
APPENDIX E

CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY

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CARLSBAD
CLOVIS
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

November 4, 2021

Adam Ross, Vice President
Ross and Sons
7828 South Maple Avenue
Fresno, CA 93725

Subject: Cultural Resources Survey and Study for the Stamoules Pistachio Processing Facility Project in Fresno County, California (LSA Project No. OPA2101)

Dear Mr. Ross:

LSA conducted a cultural resources survey and study (study) for the proposed Stamoules Pistachio Processing Facility Project (project) in western Fresno County, California. The proposed project includes the construction of a pistachio hulling, processing, and packing facility that can process pistachio crops from surrounding pistachio orchards. All cultural resources study work was completed per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA).

This study has the following purposes: (1) identify archaeological deposits that may meet the CEQA definition of a historical resource (California Public Resources Code [PRC] §21084.1) or a unique archaeological resource (PRC §21083.2) and that may be impacted by the proposed project, (2) assess the potential for human remains, and (3) recommend procedures for avoiding or mitigating impacts to such deposits, if warranted. The study consisted of background research and a field survey. This report was prepared by LSA Associate/Senior Cultural Resources Manager Kerrie Collison, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) No. 28731436.

PROJECT LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The project site, which is also the study site, is within one parcel (Assessor's Parcel No. 019-150-64S) and is approximately 98 acres in size. The project site is currently open farm ground and is not developed. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Chaney Ranch, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Section 26 of Township 14 South, Range 13 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (USGS 1971) (Attachment B, Figure 1). The project site is bounded by farm fields and Panoche Road to the south, Panoche Road and farm fields to the east, and farm fields to the north and to the west (Attachment B, Figure 2).

The project site is relatively flat and is at an elevation of 290 feet. The nearest natural water source (Panoche Creek) is approximately 3 miles northwest of the project site. Subsurface sediments of the project site consist of Quaternary marine and nonmarine alluvium, lake, playa, and terrace deposits that date to the Pleistocene and Holocene (ranging from 2.58 million years ago to the present) (California Geological Survey 2015).

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center

A records search of the project site and a 0.5-mile search radius was conducted on September 7, 2021, by staff members at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Bakersfield (SSJVIC Records Search File No. 21-315). The SSJVIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official repository of cultural resource records and reports for Fresno County. Background research also included a review of the following State and federal inventories:

- Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) (OHP n.d.)
- California Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996)
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992)
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (OHP 1976)

The records search results (Attachment C) indicate that no previous cultural resource studies have included the project site and one previously study (an archaeological survey) has included a portion of the area within 0.5-mile radius of the project site. No cultural resources have been previously recorded in the project site, and one cultural resource (P-10-005888, Panoche Road) has been recorded within 0.5 mile of the project site. No resources listed in the BERD are within the project site.

Native American Heritage Commission

LSA submitted a request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the presence of Native American cultural resources that the project may impact. The NAHC maintains the SLF database and is the official State repository of Native American sacred-site location records in California.

Andrew Green, NAHC Cultural Resources Analyst, responded to the SLF search request on September 24, 2021, stating that the results were negative and that no Native American cultural resources were known in the area (Attachment D). The NAHC also provided a suggested list of Native American individuals to contact for information regarding the project site.

Aerial Photographs and Historic Maps

Additional background research included a review of aerial photographs and historic-period maps that include the project site (National Environmental Title Research, n.d.). The purpose of this review was to assess the potential for historic-period archaeological deposits in the project site. The oldest available aerial photograph that includes the project site dates to 1971, at which time the project site was undeveloped. A photograph dating to 1981 shows that the project site was used for agricultural purposes. The earliest available topographic quadrangle reviewed by LSA dates to 1922 and depicts no buildings on the project site itself but does depict Panoche Road to the south and unnamed roads within the project site. The unnamed roads do not appear on the 1956 map or any more recent maps. No maps depict any buildings within the project site.

FIELD SURVEY

On September 28, 2021, LSA Archaeologist Lennon Fanning conducted a pedestrian field survey of the project site. Approximately 25 percent of the project site was not active agricultural land; the remaining 75 percent is actively used for cultivating crops. As such, he fully surveyed the fallow agricultural land and the active agricultural land was spot-checked where possible without damaging crops. The fully surveyed portion of the project site was sparsely vegetated and had greater than 90 percent ground visibility. The site is void of crops and is about 1 to 2 feet lower in elevation than the surrounding lands. Mr. Fanning spaced the survey transects approximately 10 meters (32.8 feet) apart and walked them in an east-west pattern.

He observed numerous types of sediments throughout the project site. Observed sediments included fine grain dirt with a mix of round and jagged stones, gravel with jagged gray stones, hard-packed brown silt with mixed stones, and fine silt. Modern trash was scattered throughout the project site. The survey identified no archaeological resources or human remains.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study, consisting of background research and a field survey, did not identify surficial archaeological deposits or human remains in the project site. The project site and 0.5-mile radius of the project site have not been previously studied for cultural resources; however, the nearest natural water source (Panoche Creek, which would have been a food and water source for precontact and historic-period occupants of the area) is approximately 3 miles northwest of the project site. The project site has a history of surficial disturbance as a result of decades of agricultural use and no archaeological resources were identified during the field survey.

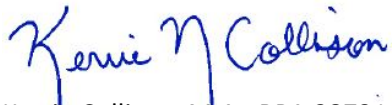
For the above reasons, it is unlikely that ground-disturbing work associated with project implementation would impact subsurface intact cultural resource deposits, and no additional cultural resource studies are recommended for this proposed project. However, there is always the potential that construction activities could uncover unanticipated subsurface cultural resources. A qualified professional archaeologist should be contacted in the event that construction personnel encounter any archaeological deposits and/or human remains during construction activities. If any such resources are discovered, contractors should stop work in the immediate area of the find and contact the archaeologist to assess the nature of the find. Upon completion of any monitoring activities, the archaeologist should prepare a report to document the methods and results of monitoring activities. This report should be submitted to the SSJVIC.

If human remains are encountered during project work, the regulatory process outlined in Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 must be followed, which involves coordination with the NAHC and a Native American Most Likely Descendant.

Please contact me at kerrie.collison@lsa.net if you have any questions regarding this study. Thank you for using the services of LSA.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Kerrie Collison, M.A., RPA 28731436
Associate/Senior Cultural Resources Manager

Attachments: A—References
B—Figures 1 and 2
C—Records Search Results
D—Sacred Lands File Search Results

ATTACHMENT A

REFERENCES

California Geological Survey

- 2015 Geologic Map of California. Website: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/> (accessed October 22, 2021).

California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP)

- 1976 California Inventory of Historic Resources. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- 1992 California Points of Historical Interest. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- 1996 California Historical Landmarks. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- n.d. Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). Website: https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338 (accessed October 22, 2021).

National Environmental Title Research

- n.d. Historic Aerials. Website: <http://www.historicaerials.com> (accessed October 22, 2021).

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1981 *Chaney Ranch, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Published 1955, photorevised 1971. USGS, Denver, Colorado.

ATTACHMENT B

FIGURES 1 AND 2

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2: Project Site

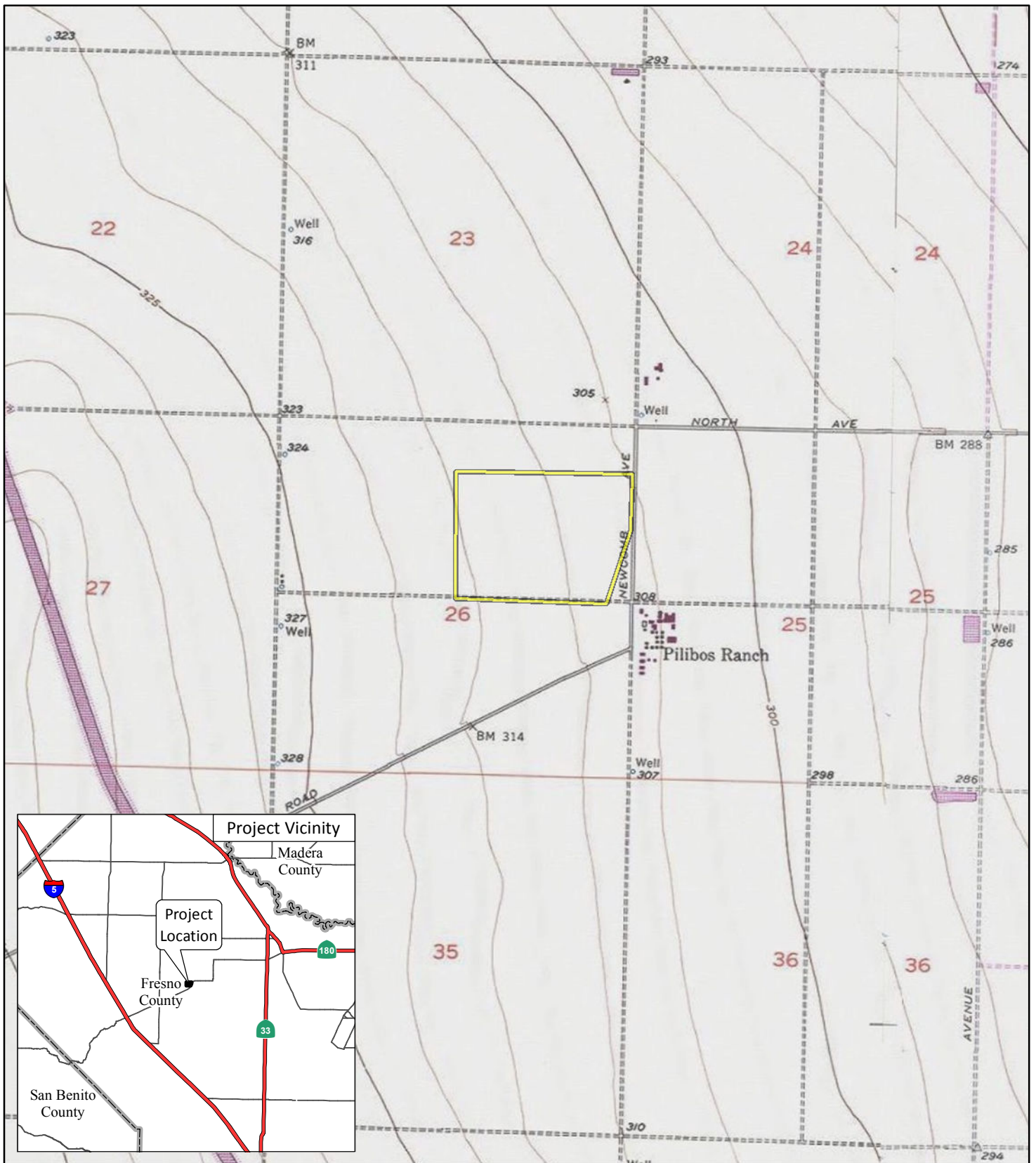
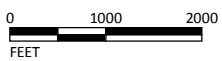


FIGURE 1

LSA

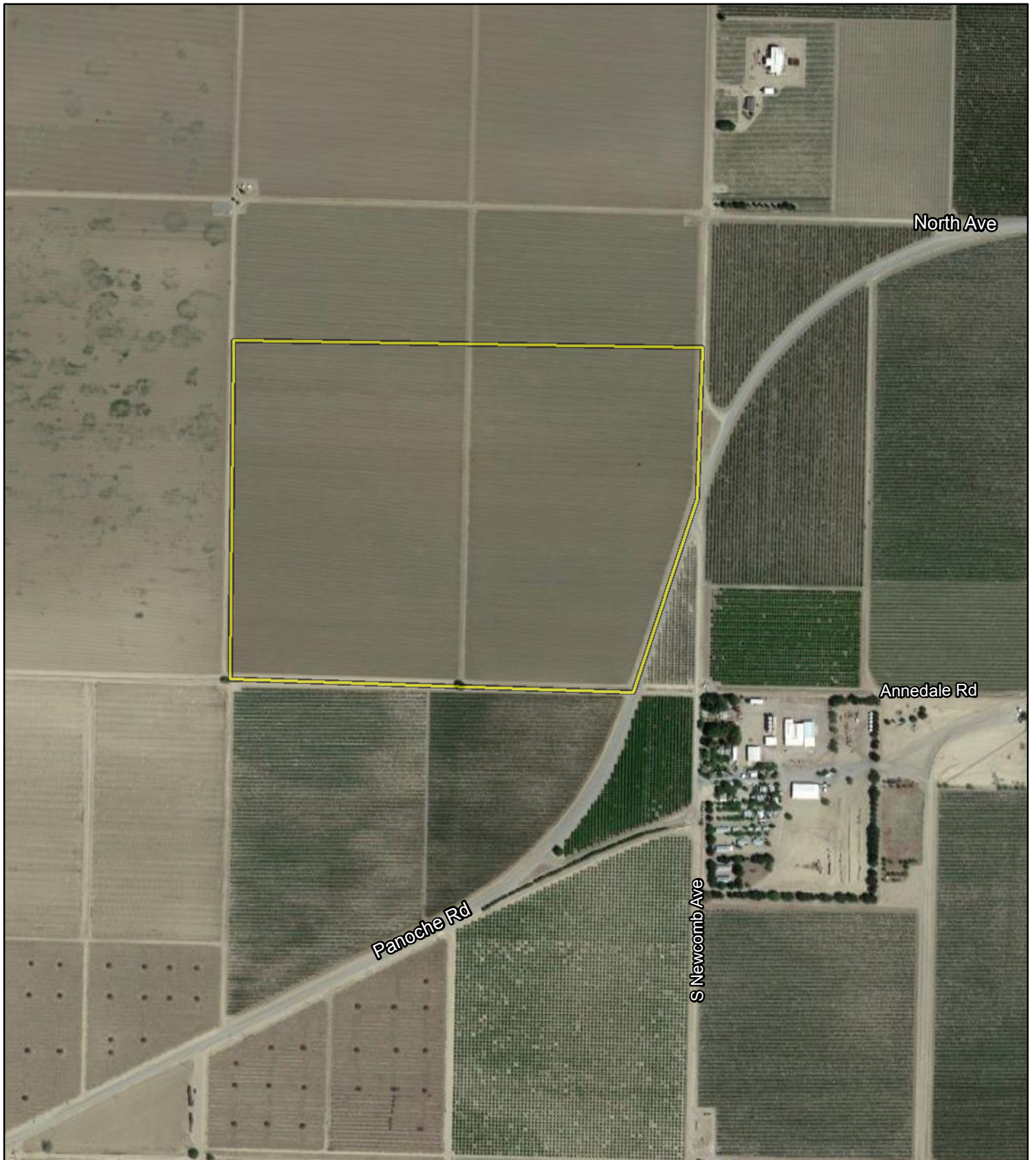
LEGEND

Project Location



SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Chaney Ranch (1971) and Coit Ranch (1984), CA
 I:\OPA2101\GIS\MXD\ProjectLocation_USGS.mxd (8/20/2021)

Stamoules Pistachio Processing Facility
 Project Location and Vicinity



North Ave

Annedale Rd

Panoche Rd

S Newcomb Ave

LSA

LEGEND

 Project Site

FIGURE 2



0 375 750
FEET

SOURCE: Google (2020)

I:\OPA2101\GIS\MXD\ProjectSite.mxd (8/20/2021)

Stamoules Pistachio Processing Facility
Project Site

ATTACHMENT C

RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS



9/7/2021

Kerrie Collison
LSA
285 South Street, Suite P
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: Stamoules Pistachio (OPA2101)
Records Search File No.: 21-315

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

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

Resources within project area:	None
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-10-005888
Reports within project area:	None
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	FR-02404

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

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

Resource Digital Database Records: enclosed not requested nothing listed

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

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

Report Digital Database Records: enclosed not requested nothing listed

Resource Record Copies: enclosed not requested nothing listed

Report Copies: enclosed not requested nothing listed

OHP Built Environment Resources Directory: enclosed not requested nothing listed

Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility: enclosed not requested nothing listed

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

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

Ethnographic Information: Not available at SSJVIC

Historical Literature: Not available at SSJVIC

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

Local Inventories: Not available at SSJVIC

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

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

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

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

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

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

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

Sincerely,

Celeste M. Thomson
Coordinator

ATTACHMENT D

SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

September 24, 2021

Kerrie Collison
LSAVia Email to: kerrie.collison@lsa.net**Re: Stamoules Pistachio (OPA2101) Project, Fresno County**

Dear Ms. Collison:

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

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

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

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
LuiseñoVICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
ChumashSECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
LuiseñoPARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
KarukCOMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
ApacheCOMMISSIONER
**Julie Tumamait-
Stenslie**
ChumashCOMMISSIONER
[Vacant]COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**
1550 Harbor Boulevard
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West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Fresno County
9/24/2021**

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians
Elizabeth Kipp, Chairperson
P.O. Box 337
Auberry, CA, 93602
Phone: (559) 374 - 0066
Fax: (559) 374-0055
lkipp@bsrnation.com

Western Mono

North Valley Yokuts Tribe
Timothy Perez,
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA, 95236
Phone: (209) 662 - 2788
huskanam@gmail.com

Costanoan
Northern Valley
Yokut

Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
Carol Bill, Chairperson
P.O. Box 209
Tollhouse, CA, 93667
Phone: (559) 855 - 5043
Fax: (559) 855-4445
coldsprgstribe@netptc.net

Mono

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Leo Sisco, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA, 93245
Phone: (559) 924 - 1278
Fax: (559) 924-3583

Southern Valley
Yokut

Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
Jared Aldern,
P. O. Box 209
Tollhouse, CA, 93667
Phone: (559) 855 - 5043
Fax: (559) 855-4445
csrepa@netptc.net

Mono

Table Mountain Rancheria
Brenda Lavell, Chairperson
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA, 93626
Phone: (559) 822 - 2587
Fax: (559) 822-2693
rpennell@tmr.org

Yokut

Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government
Robert Ledger, Chairperson
2191 West Pico Ave.
Fresno, CA, 93705
Phone: (559) 540 - 6346
ledgerrobert@ymail.com

Foothill Yokut
Mono

Table Mountain Rancheria
Bob Pennell, Cultural Resource
Director
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA, 93626
Phone: (559) 325 - 0351
Fax: (559) 325-0394
rpennell@tmr.org

Yokut

Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe
Stan Alec,
3515 East Fedora Avenue
Fresno, CA, 93726
Phone: (559) 647 - 3227

Foothill Yokut

Traditional Choinumni Tribe
David Alvarez, Chairperson
2415 E. Houston Avenue
Fresno, CA, 93720
Phone: (559) 217 - 0396
Fax: (559) 292-5057
davealvarez@sbcglobal.net

Foothill Yokut

North Valley Yokuts Tribe
Katherine Perez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA, 95236
Phone: (209) 887 - 3415
canutes@verizon.net

Costanoan
Northern Valley
Yokut

Tule River Indian Tribe
Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 783 - 8892
Fax: (559) 783-8932
joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-
nsn.gov

Yokut

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Stamoules Pistachio (OPA2101) Project, Fresno County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Fresno County
9/24/2021**

Tule River Indian Tribe

Kerri Vera, Environmental
Department
P. O. Box 589 Yokut
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 783 - 8892
Fax: (559) 783-8932
kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Tule River Indian Tribe

Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589 Yokut
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 781 - 4271
Fax: (559) 781-4610
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

***Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom
Valley Band***

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct. Foothill Yokut
Salinas, CA, 93906 Mono
Phone: (831) 443 - 9702
kwood8934@aol.com

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

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