

PROVOST&PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Gilkey
Belridge Water Storage District

From: Jackie Lancaster, Provost & Pritchard Project Administrator, Planning Service Sector

Subject: Cultural Memo for the Belridge Water Storage District Flood Damage Repair Project, Kern County, CA

Date: November 6, 2023

COMMENTS:

Introduction

This technical memo summarizes our review of potential cultural and historical resources for the proposed Belridge Water Storage District Flood Damage Repair (Project) and evaluates potential Project-related impacts to those resources.

This memo addresses historic properties including any prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are eligible for or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and cultural resources including any artifacts, records, and remains (surface or subsurface) that are related to and located within the Project area. As well as any Native American Tribal Cultural Resources located in the project area.

Project Description

The 415 and 500 canals are existing water conveyance facilities located in Kern County that were damaged as a result of the late February 2023 floods. The Governor of California, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 1, 2023, for counties including, but not limited to, Kern County, that were impacted by the late February 2023 floods. This proposed Project is for emergency repairs to the lining and embankments of the existing 415 and 500 canals that were damaged during the late February 2023 floods.

Regulatory Requirements

Federal

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will address any necessary compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Compliance with National Register of Historic Places (NHPA) and other federal laws is provided.

State

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, State, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American Tribes, researchers, and the public.

Local

The Project site is located within Kern County, California. Kern County addresses Archaeological, Paleontological, Cultural, and Historical Preservation in the goals, policies, and standards of the County's General Plan.¹

General Plan Objectives and Policies

The General Plan Historic and Cultural Resources Element identifies two objectives and policies to protect local resources and are provided below. These standards must be met before the County can approve any project.

1.10.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PALEONTOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Policy 25. The County will promote the preservation of cultural and historic resources which provide ties with the past and constitute a heritage value to residents and visitors. Implementation Measure

- K. Coordinate with the California State University, Bakersfield's Archaeology Inventory Center.
- L. The County shall address archaeological and historical resources for discretionary projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- M. In areas of known paleontological resources, the County should address the preservation of these resources where feasible.
- N. The County shall develop a list of Native American organizations and individuals who desire to be notified of proposed discretionary projects. This notification will be accomplished through the established procedures for discretionary projects and CEQA documents.
- O. On a project specific basis, the County Planning Department shall evaluate the necessity for the involvement of a qualified Native American monitor for grading or other construction activities on discretionary projects that are subject to a CEQA document.

Study Methodology

First, a review was conducted of State and local databases for the presence of archaeological or architectural resources listed or historic resources eligible for listing on the NRHP or applicable state registries. Second, a Records Search and a Sacred Lands Search were also performed, and a summary of this research is outlined below.

California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) - Records Search

As stated above, California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information regarding historical resources inventory, and provides the data to local, State, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. A Records Search request was submitted to the regional Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) at California State University, Bakersfield in September 2023 to access this database and research whether or not any cultural or historical resources are known in the Project area. A response letter from SSJVIC, dated September 18, 2023, was received with the results of the requested records and database search (see **Attachment A**).

The results of the CHRIS records search includes known and recorded historic or cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with the SSJVIC office, and a culmination of resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. The following is a summary of the results from this records search.

¹ Kern County General plan //efaidnbmnnibpajpcglclefindmkaj/https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_Complete.pdf
\\ppeng.com\pzdata\clients\Belridge WSD - 1531\153123002-Canal Flood Damage Repair Assistance\200 Technical\215 Env Planning\Cultural Resources\Belridge Cultural Memo 11.06.2023.docx

- Previous cultural resource studies have not been conducted or completed within the Project area.
- Recorded resources have not been identified within the Project area.
- There have been four cultural resource studies have been conducted and completed within a one-half mile radius of the Project (KE-01840, KE-02278, KE-04300, and KE-05214).
- There is one recorded resource within the one-half mile radii, P-15-009671, the Standard Oil Pipeline.
- There are no recorded cultural resources within the Project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

Native American Heritage Commission - Sacred Lands File Search

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), created in statute in 1976 (Chapter 1332, Statutes of 1976), is a nine-member body whose members are appointed by the Governor. The NAHC identifies, catalogs, and protects Native American cultural resources, ancient places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans and known ancient graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private and public lands in California. The NAHC is also charged with ensuring California Native American tribes' accessibility to ancient Native American cultural resources on public lands, overseeing the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains and burial items, and administering the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, among many other powers and duties.

The NAHC in Sacramento was contacted in September 2023 to perform a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) to determine if any Native American resources have been recorded in the immediate Project area. The response letter dated November 3, 2023, confirms there are no records associated with the Project (see **Attachment B**). The results were negative.

California Historical Landmarks

California Historical Landmarks (CHLs) are buildings, structures, sites, or places that have been determined to have statewide historical significance and must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors or the City Council, recommended by the State Historical Resources Commission, and designated by the Director of California State Parks. A determination of statewide significance is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), and an identification plaque is posted on-site.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, for the California State Historic Landmarks

Summary of findings

The Project area includes existing water conveyance facilities of the Belridge Water Storage District, located in Kern County. Therefore, it is expected that the area has had multiple rounds of ground disturbing activities while the existing canal facilities were being built and during any maintenance or replacement activities. At the time of these previous activities, cultural resources were not uncovered. Additionally, results of the official record search and sacred lands search did not identify any historical or cultural resources within the Project area. Based on the due diligence research it is unlikely that there would be any impacts to historical or cultural resources due to project activities. However, if an unanticipated discovery were to occur during ground disturbance activities, the following actions will be followed.

- In the event that archaeological remains are encountered at any time during development or ground-moving activities within the entire project area, all work in the vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery. The District would require that contractor implement

all recommendations of the archaeologist necessary to avoid or reduce to a less than significant level potential impacts to cultural resource. Appropriate actions could include a Data Recovery Plan or preservation in place.

- If human remains are uncovered, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the Kern County Coroner will be notified to arrange proper treatment and disposition. If the remains are identified—on the basis of archaeological context, age, cultural associations, or biological traits—as those of a Native American, California Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resource Code 5097.98 require that the coroner notify the NAHC within 24 hours of discovery. The NAHC will then identify the Most Likely Descendent who will determine the manner in which the remains are treated.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Jackie Lancaster, Project Administrator
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Phone: (559) 636-1166
Email: Jlancaster@ppeng.com

Attachment A: CHRIS File Search Results



To: Jackie Lancaster
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
400 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Visalia, CA 93291

Record Search 23-376

Date: September 18, 2023

Re: Belridge Water Storage District Flood Damage Repair Project

County: Kern

Map(s): Belridge, Lost Hills 7.5'

CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

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

The following are the results of a search of the cultural resource files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. These files include known and recorded cultural resources sites, inventory and excavation reports filed with this office, and resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the OHP Built Environment Resources Directory, California State Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest. Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area.

PRIOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT AREAS AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADII

According to the information in our files, there have been no previous cultural resource studies completed within the project areas. There have been four previous cultural resource studies completed within the one half-mile radii: KE-01840, KE-02278, KE-04300, and KE-05214.

KNOWN/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREAS AND THE ONE-HALF MILE RADII

According to the information in our files, there are no recorded resource within the project areas, and it is not known if any exist there. There is one recorded resource within the one-half mile radii, P-15-009671, the Standard Oil Pipeline.

There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, for the California State Historic Landmarks.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand the project consists of emergency repairs to the lining and embankments of the existing 415 and 500 canals that were damaged during the February 2023 floods. According to our records, these canals have not been recorded or evaluated for historical significance. Therefore, if these canals are more than 45 years old, then we recommend they be recorded and evaluated for historical significance prior to project activities. Additionally, we recommend a qualified, professional consultant conduct a survey of any vacant lands that may be impacted by project activities, including staging areas. A list of qualified consultants can be found at www.chrisinfo.org.

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

By:



Celeste M. Thomson, Coordinator

Date: September 18, 2023

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

Attachment B: NAHC SLF Search Results

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

November 3, 2023

Jackie Lancaster
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Via Email to: jcolorado@ebiconsulting.com

Re: Emergency Repair of Canals 415 and 500 Project, Kern County

Dear Mr. Lancaster:

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: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
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Chumash

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(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Kern County
11/3/2023**

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Kern	Chumash Council of Bakersfield	N	Julio Quair, Chairperson	729 Texas Street Bakersfield, CA, 93307	(661) 322-0121		chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	
	Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation	N	Gabe Frausto, Chairman	P.O. Box 40653 Santa Barbara, CA, 93140	(805) 568-8063		fraustogabriel28@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	8/28/2023
	Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties	N	Patti Dunton, Tribal Administrator	8270 Morro Rd. Atascadero, CA, 93422	(805) 464-2650		info@salinantribe.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo	6/6/2023
	Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties	N	Robert Piatti, Cultural Protection Lead	8270 Morro Rd. Atascadero, CA, 93422	(805) 464-2650		quiggyllynn@gmail.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo	8/4/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Shana Powers, THPO	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 423-3900		spowers@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov	Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Tulare	10/3/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Nichole Escalon, Cultural Specialist I	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 924-1278		nescalone@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov	Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Tulare	10/3/2023
	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	F	Samantha McCarty, Cultural Specialist II	P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA, 93245	(559) 633-3440		smccarty@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov	Southern Valley Yokut	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Tulare	10/3/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Nakia Zavalla, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460			nzavalla@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Sam Cohen, Government & Legal Affairs Director	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460			scohen@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Kelsie Shroll, Elders' Council Administrative Assistant	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 245-5403		kshroll@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	F	Wendy Teeter, Cultural Resources Archaeologist	100 Via Juana Road Santa Ynez, CA, 93460	(805) 325-8630		wteeter@chumash.gov	Chumash	Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	7/6/2023
	Tejon Indian Tribe	F	Candice Garza, CRM Scheduler	4941 David Road Bakersfield, CA, 93307	(661) 345-0632		cgarza@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov	Kitanemuk	Kern	4/11/2023
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Neil Peyron, Chairperson	P.O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 781-4271	(559) 781-4610	neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Benito, San	
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist	P. O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 783-8892	(559) 783-8932	joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Benito, San	7/22/2016
	Tule River Indian Tribe	F	Kerri Vera, Environmental Department	P. O. Box 589 Porterville, CA, 93258	(559) 783-8892	(559) 783-8932	kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov	Yokut	Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Benito, San	7/22/2016
	Xolon-Salinan Tribe	N	Karen White, Chairperson	P.O. Box 7045 Spreckels, CA, 93962	(831) 455-1012		xolon.salinan.heritage@gmail.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	4/3/2023
	Xolon-Salinan Tribe	N	Penny Hurt, Cultural Preservation Administrator	P.O. Box 7045 Spreckels, CA, 93962	(805) 453-3675		phurt6700@gmail.com	Salinan	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	4/3/2023
	yak tityu tityu yak tilhini – Northern Chumash Tribe	N	Mona Tucker, Chairperson	660 Camino Del Rey Arroyo Grande, CA, 93420	(805) 748-2121		olivas.mona@gmail.com	Chumash	Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	5/30/2023

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.

Record: PRO1-2023-005143
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Kern
NAHC Group: All

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Emergency Repair of Canals 415 and 500 Project, Kern County.