



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: September 20, 2021

Project: Cultural resources records search- Iron Ridge II Ranch Project, Tulare County, CA

To: Jaymie Brauer, Principal Planner

From: Robert Parr, MS, RPA, Senior Archaeologist

Subject: Cultural Resources Records Search Results (RS#21-331)

Background

A cultural resources records search (RS #21-331) was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, CSU Bakersfield for the above referenced in Visalia, Tulare County, to determine whether the proposed project would impact cultural resources.

Project Location

The Project is located in Tulare County, California (Attachment A: Figures 1-4). The Project site (APNs 081-030-046 and 081-030-080.) is within the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T.18S, R.24E (MDB&M) (Figures 1-4).

Project Description

The proposed project includes developing the 50 acres into a cohesive residential subdivision. In order to achieve this, the following entitlements would be required:

- Tentative Subdivision Map: will allow for the properties to be subdivided.
- General Plan Amendment: to change the Residential Very Low Density to Residential Low Density.
- A change of the existing R-1-20 zone district to R-1-5
- Annexation of parcel APN 081-030-036 to be developed within the City limits.

Results

The records search covered an area within one-half mile of the Project and included a review of the *National Register of Historic Places*, *California Points of Historical Interest*, *California Registry of Historic Resources*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California State Historic Resources Inventory*, and a review of cultural resource reports on file.

The records search indicated that the subject property had never been surveyed for cultural resources and it is not known if any exist on it.



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Three cultural resource studies have been conducted within a half mile of the project (Williams 1974; Cantwell 1978; Love and Tang 2002a, 2002b, 2002c).

Only one cultural resource property has been recorded within a half mile of the proposed project, the historic route of the Southern Pacific/San Joaquin Valley Railroad (P-54-004626). The Project will not impact this cultural resource.

A Sacred Lands File request was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission. A response dated August 30, 2021 indicates negative results (see Attachment C).

Conclusions

Based on the results of cultural records search findings and the lack of historical or archaeological resources previously identified within a half mile radius of the proposed Project, the potential to encounter subsurface cultural resources is minimal. Additionally, the Project construction would be conducted within the partially developed and previously disturbed parcel. The potential to uncover subsurface historical or archaeological deposits would be considered unlikely.

However, there is still a possibility that historical or archaeological materials may be exposed during construction. Grading and trenching, as well as other ground-disturbing actions have the potential to damage or destroy these previously unidentified and potentially significant cultural resources within the project area, including historical or archaeological resources. Disturbance of any deposits that have the potential to provide significant cultural data would be considered a significant impact. To reduce the potential impacts of the Project on cultural resources, the following measures are recommended to be included as Conditions of Approval. With implementation of CUL-1 and CUL-2, the Project would have a less than significant impact related to cultural resources.

CUL-1: If prehistoric or historic-era cultural materials are encountered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the find and make recommendations. Cultural resource materials may include prehistoric resources such as flaked and ground stone tools and debris, shell, bone, ceramics, and fire-affected rock as well as historic resources such as glass, metal, wood, brick, or structural remnants. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant cultural resource, additional investigations may be required to mitigate adverse impacts from Project implementation. These additional studies may include avoidance, testing, and evaluation or data recovery excavation. Implementation of the mitigation measure below would ensure that the proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.



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CUL-2: If human remains are discovered during construction or operational activities, further excavation or disturbance shall be prohibited pursuant to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The specific protocol, guidelines, and channels of communication outlined by the Native American Heritage Commission, in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code (Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Senate Bill 297), and Senate Bill 447 (Chapter 44, Statutes of 1987), shall be followed. Section 7050.5(c) shall guide the potential Native American involvement, in the event of discovery of human remains, at the direction of the county coroner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Parr'.

Robert E. Parr, MS, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

Attachment A- Figures

Attachment B- Sacred Lands File Response by the Native American Heritage Commission



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References

(all reports on file at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield)

Cantwell, R. J.

1978 Archaeological and Historical Survey report for Avenue 288 from Road 84 to Road 100. (TU-00221)

Love, Bruce and Bai "Tom" Tang

2002a Historic Property Survey Report: Cross Valley Rail Corridor Project Between the Cities of Visalia and Huron, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties, California. (TU-01081)

2002b Archaeological Survey Report: Cross Valley Rail Corridor Project Between the Cities of Visalia and Huron, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties, California. (TU-01082)

2002c Historic Study Report/Historical Resources Evaluation Report: Cross Valley Rail Corridor Project Between the Cities of Visalia and Huron, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties, California. (TU-01083)



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Attachment A-
Figures

Iron Ridge II Ranch



Iron Ridge II Ranch



**Figure - 2
Project Area**

Iron Ridge II Ranch

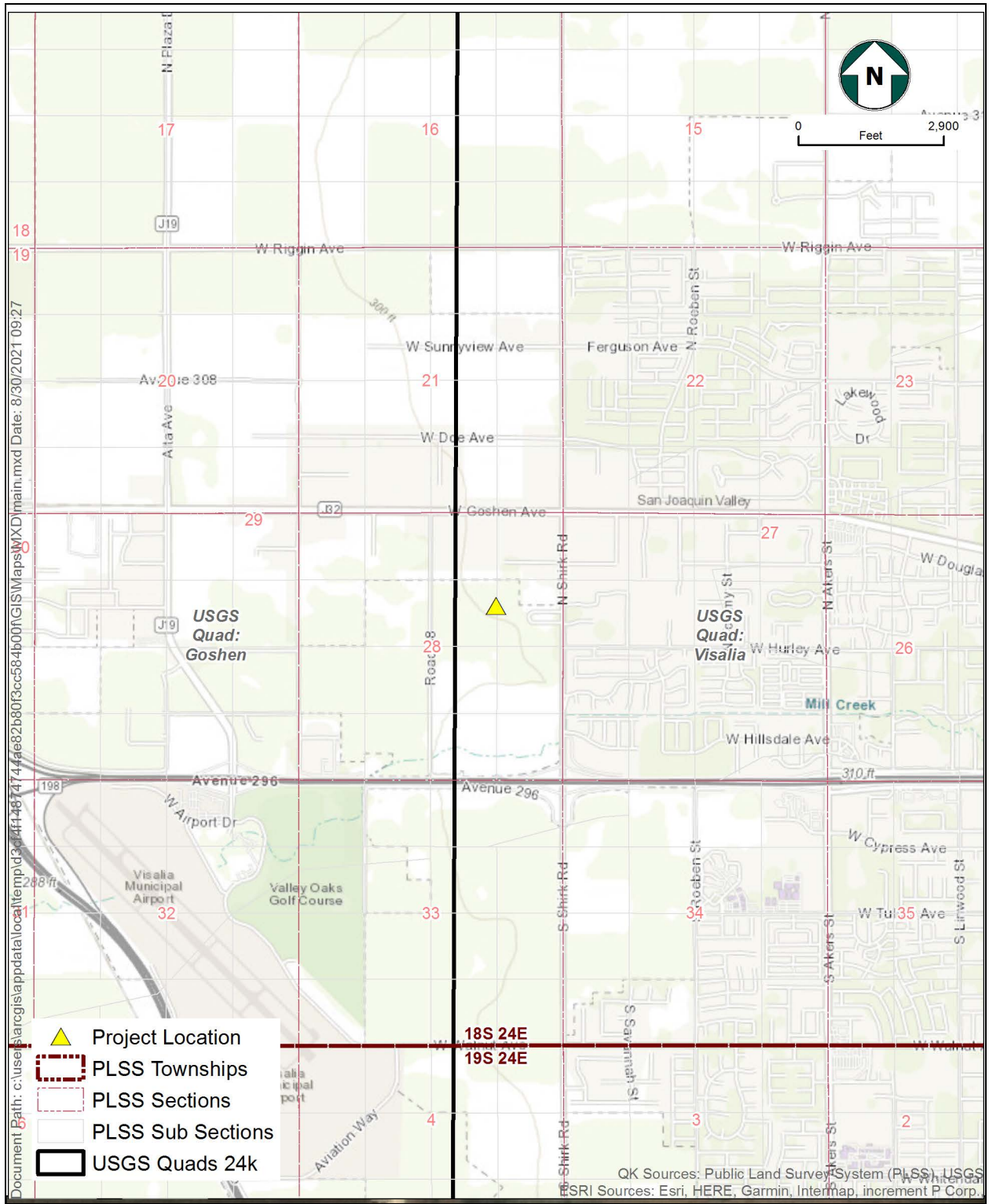


Figure - 3
PLSS/USGS Quad

Iron Ridge II Ranch

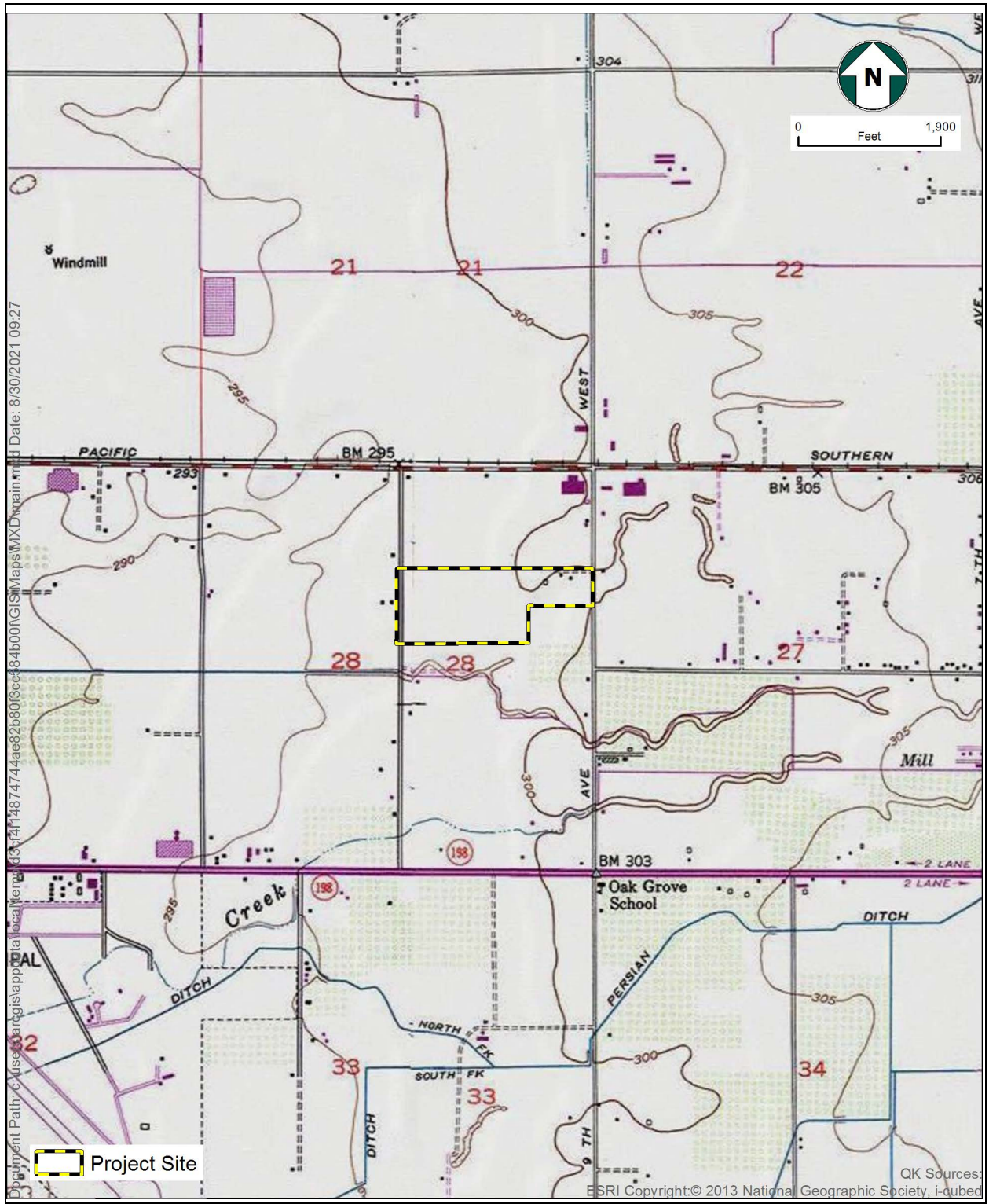


Figure - 4
Topo



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Attachment B- Sacred Lands File Response by the Native American Heritage Commission

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

October 5, 2021

Jaymie Brauer
Quad Knopf, Inc.

Via Email to: jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com

Re: Native American Consultation, Pursuant to Senate Bill 18 (SB18), Government Codes §65352.3 and §65352.4, as well as Assembly Bill 52 (AB52), Public Resources Codes §21080.1, §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2, Iron Ridge II Ranch Project, Kings County

Dear Ms. Brauer:

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties or projects.

Government Codes §65352.3 and §65352.4 require local governments to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to cultural places when creating or amending General Plans, Specific Plans and Community Plans.

Public Resources Codes §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 requires public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects.

The law does not preclude local governments and agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction. The NAHC believes that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

Best practice for the AB52 process and in accordance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d), is to do the following:

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



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

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

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 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 the Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.
4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is 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 well 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: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Tribal Consultation List
Kings County
10/5/2021**

***Kings River Choinumni Farm
Tribe***

Stan Alec,
3515 East Fedora Avenue Foothill Yokut
Fresno, CA, 93726
Phone: (559) 647 - 3227

***Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi
Yokut Tribe***

Leo Sisco, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8 Southern Valley
Lemoore, CA, 93245 Yokut
Phone: (559) 924 - 1278
Fax: (559) 924-3583

Table Mountain Rancheria

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

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 and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable only for consultation with Native American tribes under Government Code Sections 65352.3, 65352.4 et seq. and Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Iron Ridge II Ranch Project, Kings County.