

Appendix E

Cultural Resources Assessment

Dudek 2023

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
for the
NORTHSTAR CSD WOOD ENERGY SYSTEM PROJECT
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

Northstar Community Services District

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Cultural Resources Assessment for the Northstar CSD Wood Energy System Project

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (NADB) INFORMATION

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Project Proponent: Northstar Community Services District

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Type of Study: Cultural Resources Inventory

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Size: 5.3 acres

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Northstar Community Services District (NCSD), acting as lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), proposing the development of the NCSD Wood Energy System Project (Project). The proposed project involves constructing a wood energy utility facility and pipeline to distribute heat to buildings in the Village at Northstar. The Project is approximately 5 miles southeast of Truckee in the northern eastern corner of Placer County, California. The Project is located in Township 16N, Range 17E, Section 05, 06; and Township 17N, Range 17E, Section 29-32 of the “Truckee, CA” and “Martis Peak, CA” U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) analyzed herein is 5.33 acres and consists of all potential areas of ground disturbance, including the proposed pipeline within a 30-foot wide corridor.

A records search was completed for the APE and a surrounding half-mile radius by staff at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) at California State University Sacramento on December 6, 2021. The records search identified 37 previous cultural technical studies that have been performed in the one half-mile search area; of these, five have covered a least a portion of the project area. In total, less than 25% of the project area has been previously surveyed. The records search identified 20 cultural resources within the records search area. None of these are mapped as intersecting the APE. All previously recorded resources are historic period sites and isolates; no prehistoric resources were identified.

Intensive-level pedestrian survey was completed of the entire APE on December 6, 2021. The survey did not result in the identification of any previously recorded or newly identified cultural resources.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by Dudek on December 9, 2021 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File (Appendix D). A letter response from NAHC dated March 4, 2022 that a search of the Sacred Lands File returned negative results. A contact list of Native American tribal representatives was received from the NAHC. No outreach was conducted by Dudek.

Based on the results of the NCIC records search, intensive pedestrian survey, NAHC and tribal correspondence, and review of previous technical studies for this area, no additional cultural mitigation is recommended to be necessary. Given the relatively limited degree of disturbance required by the Project, the likelihood of encountering unanticipated significant subsurface archaeological deposits or features is considered low. The Project as currently designed will not impact any potentially significant archaeological, and will not result in a significant effect to cultural resources (no historic properties affected).

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Location and Description

The 5.33-acre Study Area is approximately 5 miles southeast of Truckee in the northern eastern corner of Placer County, California (Figure 1, Project Location; Figure 2, Project Site). The Study Area is located in Township 16N, Range 17E, Section 05, 06; and Township 17N, Range 17E, Section 29-32 of the “Truckee, CA” and “Martis Peak, CA” U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles.

The 5.33-acre study area encompassing the project site is located within the northern high Sierra Nevada. Project site elevations ranging from approximately 6,200 to 6,380 feet above mean sea level. Topography consists of moderately sloping valleys and hillsides. The region surrounding the project site receives approximately 30 inches of precipitation and 8 inches of snowfall annually. Average temperatures range from approximate 28 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit (WRCC 2021).

The proposed project involves demolishing an existing building near the North Star Fire Station and constructing a wood energy utility facility and pipeline to distribute heat to buildings in the Village at Northstar. The project site is located southwest of State Route (SR) 267 and on the north side of Northstar Drive within the community of Northstar. The study area analyzed herein is 5.33 acres and consists of all potential areas of ground disturbance, including the proposed pipeline within a 30-foot wide corridor with a maximum depth of disturbance assumed to be no more than 15ft below ground surface (Figure 2, Project Site).

1.2 Regulatory Context

1.2.1 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the United States’ official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Overseen by the National Park Service (NPS), under the U.S. Department of the Interior, the NRHP was authorized under the NHPA, as amended. Its listings encompass all National Historic Landmarks, as well as historic areas administered by NPS.

NRHP guidelines for the evaluation of historic significance were developed to be flexible and to recognize the accomplishments of all who have made significant contributions to the nation’s history and heritage. Its criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies, and others in evaluating potential entries in the NRHP. For a property to be listed in or

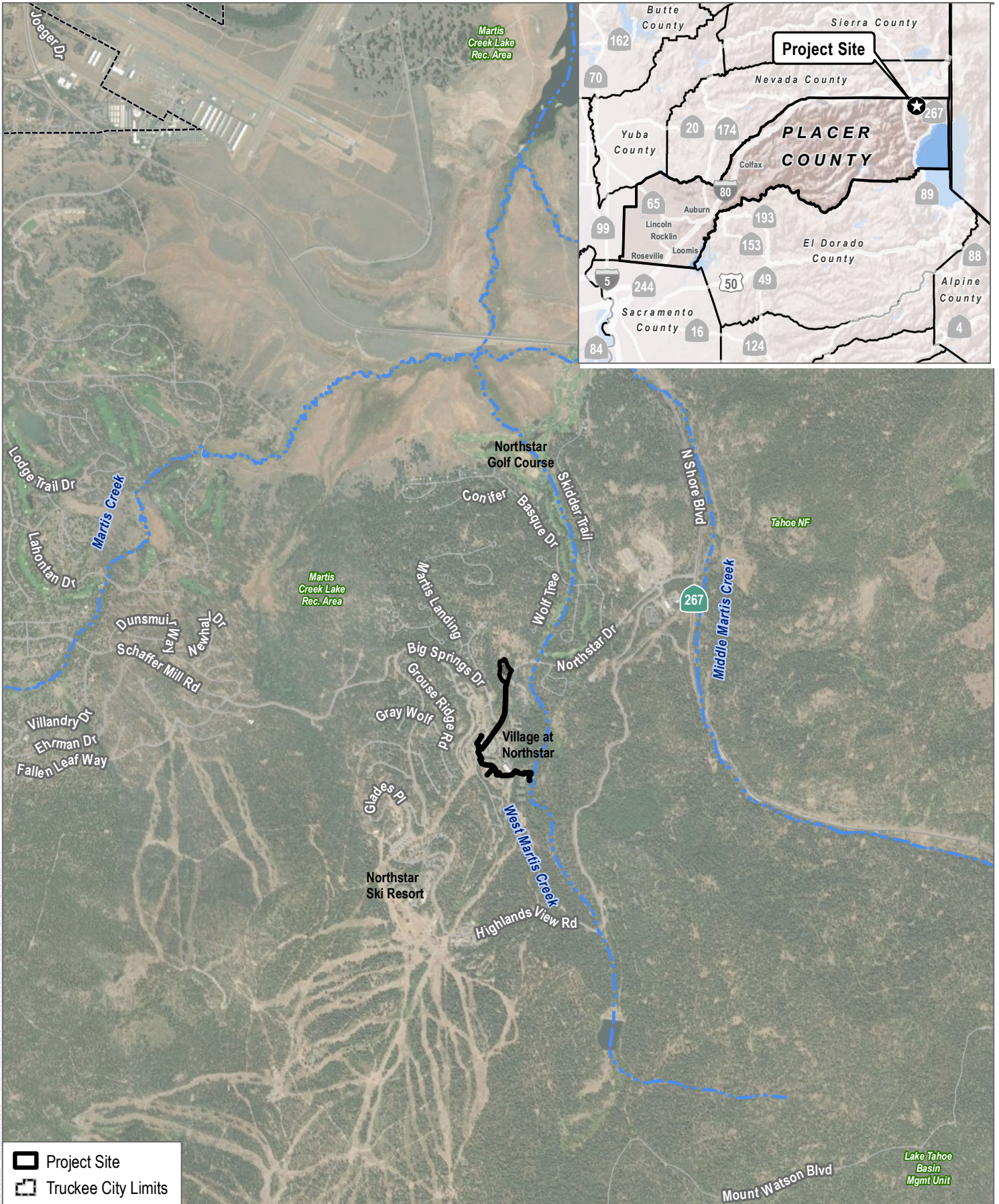
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determined eligible for listing, it must be demonstrated to possess integrity and to meet at least one of the following criteria:

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:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, 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; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Integrity is defined in NRHP guidance, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, as “the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the NRHP, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the NRHP criteria, but it also must have integrity” (NPS 1990). NRHP guidance further asserts that properties be completed at least 50 years ago to be considered for eligibility. Properties completed fewer than 50 years before evaluation must be proven to be “exceptionally important” (criteria consideration G) to be considered for listing.



SOURCE: ESRI Imagery 2021, Open Street Map 2019

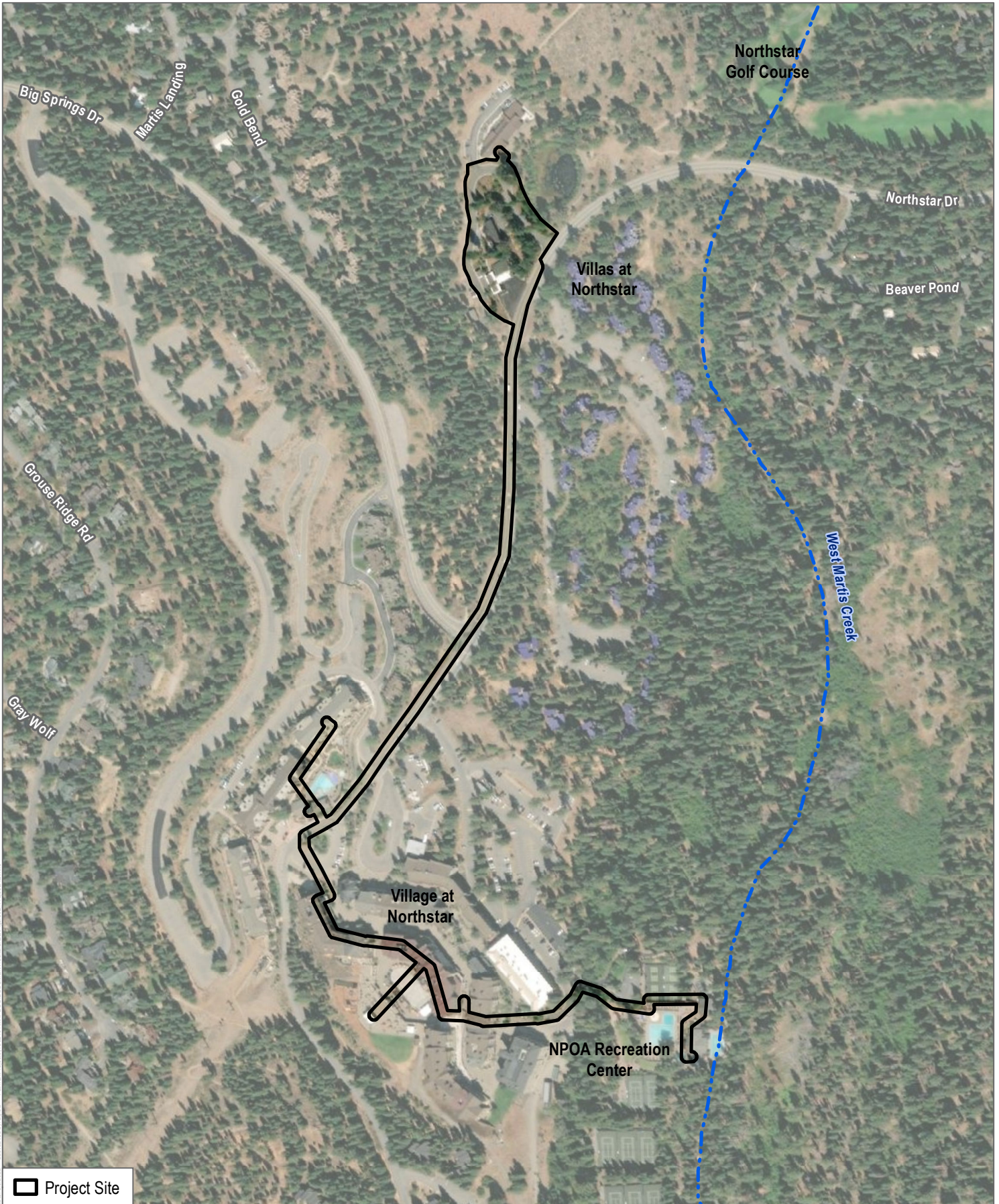
FIGURE 1

Project Location

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for NCSD Wood Energy System

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SOURCE: ESRI Imagery 2022, Open Street Map 2019

FIGURE 2
 Project Site

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Northstar CSD Wood Energy System Project**

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A historic property is defined as “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the NRHP criteria” (36 CFR Sections 800.16(i)(1)).

Effects on historic properties under Section 106 of the NHPA are defined in the assessment of adverse effects in 36 CFR Sections 800.5(a)(1):

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property’s eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.

Adverse effects on historic properties are clearly defined and include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property;
- (ii) Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68) and applicable guidelines;
- (iii) Removal of the property from its historic location;
- (iv) Change of the character of the property’s use or of physical features within the property’s setting that contributes to its historic significance;
- (v) Introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property’s significant historic features;
- (vi) Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration, except where such neglect and deterioration are recognized qualities of a property of religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization; and

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- (vii) Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance (36 CFR 800.5 (2)).

To comply with Section 106, the criteria of adverse effect are applied to historic properties, if any exist in the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE), pursuant to 36 CFR Sections 800.5(a)(1). If no historic properties are identified in the APE, a finding of “no historic properties affected” will be made for the proposed Project. If there are historic properties in the APE, application of the criteria of adverse effect will result in Project-related findings of either “no adverse effect” or of “adverse effect,” as described above. A finding of no adverse effect may be appropriate when the undertaking's effects do not meet the thresholds in criteria of adverse effect 36 CFR Sections 800.5(a)(1), in certain cases when the undertaking is modified to avoid or lessen effects, or if conditions were imposed to ensure review of rehabilitation plans for conformance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (codified in 36 CFR Part 68).

If adverse effects findings were expected to result from the proposed Project, mitigation would be required, as feasible, and resolution of those adverse effects by consultation may occur to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(a).

1.2.2 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires that all private and public activities not specifically exempted be evaluated against the potential for environmental damage, including effects to historical resources. Historical resources are recognized as part of the environment under CEQA. The act defines historical resources as “any object, building, structure, site, area, or place that is historically significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California” (Division I, Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 5021.1[b]).

Lead agencies have a responsibility to evaluate historical resources against the CRHR criteria prior to making a finding as to a proposed project's impacts to historical resources. Mitigation of adverse impacts is required if the proposed project will cause substantial adverse change. Substantial adverse change includes demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired. While demolition and destruction are fairly obvious significant impacts, it is more difficult to assess when change, alteration, or relocation crosses the threshold of substantial adverse change. The CEQA Guidelines provide that a project that demolishes or alters those physical characteristics of a historical resource that

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convey its historical significance (i.e., its character-defining features) is considered to materially impair the resource's significance. The CRHR is used in the consideration of historical resources relative to significance for purposes of CEQA. The CRHR includes resources listed in, or formally determined eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and some California State Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest. Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts), or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory, may be eligible for listing in the CRHR and are presumed to be significant resources for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise.

Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC 5024.1; Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 4852), which include the following:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or
3. 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; or
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

1.2.3 Local Regulations

Placer County General Plan

The Placer County General Plan outlines the County's approach to treatment of cultural resources. Twelve individual policies are summarized with the main goal of the County as follows:

Goals 5.D To identify, protect, and enhance Placer County's important historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

Martis Valley Community Plan

The Martis Valley Community Plan includes a section that outlines goals, policies, and implementation programs to address treatment of cultural resources. Ten individual policies are summarized in the Cultural Resources section with the following main goal of the Martis Valley Community Plan:

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Goal 8.A: To identify, protect, and enhance Martis Valley's important historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

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2 PROJECT CONTEXT

2.1 Environmental Context

The 5.33-acre study area encompassing the project site is located within the northern high Sierra Nevada. Elevation on the project site ranges from approximately 6,200 to 6,380 feet above mean sea level. Topography consists of moderately sloping valleys and hillsides. The region surrounding the project site receives approximately 30 inches of precipitation and 8 inches of snowfall annually. Average temperatures range from approximate 28 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit (WRCC 2021).

As outlined in detail within the Dudek biological investigation for the Project, terrestrial vegetation is dominated by Disturbed/Developed land, followed to a lesser degree by Mixed Conifer Forest community. The overstory is moderately dense and dominated by Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*), with lesser abundance of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*). Disturbed areas within the APE are primarily comprised by built structures, paved parking lots, and roads.

2.2 Cultural Context

Various attempts to parse out information provided through recorded archaeological assemblages from throughout California for the past 12,000 years have led to the development of several cultural chronologies. Some of these are based on geologic time, most are interpreted through temporal trends derived from archaeological assemblages, and others are interpretive reconstructions. Each of these chronologies describe essentially similar trends in assemblage composition in more or less detail. California's archaeological assemblage composition is generally accepted as falling within the following overarching patterns: Paleoindian (pre-5500 BC), Archaic (8000 BC – AD 500), Late Prehistoric (AD 500–1750), and Ethnohistoric (post-AD 1769).

Occupation of the Sierra is likely to have occurred at least 9,000 years ago, however, only a handful of Paleoindian Period lithic bifacial points have been recorded. The nearest of these fluted points were found in Sierra Valley (west of Reno, Nevada; Foster and Betts 1995), Ebbett's Pass (south of Lake Tahoe; Dillon 2002), and at the Sailor Flat site (in the Tahoe National Forest; Wohlgemuth 1984). Fluted points from this area have generally been recorded as isolated finds, or recovered from contexts of mixed provenience. The primary examples of the Paleoindian pattern, to which such fluted and stemmed points are generally assigned, have been recorded east of the Sierra Nevada. The typical assemblage includes large stemmed projectile points, high proportions of formal lithic tools, bifacial lithic reduction strategies, and relatively

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small proportions of groundstone tools. Some of the most pertinent of such sites were studied by Emma Lou Davis (1978) on China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, near Ridgecrest, California. These sites contained fluted and unfluted stemmed points and large numbers of formal flake tools (e.g., shaped scrapers, blades). Other typical Paleoindian sites include the Komodo site (MNO-679)—a multicomponent fluted point site, and MNO-680—a single component Great Basined Stemmed point site (Basgall et al. 2002). At MNO-679 and MNO-680, groundstone tools were rare while finely made projectile points were common.

While the limited available data relating to the earliest occupation in the region has provided for a relatively broad and consistent interpretation of the Paleoindian Period, subsequent prehistoric temporal sequences are much more geographically defined and variable due to the greater amount of available data. The Tahoe Reach is currently the most commonly applied cultural temporal sequence within the region. This draws from regional syntheses primarily developed by both Heizer and Elsasser (1953) and Elston, Davis, and Townsend (1977). The sequence includes the Washoe Lake Phase, Tahoe Reach Phase, Spooner Phase, Martis Complex, and Kings Beach Complex (Hull 2007; Moratto 1984, 1999). Of these, the Martis Complex and the Kings Beach Complex are most applicable to the current project area.

2.2.1 Martis Complex (3000 B.C.–A.D. 500)

The Martis complex has been identified to extend from Lassen County to Alpine County (Elsasser 1960). The date range, 3000 B.C. to approximately 500 A.D. has been substantiated by obsidian hydration and radiocarbon dates provided by Elsasser and Gortner (1992). Subsistence during the Martis Complex was based on hunting and seed collecting economy, with highly mobile populations that exploited both upper and lower regions based on the relative seasonal abundance of resources. Projectile points are variable during this period, and were most commonly heavy with low formality, providing some resemblance to those identified in the Great Basin regions. Temporally representative tools include finger-held drills or punches, retouched volcanic flake scrapers, spokes have-notched tools, and large biface blades and cores (Hull 2007). During this period there is a more intensive exploitation of local materials, rather than non-local cherts and obsidian, for the manufacture of formed flaked tools.

2.2.2 Kings Beach Complex (A.D. 500–Historic Contact)

Similar to the Martis Complex, the Kings Beach Complex was characterized by populations that migrated between upper areas in the warmer months and lower elevations during the fall and winter. Subsistence during this period shifted toward a focus on fishing and gathering. A reduction in size and weight of projectile points corresponded with adoption of bow and arrow technology. Typical point forms within this region included Desert Side-notched, Cottonwood,

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and Rosegate series (CRM 2011). Obsidian and chert replaced volcanic materials such as basalt as the preferred materials for the manufacture of lithic tools. As both high quality cherts and obsidian are not local, the greater presence of such exotic materials suggests that there was an increase in trade with neighboring tribes during this period.

The Kings Beach Complex additionally included a greater reliance on exploitation of acorns. This trend is exemplified by the increased presence of bedrock mortars and pestles formed from local cobbles. It should be noted that while bedrock mortars were predominantly used for crushing and grinding acorns, they were also employed for the processing of a variety of other foods, including deer meat, camas roots and seeds (CRM 2011). While the creation of mortars indicated a relatively high investment of time and energy, such bedrock milling features are just as frequently found at sites with limited-to-no subsurface cultural deposits as at intensive use occupation areas with well-developed midden soils.

2.2.3 Ethnohistoric (post-AD 1750)

The region surrounding the project area would have been in Washoe tribal territory during the ethnohistoric period (D'Azevedo 1986; Kroeber 1925). This group's primary use area included the areas surrounding Lake Tahoe; extending north to Honey Lake, south beyond Topaz lake, west beyond the present City of Truckee, and east beyond present Reno and Virginia City (Kroeber 1925). Washoe people were known to have traveled an extended area for trade and use, including along the Bear and Yuba Rivers, extending as far west as Auburn, CA.

Habitation areas were most commonly situated near lakes, primary drainages, along ridgelines with mild slopes and south-facing exposures (D'Azevedo 1986). Traditional village features often included enclosed house pit-style structures configured in clusters with defined resource processing/use areas (including habitation, sweat lodge, and ceremonial), cooking and storage features, rock-filled roasting pits, bedrock milling stations, as well as sweat and ceremonial houses. The dead were primarily cremated, however were also buried. Washoe has a well-defined tribal social structure, the chief (*teubeyu*) was succeeded along male lines (Kroeber 1925). Intra-tribal boundaries overlapped, with natural resources being shared relatively freely between triblets. Inter-tribal conflict did occur on rare occasions over resources, and the small hunting parties of Washoe that encroached too far into their territory (Wilson and Towne 1978).

The Washoe subsistence strategy was centered on fishing, hunting, and collecting vegetative resources. This group was semi-sedimentary, with larger central habitation areas and surrounding satellite sites used during hunting excursions and for pre-processing of collected plant resources such as acorns and pinyon. Core habitation areas were rich in resources, allowing lesser degree of travel to gather resources relative to surrounding tribes. Common food items included deer,

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bighorn sheep, rabbits, birds, bear, marmots, rodents, other mammals of small and moderate size, as well as various insects. Major ceremonies included an adolescence dance for girls, and mourning ceremonies (Kroeber 1925). Common tools included the bows and arrow, traps, harpoons, hooks, nets, portable and stationary grinding implements, and pestles and handstones. Groundstone technology was used for seed, pinyon, acorn, and other resource processing; reflecting characteristics of tribal adaptations in both the western Sierras and the Great Basin. A number of goods were made using fibrous plants, including canoes constructed tule balsa or logs. Imported items included shell ornaments and beads (particularly disk beads as a monetary unit), green pigment, tobacco, steatite items, and obsidian. Exported items included bows and arrows, basketry, animal skins, pine nuts, and other local resources (Kroeber 1925).

Wahoe indigenous populations derived their linguistic roots from a Hokan stock. This language group, suggested to have a time depth of 8,000 years BP (Golla 2007), is distributed throughout the California and Nevada regions as discrete isolates. Just as with other Hokan-derived speaking groups, the Washoe language demonstrates a relatively high amount of influence from surrounding tribal languages, specifically Maiduan and Numic linguistic groups. These later populations, as well as preceding groups, wrapped and displaced the Hokan-speaking Wahoe populations. This is indicated both culturally and by the high frequency of loan words from these surrounding populations (Golla 2007).

2.2.4 The Historic Period

Spanish Period (1769–1822)

Gaspar de Portolá entered the San Francisco bay in 1769. Additional explorations of the San Francisco bay and the plains to the east were conducted by father Pedro Fages in 1772 and Juan Bautista De Anza in 1776 (Grunsky 1989). In 1808, Lieutenant Gabriel Moragain led the first Spanish expedition into the Sacramento Valley. This group traveled explored areas along the American, Calaveras, Cosumnes, Feather, Merced, Mokelumne, Sacramento, and Stanislaus river watersheds. The most recent Spanish expedition into this region was conducted by Luis Arguello in 1817. This group traveled up the Sacramento River to the mouth of the Feather River (Grunsky 1989).

Spanish missionization of Alta California was initiated in San Diego (1769). A total of 21 missions were constructed by the Dominican and Franciscan orders between 1769 and 1823. Missions in the region included San Francisco de Asís (1776), Santa Clara de Asís (1776), San José de Guadalupe (1797 in Alameda County), San Rafael Arcángel (1817 in Marin County), and San Francisco Solano (1823 in Sonoma County; Grunsky 1989)). While missionization had a

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detrimental effect on tribes throughout the region, there is no record of forcible transport of Nisenan communities by the Spanish to the missions (Wilson and Towne 1978).

Mexican Period (1822–1848)

Mexico's separation from the Spanish empire in 1821 and the secularization of the California missions in the 1830s caused further disruptions to native populations. Following the establishment of the Mexican republic, the government seized many of the lands belonging to Native Americans, providing them as parts of larger Land Grants to affluent Mexican citizens and rancheros. Captain John Sutter was granted the two largest areas of land in the Sacramento Valley area. Sutter founded New Helvetia, a trading and agricultural empire, in 1839. The headquarters was located within Valley Nisenan territory at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers. No Mexican land grants were awarded in the County of Nevada. The 1833 Secularization Act passed by the Mexican Congress ordered half of all mission lands to be transferred to the Indians, and the other half to remain in trust and managed by an appointed administrator. These orders were never implemented due to several factors that conspired to prevent the Indians from regaining their patrimony.

American fur trappers and traders conducted a number of exploratory intrusions into west Sierra Nevada Mexican territory. Notably, in 1826, Jedediah Smith led a small party of trappers in an expedition along the Sierra Nevada range, eventually entering the Sacramento Valley in 1827. This group covered the area along the American and Cosumnes rivers. From these travels, maps of this inhospitable terrain were created and disseminated, providing for the waves of European prospectors, ranchers and settlers that would come in the following decades (Grunsky 1989).

American Period (Post –1848)

The following section has been drawn largely from a previous study prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR 2010). California has been inexorably shaped by the mining of precious metals and other minerals. The discovery of gold in January of 1848 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, on the South Fork of the American River, led to extensive and enduring changes to California's physical and cultural landscapes. A comprehensive discussion of the history and context of mining activities at the statewide level can be found in A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Mining Properties in California (Caltrans 2008) and the references therein. The following historic context is restricted to the origins and effects of mining in the American River Basin, with a particular focus on the Auburn area where the current project is located.

The California gold rush prompted by news of the find at Sutter's Mill led to what has been characterized as "the greatest mass migration in American history" (Costello and Marvin

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2002:16). The effects of these activities are still evident in the form of tailings, ditches, and other mining features scattered throughout these areas. Mining can also be credited for the location and names of most of the towns and communities in the region, the placement of early transportation and communication corridors between the western Sierra Nevada, Sacramento, and San Francisco, and the subsequent development of agriculture and ranching throughout the foothills (Costello and Marvin 2002).

As the allure of gold mining declined, agriculture and ranching in the foothills, and the timber industry at higher elevations, became more prominent and productive economic pursuits in the region (Davis 1975). During the Great Depression, however, small scale placer mining, using Gold Rush era techniques and technologies, made a brief reappearance. Depression-era miners either reworked old diggings in formerly mined area or moved into previously unmined locations, often on public lands (Caltrans 2008).

Logging in Martis Valley

Logging was first initiated in the Truckee area after the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859. When production began to fall in the mines in 1867, the lumbering business also began to suffer. Railroad development in the Truckee basin in 1866-67 created a new market for lumber to provide the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR, later Southern Pacific and now Union Pacific Railroad) with cordwood for fuel and lumber for construction of the roadbed (Lindström 2011). Truckee (then known as Coburn's Station) soon became one of the major lumbering centers. Over 18 sawmills were operating in the Truckee area during the late 19th century, including the 1874-1906 Richardson Brothers sawmill and logging operations (CDF 2013). In the early 20th century, as timber markets were gradually expanded with the completion of the railroad, a growing emphasis was placed on the diversification of wood products. The expansion beyond saw milling targeted such facilities as planing mills, box factories, sash and door establishments, a chair factory and furniture factory, shingle mills, and charcoal earthen and brick kilns (Lindström 2011).

3 RESEARCH METHODS

This investigation consisted of a records search of the project area and a half-mile radius around the project area at the North Central Information Center (NCIC), CSU Sacramento. The choice of survey category depends on the level of effort required for a particular project, which can vary depending on the nature of the properties or property types, the possible adverse effects on such properties, and agency requirements. The selection of field survey techniques and level of effort must be responsive to the management needs and preservation goals that direct the survey effort.

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For any survey, it is important to consider the full range of historic properties that may be affected, either directly or indirectly, and consider strategies that will minimize any adverse effects and maximize beneficial effects on those properties.

The current survey methods can be classified as intensive since short-interval transect spacing and full documentation of cultural resources was completed. Survey staff exceeded the applicable Secretary of Interior Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeological survey. Dudek archaeologist Ross Owen surveyed all portion of the Project APE. Survey transects were spaced no more than 15 meters apart. A Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver with sub-meter accuracy, was available for use to record archaeological features, however was not required. Evidence for buried cultural deposits was opportunistically sought through inspection of natural or artificial erosion/excavation exposures and the spoils from rodent burrows. No artifacts were collected during the survey. Field recording and photo documentation of resources, as appropriate, was completed.

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4 RESULTS

4.1 Records Search Results

A records search was completed for the current project for one half-mile radius around the project area by staff at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) at California State University Sacramento on December 6, 2021.

4.1.1 Previous Investigations

The records search identified 37 previous cultural technical studies that have been performed in the one half-mile search area; of these, five have covered a least a portion of the project area (Table 1). In total, less than 25% of the project area has been previously surveyed.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Studies

Report ID	Year	Author	Title
<i>Previous technical studies intersecting the proposed project APE</i>			
001658	1997	Banka, William	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California for Lookout Timber Harvest Plan Amendment #5
008122	2006	Banka, William	Archaeological Survey Report "The Northside" THP
009597	2004	William J. Banka	Northstar Village Expansion Timber Harvest Plan
011040	2011	Susan Lindstrom	Martis Valley Trail (MVT) Heritage Resource Inventory Segment 2 & Segment Addenda 2A, 3F 1 (Federal Land), 1 (Private Land), 3B, 3A
012133	2015	Adrian Whitaker and Sharon Waechter	Archaeological Survey Report for the Basin Retrofit Project, Placer County California
<i>Previous technical studies within 1/2 mile of the proposed project APE</i>			
001088	1998	William J. Banka	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California for the Reservoir Timber Harvesting Plan Amendment #2-96-420.
001089	1998	William J. Banka	Big Springs Timber Harvesting Plan.
001708	1994	Felix, George	Archeological and Historical Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Urban Interface Timber Harvest Plan.
001709	1992	Felix, George	Archeological and Historical Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Ski Hill Timber Harvest Plan.
001713	1993	Felix, George	Archeological and Historical Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Development Timber Harvest Plan.
002404	2000	Banka, William J.	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California for Big Springs THP "Home Run" Amendment #9 (with 7/10/2000 revisions).
002405	2000	Banka, William J.	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California for Big Springs THP "Subdivision" Amendment #12.

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Report ID	Year	Author	Title
002445	1998	Banka, William J.	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California for Porcupine Hill THP (with 11/24/98 revisions).
002446	2000	Banka, William J.	Confidential Archaeological Addendum for Timber Operations on Non-Federal Lands in California, Porcupine Hill THP Fuels Management Amendment #5.
006192	2003	William Banka	Archaeological Survey Report for the Big Springs "Ski Trails" THP Amendment
006194	2005	Banka, William J.	Archaeological Addendum Retreat Subdivision at Northstar-At-Tahoe Timber Harvest Plan
006197	2005	Banka, William J.	Archaeological Addendum for Northstar Highlands Timber Harvest Plan
006524	2005	Banka, William J.	Archaeological Survey Report for the Northstar-At-Tahoe Mountain Improvements
006972	2006	Banka, William	Archaeological Survey Report "Northstar Highlands" THP#2-05-024-PLA for "Design Change" THP Amendment
008579	2006	William J. Banka	Confidential Archaeological Addendum, Retreat Subdivision; THP #2-05-026-PLA, "Ski Trail" Amendment Timber Harvest Plan, Placer County, California
008728	2007	William J. Banka	Archaeological Survey Report "Northstar Mountain Improvements" THP #2-05-019-PLA for "Mid-Mountain Ski Lift Terminal" THP Amendment
008886	1993	George Felix	Archaeological and Historical Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for Reservoir Timber Harvest Plan
009581	1996	William A. Banka	Northstar Emergency Timber Operations
009583	2005	William J. Banka	THP Amendment to: Employee Housing THP
009590	2008	Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc.	Northstar CA Tower Site
009598	2002	William J. Banka	Trimont Land Company THP
009602	1990	Susan Lindstrom	Big Springs at Northstar
010086	2009	Darren Andolina, Sharon Waechter, and Susan Lindstrom	Cultural Resources Inventory for the Proposed 625/650 Line Upgrade Project
010175	2008	Danielle Banchio	Archaeological Survey Report for Northstar Highlands Phase II THP
010454	2010	Sharon A. Waechter, Darren J. Andolina, Susan G. Lindstrom, Julie Garibaldi, and Eugene Romanski	Revised Cultural Resources Inventory for the Proposed 625 and 650 Line Upgrade Project, Nevada and Placer Counties, California. LTBMU Report no. TB-2007-043/R2007051900068
010793	1996	Banka, William J.	RESERVOIR THP
010906	2011	Danielle Banchio	An Archaeological Survey Report for the Northstar Highlands III THP Placer County, California
010907	2009	William J. Banka	Archaeological Survey Report "Condos Ski Trail" THP
011396	2012	William J. Banka	Northstar Forest Enhancement Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)
011499	2014	Nancy Sikes, Ph.D, RPA and Cindy Arrington, M.S., RPA	Cultural Resources Evaluation Report for CalPeco 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project, Nevada and Placer Counties California

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Report ID	Year	Author	Title
012270	2016	Danielle E. Bradfield	Northstar Enhancement THP Confidential Archaeological Addendum
013275	2020	Susan Lindstrom and Devin Blom	Stages at Northstar Project, Cultural Resource Study

4.1.2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The records search identified 20 cultural resources within the records search area. None of these are mapped as intersecting the APE (Table 2; Confidential Appendix A). All previously recorded resources are historic period sites and isolates; no prehistoric resources were identified.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

Primary No.	Trinomial	Resource Name	Age	Attributes
<i>Previously recorded resources intersecting the proposed APE</i>				
None				
<i>Previously recorded resources within 1/2 mile of the proposed APE</i>				
P-31-001844	-	-	Historic	Other
P-31-002589	CA-PLA-001846H	Richardson Log Chute; Richardson Brothers Pole Road Railroad	Historic	Trash scatters; Roads/trails/railroad grades; Dams; Other
P-31-002591	-	Middle Logging Road	Historic	Roads/trails/railroad grades
P-31-002595	-	Middle Martis Mining Feature	Historic	Mine structure
P-31-002955	-	-	Historic	Roads/trails/railroad grades
P-31-005499	-	-	Historic	Trash scatters
P-31-005500	-	-	Historic	Mines/quarries/tailings
P-31-005501	-	-	Historic	Mines/quarries/tailings
P-31-005550	-	-	Historic	Single family property
P-31-005672	-	-	Historic	Foundations/structure pads
P-31-005673	-	-	Historic	Unknown
P-31-005674	CA-PLA-002491	-	Historic	Mines/quarries/tailings
P-31-005675	-	-	Historic	Roads/trails/railroad grades
P-31-005676	-	-	Historic	Other
P-31-005677	-	-	Historic	Other
P-31-005678	-	-	Historic	Other
P-31-005709	CA-PLA-002507H	Big Springs Old Road Segments	Historic	Roads/trails/railroad grades
P-31-005712	-	Beaver Pond Meadow Trash Scatters	Historic	Trash scatters
P-31-005713	-	Beaver Pond Aspen Carvings	Historic	Other

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Primary No.	Trinomial	Resource Name	Age	Attributes
P-31-005718		Sawmill Flat Road	Historic	Roads/trails/railroad grades

Historic-Period Map and Aerial Imagery Review

Dudek consulted historic maps and aerial photographs to understand development of the proposed Project site and surrounding properties. Historic aerial photographs were available from 1948 to 2018, and historic maps were available from 1956 to 2018 (NETR 2021).

Aerial images indicate the vicinity of the Project site was undeveloped forested lands with a meadow up until the early 1990s. By 1992 the aerial imagery depicts roads and buildings associated with Northstar at Tahoe resort, with the Northstar Village at the southern end of Project site appearing in the 1994 topographic mapping. A holding pond and two structures within the northern end of the Project site (proposed Wood Energy Utility Facility location) are depicted in the 1994 topographic map. By 1998 development appears as it does presently. No other built environment features are depicted on the available topographic maps of the area.

4.2 Geomorphological Information

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA 2021), three soil types are mapped in the Project site:

- Jorge-Tahoma complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes. This soil type consists of sandy loam soils in flow deposits derived from andesite, basalt and latite deposited on mountain slopes. Within the Project site, areas mapped with this soil type are largely graded, developed or used for flood control.
- Fugawee-Tahoma complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes. This soil type is comprised of sandy loam residuum weathered from igneous rocks. The Fugawee-Tahoma complex is deposited on mountain slopes. Areas within the Project site with this complex are largely developed within main site, and along Northstar Drive.
- Umpa stony sandy loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes. This soil type consists of residuum weathered from andesite. It is primarily deposited on mountain slopes. Within the Project site these soils were deflated from erosional processes.

In general, the soils present in the APE are comprised of sandy loam in flow deposits and residual uplands. These soils are derived from igneous parent materials originating in the surrounding area. Sediment formation in this location would likely have occurred primarily since

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the Holocene, generally the result of receding glaciers in the High Sierra and associated increased water flows following Pleistocene glaciation (possibly 5,000 – 7,000 B.P; Ritter 1972). Due to their upland nature, soils in the Project site have low probability for intact subsurface cultural deposits without surface manifestation. Furthermore, soils in the specific Project area are generally substantially compromised by the existing development and roads; the potential for intact buried deposits is considered low.

4.3 Field Survey Results

Dudek archaeologist Ross Owen conducted an intensive pedestrian cultural resources survey of the Project area of potential effects on December 6, 2021. The majority of the Project APE has been developed and consists of paved roadways, parking lots, and buildings. Undeveloped areas remain in along the edges of the APE, where ground surface visibility. Ground surface visibility varied ranging from very low in areas with dense pine needle duff, to moderate around areas of disturbance from pedestrian and bike traffic, and rodent burrows. Subsurface exposures were opportunistically sought along existing trail surfaces, drainages, and rodent burrows.

4.3 NAHC and Tribal Correspondence

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by Dudek on December 9, 2021 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File (Appendix D). A letter response from NAHC dated March 4, 2022 stated that a search of the Sacred Lands File returned negative results. A contact list of Native American tribal representatives was received from the NAHC, no outreach was conducted by Dudek.

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5 SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

Regulatory guidelines provide that a project that demolishes or alters those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance (i.e., its character-defining features) can be considered to materially impair the resource's significance. In order to best mitigate the effects of the proposed project on cultural resources, a reasonable, good faith effort must be applied to determining their archaeological character and eligibility for listing in the CRHR and NRHP.

NCIC records indicate that no previously recorded archaeological sites have been mapped as intersecting Project APE. Intensive-level pedestrian survey was completed of the entire APE on December 6, 2022. The survey did not result in the identification of any previously recorded or newly identified cultural resources.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by Dudek on December 9, 2021 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File (Appendix D). A letter response from NAHC dated March 4, 2022 stated that a search of the Sacred Lands File returned negative results. A contact list of Native American tribal representatives was received from the NAHC. No outreach was conducted by Dudek.

Based on the results of the NCIC records search, intensive pedestrian survey, NAHC and tribal correspondence, and review of previous technical studies for this area, no additional cultural mitigation is recommended to be necessary. As the Project as currently designed will not impact any potentially significant archaeological or built-environment resources, it will not result in any significant effect to cultural resources (no historic properties affected).

5.2 Management Recommendations

Based on the results of cultural resources inventory efforts for the proposed project, no additional cultural mitigation (including monitoring or additional evaluation of resources) appears to be required.

In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if potential human remains are found the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. The coroner will provide a determination within 48 hours of notification. No further excavation or disturbance of the identified material, or any area reasonably suspected to overlie additional remains, shall occur until a determination has been made. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, they shall notify the Native American

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Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendent (MLD) from the deceased Native American. Within 48 hours of their notification, the MLD will recommend to the lead agency their preferred treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.

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