and hooks and lines. In addition to marine resources, the Chumash subsistence focused on acorns, pine nuts, prickly pear cactus, and other plant resources, and land animals such as mule deer, antelope, quail, dove, and other waterfowl (Brown 2001). The Chumash also manufactured various other utilitarian and non-utilitarian items. Eating utensils, ornaments, fishhooks, harpoons,

and other items were made using bone and shell. Olivella shell beads were especially important for trade.

Spanish explorers first arrived in the Santa Barbara Channel region in 1542. Contact had much more of an impact starting in 1770 with the establishment of the missions. Mission life led to severe population decline and culture loss (Johnson 1987). Although the Chumash languages are no longer commonly spoken (Timbrook 1990), many descendants of the Chumash still live in the region and a cultural revitalization has been ongoing since the twentieth century (Glassow et al. 2007). Today, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is the only federally-recognized Chumash tribe.

2.4 History

Post-European contact history for the state of California is divided generally into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848 present). The following provides a general discussion of the history of California following European contact.

2.4.1 Spanish Period (1769-1822)

Spanish exploration of California began when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo led the first European expedition into the region in 1542. During this expedition, he anchored in Malibu Lagoon. He named the area Pueblo de las Canoas for the Chumash canoes. For more than 200 years after his initial expedition, Spanish, Portuguese, British, and Russian explorers sailed the California coast and made limited inland expeditions, but they did not establish permanent settlements (Bean 1968; Rolle 2003). In 1769, Gaspar de Portolá and Franciscan Father Junipero Serra established the first Spanish settlement at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. This was the first of 21 missions erected by the Spanish in what was then known as Alta (upper) California between 1769 and 1823. Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782. It was during this time that Spanish settlement of the project vicinity began.

Mexican Period (1822-1848)

The Mexican Period commenced when news of the success of the Mexican Revolution (1810-1821) against the Spanish crown reached California in 1822. This period saw the privatization of mission lands in California with the passage of the Secularization Act of 1833, which enabled Mexican governors in California to distribute mission lands to individuals in the form of land grants. Successive Mexican governors made more than 700 land grants between 1822 and 1846, putting most of the state's lands into private ownership for the first time (Shumway 2007). About 20 land grants (ranchos) were in Ventura County. The approximately 26,623-acre Rancho Las Posas was originally granted to Jose Carrillo in 1824 (or 1834, depending on the source), and later the title confirmed to Jose de la Guerra y Noriega (Mason 1883; Stork 1891; Westergaard 1920). It is on this former rancho land that the subject property is located.

In 1846, the Mexican-American War was initiated following the annexation of Texas by the United States and a dispute over the boundary of the state between the U.S. and Mexico. On January 10, 1847, leaders of the pueblo of Los Angeles surrendered peacefully after Mexican General Jose Maria Flores withdrew his forces. Shortly thereafter, newly appointed Mexican Military Commander of California Andrés Pico surrendered all of Alta California to U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont in the Treaty of Cahuenga (Nevin 1978).

American Period (1848-Present)

The Mexican Period officially ended in February 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, formally concluding the Mexican-American War. Per the treaty, the United States agreed to pay Mexico $15 million for conquered territory, including California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. California gained statehood in 1850, and this political shift set in motion a variety of factors that began to erode the rancho system.

In 1848, the discovery of gold in northern California led to the California Gold Rush, though the first gold was found in 1842 in San Francisquito slightly east of Ventura County (Workman 1935: 107; Guinn 1976). The presence of commercial grade oil in Ventura County was recognized in 1852 at Rancho Ojai (Franks and Lambert 1985).

By 1853, the population of California exceeded 300,000. Horticulture and livestock, based primarily on cattle as the currency and staple of the rancho system, continued to dominate the southern California economy through 1850s. However, a severe drought in the 1860s decimated cattle herds and drastically affected rancheros' source of income. Thousands of settlers and immigrants continued to pour into the state, particularly after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Property boundaries loosely established during the Mexican era led to disputes with new incoming settlers, problems with squatters, and lawsuits. Given the size of their holdings, the initiation of property taxes proved onerous for many southern California ranchers. Rancheros often were encumbered by debt and the cost of legal fees to defend their property. As a result, much of the rancho lands were sold or otherwise acquired by Americans. Most of these ranchos were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns (Dumke 1944).

Ventura County was officially divided from Santa Barbara County in 1873. The Saugus to Santa Barbara Branch (or Santa Paula Branch) of the Southern Pacific Railroad was constructed in the mid-1880s, encouraging travel through and settlement of the Santa Clara River Valley; it also created a large distribution network for citrus and other products grown in the area (Sperry 2006). In the 1880s, a dramatic boom occurred in southern California, fueled by various factors including increasingly accessible rail travel, agricultural development and improved shipment methods, and favorable advertisement (Dumke 1944). In 1883, the California Immigration Commission published an advertisement declaring the state as "the Cornucopia of the World" (Poole 2002:36). New southern California towns were promoted as havens for good health and economic opportunity. The first version of the Southern Pacific's Coast Line, between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, was completed in 1900 through the Santa Clara Valley. A later version through Santa Susana Pass and bypassing the Saugus Branch was completed in 1904, offering a coastal alternative to the Central Valley mainline.

Meiners Oaks

The community of Meiners Oaks was developed on lands south of the Santa Ynez and Topatopa Mountains and east of the Ventura River. John Meiners was a native of Germany who immigrated to the United States in the late 1840s and acquired the lands as payment for a debt. With this, Meiner acquired the largest oak grove on level land in southern California.

Meiners lived on the ranch intermittently from 1880 until his death in 1898. During this time, he increased the acreage and production of oranges, lemons, prunes, apricots, and apples (Wenig 1969). Additionally, Meiners leased lands to other ranchers and farmers to graze cattle and cultivate oats, wheat, and barley. Interest in Meiners' ranch drew many pioneers to the Ojai Valley where they stayed and established the area.

3 Background Research

Background research for this cultural resources assessment included a record search, a review of historical maps and aerial photographs, and Native American outreach. A summary of findings of each of these efforts is provided below.

3.1 Cultural Resources Record Search

On March 25, 2020, Rincon requested a search of cultural resource records housed at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University, Fullerton. The search was conducted to identify previously conducted cultural resources studies within the APE and a 1.0-mile radius, and to identify previously recorded cultural resources in or near the APE. The search included a review of the NRHP, the CRHR, the California Points of Historical Interest list, the California Historical Landmarks list, the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility list, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory list. The records search also included a review of all available historic United States Geological Survey 7.5- and 15-minute quadrangle maps. The cultural resources records search results are included in Appendix A.

The SCCIC records search identified 33 previous cultural resources studies conducted within a 1.0-mile radius of the APE; two of which encompass portions of the APE (Table 1).

Table 1 Previous Cultural Resource Studies Conducted within 1.0 mile of the APE

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Relationship to APE
VN-00133	Cottrell	1978	*Cultural Resources Survey Conducted for Rancho Matilija, Ventura County, California*	**Within**
VN-00141	Horne	1973	*Archaeological Survey of Ojai West Fuel Break, East of Ventura River*	Outside
VN-00142	Horne	1972	*Will and Rice Canyon Fuel Break Archaeological Resources Report*	Outside
VN-00152	Horne and Johnson	1978	*Archaeological and Historical Overview Matilija Fuel Management Block Ojai Ranger District Los Padres National Forest*	Outside
VN-00216	Lopez	1979	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Lot A – The Forest River Park Subdivision No. 2 Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-00578	Wlodarksi	1988	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance Report for 17 Acres of Land Location in Meiners Oaks, Ventura County*	Outside
VN-00748	Lopez	1978	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of 1.5-Acre Home Site in the Unincorporated Territory of Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-00887	Callison	1979	*Survey Data Sheet: PM-3388: Adjacent and North of Camarillo Drive*	Outside
VN-00888	Callison	1979	*Survey Data Sheet: PM-3056: Request for Data from John Crowley*	Outside

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Relationship to APE
VN-01014	Callison	1979	*Survey Data Sheet PM-3374: Initial Data Request*	Outside
VN-01181	Simon and Whitley	1992	*Phase I Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resources Assessment for the McDonald Canyon Drain Unit 2, Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-01260	Lopez	1993	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Ten Acres Located at the Southwest Corner of El Roblar Drive and La Luna Avenue within the Unincorporated Community of Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-01289	MacFarlane	1994	*Phase I Archaeological Survey Lot Line Adjustment Parcels APN. 17-16-11, 17-22-07 (6.75 Acres) and APN 17-16-10, 17-16-06 (41 Acres) Meiners Oaks, California*	Outside
VN-01290	MacFarlane	1994	*Phase 1 Archaeological Survey Lot Line Adjustment Parcels APN 17-16-11, 17-11-07 (6.75 Acres) and APN 17-16-10, 17-16-06 (41 Acres) Meiners Oaks, California*	Outside
VN-01450	Garcia	1996	*Rice-Wills Road Erfo Project Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-01452	Garcia	1996	*Cozy Dell Road (5n34) Erfo Project Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-01560	Lopez and Galbraith	1998	*Heritage Resource Report for Negative Findings: Foothill Prescribed Burn Project*	Outside
VN-01562	Horne	1997	*Heritage Resource Report for Negative Findings: Sisar Canyon Land Exchange*	Outside
VN-01563	Garcia	1996	*Heritage Resource Report: Rice-wills Grazing Allotment Survey Ojai Ranger District Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-01935	Unknown	1976	*Environmental Analysis Report for the Highway 33 Sign Plan*	Outside
VN-02065	Lopez	2001	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the 15.14 Acres Located at 963 Fairview Road, Ojai, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02188	Lopez	2001	*An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Church of the Living Christ's 71.2 Acre Meiners Oaks Property, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02278	Lopez	2003	*Data Report: Boundary Identification and Test Excavations on CA-VEN-621, Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02279	King	2001	*Archaeological Survey of the Rice-Willis Road*	Outside
VN-02386	Jordan and Patterson	2006	*Archaeological Survey Report for the Southern California Edison Company Replacement of 71 Deteriorated Poles on the Patricia 16kV, Thacher 16kV, Matilda 16kV, Tico 16kV, Seaquit 4kV, Maguire 16kV, Galahad 16kV, Brennan B4 16kV, Strathern 16kV, Gabbert B2*	Outside

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Relationship to APE
VN-02621	Lopez	2003	*Data Report: Test Excavations in a Portion of CA-VEN-139 on the Church of the Living Christ's Meiners Oaks Property, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02624	Cruz	2004	*Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Ainsworth Orchard Cellular Communications Site, Ojai, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02733	Parr	2009	*Cultural Resource Assessment for the Replacement of Eleven Deteriorated Power Poles in the Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-02792	Williams	2010	*Archaeological Letter Report: SCE Red Mountain, Seacliff, Matilija, and Patricia 16kV Deteriorated Pole Replacement Projects, Ventura County*	Outside
VN-02872	Fortier	2009	*TEA-21 Rural Roadside Inventory: Native American Consultants and Ethnographic Study for Caltrans District 7, Ventura Count*	Outside
VN-02914	Orfila	2010	*Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Replacement of Fourteen Deteriorated Power Poles on the Tico 16kV, Thacher 16kV, Castro 16kV, and Timber Canyon 16kV Circuits near Ojai and Fillmore in Ventura County, California*	Outside
VN-03099	Corbett and Guttenberg	2012	*A Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of a Portion of the Ventura River Preserve, Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California*	**Within**
VN-03272	Foster	2017	*Archaeological Inventory, 821 Oso Road, Ojai, California*	Outside

Source: SCCIC 2020

Additionally, the SCCIC records search identified five previously recorded cultural resources within a 1.0-mile radius of the APE (Table 2); none of which are located within the APE.

Table 2 Previously Recorded Resources within 1.0 mile of the APE

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Description	Recorder(s) and Year(s)	NRHP/ CRHR Status
56-000139	CA-VEN-000139	Prehistoric village	Extensive midden including burials	Blackburn 1961; Greenwood 1963; MacFarlane 1994	Not evaluated
56-000140	CA-VEN-000140	Prehistoric camp	Lithic scatter with groundstone implements	Blackburn 1961	Not evaluated
56-000194	CA-VEN-000194	Prehistoric village	Extensive midden	Blackburn 1968	Not evaluated
56-000306	CA-VEN-000306	Prehistoric site	Lithic scatter with human remains	Horne 1972; Scott and Garcia 1995; King 2001	Not evaluated
56-000621	CA-VEN-000621	Prehistoric site	Lithic scatter	Aiello 1979	Not evaluated

Source: SCCIC 2020

3.2 Previous Projects within the APE

As part of the current study, Casitas provided Rincon with a Reclamation Finding of No Significant Impact report for the 2019 Robles Forebay Restoration Project (Lopez 2019). This report included documentation confirming the Robles Diversion Dam and Fish Passage Facility were previously recorded and evaluated in 2010 as part of the Ventura River Project. At the time, the property was determined ineligible for the NRHP by Reclamation, a finding that received concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Officer in September 2010.

3.3 Review of Historical Topographic Maps and Aerial Imagery

A review of aerial photographs and topographical maps was conducted to elucidate the history of land use in the APE. The Southern Pacific Railroad (Nordhoff Branch) is depicted in 1904 topographic maps as running through the Ojai Valley south of the APE (NETRonline 2020). The area remained largely undeveloped aside from the existence of the railroad until the 1940's and 1950s as illustrated by the establishment of the Meiners Oak, Ojai, and Mira Monte communities near the railroad tracks through the valley as seen in 1946 and 1953 topographic maps (USGS 1946; 1953). Between the 1950s and 1960s, agricultural use of the Ojai Valley increased as evidenced by 1967 aerial photographs. Aerial photos do not display the structures affiliated with the diversion of the Ventura River and construction of the Robles Diversion Dam Facility until 1967, but according to the Reclamation website, the dam was constructed in 1958 (Reclamation 2020). Meyer Road lies within the southern portion of the APE and appears to have been established around 1953. The road historically cut across the dam's downstream spillway, but it has degraded from years of water erosion and sediment deposit. Maintenance of the spillway and other dam facilities has occurred since the establishment of the Facility in 1958.

3.4 Native American Outreach

Rincon contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on March 24, 2020 to request a Sacred Lands File search of the project site. The NAHC replied on April 2, 2020 with positive results and listed six contacts who may have local knowledge of the area. As the CEQA lead agency, Casitas will conduct Native American consultation for the project in compliance with AB 52. Although consultation efforts are ongoing, Rincon understands that as of the submission of this report draft, Native American consultation undertaken to comply with AB 52 has resulted in Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Chairperson of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, requesting Native American monitoring during project-related ground disturbance associated with Activities 1A and 1B. The Reclamation is the lead federal agency and will conduct Section 106 consultation separately.

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4 Field Survey

4.1 Methods

Rincon archaeologist Mary Pfeiffer conducted a cultural resources survey of the APE on April 3, 2020. Ms. Pfeiffer walked transects spaced no greater than 5 meters apart and examined all exposed ground surface for 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 indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations) or historical debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances such as burrows were inspected visually.

The field survey also included a visual inspection of built environment features within the APE, all of which are associated with the Robles Diversion Dam Facility, in order to assess the overall condition and integrity, and to identify and document any potential character-defining features. Field documentation included digital photographs of the property to support field observations.

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5 Results

5.1 Archaeological Resources

Ground visibility within the APE was approximately 25 percent, with gravel and vegetation inhibiting further visibility (Figure 10 through Figure 14). Portions of the APE are graded and leveled with fill made up of local and imported soils. Low-density deposits of modern freshwater clam shells are present throughout local fill areas along the eastern peripheries of the APE. Large granitic boulders associated with the river are also scattered throughout the APE. Two brown cryptocrystalline silicate tertiary flakes on the Robles Diversion Dam Facility were identified in an imported soil context. Casitas staff Steve Sharp confirmed the provenance of the soil where the artifacts were identified as imported fill during the survey (Sharp 2020). The isolated flakes were removed from their original context and stripped of any associations and/or data potential; thus, they were not formally recorded during the survey. No other archaeological resources were identified during the pedestrian survey.

Figure 10 Portion of Eastern Extent of APE, View North

Figure 11 Portion of Western Extent of APE, View Northeast

Figure 12 Portion of Northern Extent of APE, View Northeast

Figure 13 Northern Portion of APE along Ventura River, View North

Figure 14 Central Portion of APE in the Riverbed, View East

5.2 Built Environment Resources

One previously recorded historic-era built environment resource, the Robles Diversion Dam Facility, was identified in the APE and recorded on Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Series Forms (Appendix C). No other built environment resources were identified during the survey.

5.2.1 Robles Diversion Dam Facility

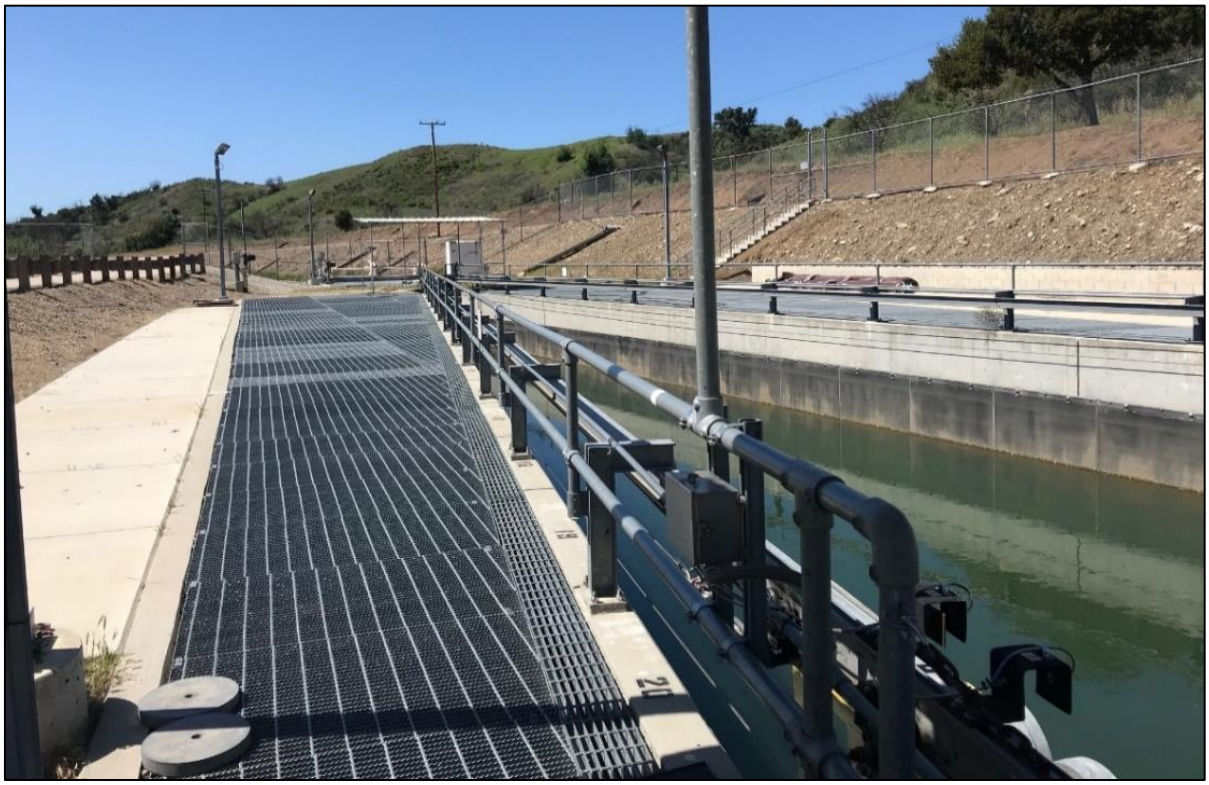
The Robles Diversion Dam Facility is located 1.5 miles south of the confluence of Matilija Creek and North Fork Matilija Creek in the community of Meiners Oaks, Ventura County. The Facility was built in 1957-1959 by M. H. Hasler Construction Company and F. W. Case Corporation as part of the Ventura River Project. In 2004, a fish passage Facility was added to the Facility, and the dam spillway and gate control house were altered.

In 1973, the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers recognized the Ventura River Project, of which Robles Diversion Dam is a part, as one of the organization's Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks (Norby and Trickey 2010). In 2010, Heather Norby and Andrea Trickey of JRP Historical Consulting, evaluated the Robles Diversion Dam Facility. The Facility was described as including the Robles Diversion Dam, its inlet-outlet structures, a generation building, and the gate control house (Figure 15 through Figure 17). At that time, the Facility was found ineligible for listing in the NHRP (it was not evaluated for the CRHR; Norby and Trickey 2010). The California State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the findings of ineligibility for listing in the NRHP in 2010 (Lopez 2019).

Figure 15 Overview of the Robles Diversion Dam Facility, View West

Figure 16 Robles Diversion Dam Gates View North

Figure 17 Robles Diversion Dam Facility, View Southwest toward Screen Bay



The current survey update of the Facility was conducted in support of Annual Repair and Maintenance Programmatic Permitting effort for the Casitas' Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility project in Ventura County, California. Since the Facility was originally recorded as a cultural resource and evaluated for its eligibility for the NRHP in 2010, there have been no visible alterations. To comply with CEQA, the Facility was evaluated for listing in the CRHR as part of this study.

As discussed above, the Robles Division Dam Facility was previously determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP. There is no information to suggest this finding is no longer valid. As part of the current study, the property is also recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR, pursuant to any applicable designation criteria. The subject property was developed in 1957 to1959 during construction of the Ventura River Project. Research did not suggest the Facility is associated with an event or series of events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history in the city, region, state, or nation (Criterion 1). Research did not indicate that any persons associated with the Facility can be considered significant to local, state, or national history (Criterion 2). The Facility is utilitarian in design and materials and is a common example of a dam Facility. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion 3). A review of available evidence and records search results did not indicate the Facility might yield information important to history or prehistory (Criterion 4).

6 Findings and Recommendations

The current study consisted of a cultural resources records search, Native American outreach that includes a positive SLF result, a pedestrian survey, evaluation of an historic period built-environment resource, and the preparation of this technical report. Research completed under the current study concluded the Dam Facility Robles Diversion Dam Facility does not possess significant architectural or historical associations and is not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR; it therefore does not qualify as a historical resource under CEQA or as a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA. The background research and survey concluded no other known built environment or archaeological resources are in the APE. Two isolated lithic flakes were identified in imported fill-soil during the pedestrian survey. Due to the lack of discernable context, the flakes were not formally recorded. No other archaeological resources were identified within the APE. All soils to be disturbed during the current project consist of recently built-up sediments and are unlikely to contain intact archaeological resources. However, the SLF results were positive and the records search identified five prehistoric archaeological sites within a 1.0-mile radius of the APE. Although none of these sites extend into the APE, two are large habitation sites (P-56-000139 and P-56-000194) and two are confirmed to contain human remains (P-56-000139 and P-56-000306). These resources are located upstream from the Diversion Dam and it is possible that artifacts or remains associated with the sites could have washed downstream. These factors increase the likelihood of encountering buried archaeological deposits during project-related ground disturbance. However, these deposits would have been the result of recent erosion and not the result of prehistoric human activity.

Significant project-related ground disturbance is limited to Activities 1A, 1B, which include periodic removal and downstream redeposition of accumulated sediments, and may occur during road grading and excavation during Activity 6E. Therefore, Rincon recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring as a standard condition for project-related ground disturbance during Activities 1A and 1B and for grading and excavation during Activity 6E, detailed below. Although any encountered resources in these areas are likely to be within a secondary context, the heritage value of any such resources to local tribal groups remains. Monitoring is consistent with tribal concerns and precedent existing for the general area.

Based on the results of this cultural resources assessment, Rincon recommends a finding of ***no impact to historical resources*** and ***less than significant impact with mitigation to archaeological resources*** under CEQA. In addition to archaeological and Native American monitoring, Rincon presents the following recommendation in case of unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during project development. The project is also required to adhere to regulations regarding the unanticipated discovery of human remains, detailed below. Although the APE is archaeologically sensitive, no historic properties are known to exist within the APE; therefore, Rincon recommends a finding of ***no historic properties affected*** under Section 106 of NHPA.

6.1 Archaeological and Native American Monitoring

Rincon recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring of all project-related ground disturbance during Activities 1A and 1B and for grading and excavation during Activity 6E by a qualified archaeologist and Native American consultant. Archaeological monitoring should be performed under the direction of an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983). Native American

monitoring should be provided by a locally affiliated tribal member. Monitors will have the authority to halt and redirect work should any archaeological resources be identified during monitoring. If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and the find evaluated for listing in the CRHR and NRHP. Archaeological or Native American monitoring or both may be reduced to spot-checking or eliminated at the discretion of the monitors, in consultation with the lead agency, as warranted by conditions such as encountering bedrock, sediments being excavated are fill, or negative findings during the first 60 percent of rough grading. If monitoring is reduced to spot-checking, spot-checking shall occur when ground-disturbance moves to a new location within the APE and when ground disturbance will extend to depths not previously reached (unless those depths are within bedrock).

6.2 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt 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 the discovery proves to be eligible for the NRHP and/or CRHR, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any significant impacts/adverse effects.

6.3 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 no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC 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 would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which would determine and notify an MLD. The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance.

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Appendix A

Records Search Results

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
VN-00133		1978	Cottrell, Marie G.	Cultural Resources Survey Conducted for Rancho Matilija, Ventura County, California	ARM	56-000306, 56-000594, 56-000595, 56-000596
VN-00141		1973	Horne, Stephen	Archaeological Survey of Ojai West Fuelbreak East of Ventura River (Arr 05-07-18).	U.S. Forest Service	56-000304, 56-000305
VN-00142		1972	Horne, Stephen	Will and Rice Canyon Fuelbreak Archaeological Resources Report Arr 05-07-21a.	U.S. Forest Service	56-000306
VN-00152		1978	Horne, Stephen and John Johnson	Archaeological and Historical Overview Matilija Fuel Management Block Ojai Ranger District Los Padres National Forest	USFS: Los Padres National Forest	56-000048, 56-000061, 56-000114, 56-000115, 56-000132, 56-000150, 56-000194, 56-000404
VN-00216		1979	Lopez, Robert	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Lot a Re-plat of The" Forest River Park Subdivision No. 2 Ventura County, California (19mr62/pm-3388)	Robert Lopez, Archaeological Consultant	
VN-00578		1988	Wlodarski, Robert J.	An Archaeological Reconnaissance Report for 17 Acres of Land Located in Meiners Oaks, Ventura County,	Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research, Team	
VN-00748		1978	Lopez, Robert	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of 1.5 Acre Home Site in the Unincorporated Territory of Ventura County, California		
VN-00887		1979	Callison, Sheila	Survey Data Sheet: Pm-3388- Eac 8-9-79, Adjacent & North of Camarillo Drive	Ventura County	
VN-00888		1979	Callison, Sheila	Survey Data Sheet: Pm-3056 - Request for Data From John Crowley	Ventura County	
VN-01014		1979	Callison, Sheila	Survey Data Sheet: Pm-3374 Initial Data Request	Ventura County	
VN-01181		1992	Simon, Joseph M. and D. Whitley	Phase I Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resources Assessment for the Mcdonald Canyon Drain Unit 2, Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California	W & S Consultants	
VN-01260		1993	Lopez, Robert	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Ten Acres Located at the Southwest Corner of El Roblar Drive and La Luna Avenue Within the Unincorporated Community of Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California	Archaeological Consultant	
VN-01289		1994	MacFarlane, Heather	Phase 1 Archaeological Survey Lot Line Adjustment Parcels A.p.n. 17-16-11, 17-22-07 (6.75 Acres) and A.p.n. 17-16-10, 17-16-06 (41 Acres) Meiners Oaks, California	MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants	19-001109, 56-000139, 56-000194, 56-000306, 56-000621, 56-000641

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
VN-01290		1994	MacFarlane, Heather	Phase 1 Archaeological Survey Lot Line Adjustment Parcels A.p.n. 17-16-11, 17-11-07, (6.75 Acres) and A.p.n. 17-16-10, 17-16-06 (41 Acres) Meiners Oaks, California	MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants	56-000139
VN-01450		1996	Garcia, Juanita D.	Rice-wills Road Erfo Project Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest Ventura County, California	U.S. Forest Service	56-000306, 56-000307, 56-000308, 56-000309, 56-000310
VN-01452		1996	Garcia, Juanita D.	Cozy Dell Road (5n34) Erfo Project Ojai Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest Ventura County, California	U.S. Forest Service	
VN-01560		1998	Lopez, James M. and Steve Galbraith	Heritage Resource Report for Negative Findings: Foothill Prescribed Burn Project	U.S. Forest Service	
VN-01562		1997	Horne, Stephen	Heritage Resource Report for Negative Findings: Sisar Canyon Land Exchange	U.S. Forest Service	
VN-01563		1996	Garcia, Juanita D.	Heritage Resource Report: Rice-wills Grazing Allotment Survey Ojai Ranger District Ventura County, California	U.S. Forest Service	56-000307
VN-01935		1976		Environmental Analysis Report for the Highway 33 Sign Plan	USFS: Los Padres National Forest	
VN-02065		2001	Lopez, Robert	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the 15.14 Acres Located at 963 Fairview Road, Ojai, Ventura County, California	Robert Lopez, Archaeological Consultant	56-000621
VN-02188		2001	Lopez, Robert	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Church of the Living Christ's 71.2 Acre Meiners Oaks Property, Ventura County, California	Moorpark College Archaeological Program	56-000139
VN-02278		2003	Lopez, Robert	Data Report: Boundary Identification and Test Excavations on CA-VEN-621, Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California	Robert Lopez, Archaeological Consultant	56-000621
VN-02279		2001	King, Chester	Archaeological Survey of the Rice-willis Road [4n06]	Topanga Anthropological Consultants	56-000306, 56-000307, 56-000308, 56-000309, 56-000310, 56-001696
VN-02386		2006	Jordon, Stacey C. and Patterson, Joshua D.	Archaeological Survery Report for the Southern California Edison Company Replacement of 71 Deteriorated Poles on the Patricia 16kv, Thacher 16kv, Matilda 16kv, Tico 16kv, Seaquit 4kv, Maguire 16kv, Galahad 16kv, Brennan B4 16kvm Strathern 16kv, Gabbert B2	Mooney, Jones & Stokes	19-001041, 19-001402, 19-002075, 19-002076, 19-120027, 56-000137, 56-000140, 56-000192, 56-000193, 56-001109, 56-001265, 56-001266, 56-100048, 56-100049, 56-152750

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
VN-02621		2003	Lopez, Robert	Data Report: Test Excavations in a Portioin of CA-VEN-139 on the Church of the Living Christ's Meiners Oaks Property, Ventura County, California.	Lopez, Robert	56-000139
VN-02624		2004	Cruz, Michael J.	Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Ainsworth Orchard Cellular Communications Site, 95-047-505d05/v149, Ojai, Ventura County, California	SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc.	
VN-02733		2009	Parr, Robert E.	Cultural Resource Assessment for the Replacement of Eleven Deteriorated Power Poles in the Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California	Cal Heritage	
VN-02792		2010	Williams, Audry	Archaeological Letter Report: WO 6039-4800 9-4842; TD 352285: SCE Red Mountain, Seacliff, Matilija, and Patricia 16kV Deteriorated Pole Replacement Projects, Ventura County	Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc.	
VN-02872		2009	Fortier, Jana	TEA-21 Rural Roadside Inventory: Native American Consultants and Ethnographic Study for Caltrans District 7, Ventura County	ICF Jones & Stokes	
VN-02914		2010	Orfila, Rebecca	Archaeological Survey for the Southern California Edison Company: Replacement of Fourteen Deteriorated Power Poles on the Tico 16kV, Thacher 16kV, Castro 16kV, and Timber Canyon 16kV Circuits near Ojai and Fillmore in Ventura County, California	RSO Consulting	56-000641
VN-03099		2012	Corbett, Ray and Guttenberg, Richard	A Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of a Portion of the Ventura River Preserve, Meiners Oaks, Ventura County, California	John Minch and Associates	56-000134, 56-000139
VN-03272		2017	Foster, John M.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY, 821 Oso Road, Ojai, California	Greenwood and Associates	

Resource List

Primary No.	Trinomial	Other IDs	Type	Age	Attribute codes	Recorded by	Reports
P-56-000139	CA-VEN-000139		Site	Prehistoric	AP02; AP09; AP15; AP16	1961 (BLACKBURN); 1963 (Greenwood); 1994 (Heather Macfarlane, MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants)	VN-00076, VN-01289, VN-01290, VN-02188, VN-02621, VN-03099
P-56-000140	CA-VEN-000140		Site	Prehistoric	AP02; AP15	1961 (BLACKBURN)	LA-07849, VN-01102, VN-02386
P-56-000194	CA-VEN-000194		Site	Prehistoric	AP02; AP15	1968 (Blackburn)	VN-00152, VN-01289
P-56-000306	CA-VEN-000306	Resource Name - RICE / WELLS 1972-#1; USFS - 0507-55-33; Resource Name - Los Padres National Forest 55-33	Site	Prehistoric	AP02; AP09; AP15	1972 (Stephen Horne); 1995 (David J. Scott and Juanita D. Garcia); 2001 (Chester King, Topanga Anthropological Consultants)	VN-00133, VN-00142, VN-01289, VN-01450, VN-02279
P-56-000621	CA-VEN-000621		Site	Prehistoric	AP02; AP04; AP15; AP16	1979 (Paul V. Aiello, Ventura College)	VN-00414, VN-01289, VN-02065, VN-02278

Appendix B

Sacred Lands File Search Results

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Via Email to: ggranger@rinconconsultants.com
Cc: jtumamait@hotmail.com

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Environmental Support for the Casitas Municipal Water District Annual Repair and Maintenance Programmatic Permits (Phase II) Project, Ventura County

Dear Ms. Granger:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was positive. Please contact the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians on the attached list for more information.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Sarah.Fonseca@nahc.ac.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fonseca
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Tribal Consultation List
Ventura County
4/2/2020

Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Chairperson
365 North Poli Ave
Ojai, CA, 93023
Phone: (805) 646 - 6214
jtumamait@hotmail.com
Chumash

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Julio Quair, Chairperson
729 Texas Street
Bakersfield, CA, 93307
Phone: (661) 322 - 0121
chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net
Chumash

Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
Gino Altamirano, Chairperson
P. O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, CA, 93140
cbcn.consultation@gmail.com
Chumash

Northern Chumash Tribal Council
Fred Collins, Spokesperson
P.O. Box 6533
Los Osos, CA, 93412
Phone: (805) 801 - 0347
fcollins@northernchumash.org
Chumash

San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council
Mark Vigil, Chief
1030 Ritchie Road
Grover Beach, CA, 93433
Phone: (805) 481 - 2461
Fax: (805) 474-4729
Chumash

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Kenneth Kahn, Chairperson
P.O. Box 517
Santa Ynez, CA, 93460
Phone: (805) 688 - 7997
Fax: (805) 686-9578
kkahn@santaynezchumash.org
Chumash

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 Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Environmental Support for the Casitas Municipal Water District Annual Repair and Maintenance Programmatic Permts (Phase II) Project, Ventura County.

Appendix C

Resource Record Update (California DPR 523 Series Forms)

***Recorded by:** Alexandra Madsen, Rincon Consultants, Inc. ***Date:** March 25, 2020 ☐Continuation ■Update

The Robles Diversion Dam Complex is located one and a half miles south of the confluence of Matilija Creek and North Fork Matilija Creek in the community of Meiners Oaks, Ventura County. The complex was built in 1957-1959 by M. H. Hasler Construction Company and F. W. Case Corporation as part of the Ventura River Project. In 2004, a fish passage structure was added to the complex and the dam spillway and gate control house were altered.

In 1973, the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers recognized the Ventura River Project, of which Robles Diversion Dam was a part, as one of the organization's Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks (Myers 1974). In 2010, Heather Norby and Andrea Trickey of JRP Historical Consulting, LLC evaluated the Robles Diversion Dam Complex. The complex was listed as including the Robles Diversion Dam, its inlet-outlet structures, a generation building, and the gate control house. At that time, the complex was found ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It was not evaluated for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR; Norby and Trickey 2010). The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the findings of ineligibility for listing in the NRHP in 2019 (Lopez 2019).

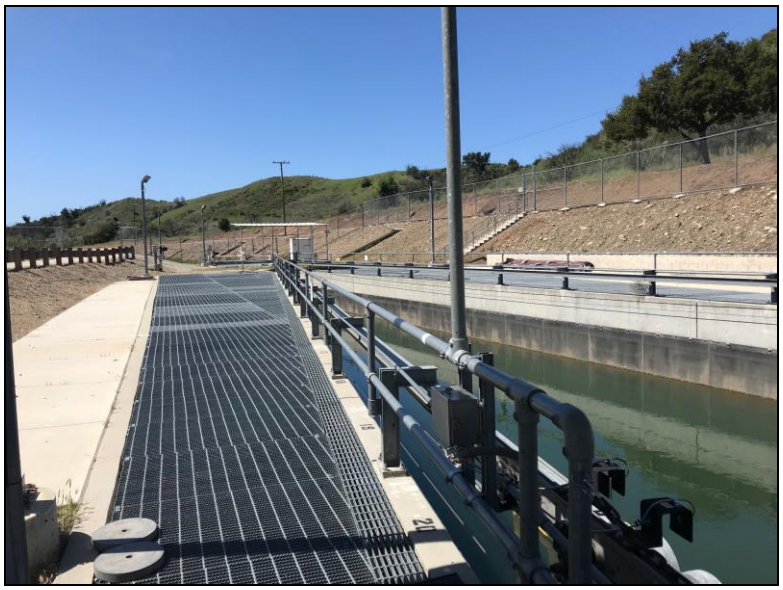
The current survey update of the complex was conducted in support of Phase II of the Annual Repair and Maintenance Programmatic Permitting effort for the Casitas' Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility project in Ventura County, California. Since the complex was recorded in 2010, there have been no visible alterations. To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the complex was evaluated for listing in the CRHR as part of this study.

The Robles Division Dam Complex is recommended ineligible for listing in the CRHR pursuant to any applicable designation criteria. The subject property was developed in 1957-1959 during construction of the Ventura River Project. Research did not suggest the complex is associated with an event or series of events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history in the city, region, state, or nation (Criterion 1). Research did not indicate that any persons associated with the complex can be considered significant to local, state, or national history (Criterion 2). The complex is utilitarian in design and materials and is a common example of a dam complex. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion 3). A review of available evidence and records search results did not indicate the complex might yield information important to history or prehistory (Criterion 4).

Photograph 1. Overview of Robles Diversion Dam Complex, view northwest. Photo taken April 3, 2020.

Photograph 2. Robles Diversion Dam Gates, view north. Photo taken April 3, 2020.

Photograph 3. Robles Diversion Dam Complex, view southwest toward screen bay. Photo taken April 3, 2020.



References:

Lopez, Brian. 2019. Finding of No Significant Impact: Robles Forebay Restoration Project (FONSI-19-023). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Myers, A. 1974. Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks of Southern California. History and Heritage Committee, Los Angeles Section American Society of Civil Engineers. Los Angeles: Southern California Edison Company.

NETROnline. Var. Historic Aerials. Accessed on March 25, 2020 at: https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer

Norby, Heather and Andrea Trickey. 2010. Department of Parks and Recreation Form, Robles Diversion Dam Complex. JRP Historical Consulting, LLC.