

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY VISITOR CENTER PROJECT

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for
Turlock Irrigation District

December 2023



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

	<u>Page</u>
Initial Study	1
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	2
Chapter 1, Project Description	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Project Description.....	3
1.3 Project Operations and Maintenance.....	7
1.4 Resources Not Considered in Detail.....	8
Chapter 2, Environmental Checklist	11
2.1 Aesthetics	11
2.2 Air Quality	13
2.3 Biological Resources	21
2.4 Cultural Resources	29
2.5 Energy	38
2.6 Geology and Soils.....	40
2.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	45
2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	47
2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	51
2.10 Noise	55
2.11 Transportation	60
2.12 Tribal Cultural Resources	62
2.13 Utilities and Service Systems	67
2.14 Wildfire.....	69
2.15 Mandatory Findings of Significance	71

Figures

Figure 1-1	Project Vicinity	4
Figure 1-2	Project Study Area.....	5
Figure 2-1	Habitat Map	23

Tables

Table 1-1	Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Authorizations for Project Facilities.....	8
Table 2.4-1	Cultural Resources Recorded in the Project area.....	31
Table 2.12-1	Indigenous Cultural Resources Recorded in the Project area	63

Appendices

- A. Biological Resources Information
- B. Historic Resources Evaluation Report
- C. Tribal Consultation
- D. Cultural Resources (*confidential*)

Acronyms and Other Abbreviations (to be updated before public release)

°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
BAU	business-as-usual
BMP	best management practice
BP	Before Present
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCIC	Central California Information Center
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
Construction General Permit	Construction General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities
cy	cubic yards
dB	decibel(s)
dBA	A-weighted decibel(s)
Delta	Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EC	electrical conductivity
ESA	Environmental Science Associates
<i>g</i>	the acceleration speed of gravity
I-5	Interstate 5
in/sec	inches per second
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Mw	moment magnitude
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less in diameter
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
proposed Project	Turlock Irrigation District Ceres Main Regulating Reservoir Project
proposed Project site	location of the Turlock Irrigation District Ceres Main Regulating Reservoir Project
RMS	root mean square

ROG	reactive organic gases
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TID	Turlock Irrigation District
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VdB	vibration decibels
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Initial Study

1. **Project Title:** Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Turlock Irrigation District
333 E. Canal Drive
Turlock, CA 95381
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Bill Penney, PE
(209) 883-8385
4. **Project Location:** Tuolumne County
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Same as above
6. **General Plan Designation(s):** Public
7. **Zoning:** Public
8. **Description of Project:** See Project Description
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See Project Description
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:** See Table 1-1
11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? Yes**

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources (Forthcoming) | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
(Forthcoming) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



 Signature

12/26/23

 Date

 Signature

 Date

CHAPTER 1

Project Description

1.1 Introduction

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) is governed and operated by the Turlock Irrigation District (TID), the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and the City and County of San Francisco. The Fleming Meadows Campground is one of three formal recreation areas managed by the DPRA (the other two recreation areas are the Blue Oaks and Moccasin Point Campgrounds). The Fleming Meadows Campground, including an existing building referred to as the Trading Post, was developed between 1971 and 1972, and is the largest formal recreation area managed by the DPRA. In 2016, a fire burned the existing DPRA Headquarters and Visitor Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road in La Grange, CA. The DPRA Visitor Center housed interpretive exhibits highlighting the Don Pedro Recreation Area, the local area history, construction of the Don Pedro Reservoir and dams along the Tuolumne River watershed and the flora and fauna of the area.

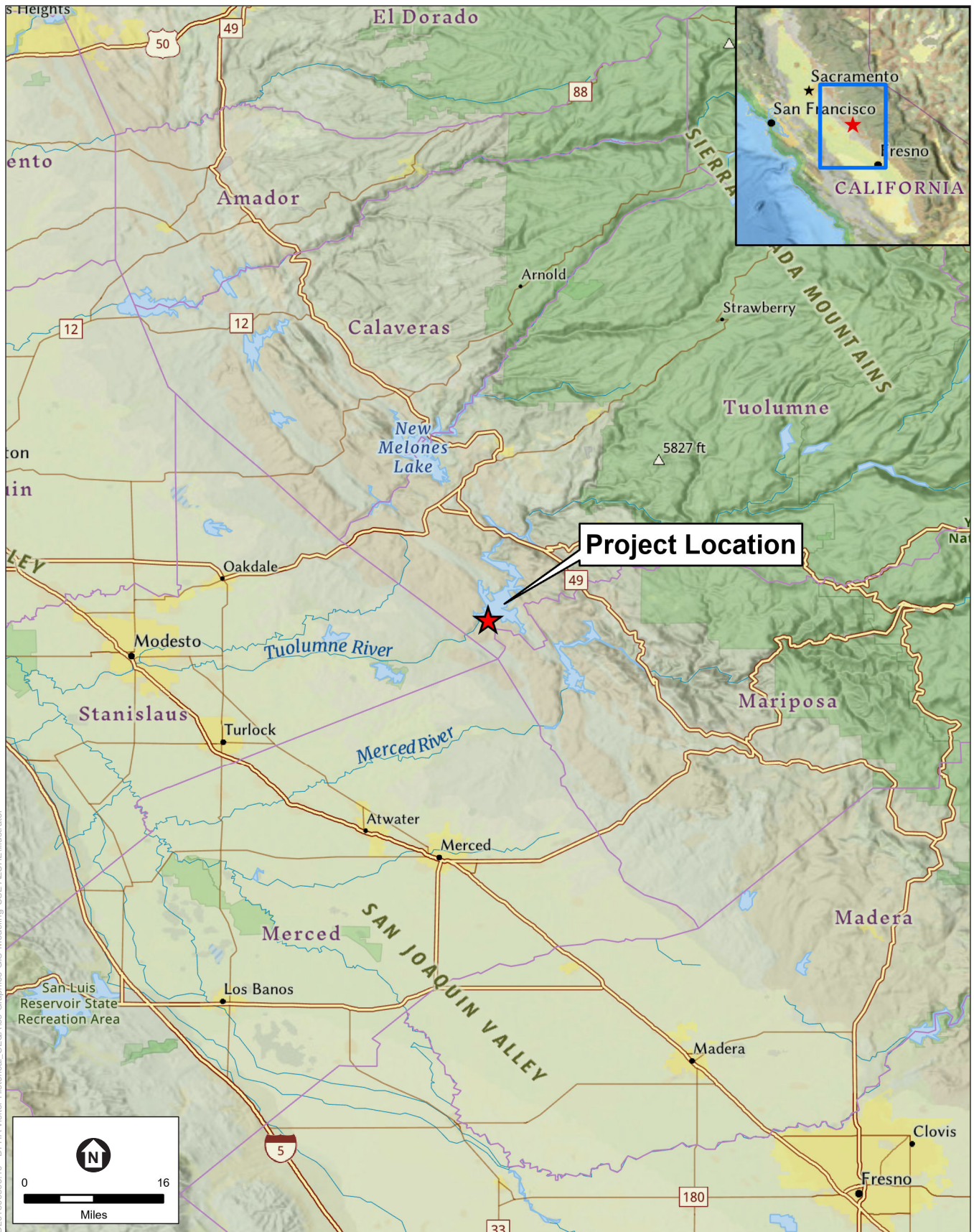
With the TID DPRA Visitor Center Project (proposed Project), TID proposes to construct a new building, functioning primarily as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and rehabilitate the existing Trading Post. These two buildings will operate together and provide services and infrastructure to support DPRA staff needs, visitor's needs, as well as customer needs for special events.

1.2 Project Description

1.2.1 Project Location and Existing Facilities

The current Headquarters of the DPRA is located in a temporary building at 10201 Bonds Flat Road in La Grange, CA and is about thirty-five (35) miles east of Modesto in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The proposed Project site is approximately one (1) mile east of the Headquarters and within the Fleming Meadows Campground (referred to in this document as the *proposed Project site*) (**Figure 1-1**) on the south shore of Don Pedro Reservoir (**Figure 1-2**).

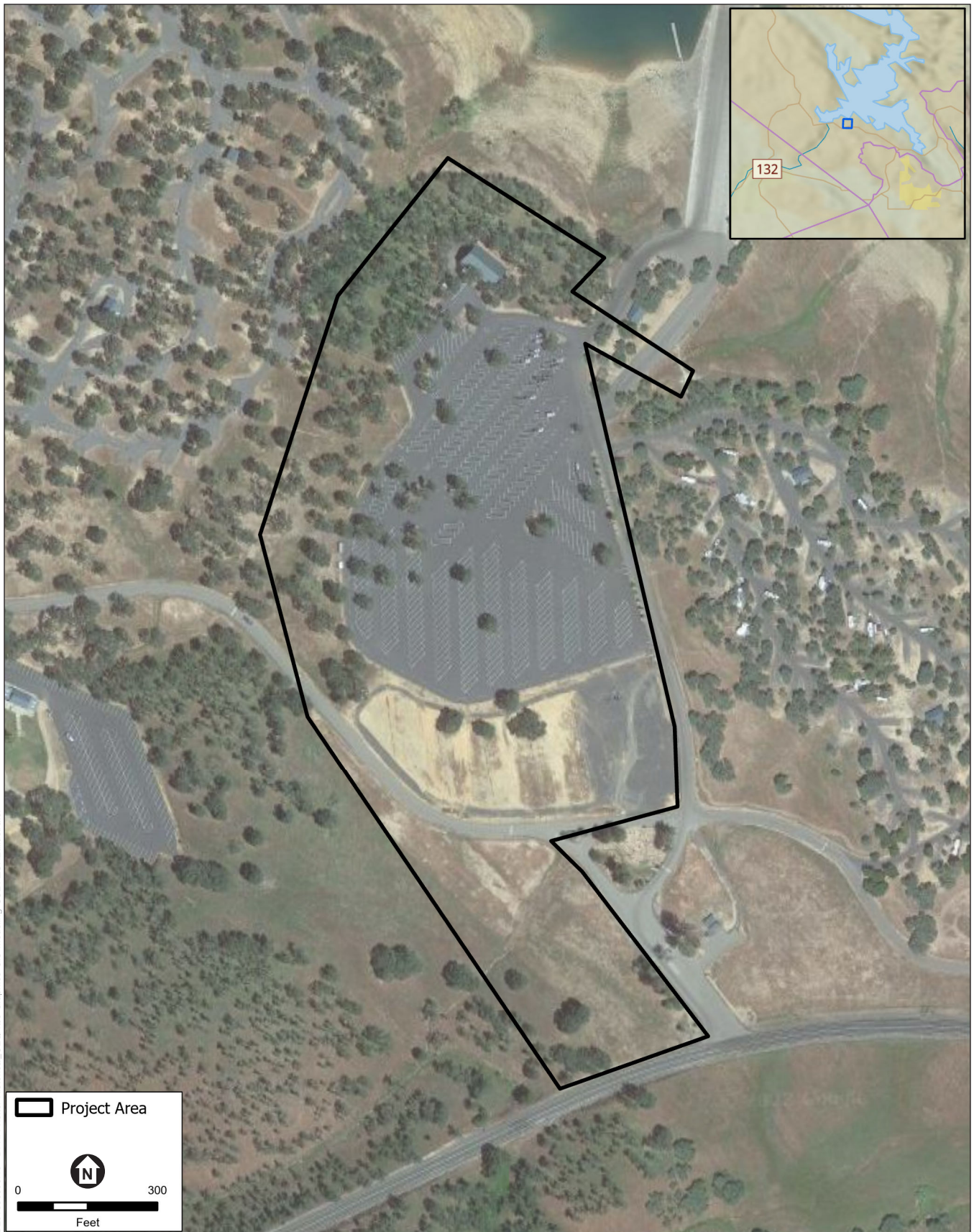
The proposed Project site is zoned public. Currently, the proposed Project site includes an approximately 4,209 square foot multi-level Trading Post building. The site also includes various utilities to support the existing use of the building (sanitary sewer, potable water, and electrical). A large parking lot adjacent to the Trading Post provides required parking for the building, as well as parking for other uses within the Fleming Meadows Campground.



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Figure 1-1
Project Vicinity



D:\2018\080805-10 - DPRA Visitor Historical_CEOA\05 Graphics-GIS-Modeling-USE AZURE\Illustrator

SOURCE: ESA, 2023; Google, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Figure 1-2
Project Study Area

Trading Post

The existing Trading Post is a two-story, split-level building on a steep hillside. The upper floor of the building currently has a full-service commercial kitchen, dining area, general store area, restrooms, a laundry room, and storage room. There is a large exterior deck that surrounds the upper floor. The lower floor is currently a large storage area. The Trading Post is in fair condition; however, it shows wear and tear from years of use, deferred maintenance, weather, and wildlife. The structure of the building is assumed to be in good condition.

1.2.2 Project Objectives

The objectives of the proposed Project are:

- Utilize the existing infrastructure – Trading Post, utilities, parking, etc. – to the greatest extent possible to reduce overall project cost and serve the various uses of the building complex.
- Construct a new building with a utilitarian design that provides flexibility in the use of the building complex.
- Create a building complex within budget that will serve as a staff headquarters and customer visitor center.
- Implement design features to capitalize on views of the reservoir and surrounding landscape.

1.2.3 Project Construction

Trading Post

The rehabilitation of the Trading Post would primarily focus on cosmetic-type improvements and replacing existing infrastructure only when deemed damaged or in disrepair. Portions of the exterior wall panels and siding would be replaced, damaged interior flooring replaced, glazing replaced, and utilities repaired/replaced as needed. The floor plan would remain largely intact and within its existing footprint; however, expansion of the restroom facilities into the laundry room would be included as part of the proposed Project. No improvements to the lower floor storage area would be needed, unless deemed required by Building Code requirements.

New Building

The new building shall function primarily as a staff administration office and customer visitor center. The new building would be single-story and located on and extending from the hillside adjacent to the Trading Post. The two buildings would operate together and complement their individual uses. The architectural appearance of the new building would be utilitarian and match the appearance of the rehabilitated Trading Post. The building structure would be utilitarian and cost-effective with a pre-fabricated metal building being acceptable and preferred.

The floor plan of the building would generally include staff offices, a reception counter accessible to customers for business needs, open-space for future exhibition displays, and a multi-purpose room with capacity for up to 100 people for a seated event. The multi-purpose room would also be accessible to and from an exterior deck that is similar to the deck of the Trading Post. The

deck surrounding the new building would be designed and constructed so that there is accessibility to and from the existing deck surrounding the Trading Post.

Utilities and Site Improvements

It is expected that most of the existing primary utility mains and services (water, sewer, and electrical) can continue to support the rehabilitated Trading Post and could accommodate the new building with installation of new services. However, this environmental evaluation accounts for any required improvements of the existing utility systems (i.e. extensions of existing services) to service the needs of the rehabilitated Trading Post and new building.

While there is existing passenger vehicle parking adjacent to the Trading Post, a majority of the parking is for boat and trailers. It is expected that some of the boat and trailer parking in the adjacent large parking lot may need to be re-stripped to support the proposed building complex, without the need to install new pavement.

1.2.4 Construction Equipment and Schedule

Construction activities for the proposed project would last approximately 18 months between October 2024 and March 2025 and would use, but not be limited to, the following equipment:

- Excavators
- Graders
- Scrapers
- Bulldozers
- Dump trucks
- Loaders
- Concrete mixer trucks
- Concrete pumper trucks
- Welding equipment

1.3 Project Operations and Maintenance

Once constructed, the proposed Project would be composed of a new building and rehabilitated Trading Post. These two buildings should operate together and provide services and infrastructure to support DPRA staff needs, visitor's needs, as well as customer needs for special events. Regular maintenance and repairs as necessary would be completed by existing staff.

1.3.1 Responsible Agencies, Permits, and Approvals

Table 1-1 summarizes the permits and/or approvals that may be required before construction of the proposed Project.

**TABLE 1-1
REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, PERMITS, AND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PROJECT FACILITIES**

Jurisdiction	Agency	Type of Approval
Federal Agencies	N/A	
State Agencies	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction
	Cal/OSHA	Construction or Excavation Permit
Local Agencies	N/A	

NOTES: Cal/OSHA = California Division of Occupational Safety and Health; N/A = not applicable; NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

SOURCE: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2023

1.4 Resources Not Considered in Detail

1.4.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The proposed Project would be constructed and operated on land that is zoned for Public by the Tuolumne County General Plan (2018a). The proposed Project would not be located on any existing agricultural fields, farmlands, or forest lands. The staging area would be within the existing parking lot adjacent to the proposed Project site and would not infringe upon any agricultural lands. Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland or forest land to other uses and would not conflict with a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources would occur.

1.4.2 Land Use and Planning

The proposed Project site is located on a parcel near Don Pedro Reservoir in rural Tuolumne County. The proposed Project site is zoned public and includes trees, a parking lot, and the existing Trading Post. The proposed Project is not located in a city or community and would be consistent with existing land uses, plans, policies, and regulations. Therefore, no impacts related to land use and planning would occur.

1.4.3 Mineral Resources

The proposed Project is located on a site zoned public, with trees, a parking lot and the existing Trading Post. The proposed Project is not located within a mineral preserve zone and would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource and would not affect a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No impacts on mineral resources would occur.

1.4.4 Population and Housing

The proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing

Trading Post. The proposed Project would not include new homes. Construction would be short-term and would not require additional workers outside of the existing workforce in the Project area. Existing workers would be responsible for operation of the proposed Project. The proposed Project site is located on a parcel zoned for public and would not displace any housing or people. Therefore, no impacts related to population and housing would occur.

1.4.5 Public Services

The proposed Project would not result in the construction of any new facilities or population that would generate a need for new or physically altered government facilities. Therefore, demand for police and fire protection and for community amenities such as schools and parks would not change relative to existing conditions, and no impacts would occur.

1.4.6 Recreation

The Project proposes construction of a new building, functioning primarily as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and rehabilitate the existing Trading Post. The new building and rehabilitated existing Trading Post will operate together and provide services and infrastructure to support DPRA staff needs, visitor's needs, as well as customer needs. These buildings provide similar recreational facilities as those that were destroyed in the 2016 fire. The proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities outside of this Project. Therefore, no impacts on recreation would occur.

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CHAPTER 2

Environmental Checklist

2.1 Aesthetics

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
I. AESTHETICS — Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.1.1 Environmental Setting

Aesthetic or visual resources include the “scenic character” of a particular region and site. Scenic features can be either natural (e.g., vegetation and topography) or man-made (e.g., historic structures). Areas that are more sensitive to potential effects are usually readily observable, such as land found adjacent to major roadways and hilltops.

Visual Environment

The proposed Project site is located in unincorporated Tuolumne County adjacent to Don Pedro Reservoir. The area is relatively flat with some rolling hills. Bonds Flat Road runs adjacent to the proposed Project site and Tuolumne County does not have any officially designated State Scenic Highways. The proposed Project site is surrounded by the Fleming Meadows Campground, which includes developed campgrounds, a parking lot and boat launch.

2.1.2 Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** No designated scenic vistas or notable geographic features have been identified near the proposed Project site in the Tuolumne County General Plan (Tuolumne County 2018a). As a result, no impact on a scenic vista would occur.

- b) **Less than Significant.** A review of the current California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Map of Designated Scenic Routes indicates no officially designated State Scenic Highways are within Tuolumne County (Caltrans 2023). The proposed Project would not be visible to travelers on Bonds Flat Road and would not affect the scenic quality of the landscape or intrude upon travelers' enjoyment of the view. The proposed Project would be visible to people on the water; however, the new building would be similar visually to existing development of the reservoir and would not have substantial height. This impact would be less than significant.
- c) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would result in the removal of oak trees. Grading, clearing, excavation, scraping, and the removal of trees would occur to construct the new building. As discussed previously, the architectural appearance of the new building would be utilitarian and match the appearance of the rehabilitated Trading Post. Although the proposed Project would alter the existing visual conditions of the proposed Project site by adding a new building, the new building would be consistent with the area's agricultural nature, which includes campgrounds and recreational facilities. This impact would be less than significant.
- d) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would occur during the daytime and would not require nighttime lighting. The proposed Project would include exterior lighting that could adversely affect day and nighttime views by introducing a new source of light and glare. Lighting associated with the proposed Project would be required to be consistent with County General Plan and zoning policies and regulations related to light and glare, which would require minimization or shielding of nighttime lighting and other measures that would minimize impacts associated with light and glare. Therefore, no impact related to new sources of light and glare would occur.

2.1.3 References

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2023. *California State Scenic Highway System Map*. Available: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>. Accessed October 24, 2023.

Tuolumne County. 2018a. 2018 Tuolumne *County General Plan*. December 2018.

2.2 Air Quality

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
III. AIR QUALITY —				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2.1 Environmental Setting

General Climate and Meteorology

The proposed Project site is located in unincorporated Tuolumne County within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB), along with Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado (western), Mariposa, Nevada, Placer (central), Sierra, and Plumas counties.

The general climate of the MCAB varies considerably with elevation and proximity to mountain peaks. The terrain features of the MCAB make it possible for various climates to exist within the general area. The pattern of mountains and hills is primarily responsible for the wide variations of rainfall, temperatures, and localized winds that occur throughout the region. Temperature variations have an important influence on MCAB wind flow, dispersion along mountain ridges, vertical mixing, and photochemistry. The Sierra Nevada receives large amounts of precipitation from storms moving over the continent from the Pacific Ocean. Precipitation in the MCAB is highly variable, depending on elevation and location. Areas in the eastern portion of the MCAB have relatively high elevations and receive the most precipitation. Precipitation levels decline toward the western areas of the MCAB. Climates vary from alpine in the high elevations of the eastern areas to more arid at the western edge of the MCAB.

Criteria Air Pollutants

Concentrations of criteria air pollutants are used as indicators of ambient air quality conditions. Source types, health effects, and future trends associated with each air pollutant are described below along with the most current attainment area designations and monitoring data for the Project area and vicinity.

Ozone

Short-term exposure to ozone can irritate the eyes and cause constriction of the airways. Besides causing shortness of breath, ozone can aggravate existing respiratory diseases such as asthma,

bronchitis, and emphysema. Ozone is not emitted directly into the atmosphere, but is a secondary air pollutant produced in the atmosphere through a complex series of photochemical reactions involving reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). ROG and NO_x are known as precursor compounds for ozone.

Significant ozone production generally requires ozone precursors to be present in a stable atmosphere with strong sunlight for approximately three hours. Ozone is considered both a secondary and regional air pollutant because it is not emitted directly by sources, but is formed downwind of sources of ROG and NO_x under the influence of wind and sunlight. Ozone concentrations tend to be higher in the late spring, summer, and fall, when the long sunny days combine with regional subsidence inversions to create conditions conducive to the formation and accumulation of secondary photochemical compounds, like ozone.

Carbon Monoxide

Ambient carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations normally are considered a local effect and typically correspond closely to the spatial and temporal distributions of vehicular traffic. Wind speed and atmospheric mixing also influence CO concentrations. Under inversion conditions, CO concentrations may be distributed more uniformly over an area that may extend some distance from vehicular sources. When inhaled at high concentrations, CO combines with hemoglobin in the blood and reduces the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity. This reduces the amount of oxygen that can reach the brain, heart, and other body tissues. This condition is especially critical for people with cardiovascular diseases, chronic lung disease, or anemia, and for fetuses.

CO concentrations have declined dramatically in California as a result of existing controls and programs. Most areas of the state, including the region surrounding the proposed Project site, have no problem meeting the state and federal standards for CO. Measurements and modeling for CO were important in the early 1980s when CO levels were regularly exceeded throughout California. In more recent years, CO measurements and modeling results have not been a priority in most California air districts, given the retirement of older polluting vehicles, lower emissions from new vehicles, and improvements in fuels.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a reddish-brown gas that is a byproduct of combustion processes. NO₂ may be visible as a coloring component of a brown cloud on high-pollution days, especially in conjunction with high ozone levels.

Vehicle internal combustion engines and industrial operations are the main sources of NO₂, which is an air quality concern because it acts a respiratory irritant and is a precursor of ozone. NO₂ is a major component of the group of gaseous nitrogen compounds commonly referred to as NO_x, which are produced by fuel combustion in motor vehicles, industrial stationary sources, ships, aircraft, and rail transit. Typically, NO_x emitted from fuel combustion are in the form of nitric oxide and NO₂. Nitric oxide is often converted to NO₂ when it reacts with ozone or undergoes photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. Therefore, NO₂ emissions from combustion sources are typically evaluated based on the amount of NO_x emitted from the source.

Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a combustion product of sulfur or sulfur-containing fuels such as coal and diesel. SO₂ is also a precursor to the formation of atmospheric sulfate and particulate matter and contributes to the potential atmospheric formation of sulfuric acid that could precipitate downwind as acid rain. The concentration of SO₂, rather than the duration of exposure, is an important determinant of respiratory effects. Exposure to high SO₂ concentrations may result in edema of the lungs or the glottis and respiratory paralysis.

Particulate Matter

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less in diameter and 2.5 microns or less in diameter, respectively. (A micron is one-millionth of a meter.) PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} represent fractions of particulate matter that can be inhaled into the air passages and the lungs and can cause adverse health effects. Some sources of particulate matter, such as wood burning in fireplaces, demolition, and construction activities, are more local, while others, such as vehicular traffic, have a more regional effect. Very small particles of certain substances (e.g., sulfates and nitrates) can cause lung damage directly, or can contain adsorbed gases (e.g., chlorides or ammonium) that may be injurious to health. Particulates also can damage materials and reduce visibility.

Large dust particles (those with a diameter greater than 10 microns) settle out rapidly and are easily filtered by the human breathing passages. This large dust is of more concern as a soiling nuisance than as a health hazard. The remaining fraction, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, are a health concern, particularly when present at levels exceeding the federal and state ambient air quality standards. PM_{2.5} (including diesel exhaust particles) is thought to have greater effects on health, because these particles are so small and thus can penetrate to the deepest parts of the lungs. Scientific studies have suggested links between fine particulate matter and numerous health problems including asthma, bronchitis, and acute and chronic respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath and painful breathing. Diesel particulate is carcinogenic and considered a toxic as discussed below. Recent studies have shown an association between morbidity (suffering from a disease or medical condition) and mortality (premature deaths) and daily concentrations of particulate matter in the air. Children are more susceptible to the health risks of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} because their immune and respiratory systems are still developing.

Mortality studies conducted since the 1990s have shown a statistically significant direct association between mortality and daily concentrations of particulate matter in the air. Despite important gaps in scientific knowledge and continued reasons for some skepticism, a comprehensive evaluation of the research findings provides persuasive evidence that exposure to fine particulate air pollution has adverse effects on cardiopulmonary health (Pope and Dockery 2006). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has estimated that achieving the ambient air quality standards for PM₁₀ could reduce premature mortality rates by 6,500 cases per year (CARB 2002).

Lead

Ambient lead concentrations meet both the federal and state standards in the proposed Project area. Lead has a range of adverse neurotoxin health effects, and was formerly released into the

atmosphere primarily via leaded gasoline products. The phase-out of leaded gasoline in California caused atmospheric lead levels to decrease.

The proposed Project would not introduce any new sources of lead emissions; consequently, quantification of lead emissions is not required, and such emissions are not evaluated further in this analysis.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Non-criteria air pollutants, or toxic air contaminants (TACs), are airborne substances that are capable of causing short-term (acute) and/or long-term (chronic or carcinogenic, i.e., cancer-causing) adverse effects on human health. TACs include both organic and inorganic chemical substances. They may be emitted by a variety of common sources including gasoline stations, automobiles, diesel engines, dry cleaners, industrial operations, and painting operations. TACs are regulated differently than criteria air pollutants at both the federal and state levels. At the federal level, these airborne substances are referred to as hazardous air pollutants. The state list of TACs identifies 243 substances and the federal list of hazardous air pollutants identifies 189 substances.

CARB identified diesel particulate matter (DPM) as a TAC in 1998, based primarily on evidence demonstrating cancer effects in humans. Exhaust from diesel engines includes hundreds of different gaseous and particulate components, many of which are toxic. Mobile sources such as trucks and buses are among the primary sources of diesel emissions, and DPM concentrations are higher near heavily traveled highways and rail lines with diesel locomotive operations. The risk from DPM, as determined by CARB, declined from 750 in 1 million in 1990 to 570 in 1 million in 1995; by 2000, CARB estimated the average statewide cancer risk from DPM to be 540 in 1 million (CARB 2009). These calculated cancer risk values from ambient air exposure can be compared against the lifetime probability of being diagnosed with cancer in the United States, from all causes, which is more than 40 percent (based on a sampling of 17 regions nationwide), or greater than 400,000 in 1 million, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI 2012).

Odorous Emissions

Odors are generally regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. Manifestations of a person's reaction to odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache). The ability to detect odors varies considerably among the population and is quite subjective. People may have different reactions to the same odor. An odor that is offensive to one person may be perfectly acceptable to another (e.g., coffee roaster). An unfamiliar odor is more easily detected and is more likely to cause complaints than a familiar one. In a phenomenon known as odor fatigue, a person can become desensitized to almost any odor and recognition occurs only with an alteration in the intensity.

The occurrence and severity of odor impacts depend on the nature, frequency, and intensity of the source; wind speed and direction; and the sensitivity of receptors. Odor impacts should be considered for any proposed new odor sources located near existing receptors, and for any new

sensitive receptors located near existing odor sources. Generally, increasing the distance between the receptor and the odor source will mitigate odor impacts.

Sensitive Receptors

Some receptors are considered more sensitive than others to air pollutants. The reasons for this greater sensitivity include preexisting health problems, proximity to an emissions source, or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes are considered relatively sensitive to poor air quality because children, elderly people, and the infirm are more susceptible to respiratory infections and other air quality–related health problems than the general public. Residential areas are also sensitive to poor air quality because people usually stay home for extended periods of time. The closest sensitive receptor to the proposed Project site is a residence approximately 870 feet to the north.

2.2.2 Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** The Proposed Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District (TCAPCD). The TCAPCD shares responsibility with CARB for ensuring ambient air quality standards are attained within Tuolumne County. The TCAPCD and the proposed Project site are located within the MCAB, which consists of nine counties. Tuolumne County is currently designated as nonattainment-transitional for the 1-hour O₃ CAAQS, nonattainment for the 8-hour O₃ NAAQS (CARB 2022a and CARB 2022b) The TCAPCD does not have an Air Quality Plan that would be conflicted or be obstructed by the proposed Project. However, the TCAPCD has established thresholds of significance which apply to the proposed Project.

The TCAPCD thresholds for ROG, NO_x, CO and PM₁₀ are 1,000 pound/day and 100 tons per year. As described below under checklist item b), the proposed Project's emissions of NO_x (an ozone precursor) would not be expected to exceed TCAPCD's significance threshold during construction activities. Construction of the proposed Project would be short-term and temporary and the increase in criteria pollutant emissions from off- and on-road equipment exhaust would not conflict with the applicable air quality plans. Because construction emissions are not expected to exceed the TCAPCD or General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds for NO_x, this construction impact would be less than significant.

The proposed Project would result in an increase in criteria pollutant emissions, generated by employee trips during operation and maintenance activities. However, operation and maintenance would be essentially the same as existing operations, therefore, no stationary-source emissions would occur at the proposed Project site. The proposed Project would not conflict with the TCAPCD thresholds of significance. This operational impact would be less than significant.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** Construction activities are short term and typically result in combustion exhaust emissions (e.g., vehicle and equipment tailpipe emissions), including ozone precursors (ROG and NO_x), and PM from

combustion and in the form of dust (fugitive dust). Emissions of ozone precursors and PM are primarily a result of the combustion of fuel from on-road vehicles and off-road equipment.

Pollutant emissions associated with construction of the proposed Project would be generated from the following general construction activities: (1) ground disturbance from grading, excavation, etc.; (2) vehicle trips from workers traveling to and from the proposed Project site; (3) trips associated with delivery of construction supplies to, and hauling debris from, the proposed Project site; and (4) fuel combustion by on-site construction equipment. These construction activities would temporarily generate air pollutant emissions, including dust and fumes. The amount of emissions that would be generated on a daily basis would vary, depending on the intensity and types of construction activities that would occur simultaneously. Overall, construction activities associated with the proposed Project would occur over a period of approximately 18 months, starting in the summer of 2024.

The incremental pollutant increase that construction of the proposed Project would contribute to O₃ non-attainment would not be cumulatively considerable, and additionally the proposed Project would adhere to the Tuolumne County General Plan in order to further minimize ROG, NO_x and dust generation from the proposed Project site. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure AQ-1**, the Proposed Project's construction-related impacts would be further reduced to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Implement Standard Air Quality Construction Mitigation Measures.

During all phases of construction, the following procedures shall be implemented;

- Prepare and Implement a Fugitive Dust Control Plan.
- Construction equipment exhaust emissions shall not exceed FRAQMD Regulation III, Rule 3.0, Visible Emissions limitations (40 percent opacity or Ringelmann 2.0).
- The contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained prior to and for the duration of onsite operation.
- Limiting idling time to 5 minutes – saves fuel and reduces emissions. (State idling rule: commercial diesel vehicles – 13 CCR Chapter 10 Section 2485 effective 02/01/2005; off-road diesel vehicles – 13 CCR Chapter 9 Article 4.8 Section 2449 effective 05/01/2008).
- Portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units used at the project work site, with the exception of on-road and off-road motor vehicles, may require CARB Portable Equipment Registration with the State or a local district permit. The owner/operator shall be responsible for arranging appropriate consultations with the ARB or the District to determine registration and permitting requirements prior to equipment operation at the site.

Once operational, emission sources resulting from project operations would be associated with primarily regular maintenance and workers commuting. Operation and maintenance would be essentially the same as existing operations. Operational impacts would be considered less-than-significant. With respect to project conformity with the federal Clean Air Act, the proposed Project's potential emissions would be below minimum thresholds and are below the area's inventory specified for each criteria pollutant designated non-attainment or maintenance for the Basin. As such, further general conformity analysis is not required. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- c) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would result in the short-term generation of DPM emissions from the use of off-road diesel equipment and from construction material deliveries. As discussed above, DPM is a complex mixture of chemicals and particulate matter that has been identified by the State of California as a TAC with potential cancer and chronic non-cancer effects. The dose to which receptors are exposed is the primary factor affecting health risk from TACs. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance in the environment and the duration of exposure to the substance. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), health risk assessments (HRAs), which determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to TAC emissions, should be based on a 30-year exposure period when assessing TACs (such as DPM) that have only cancer or chronic non-cancer health effects (OEHHA 2015)

As identified above there are no permanent residences located near the proposed Project site, but the Fleming Meadows Campground is adjacent to the proposed Project site. The increase in lifetime cancer risk and non-cancer hazard index from exposure to construction DPM emissions from the proposed Project at the nearest receptor is anticipated to be less than the respective FRAQMD thresholds because of the short-term nature of the proposed Project and the distance from the proposed Project. This impact would be less than significant.

Operation and maintenance would be essentially the same as existing operations. As a result, the impact related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial TAC emissions from the proposed Project operations would be less than significant.

- d) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would last for approximately 18 months, up to approximately 12 hours per day but typically would be 10-hour days from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. The use of on-site diesel-powered equipment can produce odorous exhaust; however, equipment use at the proposed Project site would be temporary, and potential odors would not affect a substantial number of people in the vicinity, given the rural nature of the proposed Project site. Therefore, construction of the proposed Project would not create objectionable odors that would affect a substantial number of people, and odor impacts would be less than significant.

As a general matter, the types of land use development that pose potential odor problems include wastewater treatment plants, refineries, landfills, composting facilities, and

transfer stations. Because the proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post and no uses known to pose potential odor problems would occupy the proposed Project site, operation of the proposed Project would not create objectionable odors that would affect a substantial number of people. This impact would be less than significant.

2.2.3 References

- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2002. *Staff Report: Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to the Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Sulfates*. May 3, 2002.
- . 2009. *The California Almanac of Emissions and Air Quality—2009 Edition*. Chapter 5, “Toxic Air Contaminant Emissions, Air Quality and Health Risk.”
- . 2022a. *2022 Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards OZONE*. November 2022.
- . 2022b. *Area Designations for National Ambient Air Quality Standards 8-HOUR OZONE*. November 2022.
- National Cancer Institute (NCI). 2012. “Lifetime Risk (Percent) of Being Diagnosed with Cancer by Site and Race/Ethnicity, Both Sexes: 18 SEER Areas, 2007–2009.” Table 1.14 in *SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975–2009*. Available: https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975_2009_pops09/results_merged/topic_lifetime_risk_diagnosis.pdf. Accessed January 21, 2021.
- Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessments (OEHHA). *Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Risk Assessment Guidelines: Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments*. Adopted February 2015.
- Pope, C. A. III, and D. W. Dockery. 2006. Health Effects of Fine Particulate Air Pollution: Lines that Connect. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association* 56(6):709–742.
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2.3 Biological Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.3.1 Environmental Setting

Data Sources/Methodology

Biological resources within the proposed Project site were identified by an Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologist through field reconnaissance on June 12, 2023. Before the survey, the biologist reviewed pertinent literature and conducted database queries for the proposed Project site and surrounding area. The survey was conducted on foot and existing habitat types, plants, and wildlife species within and adjacent to the proposed Project site were recorded. The biological resources survey focused on identifying habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species, although general habitat conditions were noted and incidental species observations were recorded. The survey included a floristic inventory of all vascular plants observed.

Habitats present on the proposed Project site were compared to the habitat requirements of the regionally occurring special-status species and used to determine which of these species have the potential to occur on or adjacent to the site. Plant nomenclature follows *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California (Second Edition)* (Baldwin et al. 2012), as revised by *Jepson eFlora* (Jepson Flora Project 2020). Common names of plant species are derived from *The Jepson Manual* or *Calflora* (2020).

The following primary data sources were referenced for this section:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) list (Project code: 2023-0098003) (see **Attachment A**);
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (see **Attachment A**); and
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare Plants and Endangered Plants known to occur within the Project area in USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle codes 3712075, 3712074, 3712073 3712065, 3712064, 3712063, 3712055, 3712054, 3712053 (CNPS, 2023) (see **Attachment A**).

Regional Setting

The proposed Project site is located in rural Tuolumne County near Don Pedro Reservoir. The study area consists of oak woodland; disturbed/urban land, including paved public roads, a paved parking lot, and a gravel parking lot used for camping and other recreational purposes.

Project Site Setting

The Project Area is in Tuolumne County and encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir (approximately 0.4 miles south to north), and approximately 0.2 miles east to west from the vicinity of the marina access road (**Figure 1**). The Project Area is within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *La Grange, California* 7.5-minute topographic map (USGS, 1978)

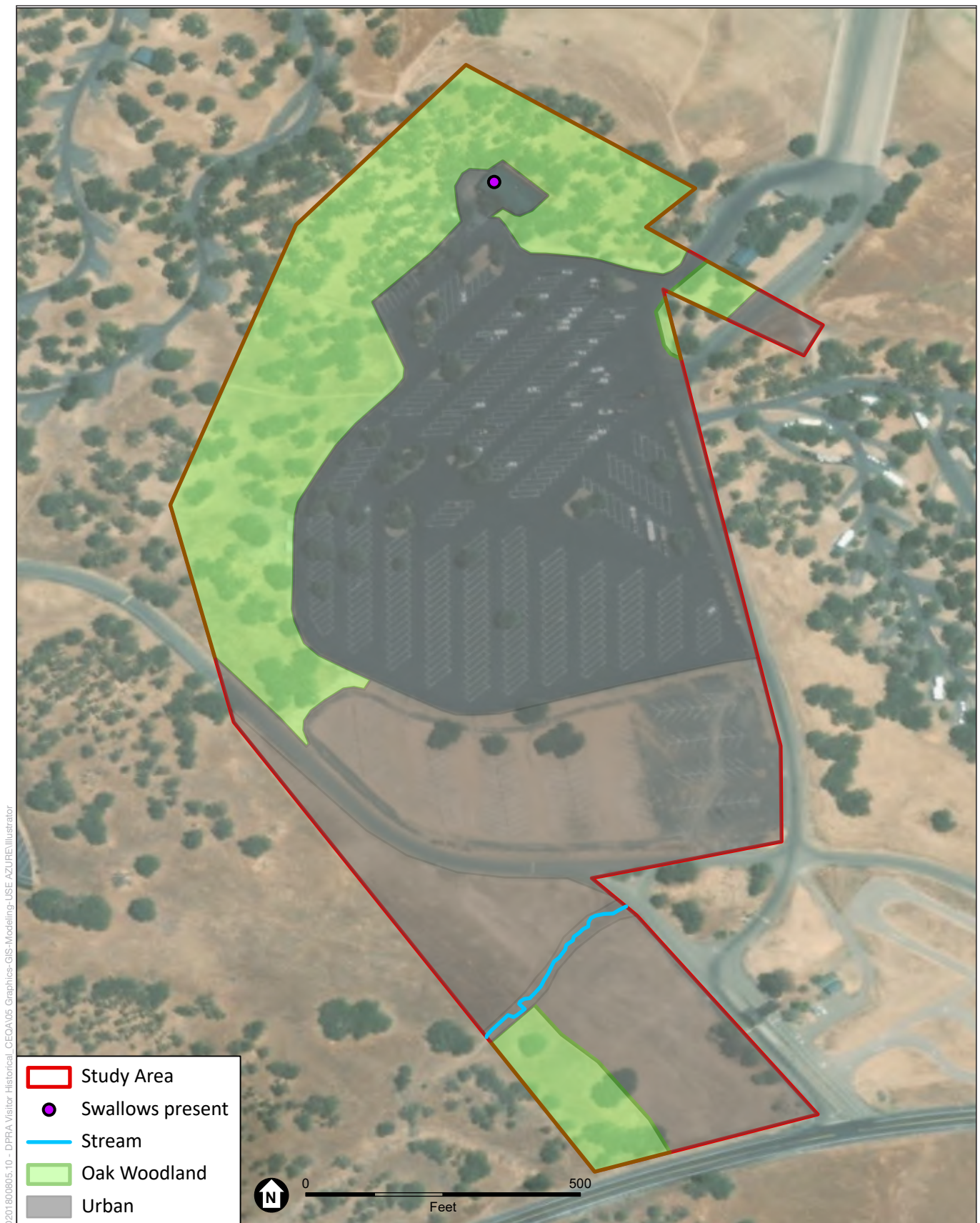
Vegetation/Habitat Types

Habitat types within the proposed Project site consist of oak woodland; disturbed/urban land, including paved public roads, a paved parking lot, and a gravel parking lot used for camping and other recreational purposes (**Figure 2-1**).

Sensitive Natural Communities including Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

Sensitive natural communities are vegetation communities of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and are often vulnerable to the environmental impacts of projects. Sensitive natural communities include those that are of special concern to resource agencies, such as CDFW, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or USFWS, or are afforded specific consideration through CEQA, Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

No sensitive natural communities are present at the proposed Project site.



SOURCE: ESRI, 2023; Maxar, 2023; ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Figure 2-1
Habitat Map

Wildlife Movement Corridors

Wildlife movement corridors are considered an important ecological resource by various agencies (CDFW and USFWS) and under CEQA. Movement corridors may provide favorable locations for wildlife to travel between different habitat areas such as foraging sites, breeding sites, cover areas, and preferred summer and winter range locations. They may also function as dispersal corridors, allowing animals to move between various locations within their range.

Topography and other natural factors, in combination with urbanization, can fragment or separate large open-space areas. Areas of human disturbance or urban development can fragment wildlife habitats and impede wildlife movement between areas of suitable habitat. This fragmentation creates isolated “islands” of vegetation that may not provide sufficient area to accommodate sustainable populations, and can adversely affect genetic and species diversity. Movement corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by allowing animals to move between remaining habitats, which in turn allows depleted populations to be replenished and promotes genetic exchange between separate populations.

The Fleming Meadows parking lot and surrounding area could potentially serve as a wildlife corridor for wildlife to access habitat areas, including special-status species. Project construction would be of limited duration and conducted during daytime hours and would not have a substantial impact on the use of these areas as wildlife movement corridors. The potential sewer service replacement and potential electrical service extension that would cover and span various sections of the Project area are not expected to interfere with the movement of wildlife as they can continue to move around the construction.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are regulated under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts or other regulations or are species that are considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing. These species are classified under the following categories:

- (1) Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (Code of Federal Regulations Title 50, Section 17.12 [listed plants] and Section 17.11 [listed animals], and various notices in the *Federal Register* [proposed species]).
- (2) Species that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (*Federal Register* Title 61, Number 40, February 28, 1996).
- (3) Species listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 670.5).
- (4) Plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.).
- (5) Animal species of special concern to CDFW.
- (6) Animals fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

- (7) Species that meet the definitions of rare and endangered under CEQA. CEQA Section 15380 provides that a plant or animal species may be treated as “rare or endangered” even if not on one of the official lists (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380).
- (8) Plants considered by CNPS and CDFW to be “rare, threatened or endangered in California” (California Rare Plant Rank 1A, 1B, and 2 in CNPS 2020).

A list of regionally occurring special-status species in the vicinity of the proposed Project site was compiled based on data identified in the California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2023) and the USFWS (2023) and CNPS (2023) databases.

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined in Section 3(5)A of the federal Endangered Species Act as the specific portions of the geographic area occupied by the species in which physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species are found, and that may require special management considerations or protection. Specific areas outside of the geographic area occupied by the species may also be included in critical habitat designations upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

The proposed Project location does not contain any critical habitat for potential special-status species

2.3.2 Discussion

a) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.**

Special-status Wildlife

No federal or state-listed wildlife species were observed during the June 12, 2023 reconnaissance survey of the Project area. From background review, three special-status wildlife species were determined to have potential to occur within or adjacent to the Project and potentially be affected by Project construction: San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Of the three special-status species with potential to occur, two are federally listed (San Joaquin Kit Fox and California tiger salamander), and all three are state listed (San Joaquin Kit Fox, California tiger salamander, and Swainson’s hawk). The project location does not contain any critical habitat for potential special-status species (see **Attachment A**), and no special-status wildlife were observed during the survey (USFW, 2023).

During the survey of the Project, marginally suitable habitat was observed for the following sensitive species: California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), and Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). No individuals for any of these species were observed during the survey. The most recent observation for special-status species within 5 miles of the project area included California tiger salamander, which was recorded in 2007, an occurrence recorded in 1973 for San Joaquin kit fox, and an occurrence recorded in 1919 for Swainson’s hawk. No suitable burrows or breeding ponds for California tiger salamander were observed and no

potential dens for San Joaquin kit fox were observed during the survey. Although suitable nesting trees are present, no old remnant nests that may previously have been used by Swainson's hawk were observed during the survey. Much of the study area consists of paved or gravel parking lots or paved roads. The oak woodland areas are adjacent to building structures and the campgrounds and the vegetation seems to be managed and maintained regularly. Thus, these species are not expected to occur in the Project area.

Nesting birds regulated by the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code may be affected either directly or indirectly by implementation of the proposed Project.

Under the MBTA, most bird species and their nests and eggs are protected from injury or death. California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 prohibit the possession, incidental take, or needless destruction of birds and their nests and eggs.

The proposed Project site and surrounding area contained multiple trees, several of them large, as well as herbaceous vegetation and a building structure, all of which are suitable for nesting migratory birds. Nesting birds could be adversely affected if active nesting, roosting, or foraging sites are either removed or exposed to a substantial increase in noise or human presence during proposed Project activities. The impact would be less than significant if construction activities were to occur during the non-breeding season (i.e., from September 1 through January 31). However, construction activities conducted during the breeding season between February 1 and August 31 could adversely affect nesting birds. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

During the field reconnaissance on June 12, 2023, bat guano was observed under the northern eave of the trading post. Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) was listed in the CNDDDB query and had an occurrence recorded within 5 miles of the project site dated 1968. The trading post provides a suitable habitat for roosting bats; therefore, this impact would be potentially significant. **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Special-status Plants

Special-status plants known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project sites are listed in **Attachment A**. None of these species have the potential to occur on the site due to regular weed management.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Protect Special-Status Birds and Bats, and Nesting Birds Regulated by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code.

For construction activities occurring during the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 31) and bat roosting season (April 1 to July 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction pedestrian-level survey for active nests within 500 feet of the Project site and at the Trading Post for roosting bats. The survey shall be

conducted using binoculars, from publicly accessible areas outside of the Project site, no more than seven days before the start of construction.

If no active nests or roosting bats are identified during the preconstruction survey, the biologist shall submit a letter report to TID for its records, and no further mitigation is necessary.

If construction activities are to begin before February 1, it is assumed that no birds will nest on the Project site or bats will roost at the trading post during active construction activities and no preconstruction surveys are required. If construction stops for a period of one week or longer at any time during the nesting season, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted before construction resumes.

If active nests are found within 500 feet of the Project site or roosts within the Trading Post, TID shall wait until the nests or roosts are not active to start construction; or, if construction must occur while the nest or roost is active, a qualified biologist shall prepare a plan for avoidance of impacts on active nests or roosts. The plan shall identify measures to avoid disturbance of the active nests or roosts. Depending on the conditions specific to each nest and roost, and the relative location and rate of construction activities, it may be feasible for construction to occur as planned.

Appropriate measures may include restricting construction activities, establishing appropriate buffers based on the species nesting or roosting, or having a qualified biologist with stop-work authority monitor the nest or roost for evidence that the adult birds or bats' behavior has changed during construction. The biologist would have the authority to stop work in the event that the birds or bats are exhibiting unusual nesting or roosting behavior based on the construction activities. If construction activities are halted because of adverse effects on breeding efforts, construction shall not resume until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest for parental care for survival or bats are no longer roosting.

- b) **No Impact.** One drainage ditch begins at the ingress of the site at Fleming Meadow Road and drains in a southwest direction and eventually reaches Big Creek. However, in all the aerial imagery dating back from 2009 to 2021, the ditch has never had water in it flowing past the project area. This ditch is also not included on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map. This drainage ditch is manmade and is assumed not to be jurisdictional under the CWA and State of California regulations. Therefore, this feature is not to be considered a water of the U.S. or state. Therefore, no impact on wetlands would occur.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project site does not contain state or federally protected wetlands. Therefore, no impact on wetlands would occur.
- d) **Less than Significant.** The Fleming Meadows parking lot and surrounding area could potentially serve as a wildlife corridor for wildlife to access habitat areas, including special-status species. Construction of the proposed Project would be of limited duration and conducted during daytime hours and would not have a substantial impact on the use of these areas as wildlife movement corridors. This impact would be less than significant.

- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project is consistent with policies in the Natural Resources Element of the *Tuolumne County General Plan* (Tuolumne County 2018a) that generally promotes balancing property rights with the conservation of the environment. Therefore, no impact related to a conflict with local policies or ordinances for biological resources would occur.
- f) **No Impact.** No adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other local conservation plans cover the proposed Project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

2.3.3 References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, D. J. Keil, R. Patterson, T. J. Rosatti, and D. H. Wilken (eds.). 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, second edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Calflora. 2020. Information on California Plants for Education, Research and Conservation [web application]. Berkeley, CA: The Calflora Database. Available: <http://www.calflora.org/>.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2018. *Special Animals List*. Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. Periodic publication. Data dated November 2018.
- . 2019. *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List*. Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. Quarterly publication. Data dated March 2019.
- . 2023. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind 5 computer program (v5.2.14). Biogeographic Data Branch, Sacramento, CA.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2020. *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (online edition, v8.03 0.39). Sacramento, CA.
- Jepson Flora Project (eds.). 2020. *Jepson eFlora*. Available: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>. Last updated December 21, 2020.
- Tuolumne County. 2018a. 2018 *Tuolumne County General Plan*. December 2018.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2023. *List of Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that May Occur in the Project Area*. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Endangered Species Division. Sacramento, CA.
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2.4 Cultural Resources

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This section examines the potential impacts of the proposed Project on cultural resources. Tribal cultural resources are described separately in section 2.12 of this IS/MND. For purposes of this analysis, the term *cultural resource* is defined as follows:

Pre-contact and historic-era sites, structures, districts, and landscapes, or other evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reason. These resources include the following types of CEQA-defined resources: historical resources, archaeological resources, and human remains.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 requires the lead agency to consider the effects of a project on historical resources. An historical resource is defined as any building, structure, site, or object listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or determined by a lead agency to be significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, or cultural annals of California.

This section relies on the information and findings presented in the Project's two confidential cultural resources technical reports:

- *Subject: Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Cultural Resources Constraints Analysis* (Mattes, 2023)
- *Don Pedro Recreation Agency: Historic Resources Evaluation Report* (Cleveland and Langford, 2023)

These reports included overviews of the environmental, ethnographic, and historical background of the Project area, with an emphasis on aspects related to human occupation. These confidential reports are included by reference to this document. State law prohibits the public dissemination of locational and other information on known cultural resources.

This analysis describes archaeological resources, both as historical resources according to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5, and as unique archaeological resources, as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g).

2.4.1 Environmental Setting

Records Search

Staff members at the Central California Information Center (CCaIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) completed a records search of the Project area and surrounding 0.5-mile area on June 1, 2023 (File No. 125570). The CCaIC records search results identified 15 previous cultural resources studies that have taken place within or within 0.25 mile of the Project area; nine of these have covered some portion of the Project area. The CCaIC records search indicated that 25 cultural resources have been previously recorded in or within 0.25 mile of the Project area. Of these, eight (P-55-001903, -008778, -008779, -008781, -008803, -008879, -008881, -008882) are mapped within some portion of the Project area; additional research indicates that one of these (P-55-008882) was also previously evaluated as a contributor to P-55-008880 (Don Pedro Project Historic District) and, therefore, P-55-008880 is considered as a previously recorded resource within the Project area despite not being mapped as such per CCaIC records. These nine resources previously recorded in the Project area consist of three indigenous archaeological isolates (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781), one historic-era archaeological site (P-55-001903), one discontinuous indigenous archaeological district (P-55-008879), and four architectural resources (P-55-008880, -008881, -008803, -008882).

The three archaeological isolates mapped in the Project area are all flaked-stone lithics and are mapped in the approximate center of the Project area. The archaeological district mapped in the Project area (P-55-008879—Tuolumne River Prehistoric Archaeological District) consists of 125 individual resources and spans the banks of the Don Pedro Reservoir. Though ten resources included in the archaeological district are mapped within 0.25 mile of the Project area, none are within or immediately adjacent to the Project area. The historic-era archaeological site mapped in the Project area is a stone structural pad in the northern Project area.

The architectural resources mapped in the Project area consist of the Don Pedro Project Historic District (P-55-008880), Don Pedro Recreation Agency [DPRA] Historic District (P-55-008881), Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803), and Don Pedro Reservoir (P-55-008882). The Don Pedro Project Historic District (P-55-008880) consists of 23 architectural resources associated with the operation and support infrastructure of the Don Pedro Project, and only one of its components is mapped in the Project area, P-55-008882 (Don Pedro Reservoir), which was previously evaluated as a contributor to the district. Though the CCaIC data shows the site boundary of P-55-008882 as including a small portion of the north end of the Project area, this appears to be incorrect, as the reservoir itself does not extend into the Project area; therefore, neither P-55-008880 nor P-55-008882 are considered within the Project area for the purposes of this analysis. The DPRA Historic District (P-55-008881) consists of four individual resources, only one of which is in the Project area, P-55-008803 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Area), which was previously evaluated as a contributor to the district (Palmer and Marvin, 2015). One element of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (trading post) is present in the Project area. The DPRA Historic District was evaluated as significant in 2015 under National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Criteria A and C but found not National Register-eligible at the time because it was not 50 years old (having been constructed in the early 1970s) (Palmer and Marvin, 2015); that previous evaluation recommended the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area as

a contributor to the DPRA Historic District and also significant under National Register Criteria A and C but not National Register-eligible at the time (2015) because it was not 50 years old (having been constructed in the early 1970s). None of the previously recorded cultural resources in the Project area appear to have been previously evaluated for California Register-eligibility. **Table 2.4-1** summarizes the cultural resources previously recorded in the Project area.

**TABLE 2.4-1
CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDED IN THE PROJECT AREA**

Primary # (P-55-)	Trinomial (CA-)	Type	Age/ Affiliation	Resource Name and Brief Description	Recorded By (Year)
001903	TUO-893H	Archaeological	Historic	Stone structural pad	Sills and Sills (1970)
008778	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
008779	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
008781	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
008803	[none]	Architectural	Historic	Fleming Meadows Recreation Area	Palmer (2012)
*008879	TUO-5598	Archaeological	Indigenous	Tuolumne River Prehistoric Archaeological District	Risse et al. (2012, 2015, 2018)
*008880	[none]	Architectural	Historic	Don Pedro Project Historic District	[See table note]
008881	[none]	Architectural	Historic	Don Pedro Recreation Area Historic District	Marvin and Palmer (2012); Risse (2017)
*008882	[none]	Architectural	Historic	Don Pedro Reservoir	Marvin (2012)

*Mapped in the Project area but determined to, in fact, not be within the Project area

Native American Correspondence

ESA contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 28, 2023, in request of a search of the NAHC's Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a list of Native American representatives who may have interest in the Project. The NAHC replied on November 3, 2023, stating that the SLF has no record of any sacred sites in the C-APE, and also provided a list of nine representatives from five California Native American Tribes (Tribes) who may have interest in the Project: Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians; Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe; Tule River Indian Tribe; Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians; and Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band.

On November 7, 2023, TID sent Project notification letters, via U.S. Postal Service certified mail, as required under PRC Section 21080.3.1, to representatives from all five of the aforementioned Tribes. The letters provided information on the Project, including a Project location map, and requested that the recipients notify TID if they had any concerns regarding Project impacts on cultural resources and tribal cultural resources. The same day, on behalf of TID, ESA sent emails to the recipients of these letters that included the letters and a request that the recipients contact TID or ESA if they had any concerns about Project impacts on cultural resources and tribal cultural resources.

On December 18, 2023, TID received a letter, dated December 11, 2023, from the Tuolumne Me-wuk Tribal Council (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians) that stated that they had received the TID notification from November 7, 2023, and would like additional information on the Project and a potential site visit due to the presence of several cultural resources near the Project area. TID is continuing to consult with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. To date, neither TID nor ESA have received any additional replies.

Field Survey

On June 7, 2023, ESA conducted an archaeological pedestrian surface survey of the Project area. The survey methods entailed walking parallel transects of no more than 20 meters apart throughout unpaved portions of the Project area. The remaining portions of the Project area were overlain by paved access roads, a paved parking lot, and a gravel parking lot constructed of angular gravels that are inconsistent with the local geology and, therefore, appears to be imported aggregate fill. Transect spacing in these areas was increased to 50 meters due to reduced sensitivity for exposed cultural resources. Decreased transect spacing (as narrow as 5 meters) was employed in the vicinity of proposed utilities alignments, around the previously recorded pre-contact archaeological isolates mapped in the center of the Project area (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781), and around (architectural) components associated with the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803). During the survey, no evidence of any of the four previously recorded archaeological resources (three pre-contact archaeological isolates [P-55-008778, -008779, -008781]; one historic-era archaeological site [P-55-001903]) were observed. No previously unrecorded archaeological resources were observed in the Project area during the survey. As such, ESA concluded that no archaeological resources are present in the Project area.

ESA architectural historians conducted an architectural pedestrian survey of the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803), which is in the Project area, on October 11, 2023. The purpose of the survey was to document all architectural resources within the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803) constructed prior to 1978. During the architectural survey, ESA identified 15 architectural elements associated with the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area that date to its original 1971 to 1972 construction period, only one of which is in the Project area, the trading post.

Archaeological Sensitivity

The Project area is within 0.5 mile of the original locations of Big Creek and the Tuolumne River, prior to the construction of the Don Pedro Reservoir; these major sources of freshwater in the area would have been amenable to pre-contact occupation, resulting in an overall sensitivity of the general area for pre-contact archaeological resources. The presence of a number of previously recorded pre-contact archaeological resources in and in the vicinity of the Project area suggests that, prior to the historic-era, this area was occupied by indigenous people.

The surficial geology of the Project area consists of Jura-Triassic metavolcanic rocks, including quartzite, rhyolite, and basalt, dating to ca. 252 to 145 million years ago (Jenkins, 1982). Soils mapped in the Project area consist of shallow, gravelly, loams of the Bonanza-Loafercreek complex, with bedrock present within two feet of the ground surface (USDA, 2023). Based on the

age of the surficial geological formation underlying the Project area and the shallow depth of soils, the potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits in undisturbed or minimally disturbed portions of the Project area is very low (Rosenthal and Meyer, 2004). Archaeological sites in this geologic context would be at or very near to the existing ground surface.

Conversely, the pre-Pleistocene age of the Project area's underlying surficial geologic formation and the shallow nature of the soils in the Project area suggest that any potential pre-contact archaeological resources in the Project area would be visible on the surface. Given that much of the Project area has been previously disturbed by ground-disturbing activities (parking lot construction, etc.), and no pre-contact archaeological resources were identified during the archaeological pedestrian survey (or other previous surveys), the overall sensitivity for surficial pre-contact archaeological resources is low.

The previously recorded historic-era archaeological resources and architectural resources in the Project area and its vicinity are associated with the development of the Don Pedro Reservoir and the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Analysis of historic aerial imagery and topographic maps did not identify any previously unrecorded historic-era structures or features that may have been present in the Project area (NETR, 2023). Based on this review, the Project area's sensitivity for historic-era archaeological resources is low.

Therefore, the Project area appears to have low sensitivity for both pre-contact and historic-era archaeological resources.

Architectural Resources Evaluations

Based on background research and the results of their architectural field survey conducted for the proposed Project, ESA evaluated the National Register- and California Register-eligibility of the two architectural resources identified in the Project area, the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803), and DPRA Historic District (P-55-008881). ESA concluded that the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is not eligible for the National Register- or California Register-eligible as an individual resource and that the DPRA Historic District is not eligible for the National Register- or California Register-eligible as an historic district (Cleveland and Langford, 2023). As such, neither qualify as an historical resource, under CEQA, and there are no historical resources in the Project area.

Summary of Resources Identified

Through background research, nine previously recorded cultural resources were identified in the Project area: three indigenous archaeological isolates (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781); one historic-era archaeological site (P-55-001903); one discontinuous indigenous archaeological district (P-55-008879); and four architectural resources (P-55-008880, -008881, -008803, -008882). Field surveys conducted for the Project confirmed that only two of these resources, P-55-008803 (DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area) and P-55-008881 (DPRA Historic District) are, in fact, in the Project area, and no previously unrecorded cultural resources were identified in the Project area. ESA concluded that the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is not eligible for the National Register- or California Register-eligible as an individual resource

and that the DPRA Historic District is not eligible for the National Register- or California Register-eligible as an historic district (Cleveland and Langford, 2023). As such, there are no historical resources or archaeological resources, as defined by CEQA, in the Project area. Similarly, background research, outreach to Tribes, and field surveys did not identify any human remains in the Project area, and land use designations for the Project area do not include cemetery uses. Therefore, no human remains are known to be present in the Project area.

2.4.2 Discussion

Architectural resources that may qualify as historical resources, according to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5 are addressed under impact discussion a, below, while archaeological resources, including archaeological resources that are potentially historical resources according to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5, are addressed under impact discussion b.

- a) **No Impact.** Two architectural resources 50 years of age or older were identified in the Project area through background research and field surveys for the Project: P-55-008803 (DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area) and P-55-008881 (DPRA Historic District). Both resources were evaluated as not eligible for the California Register and, therefore, do not qualify as historical resources, as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5. As a result, there is no substantial evidence of the presence in the Project area of any historical resources, as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5. Therefore, the proposed Project is not expected to impact any historical resource, pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5.
- b) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Background research indicated that five archaeological resources have been previously recorded in the Project area: three indigenous archaeological isolates (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781), one historic-era archaeological site (P-55-001903), and one discontinuous indigenous archaeological district (P-55-008879). The archaeological district (P-55-008879—Tuolumne River Prehistoric Archaeological District) consists of 125 individual resources and spans the banks of the Don Pedro Reservoir, though none of the elements of the district are mapped in the Project area; therefore, the resource is not considered to be within the Project area. During the archaeological pedestrian survey conducted for the proposed Project, no evidence of any of the previously recorded archaeological resources mapped in the Project area were observed, and no previously unrecorded archaeological resources were observed in the Project area. As such, it appears that no archaeological resources are present in the Project area.

As no archaeological resources appear to be in the Project area, no known archaeological resources that may qualify as historical resources (as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5) or unique archaeological resources (as defined in PRC Section 21083.2[g]) are present in the Project area. As a result, there is no substantial evidence of the presence in the Project area of any archaeological resources, as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5. Therefore, the proposed Project is not expected to impact any archaeological resource, pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5.

Although there is no substantial evidence that archaeological resources are present in the Project area, the proposed Project would involve ground-disturbing activities that may extend into undisturbed soil. Such activities could unearth, expose, or disturb subsurface archaeological resources that have not been identified on the surface. If such resources were found to qualify as archaeological resources, pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5, impacts of the proposed Project on archaeological resources would be potentially significant. Such potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant by implementing **Mitigation Measures CUL-1 to CUL-3**.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Awareness Training

Before any ground-disturbing and/or construction activities, an archaeologist meeting, or under the supervision of an archaeologist meeting, the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (SOI PQS) for Archeology shall conduct a training program for all construction and field personnel involved in Project-related ground-disturbing activities. If a California Native American Tribe expresses interest, they shall be invited to participate in the training program. On-site personnel shall attend the training prior to commencement of any ground-disturbing activities. The training shall outline the general archaeological sensitivity of the Project area and the procedures to follow in the event an archaeological resource and/or human remains are inadvertently discovered. Documentation of the training attendance shall be maintained by TID.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities

TID shall retain a Native American Monitor representing a California Native American Tribe (Tribe) traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project Area prior to beginning Project-related ground-disturbing activities. TID shall invite the monitor to conduct construction monitoring for all Project-related ground-disturbing activities. The monitor shall daily monitoring logs that provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to a Tribe. Monitor logs shall identify and describe any discovered cultural resources and tribal cultural resources, as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs shall be provided by the represented Tribe(s) to TID. Monitoring shall conclude upon the latter of the following: (1) written confirmation to represented Tribe(s) from TID that all ground-disturbing activities and phases that may involve ground-disturbing activities in the Project Area are complete; or (2) a determination and written notification by the represented Tribe(s) to TID that they do not wish to conduct any additional construction monitoring for the Project.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Implement Inadvertent Discovery Protocol for Archaeological Resources, including Potential Tribal Cultural Resources.

If pre-contact or historic-era archaeological resources are encountered by construction personnel during proposed Project construction, all construction activities within 100 feet shall halt until a qualified archaeologist, defined as one meeting the SOI PQS for Archeology and with expertise in California archaeology,

can assess the significance of the find. Pre-contact archaeological materials might include: obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or toolmaking debris; culturally darkened soil (midden) containing fire-affected rock, artifacts, or shellfish remains; groundstone artifacts (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones); and battered stone tools, such as hammer stones and pitted stones. Historic-era materials might include: stone, concrete, or adobe footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the resource is or is potentially Native American in origin, culturally and geographically affiliated California Native American Tribes shall be contacted to assess the find and determine whether it is potentially a tribal cultural resource.

If TID determines, based on recommendations from the qualified archaeologist and California Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area (if the resource is indigenous), that the resource may qualify a historical resource (as defined in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5), unique archaeological resource (as defined in PRC Section 21083.2[g]), or tribal cultural resource (as defined in PRC Section 21074), the resource shall be avoided, if feasible. Consistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.4(b)(3), this may be accomplished through: planning construction to avoid the resource; incorporating the resource within open space; capping and covering the resource; or deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement. If avoidance of the resource is not feasible, TID shall continue to consult with California Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area (if the resource is indigenous) and other appropriate interested parties to determine treatment measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential impacts to the resource pursuant to PRC Section 21083.2 and *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.4. This shall include documentation of the resource and may include data recovery (according to PRC Section 21083.2), if deemed appropriate, or other actions such as treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity and protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource (according to PRC Section 21084.3). Any technical report developed to document the implementation mitigation shall be submitted to CHRIS upon TID and approval, unless the document contains information that California Native American Tribes involved in the development of the mitigation deem should not be filed with CHRIS, in which case, the report shall be submitted to the NAHC.

If, during proposed Project implementation, TID determines that portions of the Project area may be sensitive for archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources, TID may authorize construction monitoring of these locations by an archaeologist and Tribal Monitor. Any monitoring by a Tribal Monitor shall be done under agreements between TID and culturally and geographically affiliated California Native American Tribes.

- c) **No Impact.** No human remains have been identified in the Project area through archival research, field surveys, or Native American outreach. Also, the land use designations for the Project area do not include cemetery uses, and no known human remains exist within the Project area. As a result, there is no substantial evidence of the presence in the Project area of any human remains. Therefore, the proposed Project is not expected to impact any human remains.

While unlikely, it is possible that human remains could be encountered during proposed Project-related construction. If any such resources were encountered and were damaged or disturbed as a result of the proposed Project, the impact would be potentially significant. This potential significant impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with compliance with PRC Section 5097.98 and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which identify steps to follow in the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, as well as establish reporting requirements associated with treatment of Native American skeletal remains, and establish penalties for noncompliance with these requirements.

2.4.3 References

Cleveland, Kathy, and Amy Langford. 2023. *Don Pedro Recreation Agency: Historic Resources Evaluation Report*. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District.

Jenkins, Olaf P. 1982. *Geologic Map of California, San Jose Sheet*. Prepared by California Division of Mines and Geology.

Mattes, Matthew. 2023. *Subject: Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Cultural Resources Constraints Analysis*. Memorandum. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District.

NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research). 2023. Historic aerial photographs of Project area and vicinity. Available: <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>. Accessed, June 19, 2023.

Rosenthal, Jeffrey S., and Jack Meyer. 2004. *Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 10 Rural Conventional Highways: Volume III: Geoarchaeological Study, Landscape Evolution and the Archaeological Record of Central California*. Prepared by Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., Davis, CA. Prepared for Caltrans District 10, Stockton, CA.

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture). 2023. "Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey". Version 3.1. Available: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed, June 19, 2023.

2.5 Energy

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VI. ENERGY — Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.5.1 Discussion

Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3), this impact analysis evaluates the potential for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Project to result in a substantial increase in energy demand and wasteful use of energy. The impact analysis is informed by Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The potential impacts are analyzed based on an evaluation of whether construction energy use estimates for the proposed Project would be considered excessive, wasteful, or inefficient.

- a) **Less than Significant.** During construction of the proposed Project, fuel consumption would result from the use of construction tools and equipment, truck trips to haul material, and construction workers’ commutes to and from the proposed Project site. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to last for 18 months.

Construction activities and corresponding fuel energy consumption would be temporary and localized, as the use of diesel fuel and heavy-duty equipment would not be a long-term condition of the proposed Project. In addition, the proposed Project has no unusual characteristics that would require using construction equipment or haul vehicles that would be less energy efficient than equipment and vehicles used at similar construction sites elsewhere in California. In conclusion, construction-related fuel consumption by the proposed Project would not result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary energy use compared with other construction sites in the region. This impact would be less than significant.

Once construction is complete, operational energy consumption would be relatively minimal and related to lighting and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) for the new building. This impact would be less than significant.

- b) **Less than Significant.** The transportation sector is a major end user of energy in California, accounting for approximately 41 percent of the state’s total energy consumption in 2021 (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2021). Energy is also consumed in connection with construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure, such as streets, highways, freeways, rail lines, and airport runways. In 2022, California’s vehicles consumed more than 13 billion gallons of gasoline and in 2015 California consumed more than 4.2 billion gallons of diesel (CEC 2023).

Existing standards for transportation energy are promulgated through the regulation of fuel refineries and products, such as the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which mandated a 10 percent reduction in the non-biogenic carbon content of vehicle fuels by 2020. In 2018, the Board approved amendments to the regulation, which included strengthening and smoothing the carbon intensity benchmarks through 2030 in-line with California's 2030 GHG emission reduction target enacted through SB 32, adding new crediting opportunities to promote zero emission vehicle adoption, alternative jet fuel, carbon capture and sequestration, and advanced technologies to achieve deep decarbonization in the transportation sector. Other regulatory programs with emissions and fuel efficiency standards have been established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CARB, such as Pavley II/Low Emission Vehicle III from California's Advanced Clean Cars Program and the Heavy-Duty (Tractor-Trailer) Greenhouse Gas Regulation. CARB has set a goal of 5 million Zero Emission Vehicles on the road by the year 2030 (CARB 2021). Further, construction sites need to comply with state requirements designed to minimize idling and associated emissions, which also minimizes fuel use. Specifically, idling of commercial vehicles and off-road equipment is limited to five minutes in accordance with the Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling Regulation and the Off-Road Regulation (California Code of Regulations Title 13, Section 2485).

Tuolumne County has not implemented energy action plans. The proposed Project is consistent with the state goals and would not impede progress toward achieving these goals.

The proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency or impede progress toward achieving any goals and targets. This impact would be less than significant.

2.5.2 References

- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2021. *Mobile Source Strategy*. September 2021. Available: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/Proposed_2020_Mobile_Source_Strategy.pdf. Accessed October 30, 2023.
- California Energy Commission (CEC). 2023. Summary of California Vehicle and Transportation Energy. Available: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/energy-almanac/transportation-energy/california-gasoline-data-facts-and-statistics>. Accessed October 20, 2023.
- U.S. Energy Information Administration. 2021. California State Profile and Energy Estimates: Consumption by Sector. Available: <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-2>. Accessed October 30, 2023.

2.6 Geology and Soils

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.6.1 Environmental Setting

Tuolumne County is located primarily within the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province, with an extremely small portion (less than 10%) of the western boundary creeping into the Great Valley geomorphic province. The proposed Project site is located within this western portion of Tuolumne County and as such is within the Great Valley geomorphic province. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province lies approximately 1.3 miles to the east. The Great Valley geomorphic province includes the area known as the Great Central Valley of California, which extends approximately 400 miles north to south and 50 miles east to west. The Great Central Valley is encompassed by the Coast Ranges (metamorphic), the Klamath Ranges (metamorphic), the Cascade Range (volcanic), and the Sierra Nevada (granitic and metamorphic). The majority of rocks and deposits found within the province are sedimentary. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, sedimentary rocks are formed from preexisting rocks or pieces of once-living organisms.

They form from deposits that accumulate on the earth's surface. Sedimentary rocks often have distinctive layering or bedding.

Tuolumne County is located to the east of the Foothills fault system. The Foothills fault system is a complex, braided system of individual fault segments that extends for approximately 200 miles from Mariposa in the south to Lake Almanor in the North. There are two primary fault zones within the Foothills fault system: the Melones fault zone along the east side of the system and the Bear Mountain fault zone on the west. The Melones fault zone is classified as "active" (has demonstrated displacement within the last 100,000 years). The Bear Mountain fault zone is classified as "indeterminable active" (definitive evidence has not been established locally concerning its activity within the last 100,000 years). According to the Sonora General Plan 2020, there are four "capable" faults (i.e., faults with tectonic displacement within the last 35,000 years which could produce a quake) are located within Tuolumne County: Negro Jack Point, Bowie Flat, Rawhide Flat West, and Rawhide Flat East (Tuolumne County 2018b).

Tuolumne County is located approximately 12 miles east of the Foothills fault system. The Foothills fault system is a complex, braided system of individual fault segments that extends for approximately 200 miles from Mariposa in the south to Lake Almanor in the north. There are two primary fault zones within the Foothills fault system: the Melones fault zone along the east side of the system and the Bear Mountain fault zone on the west. The Melones fault zone is classified as "active" (has demonstrated displacement within the last 100,000 years). The Bear Mountain fault zone is classified as "indeterminable active" (definitive evidence has not been established locally concerning its activity within the last 100,000 years). In addition, there are four "capable" faults (i.e., faults with tectonic displacement within the last 35,000 years which could produce a quake) located within Tuolumne County: Negro Jack Point, Bowie Flat, Rawhide Flat West, and Rawhide Flat East (Tuolumne County 2018). Geologic hazards in Tuolumne County are primarily associated with potential seismic activity along the Foothills fault zone and associated ground shaking. Historically, earthquake activity in Tuolumne County has been substantially below the California State average. The potential for ground shaking is discussed in terms of the percent probability of exceeding peak ground acceleration percent in the next 50 years. There is a roughly 28 percent probability that a 5.0 (Moderate) earthquake occurring in the County in the next 50 years. In Tuolumne County, the predicted peak acceleration for the developed portions of the County (i.e., Jamestown, Sonora) does not exceed 20 percent of gravity; for the remainder of the County, the peak ground acceleration is less than 20 percent (Tuolumne County 2018b).

The soil on the proposed Project site is composed primarily of Bonanza-Loafercreek complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes and Urban land-Loafercreek-Dunstone complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes (NRCS 2023). These soils are well drained and susceptible to erosion.

Slope failures, commonly referred to as landslides, include many phenomena that involve the downslope displacement and movement of material, triggered by either static forces (i.e., gravity) or dynamic forces (i.e., earthquakes). Exposed rock slopes undergo rockfalls, rockslides, or rock avalanches, while soil slopes experience shallow soil slides, rapid debris flows, and deep-seated rotational slides. The Tuolumne County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan determined that there is a low probability of landslide in the County. Should landsliding occur, the severity of impacts is

expected to be low because the areas most susceptible are located away from identified communities (Tuolumne County 2018c).

Liquefaction is the process in which the soil is transformed to a fluid form during intense and prolonged ground shaking. Since liquefaction most likely would occur during or following an earthquake and severe earthquake risk is deemed to be low in the County, the risk and danger of liquefaction and subsidence occurring within the County is also considered to be minimal. (Tuolumne County 2018c).

Expansive soils can undergo significant volume change (shrink and swell) as their soil moisture content varies. Soil moisture content can change as a result of many factors, including perched groundwater, landscape irrigation, rainfall, and utility leakage. The soils in the Project area have a slight shrink-swell potential.

Subsidence occurs when a large land area settles as a result of oversaturation or extensive withdrawal of groundwater, oil, or natural gas. No areas of substantial subsidence have been identified near the proposed Project site (Tuolumne County 2018c).

2.6.2 Discussion

- a.i) **No Impact.** The proposed Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone. Therefore, no impact related to rupture of a known earthquake fault would occur.
- a.ii) **Less than Significant.** As discussed previously, there is a roughly 28 percent probability that a 5.0 (Moderate) earthquake occurring in the County in the next 50 years. In Tuolumne County, the predicted peak acceleration for the developed portions of the County (i.e., Jamestown, Sonora) does not exceed 20 percent of gravity; for the remainder of the County, the peak ground acceleration is less than 20 percent. The proposed Project would be constructed to industry standards to protect against potential adverse geological impacts of seismic activity and other site-specific soils and geology constraints, including compliance with the California Building Code and American Society of Civil Engineers standards. With compliance with these standards, the impact related to seismic shaking would be less than significant.
- a.iii, iv) **No Impact.** As discussed in Section 2.7.1, *Environmental Setting*, the Project area is not known to be susceptible to landslides or liquefaction. In addition, the proposed Project would be subject to compliance with the California Building Code and American Society of Civil Engineers standards. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- b) **Less than Significant.** Soils in the Project area have the potential for erosion; however, earthmoving and grading activities during construction of the proposed Project have the potential to cause erosion. Routine Project operations and maintenance activities are not anticipated to result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction would be required to adhere to best management practices (BMPs) associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit for

Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities, also known as the Construction General Permit, to control sediment in stormwater runoff from the proposed Project site (see checklist item a in Section 2.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*). Therefore, impacts from the construction of the proposed Project related to soil erosion would be less than significant.

- c, d) **Less than Significant.** As described previously, the soils at the proposed Project site are not known to have liquefaction potential or shrink-swell potential. Therefore, no impact on life or property would occur.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- f) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Paleontological resources are the fossilized evidence of past life found in the geologic record. Despite the tremendous volume of sedimentary rock deposits preserved worldwide, and the enormous number of organisms that have lived through time, the preservation of plant or animal remains as fossils is extremely rare. Because of the infrequency of fossil preservation, fossils—particularly vertebrate fossils—are considered nonrenewable resources. Because of their rarity and the scientific information they can provide, fossils are highly significant records of ancient life.

Rock formations that are considered paleontologically sensitive are those rock units that have yielded significant vertebrate or invertebrate fossil remains (SVP 2010). Paleozoic marine rocks occur in the western portion of the County and may contain fossils of marine invertebrates (Tuolumne County 2018c). If any previously unrecorded paleontological resources were encountered during construction of the proposed Project and any were found to be a unique paleontological resource, any impact of the proposed Project on the resource could be potentially significant. Any such potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing **Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and GEO-2**.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Train Construction Workers Regarding Paleontological Resources.

A qualified paleontologist, defined as one meeting the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) Standards (SVP 2010), shall present a paleontological resources sensitivity training to proposed Project construction workers before the start of ground-disturbing activities (e.g., vegetation removal, pavement removal). The training session shall focus on recognition of the types of paleontological resources that could be encountered within the Project site and the procedures to follow if they are found. TID shall retain documentation demonstrating that construction personnel have attended the training.

Mitigation Measure GEO-2: Implement Appropriate Treatment Measures in Case of a Potential Fossil Discovery.

If construction or other Project personnel discover any potential fossils during construction, regardless of the depth of work or location, work at the discovery location shall cease within a 50-foot radius of the discovery until the qualified paleontologist has assessed the discovery and recommended the appropriate treatment. If the find is deemed significant, it shall be salvaged following the standards of the SVP (SVP 2010) and curated with a certified repository.

2.6.3 References

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP). 2010. *Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Nonrenewable Paleontologic Resources: Standard Guidelines*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology News Bulletin, 2010.

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 2023. Web Soil Survey. Available: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed October 27, 2023.

Tuolumne County. 2018c. Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tuolumne County General Plan Update Project. December 2018.

2.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS —				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.7.1 Discussion

- a, b) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Construction of the proposed Project would include excavation, grading, earthmoving, and placement of concrete. In addition, construction of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post would occur. Typical construction equipment would include excavators, graders, scrapers, bulldozers, dump trucks, loaders/backhoes, concrete trucks, and welding equipment. Total GHG emissions from Project construction amortized over a 30-year period would be below 100 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. Construction of the proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in GHG emissions and this impact would be less than significant. However, to be consistent with the intent of TCAPCD’s GHG guidance, available Best Performance Standards would be implemented as part of **Mitigation Measure GHG-1** to further minimize this impact.

Mitigation Measure

Mitigation Measure GHG-1: TID and/or its contractor shall implement the following best performance standards for construction emissions (AEP 2016):

- (1) Use alternatively fueled vehicles and equipment, including electrification as well as alternative fuels where reasonably available and certified for use in construction equipment and vehicles (e.g., biodiesel blends, renewable diesel).
- (2) Reduce worker trips through organized ride sharing, where appropriate.
- (3) Use local sources of construction materials when economically feasible.

Operation of the proposed Project would be minimal as the project entails construction of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post. As previously discussed in Section 2.2, *Air Quality*, proposed Project construction and operation would be below thresholds established by TCAPCD. The proposed Project has been found to be consistent with the Tuolumne County General Plan, Tuolumne County Regional Blueprint Greenhouse Gas Study, and newly adopted Climate Action Plan. Therefore, these impacts would be less than significant.

2.7.2 References

Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). 2016. *Final White Paper Beyond 2020 and Newhall, A Field Guide to New CEQA Greenhouse Gas Thresholds and Climate Action Plan Targets for California*. October 18, 2016. Page 36.

2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS —				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.8.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project site is located in Tuolumne County on a parcel zoned for public and is adjacent to the Don Pedro Reservoir. No schools are located within 1 mile of the site. The proposed Project site is in an area with campgrounds, marinas and recreational facilities associated with Don Pedro Reservoir.

Hazardous Materials

Materials and waste may be considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxic), can be ignited by open flame (ignitable), corrode other materials (corrosive), or react violently, explode, or generate vapors when mixed with water (reactive). The term *hazardous material* is defined in law as any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment (California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501[o]). In some cases, past uses can result in spills or leaks of hazardous materials to the ground, resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. The use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials are subject to numerous federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Information about hazardous materials sites on the proposed Project site was collected by reviewing the California Environmental Protection Agency's Cortese List data resources and the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker list. The Cortese List data resources provide information regarding facilities or sites identified as meeting the requirements for inclusion on the Cortese List. The Cortese List is updated at least annually, in compliance with California regulations (California Government Code Section 65964.6[a][4]), and includes federal Superfund sites, state response sites, non-operating hazardous waste sites, voluntary cleanup sites, and school cleanup sites. The GeoTracker list shows underground storage tanks. Based on a review of the Cortese List conducted in January 2021, no listed sites are located within 1 mile of the proposed Project site (DTSC 2023).

Fire Suppression

The proposed Project site is located within a State Responsibility Area where the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the primary emergency response agency responsible for fire suppression and prevention (CAL FIRE 2023).

2.8.2 Discussion

- a, b) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project's construction equipment and materials would include fuels, oils and lubricants, cement, and concrete, which are all commonly used in construction. The routine use or an accidental spill of hazardous materials used in construction could result in inadvertent releases, which could adversely affect construction workers, the public, and the environment.

Proposed Project construction activities would be required to comply with numerous regulations to ensure that construction-related fuels and other hazardous materials are transported, used, stored, and disposed of safely to protect worker safety, and to reduce the potential for such fuels or other hazardous materials to be released into the environment, including stormwater and downstream receiving water bodies. Contractors would be required to prepare and implement hazardous-materials business plans that would require proper use of hazardous materials during construction and storage of such materials in appropriate containers with secondary containment, as needed, to contain a potential release.

In addition, construction contractors would be required to acquire coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Stormwater Permit, which requires the preparation and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for construction activities. The SWPPP would list the hazardous materials (including petroleum products) proposed for use during construction; describe spill prevention measures, equipment inspections, and equipment and fuel storage; describe protocols for responding immediately to spills; and describe best management practices (BMPs) for controlling site run-on and runoff. Details regarding BMPs designed to minimize erosion are discussed in Section 2.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*. Construction would be required to adhere to BMPs associated with the NPDES Construction General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities, also

known as the Construction General Permit, to control sediment in stormwater runoff from the proposed Project site.

Lastly, the transportation of hazardous materials would be regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol. Together, federal and state agencies determine driver-training requirements, load-labeling procedures, and container specifications designed to minimize the risk of an accidental release.

During operations, after construction of the proposed Project has been completed, regular maintenance and repairs would be conducted as necessary and could require household cleaning supplies, fuels, oils, and/or lubricants. The proposed Project would be required to comply with the numerous laws and regulations discussed above that govern transportation, use, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials, which would limit the potential for creation of hazardous conditions due to the use or accidental release of hazardous materials. As a result, this impact would be less than significant.

- c) **No Impact.** No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed Project site. Therefore, no impact on schools would occur.
- d) **No Impact.** As discussed previously, based on a review of the Cortese List conducted in October 2023, no listed sites are located within 1 mile of the proposed Project site (DTSC 2023). Therefore, no impact related to being located on a listed hazardous materials site would occur.
- e) **No Impact.** No public airports or public use airports are located within 2 miles of the proposed Project site. Therefore, no impact related to airport safety hazards would occur.
- f) **No Impact.** The construction activity and the staging of equipment and materials for the proposed Project would occur on the adjacent Fleming Meadows Boat Launch parking lot, which would not require road closures or lane restrictions. Therefore, no impact on emergency response and evacuation plans would occur.
- g) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project site is located in a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2023). The proposed Project site is currently partially developed with the existing Trading Post building, the Fleming Meadows Boat Launch parking lot and the surrounding Fleming Meadows Campground. Trees and grasslands would be removed as necessary for construction of the proposed Project, which would reduce fire risk. Therefore, the impact related to wildland fires would be less than significant.

2.8.3 References

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2023. Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area Viewer. Available: <https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=988d431a42b242b29d89597ab693d008>. Accessed October 24, 2023.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2023. DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List—Site Cleanup (Cortese List). Available: <https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed October 23, 2023.

2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY — Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.9.1 Environmental Setting

Surface Water Hydrology

The San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region is in California's Central Valley, and is generally the northern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, including the proposed Project site. The region is south of the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region and north of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The region includes approximately half of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The San Joaquin River basin has average annual runoff of approximately 4 million acre-feet (DWR 2014).

Tuolumne River

The Tuolumne River watershed drains an area of approximately 1,533 square miles. Its headwaters originate in the high Sierra at the eastern edge of Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park, and continue through the park to Hetch Hetchy Valley, where the main branch is dammed by the 95-year-old O'Shaughnessy Dam, forming the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. At the O'Shaughnessy Dam, approximately 33 percent of the river's flow is diverted to the San

Francisco Bay Area, where it provides drinking water for nearly 2.5 million people (Tuolumne County 2018b).

Don Pedro Reservoir

Don Pedro Reservoir was formed by the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam across the Tuolumne River. Don Pedro Reservoir is the sixth largest reservoir in California with a surface area of 13,000 acres and a water volume of 2,030,000 acre-feet.

Water Quality

Tuolumne River

Surface water quality in the region is generally considered very good. For example, most of the water from the Tuolumne River is usable for human consumption with disinfection alone, although additional treatment is required by law (Tuolumne County 2018b). Downstream of the proposed Project, the Tuolumne River has been listed as Section 303(d) impaired for Group A Pesticides, Mercury, Temperature, water, and Toxicity (EPA 2022).

Don Pedro Reservoir

Don Pedro Reservoir has been listed as Section 303(d) impaired for mercury (EPA 2022).

Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality

The California Department of Water Resources publishes Bulletin 118, which provides a detailed description of traditional groundwater basins in California. Such basins are characterized by loose, unconsolidated sediments or porous, permeable bedrock conditions. No such basin is identified in Tuolumne County in Bulletin 118.

Groundwater quality throughout the County has generally been found to be good. Groundwater mostly contains naturally-occurring constituents such as iron and manganese (Tuolumne County 2018c). Other sources of groundwater contamination are improperly placed and maintained septic systems, as well as LUSTs. Many septic systems were installed before the requirement of a soil investigation and health study to demonstrate long term feasibility of the septic system before its installation; thus, the areas of most concern are generally associated with older residences where septic systems were installed before the passing of these regulations. Septic system contamination leads to bacteriological contamination within groundwater wells that can become problematic for domestic use of local groundwater.

Flood Control and Flood Management Facilities

The Tuolumne River is dammed in the lower elevations along much of the stream course, and is mostly contained within government or special district ownership. Thus, excluding a few tributaries, the larger rivers and the immediate environs are not in areas where private development can occur. Further, the rivers and streams reside within relatively steep canyons or valleys, where very little floodplain has been formed. Flooding occurs only occasionally in Tuolumne County, particularly during the winter and spring following heavy periods of rainfall

when excessive runoff causes streams and tributaries from the area rivers to overrun their banks (Tuolumne County 2018c).

2.9.2 Discussion

- a, b) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would involve the use of heavy equipment, such as excavation, grading, earthmoving, and placement of concrete. Soils at the proposed Project site have the potential for erosion and construction activities have the potential to increase rates of erosion, which could increase turbidity in downstream receiving waters. In addition, the use of heavy machinery during construction would have the potential to result in an accidental release of fuels, oils, solvents, hydraulic fluid, and other construction-related fluids to the environment, thereby degrading water quality. Routine Project operations are not anticipated to result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

TID would be required to obtain a NPDES Construction General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board before initiating ground-disturbing activities. Among the permit's conditions would be preparation and implementation of a SWPPP that would identify and require implementation of BMPs to prevent sediment and other construction-related compounds (e.g., fuel, oil) from entering stormwater runoff. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, including the implementation of BMPs described in the SWPPP, would ensure that the proposed Project would avoid and/or minimize the potential impact of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil during construction. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

Routine operation and maintenance activities for the proposed Project would include providing services to support DPR staff needs, visitor's needs, as well as customer needs for special events. Regular maintenance and repairs as necessary would be completed by existing staff. As a result, impacts on water quality from the proposed Project's operation and maintenance activities would be less than significant.

- c.i-iv) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post. The amount of impervious surfaces added with the proposed Project would be relatively minimal and would not result in large amounts of stormwater. As with the existing stormwater collection system of the Project area, stormwater for the proposed Project would be collected in gutters and drain to the adjacent hillside or existing drainage swales/ditches from which it may eventually drain to creeks, Don Pedro Reservoir or infiltrate the ground. The proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount or rate of stormwater, or require increased stormwater drainage capacity. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- d) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would construct a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the

existing Trading Post. Operation of the proposed Project would include the use of a limited amount of household cleaning supplies. As an inland region separated from the Pacific Ocean by approximately 150 miles, Tuolumne County is at no risk from tsunamis. According to the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, earthquake-induced seiches also do not pose a risk to Tuolumne County. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- e) **Less than Significant.** As described previously under checklist items a) and b), the proposed Project would comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit, including the implementation of BMPs described in the SWPPP to prevent water quality pollutants such as silt, sediment, hazardous materials, and construction-related fluids from entering receiving waters. Constructing the proposed Project would result in the addition of impervious surfaces from construction of the new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center; however, the proposed Project would only add a relatively small amount of impervious surfaces and groundwater recharge would still be possible in the vast majority of the Project area. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

2.9.3 References

Tuolumne County. 2018c. Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tuolumne County General Plan Update Project. December 2018.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2022. Final 2020/2022 California Integrated Report (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List/305(b) Report). Approved by EPA May 11, 2022. Available: 2020-2022 California Integrated Report | California State Water Resources Control Board. Accessed October 30, 2023.

2.10 Noise

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XI. NOISE — Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.10.1 Environmental Setting

Sound is mechanical energy transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, while noise is defined as unwanted sound. Sound pressure level is measured in decibels (dB), with 0 dB corresponding roughly to the threshold of human hearing and 120–140 dB corresponding to the threshold of pain.

The typical human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies of the audible sound spectrum. As a consequence, during assessments of potential noise impacts, sound is measured using an electronic filter that deemphasizes the frequencies below 1,000 Hertz¹ and above 5,000 Hertz in a manner corresponding to the human ear's decreased sensitivity to low and extremely high frequencies instead of the frequency mid-range. This method of frequency weighting is referred to as *A-weighting* and is expressed in units of A-weighted decibels (dBA).²

Effects of Noise on People

The effects of noise on people fall into three categories:

- Subjective effects of annoyance, nuisance, and dissatisfaction.
- Interference with activities such as speech, sleep, and learning.
- Physiological effects such as hearing loss or sudden startling.

Environmental noise typically produces effects in the first two categories. Workers in industrial plants generally experience noise in the last category. There is no completely satisfactory way to measure the subjective effects of noise, or the corresponding reactions of annoyance and dissatisfaction. A wide variation exists in individual thresholds of annoyance; different tolerances to noise tend to develop based on individuals' past experiences with noise.

¹ Hertz is a unit of frequency equivalent to one cycle per second.

² All noise levels reported herein reflect A-weighted decibels unless otherwise stated.

Thus, an important way to predict a human reaction to a new noise environment is the way it compares to the existing environment to which one has adapted: the so-called “ambient noise” level. In general, the more a new noise exceeds the previously existing ambient noise level, the less acceptable the new noise will be judged by those hearing it. With regard to increases in A-weighted noise levels, the following relationships occur:

- In carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1 dBA cannot be perceived.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference when the change in noise is perceived but does not cause a human response.
- A change in level of at least 5 dBA is required before any noticeable change in human response would be expected.
- A 10-dBA change is subjectively heard as approximately a doubling in loudness, and can cause adverse response.

The human ear perceives sound in a nonlinear fashion; hence, the decibel scale was developed. Because the decibel scale is nonlinear, two noise sources do not combine in a simple additive fashion, rather logarithmically. For example, if two identical noise sources produce noise levels of 50 dBA, the combined sound level would be 53 dBA, not 100 dBA.

Noise Attenuation

Stationary “point” sources of noise, including stationary mobile sources such as idling vehicles, attenuate (lessen) at a rate of 6 to 7.5 dBA per doubling of distance from the source, depending on environmental conditions (e.g., atmospheric conditions and noise barriers, either vegetative or manufactured). Widely distributed noises, such as a large industrial facility spread over many acres or a street with moving vehicles (a “line” source), would typically attenuate at a lower rate, approximately 3 to 4.5 dBA per doubling of distance from the source (also depending on environmental conditions) (Caltrans 2013). Noise from large construction sites would have characteristics of both point and line sources, so attenuation would generally range between 4.5 and 7.5 dBA per doubling of distance.

Vibration

Vibration is an oscillatory motion through a solid medium in which the motion’s amplitude can be described in terms of displacement, velocity, or acceleration. Several different methods are used to quantify vibration (FTA 2018):

- *Peak particle velocity* (PPV) is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal. The PPV is most frequently used to describe vibration impacts to buildings.
- The *root mean square* (RMS) amplitude is most frequently used to describe the effect of vibration on the human body. The RMS amplitude is defined as the average of the squared amplitude of the signal.
- Decibel notation, expressed as *vibration decibels* (VdB), is commonly used to measure RMS. The decibel notation acts to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration.

Typically, groundborne vibration generated by man-made activities attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of the vibration.

Existing Ambient Noise Environment

The noise environment in the area surrounding the proposed Project site is characterized by rural roadways, recreational watercraft noise, and campgrounds. It includes low-volume traffic noise passenger vehicles, large trucks, boats and recreational watercraft. The ambient noise environment in the vicinity of the proposed Project site was estimated using a relationship between population density and ambient noise that was determined during a research program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agency estimated that residents of rural or other non-urban areas are exposed to outdoor ambient noise levels ranging from 35 to 50 dBA L_{dn} ³ (EPA 1974). Because the area surrounding the proposed Project site can be categorized as a rural or other non-urban area, it is assumed that ambient noise levels would range between 35 and 50 dBA L_{dn} .

Sensitive Receptors

Human response to noise varies considerably from one individual to another. Effects of noise at various levels can include interference with sleep, concentration, and communication; physiological and psychological stress; and hearing loss. Given these effects, some land uses are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than others. In general, residences, schools, hotels, hospitals, and nursing homes are considered to be the most sensitive to noise. Commercial and industrial uses are considered the least noise-sensitive. There are no permanent sensitive receptor land uses in the vicinity of the proposed Project site include residences; the Fleming Meadows Campground is located approximately 200 feet from the proposed Project site.

2.10.2 Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** For the assessment of temporary construction noise impacts, construction activities that would occur outside of Tuolumne County's construction-exempt hours would result in a significant impact. Tuolumne County does not have a noise ordinance; however, the Noise Element of the Tuolumne County General Plan limits allowable noise exposure limits from stationary sources and transportation sources between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Tuolumne County 2018a). Compliance with the Noise Element requirement would limit the proposed Project's construction noise to a level determined to be acceptable by Tuolumne County. Therefore, the noise impact of proposed Project construction activity would be less than significant.

On-site construction activities would only occur within Tuolumne County's daytime hours and would not violate the County's noise standards. Construction activities would occur only during daytime hours, and would not violate the County's noise standards, and when the existing ambient noise level is at its highest (e.g., traffic noise); no nighttime

³ Also abbreviated "DNL," L_{dn} is a 24-hour day and night A-weighted noise exposure level that accounts for the greater sensitivity of most people to nighttime noise by weighting noise levels at night ("penalizing" nighttime noises). Noise between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. is weighted (penalized) by adding 10 dB to take into account the greater annoyance of nighttime noises.

hours as defined by the Tuolumne County Code would occur, and the activities would be limited in duration. This impact would be less than significant.

The proposed Project site is located in a rural area adjacent to land that is zoned for public use. In the Project area, low-volume traffic noise from large trucks, passenger vehicles, and recreational watercraft is normal.

Once constructed, the proposed Project would be composed of a new building and rehabilitated existing Trading Post. These two buildings should operate together and provide services and infrastructure to support DPRA staff needs, visitor's needs, as well as customer needs for special events. Regular maintenance and repairs as necessary would be completed by existing staff.

In the Project area, existing conditions include ambient noise from low-volume traffic noise from large trucks, passenger vehicles, and recreational watercraft and camping. Operation of the proposed Project would not involve noise that would differ from what is currently experienced under existing conditions. Consequently, the proposed Project is not expected to result in any permanent substantial noise increases relative to existing conditions, nor would noise levels generated by proposed Project operation and maintenance activities exceed Tuolumne County's exterior noise standards at the nearest sensitive receptor. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- b) **Less than Significant.** Operation of the proposed Project would not include any activities that would generate significant levels of vibration. Therefore, it is not anticipated that Project operation would expose the nearest sensitive receptor or structure to vibration levels that would result in annoyance. For this reason, the following analysis of the proposed Project's vibration impacts evaluates only the effects of on-site construction activities.

For adverse human reaction, the analysis applies the "strongly perceptible" threshold of 0.9 inch per second (in/sec) PPV for transient sources. For risk of architectural damage to historic buildings and structures, the analysis applies a threshold of 0.12 in/sec PPV (Caltrans 2013). A threshold of 0.3 in/sec PPV is used to assess damage risk for all other buildings. There are no historic structures in the vicinity of the Project area that could be adversely affected by vibration related to proposed Project construction.

Construction of the proposed Project would involve the use of excavators, graders, scrapers, bulldozers, dump trucks, loaders, concrete mixer trucks, concrete pumper trucks, and welding equipment. The use of bulldozers would be expected to generate the highest vibration levels during construction. Vibration levels of bulldozers are typically 0.089 in/sec PPV at 25 feet, which is typical for a wide range of soils. Under typical propagation conditions, vibration levels at 175 feet would be approximately 0.0048 in/sec PPV, which is well below the Federal Transit Administration's threshold of 0.20 in/sec PPV for building damage and 72 VdB for human annoyance. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- c) **No Impact.** No private airstrips, public airports, or public use airports are located within 2 miles of the proposed Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people working in the Project area to excessive noise levels, and no impact would occur.

2.10.3 References

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2013. *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol*. September 2013.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA). 2018. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*. September 2018.

Tuolumne County. 2018a. 2018 Tuolumne *County General Plan*. December 2018.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 1974. *Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety*. March 1974.

2.11 Transportation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XII. TRANSPORTATION — Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.11.1 Environmental Setting

Highways

The proposed Project site is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of State Route 132, which is classified as a Minor Arterial (Tuolumne County 2018b).

County Roadways/Traffic Types

As described previously, the proposed Project site is located in a rural area. The proposed Project site is adjacent to Bonds Flat Road, which is classified as a Major Collector (Tuolumne County 2018b).

Airports

The nearest airport to the proposed Project site is the Oakdale Airport, approximately 22 miles to the west.

2.11.2 Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed Project would temporarily generate increases in vehicle trips by workers and vehicles on area roadways. There could be a minimal increase in truck trips for construction; however, given the scale of the proposed Project and the length of the construction period, the capacity of local roads used to access the proposed Project site would not likely be substantially reduced. Proposed Project operation would require a similar amount of workers as the previous Visitor Center and draw a similar amount of visitors. Because the increase in traffic during construction and operation would be minimal, there would be no decreased levels of service. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) **Less than Significant.** Section 15064.3 of the State CEQA Guidelines establishes specific considerations for evaluating a project’s transportation impacts. The State CEQA Guidelines identify vehicle miles traveled (VMT)—the amount and distance of

automobile travel attributable to a project—as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. Other relevant considerations may include the effects of the project on transit and nonmotorized travel. Construction of the proposed Project would last approximately 18 months and would use existing construction crews. Operation of the proposed Project would not add a substantial amount of VMT to the Project area. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- c) **Less than Significant.** Trucks accessing the proposed Project site would use local rural roadways. Based on the low number of anticipated construction trips relative to traffic volumes on local roadways and their limited duration, this impact of proposed Project construction would be less than significant.

Construction of the proposed Project would not result in new design features on roads in the area. Further, the proposed Project would not result in potential traffic safety hazards for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians on public roadways, given the intermittent and temporary nature of construction activities. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

- d) **Less than Significant.** Temporary construction staging would not block or interfere with emergency response vehicles as staging would occur on the existing parking lot within the proposed Project site. Increases in traffic volumes on local roadways providing access to the proposed Project site could cause intermittent and temporary slowdowns in traffic flow during construction, although worker trips associated with proposed Project operation are not expected to cause access on local roadways to deteriorate. For these reasons, the proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access, and this impact would be less than significant.

2.11.3 References

Tuolumne County. 2018b. *Tuolumne County General Plan, Volume II: Technical Background Report*. August 2018.

2.12 Tribal Cultural Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES —				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This section examines the potential impacts of the proposed Project on tribal cultural resources. Cultural resources are described separately section 2.3 of this IS/MND. A *tribal cultural resource* is defined in PRC Section 21074 as:

a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is listed or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources or a resource determined significant by the lead agency.

PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, and 21082.3 require lead agencies to engage in tribal consultation with California Native American Tribes (Tribes), and PRC Sections 20174 and 21083.09 require lead agencies to analyze project impacts on tribal cultural resources separately from archaeological resources.

This section relies on the information and findings presented in the proposed Project’s following confidential cultural resources technical report:

- *Subject: Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Cultural Resources Constraints Analysis (Mattes, 2023)*

The report included an overview of the environmental, ethnographic, and historic background of the Project area, with an emphasis on aspects related to human occupation. The confidential report is included by reference to this document. State law prohibits the public dissemination of locational and other information on known cultural resources.

2.12.1 Environmental Setting

Records Search

Staff members at the Central California Information Center (CCaIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) completed a records search of the Project area and surrounding 0.5-mile area on June 1, 2023 (File No. 125570). The CCaIC records search results identified 15 previous cultural resources studies that have taken place within or within 0.25 mile of the Project area; nine of these have covered some portion of the Project area. The CCaIC records search indicated that 25 cultural resources have been previously recorded in or within 0.25 mile of the Project area. Of these, four are indigenous archaeological resources: three indigenous archaeological isolates (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781), and one discontinuous indigenous archaeological district (P-55-008879).

The three archaeological isolates mapped in the Project area are all indigenous flaked-stone lithics and are mapped in the approximate center of the Project area. The archaeological district mapped in the Project area (P-55-008879—Tuolumne River Prehistoric Archaeological District) consists of 125 individual resources and spans the banks of the Don Pedro Reservoir. Though ten resources included in the archaeological district are mapped within 0.25 mile of the Project area, none are within or immediately adjacent to the Project area; therefore, the resource is not considered to be within the Project area. **Table 2.12-1** summarizes the cultural resources previously recorded in the Project area.

TABLE 2.12-1
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDED IN THE PROJECT AREA

Primary # (P-55-)	Trinomial (CA-)	Type	Age/Affiliation	Resource Name and Brief Description	Recorded By (Year)
008778	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
008779	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
008781	[none]	Archaeological	Indigenous	Isolate lithic flake	Beck (2012)
*008879	TUO-5598	Archaeological	Indigenous	Tuolumne River Prehistoric Archaeological District	Risse et al. (2012, 2015, 2018)

*Mapped in the Project area but determined to, in fact, not be within the Project area

Native American Correspondence

ESA contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 28, 2023, in request of a search of the NAHC's Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a list of Native American representatives who may have interest in the proposed Project. The NAHC replied on November 3, 2023, stating that the SLF has no record of any sacred sites in the C-APE, and also provided a list of nine representatives from five California Native American Tribes (Tribes) who may have interest in the Project: Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians; Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe; Tule River Indian Tribe; Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians; and Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band.

On November 7, 2023, TID sent Project notification letters, via U.S. Postal Service certified mail, as required under PRC Section 21080.3.1, to representatives from all five of the aforementioned Tribes. The letters provided information on the proposed Project, including a Project location map, and requested that the recipients notify TID if they had any concerns regarding Project impacts on cultural resources and tribal cultural resources. The same day, on behalf of TID, ESA sent emails to the recipients of these letters that included the letters and a request that the recipients contact TID or ESA if they had any concerns about proposed Project impacts on cultural resources and tribal cultural resources.

On December 18, 2023, TID received a letter, dated December 11, 2023, from the Tuolumne Me-wuk Tribal Council (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians) that stated that they had received the TID notification from November 7, 2023, and would like additional information on the Project and a potential site visit due to the presence of several cultural resources near the Project area. TID is continuing to consult with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. To date, neither TID nor ESA have received any additional replies.

Field Survey

On June 7, 2023, ESA conducted an archaeological pedestrian surface survey of the Project area. The survey methods entailed walking parallel transects of no more than 20 meters apart throughout unpaved portions of the Project area. The remaining portions of the Project area were overlain by paved access roads, a paved parking lot, and a gravel parking lot constructed of angular gravels that are inconsistent with the local geology and, therefore, appears to be imported aggregate fill. Transect spacing in these areas was increased to 50 meters due to reduced sensitivity for exposed cultural resources. Decreased transect spacing (as narrow as 5 meters) was employed in the vicinity of proposed utilities alignments, around the previously recorded pre-contact archaeological isolates mapped in the center of the Project area (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781). During the survey, no evidence of any of the three previously recorded archaeological resources (pre-contact archaeological isolates P-55-008778, -008779, -008781) were observed. No previously unrecorded archaeological resources were observed in the Project area during the survey. As such, ESA concluded that no archaeological resources are present in the Project area.

Archaeological Sensitivity

The Project area is within 0.5 mile of the original locations of Big Creek and the Tuolumne River, prior to the construction of the Don Pedro Reservoir; these major sources of freshwater in the area would have been amenable to pre-contact occupation, resulting in an overall sensitivity of the general area for pre-contact archaeological resources. The presence of a number of previously recorded pre-contact archaeological resources in and in the vicinity of the Project area suggests that, prior to the historic-era, this area was occupied by indigenous people.

The surficial geology of the Project area consists of Jura-Triassic metavolcanic rocks, including quartzite, rhyolite, and basalt, dating to ca. 252 to 145 million years ago (Jenkins, 1982). Soils mapped in the Project area consist of shallow, gravelly, loams of the Bonanza-Loafercreek complex, with bedrock present within two feet of the ground surface (USDA, 2023). Based on the age of the surficial geological formation underlying the Project area and the shallow depth of

soils, the potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits in undisturbed or minimally disturbed portions of the Project area is very low (Rosenthal and Meyer, 2004). Archaeological sites in this geologic context would be at or very near to the existing ground surface.

Conversely, the pre-Pleistocene age of the Project area's underlying surficial geologic formation and the shallow nature of the soils in the Project area suggest that any potential pre-contact archaeological resources in the Project area would be visible on the surface. Given that much of the Project area has been previously disturbed by ground-disturbing activities (parking lot construction, etc.), and no pre-contact archaeological resources were identified during the archaeological pedestrian survey (or other previous surveys), the overall sensitivity for surficial pre-contact archaeological resources is low. Therefore, the Project area appears to have low sensitivity for both surficial and subsurface pre-contact archaeological resources.

Summary of Resources Identified

Through background research, four previously recorded indigenous archaeological resources were identified in the Project area: three indigenous archaeological isolates (P-55-008778, -008779, -008781); and one discontinuous indigenous archaeological district (P-55-008879). The archaeological field survey conducted for the proposed Project confirmed that none of these are, in fact, in the Project area, and no previously unrecorded cultural resources were identified in the Project area.

As such, through background research, Native American correspondence, and a field survey conducted for the Project, no tribal cultural resources, or archaeological resources that could be tribal cultural resources were identified in the Project area.

2.12.2 Discussion

a.i, a.ii) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** No tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074, have been identified in the Project area through background research, field survey, and Native American outreach. As a result, there is no substantial evidence of the presence in the Project area of any tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074. Therefore, the proposed Project is not expected to impact any tribal cultural resource, pursuant to PRC Section 21074.

However, because the proposed Project would involve ground-disturbing activities that may extend into undisturbed soil, it is possible that such actions could unearth, expose, or disturb subsurface archaeological resources that were not identified on the surface. If previously unrecorded archaeological deposits are present in the Project area, and if they are found to qualify as tribal cultural resources, pursuant to PRC Section 21074, any impacts of the proposed Project on the resources would be potentially significant. Such potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing **Mitigation Measures CUL-1 to CUL-3**, as described in Section 2.4.

2.12.3 References

Jenkins, Olaf P. 1982. *Geologic Map of California, San Jose Sheet*. Prepared by California Division of Mines and Geology.

Mattes, Matthew. 2023. *Subject: Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Cultural Resources Constraints Analysis*. Memorandum. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District.

NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research). 2023. Historic aerial photographs of Project area and vicinity. Available: <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>. Accessed, June 19, 2023.

Rosenthal, Jeffrey S., and Jack Meyer. 2004. *Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 10 Rural Conventional Highways: Volume III: Geoarchaeological Study, Landscape Evolution and the Archaeological Record of Central California*. Prepared by Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., Davis, CA. Prepared for Caltrans District 10, Stockton, CA.

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture). 2023. "Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey". Version 3.1. Available: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed, June 19, 2023.

2.13 Utilities and Service Systems

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIV. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS —				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.13.1 Environmental Setting

All of the DPRA campgrounds have their own sewer systems and water treatment systems.

Electricity is provided to the Project area by the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). There is no natural gas consumption in Tuolumne County; however, there is propane consumption. TID currently has sufficient energy supplies and distribution facilities to support the proposed Project.

Tuolumne County no longer has any operating landfills. There are several transfer stations and recycling centers located throughout the County. There are multiple waste services companies in Tuolumne County. Collected solid waste is processed at the transfer stations and disposed of at the Highway 59 Disposal Site landfill, which is operated by the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority. The maximum permitted capacity of the Highway 59 Disposal Site landfill is 30,012,352 cubic yards, and the maximum permitted throughput is 1,500 tons per day. The remaining capacity (as of September 2005) is 28,025,334 cubic yards (CalRecycle 2023).

2.13.2 Discussion

a–d) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post, the effects of which are analyzed throughout this document. As discussed in Section 1.3, *Project Operations and Maintenance*, it is expected that most of the existing primary utility mains and services

(water, sewer, and electrical) can continue to support the rehabilitated Trading Post and could accommodate the new building with installation of new services. If required, extensions of existing utility services would be constructed; however, the proposed Project would not require additional water supplies or expanded wastewater treatment capacity. The proposed Project would not include or require the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Construction of the proposed Project would comply with all wastewater requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (see Section 2.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, for more information), as well as all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, these impacts would be less than significant.

- e) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would generate minimal waste during temporary construction activities. Construction of the proposed Project would generate solid waste from excavation activities, building materials, and general waste in addition to the removal of trees. All solid waste collected at the Project site would be brought to the transfer stations in Groveland or East Sonora, before being transferred by Cal Sierra Disposal to the Highway 59 Disposal Site, located at 7040 N. Highway 59 in Merced. The Highway 59 Disposal Site is well below its maximum permitted capacity of 30,012,352 cubic yards, with 28,025,334 cubic yards remaining capacity (CalRecycle 2023). Construction waste generated by the proposed Project is not anticipated to cause the disposal site to exceed its maximum permitted disposal volume. The proposed Project would generate a relatively small amount of solid waste per day, as compared to the permitted daily capacity at the Highway 59 Disposal Site; therefore, the landfill would have sufficient capacity to accept solid waste generated by the proposed Project. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

2.13.3 References

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). 2023. SWIS Facility/Site Details: Highway 59 Landfill (24-AA-0001). Available: SWIS Facility/Site Details (ca.gov). Accessed October 27, 2023.

2.14 Wildfire

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XV. WILDFIRE — If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.14.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed Project site is located within a State Responsibility Area where CAL FIRE is the primary emergency response agency responsible for fire suppression and prevention (CAL FIRE 2023).

2.14.2 Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project site is currently partially developed with the existing Trading Post building, the Fleming Meadows Boat Launch parking lot and the surrounding Fleming Meadows Campground. Given the existing development and the clearing of vegetation, the proposed Project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Proposed Project activities would be contained within the boundaries of the Project area and would not impair emergency response access on roadways or to areas within or adjacent to the Project area. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would require grading, clearing, excavation, scraping, and the removal of trees before construction activities begin. Removing vegetation would lower on-site fuel sources for wildfires. The proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks that would expose on-site employees to pollutants or uncontrolled wildfires. This impact would be less than significant.
- c) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would include the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post. Given the low wildfire potential because of the developed lands surrounding the proposed Project site and the

limited size of the pump station, the proposed Project is not expected to result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment from the installation or maintenance of infrastructure that would exacerbate wildfire risks. This impact would be less than significant.

- d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would include the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to risks of downstream flooding or landslide, and no impact would occur.

2.14.3 References

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2023. Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area Viewer. Available: <https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=988d431a42b242b29d89597ab693d008>. Accessed October 24, 2023.

2.15 Mandatory Findings of Significance

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.15.1 Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** As described in the preceding impact discussions, the impacts related to the potential of the proposed Project to substantially degrade the environment would be less than significant with incorporated mitigation measures. As described in this initial study, the proposed Project has the potential for impacts related to air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, and tribal cultural resources. However, these impacts would be avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of avoidance and mitigation measures discussed in each section.
- b) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** This section provides a description of other actions in the area and a discussion of the cumulative impacts of those projects, in combination with the previously identified effects of the proposed Project. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 states that “cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts”:
- (a) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.
 - (b) The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

The past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future conditions of the proposed Project site and vicinity were considered for the cumulative analysis.

Aesthetics. Completion of the proposed Project would result in some permanent visual changes to the proposed Project site from the construction and operation of a new building to function as a staff administration office and customer visitor center, and the rehabilitation of the existing Trading Post. The proposed Project would be consistent with the rural nature and recreational uses of the existing setting. Further, these changes would be surrounded by parcels currently in use for campgrounds and recreation and would not be easily visible from the adjacent area. Therefore, cumulative impacts on aesthetics would be less than significant.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. A number of individual projects in the vicinity of the proposed Project may be under construction simultaneously with the proposed Project. Depending on construction schedules and actual implementation of projects in and around Tuolumne County, generation of fugitive dust and pollutant emissions during construction may result in short-term air pollutants, which would contribute to short-term cumulative impacts on air quality. However, each individual project would be subject to TCAPCD's rules, regulations, and other mitigation requirements during construction. For cumulative impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, see Section 2.2, *Air Quality*, and Section 2.6, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, above. The thresholds used consider the contributions of other projects in the air basin. Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions are considered cumulative in nature because it is unlikely that a single project would contribute significantly to climate change.

Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The proposed Project's impacts for these environmental issues would be limited to the proposed Project site, and any significant impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing proposed mitigation measures. Thus, the proposed Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts for these topics.

Energy. Construction of the proposed Project would result in fuel consumption from the use of construction tools and equipment, truck trips to haul materials, and vehicle trips by construction workers commuting to and from the proposed Project site. This impact would be temporary and localized. Operational energy impacts would be relatively minimal and related to lighting and HVAC for the new building. Construction-related fuel consumption by the proposed Project would not result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary energy use compared with other construction sites in the region.

Hydrology and Water Quality. Implementing the proposed Project would result in an increase of impervious surfaces added; however, the increase would be relatively minimal and would not result in large amounts of stormwater. The proposed Project would not increase the amount or rate of stormwater, or require increased stormwater drainage capacity. Construction contractors would be required to acquire coverage under

the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Stormwater Permit, which requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP for construction activities. The SWPPP would list the hazardous materials (including petroleum products) proposed for use during construction; describe spill prevention measures, equipment inspections, and equipment and fuel storage; describe protocols for responding immediately to spills; and describe best management practices for controlling site run-on and runoff. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Land Use and Land Use Planning. The proposed Project would have no impact on land use and land use planning; therefore, it would not contribute to cumulative land use issues.

Mineral Resources. The proposed Project would have no impact on mineral resources and thus would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

Noise. The proposed Project's noise impacts are anticipated to be minor and the proposed Project would comply with the noise standards in the Noise Element of the Tuolumne County General Plan. Operation of the proposed Project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed Project. Thus, cumulative noise impacts would be less than significant.

Population and Housing. The proposed Project would have no impact on population growth in the area because it would not include any new residential or commercial development. The proposed Project also would not result in temporary employment during construction and would not result in the permanent creation of a significant number of new jobs that would induce substantial population growth. Therefore, cumulative population and housing impacts would be less than significant.

Public Services. No commercial or residential development is proposed as part of the proposed Project; therefore, the proposed Project would not increase demands on fire protection or police services, nor would it affect the response time of these services. Therefore, cumulative public services impacts would be less than significant.

Recreation. The proposed Project would have no impact on recreation and thus would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

Transportation. For cumulative impacts, see Section 2.11, *Transportation*.

Utilities and Service Systems. The proposed Project does not include and would not require the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The proposed Project also would not require stormwater treatment. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems would be less than significant.

The analyses in this draft initial study/mitigated negative declaration found that the proposed Project and associated activities would have the potential to result in impacts on the environment in the areas of biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and tribal cultural resources. However, these potential impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the mitigation measures included in this document, and most impacts would be temporary (i.e., would occur only during construction). Other future projects proposed in the region and vicinity may increase the impacts identified herein, or the proposed Project may contribute to other impacts. However, the proposed Project is not anticipated to contribute substantially to any one impact, and the proposed Project's impacts are not anticipated to be cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of future projects. Thus, this impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

- c) **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** The proposed Project would not result in any substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, because each potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the mitigation measures provided in this document. No other substantial adverse effects on human beings are anticipated as a result of the proposed Project, resulting in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.
-

Appendix A
**Biological Resources
Information**



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To:

June 27, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0098003

Project Name: Fleming Meadows Campground Visitor Center Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

(916) 414-6600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0098003

Project Name: Fleming Meadows Campground Visitor Center Project

Project Type: Recreation - Maintenance / Modification

Project Description: The proposed project includes one site in 2023. Site 1 includes the Fleming Meadows Boat Launch parking lot, bathroom, and existing trading post north of Bonds Flat Rd. The study area consists of oak woodlands; disturbed lands, including paved public roads; a paved parking lot; and a gravel parking lot. The areas surrounding the Visitor Center project consist of native and nonnative annual grasslands distributed at the understory of Oaks. The Visitor Center project includes the modification of the existing visitor center, potential electrical service extension, potential sewer service replacement, and construction of a new building near the visitor center.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.699928150000005,-120.40486066667293,14z>



Counties: Tuolumne County, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 9 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Fisher <i>Pekania pennanti</i> Population: SSN DPS There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3651	Endangered
San Joaquin Kit Fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873	Endangered

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> Population: U.S.A. (Central CA DPS) There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076	Threatened
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i> Population: South Sierra Distinct Population Segment (South Sierra DPS) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5133	Proposed Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Hartweg's Golden Sunburst <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1704	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Angelica Oregel
Address: 2600 Capitol Ave #200
City: Sacramento
State: CA
Zip: 95816
Email: aoregel@esassoc.com
Phone: 7146104325



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad IS (Penon Blanco Peak (3712063) OR La Grange (3712064))
 AND County IS (Stanislaus OR Tuolumne)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	ABNKC10010	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S3	FP
California tiger salamander - central California DPS <i>Ambystoma californiense pop. 1</i>	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
central California roach <i>Hesperoleucus symmetricus symmetricus</i>	AFCJB19021	None	None	GNRT3	S3	SSC
dwarf downingia <i>Downingia pusilla</i>	PDCAM060C0	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2
foothill yellow-legged frog - south Sierra DPS <i>Rana boylei pop. 5</i>	AAABH01055	Proposed Endangered	Endangered	G3T2	S2	
hardhead <i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i>	AFCJB25010	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
Hartweg's golden sunburst <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i>	PDAST7P010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Hoover's calycadenia <i>Calycadenia hooveri</i>	PDAST1P040	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S3	
Mariposa cryptantha <i>Cryptantha mariposae</i>	PDBOR0A1Q0	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
Merced kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys heermanni dixonii</i>	AMAFD03062	None	None	G4T2T3	S2	
Merced monardella <i>Monardella leucocephala</i>	PDLAM180C0	None	None	GX	SX	1A
Morrison bumble bee <i>Bombus morrisoni</i>	IIHYM24460	None	None	G3	S1S2	
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	AMAJA03041	Endangered	Threatened	G4T2	S3	
spiny-sepaled button-celery <i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i>	PDAP10Z0Y0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
steelhead - Central Valley DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11</i>	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
stinkbells <i>Fritillaria agrestis</i>	PMLIL0V010	None	None	G3	S3	4.2
succulent owl's-clover <i>Castilleja campestris var. succulenta</i>	PDSCR0D3Z1	Threatened	Endangered	G4?T2T3	S2S3	1B.2

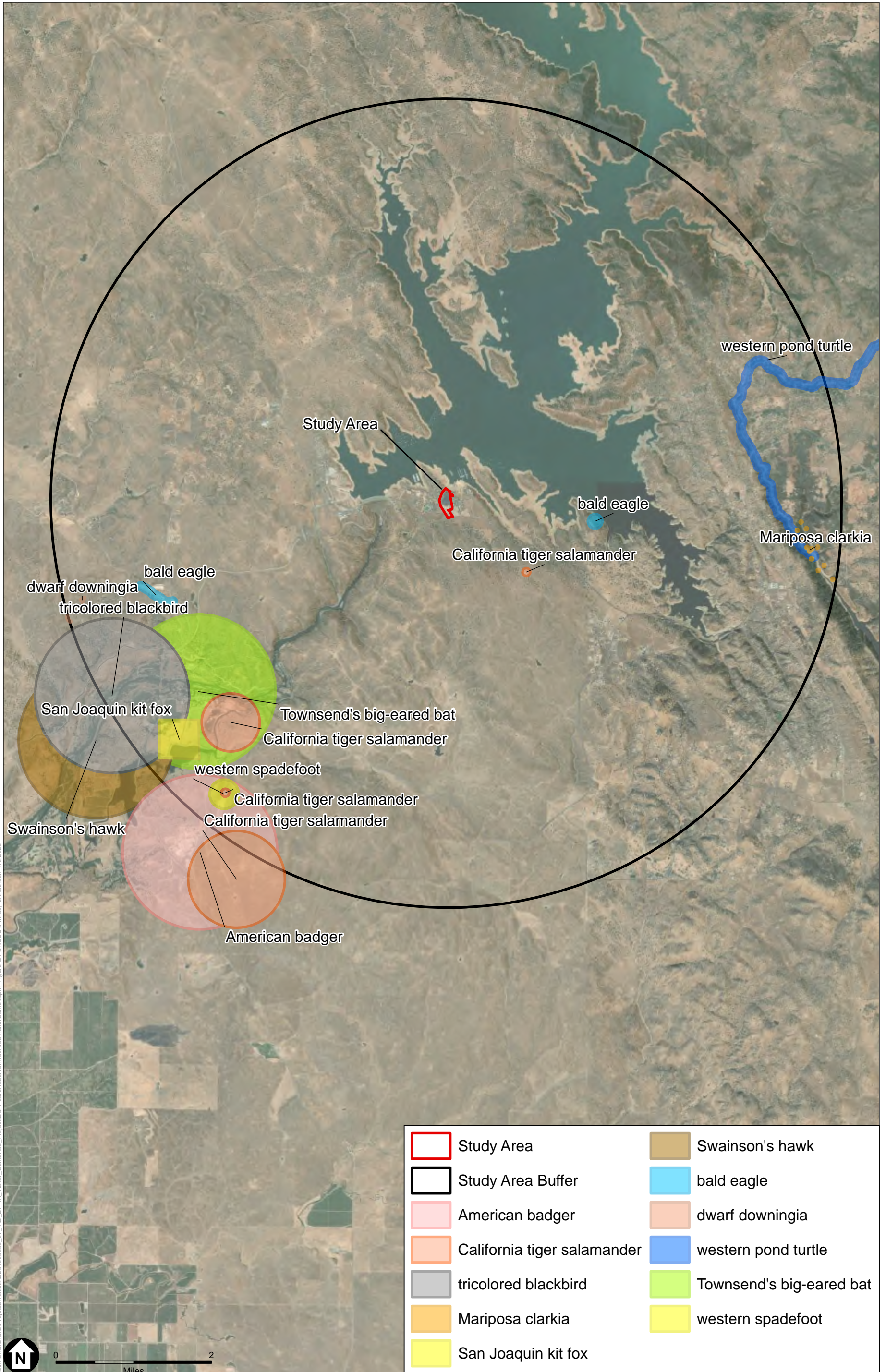


Selected Elements by Common Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC

Record Count: 23



Path: U:\GIS\GISProjects\18xxxx\18xxxx.D2018\00005_07_TID_DPRA_Visitor_Center\03_Project\DonPedroReservoir\Reaches\VisitorCenter.aprx Figure G1 CNDDDB 5 miles _Anderson 7/6/2023

SOURCE: CNDDDB, 2023; ESRI, 2023; Maxar, 2021; ESA, 2023

Howatt Ranch Recycled Water Pipeline Project

Attachment G
 CNDDDB Occurrences within 5 Miles of the Study Area



Appendix B
**Historic Resources Evaluation
Report**

Final

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY, TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Historic Resources Evaluation Report

Prepared for
Turlock Irrigation District

December 2023



Final

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY, TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Historic Resources Evaluation Report

Prepared for
Turlock Irrigation District

December 2023

Prepared by
Kathy Cleveland, MA
Amy Langford, PhD
Environmental Science Associates

Reviewed by
Becky Urbano, MS
Environmental Science Associates

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Atlanta	Palm Beach County	San Diego
Bend	Pasadena	San Francisco
Irvine	Pensacola	San Jose
Los Angeles	Petaluma	Sarasota
Mobile	Portland	Seattle
Oakland	Rancho Cucamonga	Tampa
Orlando	Sacramento	Thousand Oaks

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) has prepared this Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER) for the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (Project). Turlock Irrigation District (TID) has requested an updated evaluation of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District (DPRAHD [P-55-008881]) and its contributing individual elements for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (National Register) and California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). The Study Area is in Tuolumne County and encompasses the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements consist of the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-008574), Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-008908), and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803).

The DPRAHD and its associated elements (Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area) were previously evaluated, in 2015, for National Register-eligibility and deemed significant under Criteria A and C but were ultimately recommended not eligible because they were not then 50 years old (having been constructed in the early 1970s) and did not meet the requirements of Criterion Consideration G. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made a determination that the resources were not National Register-eligible at the time for these same reasons, with the California State Historic Preservation Officer concurring but requesting that the resources be re-evaluated outside of Criterion G. This HRER provides an updated analysis of the potential eligibility of the DPRAHD as a historic district, and its recreation areas as individual resources, based on current conditions.

ESA conducted evaluations of the resources under both the National Register and California Register. As a result, ESA recommends these resources as not eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register, as either individual resources or as a historic district.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary of Findings	i
Contents	iii
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 DPRA Location and Current Eligibility Status.....	1
2. Regulatory Context.....	3
2.1 Federal.....	3
2.2 State.....	4
3. Historical Background	5
3.1 Turlock Irrigation District.....	5
3.2 Don Pedro Recreation Agency	6
3.3 Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945–1975.....	10
3.4 Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction	11
4. Research Methods and Results.....	14
4.1 Records Search	14
4.2 Methods	15
5. Built Environment Resources Identified	15
5.1 Descriptions	16
5.2 Significance Evaluation.....	45
6. Conclusions.....	48
8. References Cited.....	49

Photographs

Photo 1	View of Fleming Meadows Boat Launch and Campground “A” Area, facing southwest.	16
Photo 2	Fleming Meadows Trading Post, view facing north.	18
Photo 3	Fleming Meadows Entrance Station, view facing north.	19
Photo 4	Fleming Meadows Fish Cleaning Station, view facing southwest.	20
Photo 5	Fleming Meadows Restroom (representative).	21
Photo 6	Fleming Meadows Boat Launch, view facing north.	22
Photo 7	Fleming Meadows Amphitheater, view facing northwest.	23
Photo 8	Fleming Meadows Marina, view facing north.	24
Photo 9	Fleming Meadows Campsite (representative).	25
Photo 10	Fleming Meadows Group Picnic Area, view facing west.	26
Photo 11	Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon, view facing south.	27
Photo 12	Fleming Meadows Snack Bar, view facing south.	28
Photo 13	Fleming Meadows Dressing Room, view facing northeast.	29
Photo 14	Fleming Meadows Softball Field, view facing south.	30
Photo 15	View from Group Picnic Shelter, facing north.	31
Photo 16	Blue Oaks Entrance Station, view facing north.	32
Photo 17	Blue Oaks Restroom (representative).	33
Photo 18	Blue Oaks Fish Cleaning Station, view facing northeast.	34
Photo 19	Blue Oaks Boat Launch, view facing east.	35
Photo 20	Blue Oaks Camp Site (representative).	36
Photo 21	Blue Oaks Group Picnic Shelter, view facing southwest.	37
Photo 22	View from Moccasin Point Marina, facing east.	38
Photo 23	Moccasin Point Entrance Station, view facing east.	39
Photo 24	Moccasin Point Boat Launch, view facing north.	40
Photo 25	Moccasin Point Fish Cleaning Station, view facing south.	41
Photo 26	Representative Campsite.	42
Photo 27	Moccasin Point Restroom (representative), view facing north.	43
Photo 28	Moccasin Point Marina, view facing northeast.	44

Tables

Table 1	Previously Recorded Architectural Resources in the Study Area	15
Table 2	Built Environment Elements Documented within Fleming Meadows Recreation Area	17
Table 3	Built Environment Elements Documented within Blue Oak Recreation Area	31
Table 4	Built Environment Elements Documented within Moccasin Point Recreation Area	39

Appendices

- A. Figures
- B. Previous DPR 523 Form Sets
- C. DPR 523 Form Updates

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY, TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Historic Resources Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) has prepared this Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER) for the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA). Turlock Irrigation District (TID) has requested an updated evaluation of the Don Pedro Recreation Area Historic District (DPRAHD) and its contributing individual elements for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (National Register) and California Register of Historical Resources (California Register).

Kathy Cleveland, MA, and Dr. Amy Langford, PhD, completed this report. Ms. Cleveland meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards (SOI PQS) for Architectural History, and Dr. Langford meets the SOI PQS for History. Becky Urbano, MS, reviewed the report and meets the SOI PQS for History and Architectural History. All figures referenced in this report are presented in **Appendix A**.

1.1 DPRA Location and Current Eligibility Status

The DPRA is made up of the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir in Tuolumne County. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971–1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, California. The Study Area is within: Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29 of Township 1 South, Range 15 East; Section 33 of Township 2 South, Range 14 East; and Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Moccasin, California* and *La Grange, California* 7.5-minute topographic maps (USGS, 1949, 1978). The Study Area is depicted in **Figures 1 to 7**.

Previous Evaluation of DPRA Historic District

In 2010, the TID and Modesto Irrigation District (MID) initiated documentation preparation required to relicense the Don Pedro Project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2299. In pursuit of those efforts, in support of compliance with Section 106

of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Lex Palmer of HDR Engineering, Inc., and Judith Marvin of Foothill Resources, LTD, conducted a built environment inventory for the project, presenting the results in the following report, which included evaluations of National Register-eligibility and California DPR 523 form sets (site records) for the built environment resources identified:

Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project FERC NO. 2299 (Palmer and Martin, 2015) (hereafter, *Historic Properties Study*)

Palmer and Marvin identified and recorded 37 built environment resources associated with the Don Pedro Project dam, reservoir, powerhouse, recreation areas, and other facilities. Included was the DPRAHD, which, according to Palmer and Marvin, is “made up of those built environment elements that are associated with recreation activities at the [Don Pedro] Project and were part of the original recreation infrastructure built between 1971 and 1972.”¹ Their evaluation of the DPRAHD, which encompassed the recreation areas and associated elements evaluated in this report, is summarized below.

The report recommended the DPRAHD as National Register- and California Register-eligible for its association with 1960s–1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development (Criterion A/1), at the state and regional level. It noted that the Don Pedro Project recreation-related resources (which consist of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas, and the former DPRA headquarters and visitors center) were associated with and representative of a growing demand for city dwellers to have access to outdoor recreation facilities, which resulted in the development of California reservoirs for camping, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. During the 1950s, concerted lobbying efforts spearheaded by Tuolumne County persuaded the FPC of the significant local need for recreation facilities. As a result, the agency required the TID, MID, and County and City of San Francisco (CCSF) to include recreation facilities as part of the Don Pedro Project. The local demand for outdoor recreation reflected statewide trends. The State’s investment in reservoir recreation began with Lake Folsom (1956) and other major water projects and reflected a burgeoning post-war enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and a growing national environmental movement after 1960.²

The report also recommended the DPRAHD as National Register- and California Register-eligible as an example of pole-style construction (Criterion C/3) at the local and state levels of significance, specifically at the DPRA Visitor Center and Fleming Meadows Trading Post. Its evaluation of the associated recreation areas noted that the use of 1960s pole-style construction at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point, created a cohesive aesthetic style throughout the district and, as such, represented the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Popularized in California during the post-war period, the construction method was touted for its economy and ability to support development on hilly terrain without impeding upon the beauty of the natural landscape. The report further associated the construction method

¹ *Historic Properties Study*, MS-i; MS-ii.

² *Ibid.*, 5-11.

with the Bay Region Tradition, a regional architectural trend dating from the 1880s to the 1970s that likewise embraced organic, informal, and rustic design aesthetic.³

Palmer and Marvin noted that, at the time of the report's completion, the district and its elements did not meet the exceptional significance requirements under National Register Criteria Consideration G and, as such, were recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register and California Register. However, they maintained that the three recreation areas retained their integrity of association, setting, location, and feeling.⁴ As a result, the report anticipated that once the district and its elements reached the age threshold of 50 years, several resources would likely be National Register- and California Register-eligible.⁵ FERC made a determination that the resources were not National Register-eligible at the time for these same reasons, with the California State Historic Preservation Officer concurring but requesting that the resources be re-evaluated outside of Criterion G.⁶

2. Regulatory Context

2.1 Federal

National Register of Historic Places

For a resource to be eligible for listing in the National Register, it must meet the following criteria, as outlined in 36 CFR § 60.4:

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.

In addition to meeting one of the above criteria, a resource must also retain integrity to be considered an historic property. Integrity is measured by the degree to which the resource retains

³ Ibid., 5-12.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., MS-i.

⁶ Roland-Nawi, Ph.D, Carol. 2015. *RE: (Revised letter) Section 106 Consultation: APE, Adequacy Of Historic Property Identification, and NRHP Evaluations for Archaeological sites for FERC Project No. 2299, Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project Relicensing*. February 23, 2015.

its historical attributes and conveys its historical character, the degree to which the original fabric has been retained, and the reversibility of changes to the resources.

Certain types of resources are usually excluded from consideration for listing in the National Register but can be considered if they meet special requirements in addition to meeting one or more of the National Register listing criteria. The following seven Criteria Considerations cover resources usually excluded from listing in the National Register: religious resources, moved resources, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed resources, commemorative resources, and resources that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

2.2 State

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is “an authoritative guide in California to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the State’s historical resources and to indicate what properties qualify to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1[a]). The criteria for eligibility for the California Register are based upon the criteria for listing in the National Register (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1[b]), as defined above. Certain resources are determined by the statute to be automatically included in the California Register, including California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the National Register.

To be eligible for the California Register, a cultural resource must be significant at the local, State, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage; or
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must be of sufficient age and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to convey the reason for its significance. Additionally, the California Register consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The California Register automatically includes the following:

- California properties listed on the National Register and those formally determined eligible for the National Register;
- California Registered Historical Landmarks from No. 770 onward; and
- Those California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the California Office of Historic Preservation and have been recommended to the State Historical Commission for inclusion on the California Register.

Other resources that may be nominated to the California Register include:

- Historical resources with a significance rating of Category 3 through 5 (those properties identified as eligible for listing in the National Register, the California Register, and/or a local jurisdiction register);
- Individual historic resources;
- Historic resources contributing to historic districts; and
- Historic resources designated or listed as local landmarks, or designated under any local ordinance, such as an historic preservation overlay zone; and
- Tribal Cultural Resources.

3. Historical Background

3.1 Turlock Irrigation District

For 19th-century settlers in California’s Central Valley, access to water was a major determining factor in their economic and social success. This was particularly true in Stanislaus County, where the local economy was fueled by dry-farming, a technique that relied on natural water rather than irrigation; crops, primarily grain, were planted in the fall, watered by the winter rains, and harvested in the spring. With the decline of wheat in the late 1800s, California farmers began to look for more comprehensive methods of irrigation to diversify crops and provide a more stable water supply for the region’s smaller, family-owned farms.⁷ For much of the 19th century, however, collectives of small farmers eager to initiate local irrigation programs were often stymied by California water laws that largely upheld a system of riparian water rights distribution that benefited large landowners.⁸

The widespread development of irrigation in California was accelerated by the passage of the 1887 Wright Act. The act, which was drafted and proposed by Modesto attorney and assemblyman C.C. Wright, enabled local communities to establish publicly controlled irrigation districts empowered with the legal authority to reclaim land and water previously monopolized by large riparian landowners.⁹ According to the California Department of Transportation, the provisions of the new law defined irrigation districts as “public corporations, empowered to issue bonds and condemn property, to levy and collect taxes,...maintain and operate irrigation works...[and] condemn in order to gain access to waterways that might otherwise be blocked by riparian owners.”¹⁰ The impact of the act on Central Valley water rights was sweeping. Between 1887 and 1896, 49 irrigation districts were established, most of which were clustered between Stockton and Bakersfield. By the late 1920s, that number had shrunk to seven districts, including the Modesto, Tulare, and Turlock Irrigation Districts.¹¹

⁷ “TID History,” Turlock Irrigation District, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.tid.org/about-tid/tid-history/>.

⁸ Sydney T. Harding, *Water in California* (Palo Alto, CA: N-P Publications, 1960), 37.

⁹ California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems In California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures*, 2020, 14.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

TID was the first irrigation district formed in California after the passage of the Wright Act. Established on June 6, 1887, TID quickly began to develop the infrastructure—namely canal systems, diversion pumps, and pump houses—needed to irrigate the local agricultural landscape with water from the Merced, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin Rivers. The district’s initial irrigation system would later be expanded with the aqueduct systems build by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.¹² In order to ensure stable, year-round crop irrigation for agriculture along the Tuolumne River, TID combined its efforts with the State’s second irrigation district, MID, established in July 1887, to construct the La Grange Dam in 1893. In the following years, the region’s water supply was further augmented by MID’s Modesto Reservoir (1911) and TID’s Davis Reservoir (1914).¹³

Despite its expanding irrigation infrastructure, the Central Valley struggled to store adequate water reserves to combat the region’s prolonged dry periods. To increase water storage capacity and as a flood prevention measure, TID selected a site known as “Don Pedro’s Bar,” located several miles upstream of the La Grange Dam, for a future storage reservoir. Construction of what would become the original Don Pedro Dam and powerhouse began in 1921. When it was dedicated in 1923, the original Don Pedro Dam was the highest dam in the world, measuring a height of 283 feet.¹⁴ In June 1966, TID entered into an agreement with the CCSF to initiate the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir. When construction was completed in May 1970, the New Don Pedro Dam rose 580 feet from the Tuolumne riverbed, was 2,800 feet thick at its base, and created a reservoir with a capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet of water.¹⁵ In November 1970, the dam’s 12 ports were opened to transfer water storage to the new reservoir, subsequently submerging the original Don Pedro Dam structure. In time, the Don Pedro powerplant operated four generators capable of producing enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power approximately 37,000 households.¹⁶

3.2 Don Pedro Recreation Agency

Plans for associated recreational facilities were underway well before the New Don Pedro Dam was completed. When construction of the Don Pedro Project commenced in 1967, TID and MID anticipated that recreation demands for what would become California’s fifth largest reservoir would be substantial, considering that approximately 600,000 people lived within 50 miles of the future lake.¹⁷ The districts anticipated that the reservoir—which would boast a surface area of 13,000 acres and a 160-mile shoreline—could draw as many as 400,000 visitors each year.¹⁸

¹² Environmental Science Associates, *Turlock Lake Rehabilitation Project, Stanislaus County, California, Cultural Resource Inventory Report*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, June 2022, 11.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ “TID History.”

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ “Don Pedro About To Make Itself Felt,” *Oakdale Leader*, March 15, 1972, 19.

¹⁸ Dwight H. Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley: The First 100 years (1887–1987) of the Modesto Irrigation District*, prepared for Modesto Irrigation District, 1987, accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.mid.org/about/history/gmng_of_pvy.pdf.

The regional demand for recreation was also apparent to Federal and State agencies. While TID and MID were initially reluctant to add recreation tourism to their management operations, Tuolumne County persuasively lobbied for the need for camping and boating facilities at the future reservoir during a series of Don Pedro Project Federal Power Commission (FPC) hearings in 1962. Swayed by the county, the FPC included a recreational development requirement in the requisite project license. Per the FPC licensing requirement, all land and water that fell within the Don Pedro Project was to be made available for public recreational use.¹⁹

With the assistance of a \$7 million grant from the California Water Commission in 1965, the districts established the DPRA in 1967 as a coalition of representatives of the MID, TID, and CCSF to oversee the development and establishment of a network of recreational facilities.²⁰ In 1969, James K. Carr, General Manager of Utilities for San Francisco and former Undersecretary of the Interior for the Kennedy Administration, led an intra-agency field trip to the New Don Pedro Dam to convey the site's recreational potential to representatives of the TID, MID, National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).²¹ While the outing failed to secure the commitment of a federal agency to oversee the operations of any future recreation site, it energized immediate local efforts to proceed with plans for recreational development.²² With an additional \$8.6 million in State funds awarded in 1969, and the hiring of George S. James, former USFS Northeastern Regional Director, as Director of the DPRA in 1970, the districts began developing the recreation plan for the Don Pedro Project in earnest.²³

The DPRA recreation plan included a total of three recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds—that shared a cohesive overall design. Redding-based firm Clair A. Hill & Associates won the DPRA facility design and construction contract. Hill then partnered with the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners (Caywood) to design the landscape, structures, and recreational buildings for the three sites. The team first focused its energy on the construction of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Hill developed the engineering design for the campground site, roads, and boating ramps. Preliminary archival research did not conclusively indicate whether the facilities were constructed by Hill or an unnamed contractor. Caywood developed the design for the campground entrances, fish cleaning stations, restrooms, group picnic shelters, and concession buildings at Fleming Meadows. Initial designs also included a 16-sided building at the south end of Don Pedro Reservoir that was to serve as the DPRA headquarters.²⁴ Caywood's design utilized a pole-frame construction method that incorporated telephone pole frames, rough-sawn wood beam roofs, and masonry block construction walls for the buildings throughout the site. The landscaping plan employed underground utilities so as to not distract visitors from the

¹⁹ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3–37.

²⁰ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

²¹ “US Officials Will Probe Dam Recreation Potential,” *The Modesto Bee*, September 7, 1969.

²² “Thiel: County Should Operate Don Pedro,” *The Modesto Bee*, January 21, 1970, 53.

²³ “Tuolumne Is Urged To Develop Plan For Pedro,” *The Modesto Bee*, February 26, 1971, 38.

²⁴ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3–39. Hereafter, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*.

natural environment.²⁵ This design, which aimed to integrate the built environment with the surround topography, was adopted at the subsequent recreation areas.²⁶ The marina at Fleming Meadows was designed by the Modesto firm Neil Patterson & Associates, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Turlock-based Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer in 1971.²⁷

Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is the largest facility and located on the southeast side of Don Pedro Reservoir. Its original features included 212 camping units, 87 of which included utility hookups for trailers, individual and group picnic areas, fish cleaning stations, a trading post, seven-lane boat launch, and marina.²⁸ The complex also included an outdoor “movie screen,” as well as a two-acre swimming lagoon with an associate snack bar and dressing room.²⁹ The second development was the Blue Oak Recreation Area, which is situated on the southwest side of the reservoir. Its original features included 183 tent spaces, fish cleaning stations, a group picnic area, and a boat launch. The third development, Moccasin Point Recreation Area, is on a northeast portion of the reservoir situated approximately 18 miles north of the Don Pedro Dam. Its original features included a 75-site campground and picnic area and a two-lane boat launch, as well as a marina.³⁰ All three recreation areas opened to the public following a May 6, 1972, dedication ceremony.³¹

Each site has undergone various site modifications since their initial construction between 1971 and 1972. Originally designed for day use, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area “B” was converted into campsites around 1981. At all three sites, original shake roofs on recreation buildings were gradually replaced in response to typical wear, first by tile roofing, then by steel roofing. Similarly, original wood picnic tables were replaced by concrete picnic tables, concrete foot lockers were added to campsites, and some original grill stands were replaced by inset fire rings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), restrooms, group picnic areas, shower restrooms, and ramps were modified or reconfigured at various points throughout the 1990s. The marina at Moccasin Point Recreation Area was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt that same year.³² The original DPRA Headquarters and Visitors Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road was destroyed by fire in 2016.³³ All three sites and their facilities are maintained and managed by the DPRA.

Clair A. Hill & Associates, Engineering Consultants

Clair A. Hill & Associates was a Redding-based engineering firm that oversaw the facility design and construction of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency facilities. The firm’s founder, Clair A. Hill, was born in Redding, California, in 1909. Hill received education in forestry at Oregon State

²⁵ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

²⁶ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3–39.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ “Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up,” *The Modesto Bee*, March 7, 1971, 10.

²⁹ “Don Pedro Prepares For Recreation Rush,” *The Modesto Bee*, November 28, 1971, 14.

³⁰ “Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up.”

³¹ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3–42.

³² Ibid., 3-46.

³³ “Don Pedro visitors center is planned,” *The Modesto Bee*, August 18, 2016, 1A.

University and earned a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1934.³⁴ In 1938, Hill founded the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates in his hometown of Redding.³⁵ The firm specialized in survey, photogrammetry, and engineering water projects pertaining to reservoirs, dams, and fish hatcheries throughout northern California. Before winning the DPRA contract, Clair A. Hill & Associates had overseen water resources work for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Sacramento Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the Bonneville Power Administration.³⁶ In 1971, the company merged with a competing engineering firm, CH2M, to form the global engineering consulting firm CH2M-Hill, Inc.³⁷

For its contribution to California infrastructure and water development after World War II, Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered an engineering firm of merit. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered an individual important for his contributions to water resource development in California.

Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners

Sacramento firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners (Caywood) designed the landscaping, structures, and recreational buildings for the 1971–1972 DPRA construction project. Grant D. Caywood and Jack D. Nopp established the firm in 1963, and early designs included the Sacramento Medical Clinic (1964), the Sacramento Town & Country Lutheran Church (1968), and Rio Vista High School (1966).³⁸ Grant Caywood had earned a degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University in 1940³⁹ and Jack Dee Nopp earned a degree in Architecture from the University of Oregon in 1954.⁴⁰ Partners of the firm had worked on various California recreational and civic-related projects throughout their respective careers. Nopp served as the principal architect for the Oroville Dam Reservoir’s Lime Saddle Park (1968).⁴¹ Roderic Charles Ward designed the El Dorado County Administration buildings for South Lake Tahoe and Placerville (n.d.).⁴² The firm had previously collaborated with Clair A. Hill & Associates on the design for the Sacramento Municipal Airport Master Plan in 1968.⁴³ While the Caywood firm oversaw the design of buildings and complexes throughout Northern

³⁴ “Memorial Tribute: Mr. Clair A. Hill,” National Academy of Engineering, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.nae.edu/19579/19581/20412/29891/Mr-Clair-A-Hill>.

³⁵ “Clair A. Hill,” Water Education Foundation, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/clair-hill>.

³⁶ “Clair A. Hill & Associates,” CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhilalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ “Caywood, Grant Dodd,” AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ “Nopp, Jack D(ce)” AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_N.pdf.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² “Obituary: Roderic Charles Ward,” accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.pricefuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderic-Ward>.

⁴³ “Caywood, Grant Dodd,” AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

California, preliminary archival review did not indicate that it was an architectural design firm of particular merit.

3.3 Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945–1975

The development of DPRA property for recreational use reflects the rising enthusiasm for outdoor recreation in the United States after World War II. The end of the conflict ushered in an unprecedented and prolonged period of prosperity for American military veterans and civilians alike. Wartime mobilization had initiated a period of economic vitality that persisted into the immediate postwar period. Empowered by the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (the G.I. Bill), many veterans received a college education and became first-time homeowners. Civilians who gained highly sought-after skills on the Home Front continued to enjoy rising wages, job security, and paid vacation time. Overall, the nation’s workforce was uniquely positioned with the time and discretionary income to enjoy outdoor recreation.⁴⁴ As a result, visits to state and national parks skyrocketed as more and more Americans adopted outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. To demonstrate this trend, one 1959 study reported an estimated 34 million American families had spent \$42 billion on various forms of recreation.⁴⁵ As outdoor enthusiasts fostered a personal relationship with the natural environment, many also became invested in a growing conservation movement to preserve that environment for future generations.⁴⁶

The unprecedented embrace of “leisure” as an activity that could be enjoyed by most people during the postwar period prompted ongoing debates about the extent to which the federal government was obligated to support recreational activities for its citizenry. For much of the early 20th century, social scientists had touted recreational activity as an effective tool to revive individuals and, in turn, make that individual a more effective and efficient worker. By that logic, some social scientists reasoned, recreational self-improvement and relaxation was both important for individual well-being and vital to the overall health of the body politic.⁴⁷ In 1958, the federal government established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) to determine the current and future recreation needs of American communities across the country. In 1962, the Commission presented its findings in an extensive report, entitled *Outdoor Recreation in America*, which predicted an increased demand for passive and active recreation facilities through the year 2000. The report noted a particularly urgent need for open spaces for camping, hiking, and nature observation, as well as recreational facilities related to water sports, boating, and fishing.⁴⁸ According to ORRRC Chairman Laurence Rockefeller, providing avenues of organized leisure would alleviate the dreaded “Sunday frustration” of American workers and

⁴⁴ Clayne R. Jensen, *Outdoor Recreation in America* (Minneapolis: Burgess Publication Co, 1985), 33–35.

⁴⁵ Robert Coughlin, “A \$40 Billion Bill Just for Fun” in “The Good Life,” *Life*, no. 47 (December 28, 1959), 69, quoted in Foster Rhea Dulles, *A History of Recreation: American Learns to Play* (New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1965), 398.

⁴⁶ Jan E. Dizard, *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Amherst and Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), 42.

⁴⁷ Dulles, 398.

⁴⁸ Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, “ORRRC Study Report 19: National Recreation Survey,” Washington, D.C.: Washington Printing Office, 1962), pp. 1–397.

broadly improved the wellbeing of American society at large.⁴⁹ In 1963, the Department of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the express mission to support state, local, and private organizations with outdoor recreation planning and facility development.⁵⁰

True to the federal government’s predictions, demands for public recreational facilities grew apace with America’s enthusiasm for the outdoors during the 1970s. A 1976 survey of American leisure behavior reported that over 51 million Americans reported camping that year, 22 million went hunting, 35.2 million participated in boating, and an astonishing 65 million Americans went fishing.⁵¹ Reservoirs—with their ease of access for visitors, proximity to interstate highways and densely populated areas—were particularly popular sites for camping and water-related activities.⁵²

The DPRA facilities reflected California’s burgeoning enthusiasm for utilizing reservoirs for recreational boating and camping after World War II.⁵³ An early iteration of this practice emerged out of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project, which developed recreational facilities at Folsom Lake on the American River in 1956 and would eventually be operated and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).⁵⁴ The fishing, boating, and houseboat recreation facilities at Lake Oroville on the Feather River were products of the California State Water Project of the 1950s and 1960s.⁵⁵ The development of recreation facilities at New Melones Lake in 1978 further solidified that Californians were developing a deep and abiding enthusiasm for outdoor and water-recreation recreation.⁵⁶ Within this context, the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Campgrounds, with their associated picnic, swimming, fishing, and boating amenities, are typical examples of the recreational facilities developed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s and reflect the complementary relationship between outdoor recreation and water development during the postwar period.⁵⁷

3.4 Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction

Rustic Vernacular Style

The aesthetic sensibilities of the Rustic Vernacular Style were logical progressions of an intentional design ethic cultivated by the NPS since its inception in 1916. Informed by the

⁴⁹ Laurence S. Rockefeller, “Leisure—the New Challenge,” *Vital Speeches*, no. 27 (December 1, 1960), 3, quoted in Dulles, 390.

⁵⁰ The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was later absorbed into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1978-1981), until the responsibilities for outdoor recreation was permanently transferred to the National Park Service. Carlson et al, 130–32.

⁵¹ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, Janet MacLean, and James A. Peterson, *Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1979), 62–63.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 132.

⁵³ “Recreation Change Is Ahead,” *The Modesto Bee*, January 29, 1971, 54.

⁵⁴ “Plans For Folsom Road Is Backed By Supervisor,” *The Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1956, 43.

⁵⁵ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3–46.

⁵⁶ “Districts eye U.S. Don Pedro takeover,” *The Modesto Bee*, June 27, 1978, 20.

⁵⁷ M.F. Brewer, “Incorporating Recreational Values into Benefit-Cost Analysis,” *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (Western Farm Economics Association 35 (August 6,7,8, 1962), 23.*

innovations of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, Henry Hubbard, and other influential landscape architects, the designs of the nation’s first national parks sought to harmonize the built environment with unvarnished beauty of the natural environment. In turn, park design and preservation standards came to adopt “naturalistic practices in construction, often described as ‘rustic,’ called for native materials of timber and rock and methods of pioneer craftsmen and woodsmen.”⁵⁸ Early examples of the successful execution of this new “rustic” design program was the ambitious Yosemite Village project, which resulted in the construction of an Administration Building (1924), a Post Office (c. 1925), and Yosemite Museum (1926).⁵⁹ Over the next several decades, “rustic, vernacular architecture” came to be used to describe simplified buildings constructed from natural, native materials that integrated with their surroundings in material, proportion, overall feeling.⁶⁰

One NPS publication defined rustic architecture as:

“Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.”⁶¹

National Register Bulletin 31 defines “vernacular architecture” as:

“...idiosyncratic amalgams of building traditions and styles, strongly reflecting the personality of the builder, or they may represent the more potent cultural dynamic of time and place. A key feature of vernacular buildings is their affinity for and adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Architectural ‘style’ is insignificant in comparison to the form of the building, its construction materials, and the layout of the rooms.”⁶²

With its embrace of the ideals of the Back-to-Nature and Conservation Movements—namely that people and their buildings had distinct, discreet relationships with their natural environment—the Rustic Vernacular Style became an organic framework for the construction of recreational residences, buildings, and structures.⁶³ For a more extensive examination of rustic architecture in national parks, please consult *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (1986), pages 1–21.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ Linda Flint McClelland, *NRHP Nomination Form: Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks*, 1995, 1.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁶⁰ Steve McNeil, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., and USDA Forest Service, *Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreational Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959*, prepared for the USDA Forest Service, May 30, 2003, 59.

⁶¹ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916–1942,” National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 93.

⁶² Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Draft National Register Bulletin 31: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, Washington, D.C., 1987. Quoted in McNeil et al, 59.

⁶³ McNeil et al, 60.

⁶⁴ Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (National Park Service: Department of the Interior, November, 1986), 1–21.

By the mid-20th century, the emerging architectural tradition of national parks embraced built environments that “responded to their sites” by integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.⁶⁵ While recreational and residential buildings often integrated features from multiple architectural styles, they nevertheless tended to reflect a cohesive populist philosophy. Character-defining features of the Rustic Vernacular Style were:

- Buildings constructed with native, natural materials particularly stone, log, and wood.
- Embrace of natural colors that blended with the environment.
- Functional architectural elements were selected for their utility and their ability to integrate with the terrain or topography.
- Overall building design was intended to be viewed from all sides.
- Buildings avoided vertical emphasis and embraced proportions that fit the site and its surroundings.
- Buildings occasionally incorporate historical or local cultural details.
- Group of buildings generally shared a central architectural theme to create continuity throughout a park or district.⁶⁶

Pole-Frame Construction Methods

A major component of DPRA architecture is the utilization of pole-frame construction. The pole building system—embedding widely spaced round or square poles into the ground as the primary means of support for a roof and floor—has been used as a cost- and labor-efficient alternative to conventional building methods along steep hills, on rocky soil, or in flood- and earthquake-prone regions for centuries.⁶⁷ The construction method was first introduced to the West Coast during the 1950s as a cost-saving method endorsed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to develop otherwise prohibitively expensive land parcels. Early projects—such as the 1953 Marx Hyatt residence in Atherton, California—were residential buildings constructed along steep hillsides.⁶⁸ The economy, framing flexibility, and simplified foundation system made pole building particularly suited to outbuildings and ancillary structures such as barns, utility buildings, and garages.⁶⁹ By the early 1970s, federal agencies such as the FHA and the USFS had recognized that the method held promise for other building types for its “permanence, economy, ease of construction, aesthetics...marginal land utilization, and amelioration of fire hazard.”⁷⁰ The utility of this construction method in a hillside setting is demonstrated by the Fleming Meadows Trading Post and the former DPRA headquarters building (which burned down in 2016).⁷¹

⁶⁵ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916–1942*, National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 3.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 61–62.

⁶⁷ Doug Merrilees, Evelyn V. Loveday, and Ralph Wolfe, *Low-Cost Pole Building Construction* (Charlotte, Vermont: Garden Way Publishing, 1980), 1–11.

⁶⁸ Lt. R.W. Ard, Jr., “Pole Buildings,” *Coast Guard Engineer’s Digest* (Oct–Dec., 1974), 64–68.

⁶⁹ Leigh W. Seddon, *Practical Pole Building Construction* (Nashville, Tennessee: Williamson Books, 1985), 11.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 68.

⁷¹ “Don Pedro recreation area visitors center burns down,” *The Modesto Bee*, May 27, 2016, A3.

Bay Regional Style

The functionality of pole-frame construction and the features of the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a natural synergy with California’s modern vernacular architecture, particularly the Bay Regional Style. Developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and refined by Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and William Wurster, the Bay Regional Style articulated a rising concern regarding the natural environment.⁷² The vernacular architectural style emerged during the 1880s and retained popularity among California architects into the 1970s. The periodization of the style has been divided into First, Second, and Third Traditions, each emphasizing some variation of a consistently informal and natural design approach. Indelibly attuned to the interplay between modern design’s embrace of elements such as clean, unaffected lines and large windows and the natural materials of California’s vernacular domestic architecture, its practitioners constructed spaces that invited the outside in and invited an unimpeded view of the natural surroundings.⁷³

While the Bay Regional Style and the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a similar aesthetic vocabulary, and evidence suggests that architects like Bernard Maybeck influenced the rustic architecture at a number of national parks, the influence of the Bay Regional Style on the built environment within the DPRA is less overt.⁷⁴ The Third Bay Tradition, which took place during the 1960s and 1970s, is perhaps best represented by Sonoma County’s Sea Ranch complex (1964–65) designed by architect Charles Moore and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.⁷⁵ The complex’s use of rough-sawn redwood and wood pole-frame construction to integrate with the natural landscape is echoed in the DPRA campgrounds.⁷⁶

4. Research Methods and Results

4.1 Records Search

ESA received the results of an updated records search from the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) on June 1, 2023 (File No. 125570). This request was to obtain site records and GIS for all resources

⁷² GEI Consultants, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, prepared for the City of Sacramento, September 30, 2017, 3-3, 3-4.

⁷³ Planning Resource Associates, Inc., *Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, prepared for the City of Fresno, September 2008, 55.

⁷⁴ Tweed et al., 4.

⁷⁵ California Department of Transportation, *Tract Housing in California, 1945–1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation*, Sacramento, California, 2011, 92–93.

⁷⁶ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3–40.

analyzed in this report. **Table 1** summarizes the previously recorded resources analyzed as part of this analysis. The previous site records for these resources are provided in **Appendix B**.

TABLE 1
PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA

Primary # (P-55-)	Trinomial (CA-)	Age/ Affiliation	Resource Name and Brief Description	Recorded By (Year)
008803	[none]	1971–1972	Fleming Meadows Recreation Area	Palmer (2012)
008574	[none]	1971–1972	Moccasin Point Recreation Area	Palmer (2012)
008881	[none]	1971–1972	Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District	Marvin and Palmer (2012); Risse (2017)
008908	[none]	1971–1972	Blue Oaks Recreation Area	Palmer (2012)

SOURCE: CCIC, 2023

Pedestrian Survey

4.2 Methods

ESA architectural historians Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford completed a pedestrian survey of all three DPRA recreation areas on October 11, 2023. The purpose of the survey was to document all buildings and structures within the DPRA Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas constructed prior to 1978.

5. Built Environment Resources Identified

During the architectural history survey, three recreation areas were recorded: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-008574), Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-008908), and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803). These three resources included a total of 27 individual elements, comprising 9 buildings, 10 structures, and 8 sites, as summarized in **Tables 2 to 4**. All three resources and their original associated elements were constructed between 1971 and 1972. Architectural elements for each recreation area are described and evaluated for National Register- and California Register-eligibility below. Due to their similar design, age, and function, some elements share similar descriptions and, in the case of the campsites, serve as a representative example of multiple resources within a given recreation area. **Appendix C** includes the site record updates for the three individual resources as well as the DPRAHD (P-55-008881).

5.1 Descriptions

Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803)



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 1

View of Fleming Meadows Boat Launch and Campground "A" Area, facing southwest.

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the DPRA, a department of the TID. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is on the southwest portion of the Don Pedro Reservoir, east of the Don Pedro Dam, and is the largest of the DPRA's recreation areas.⁷⁷ Elements of the recreation area dating to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period consists of: an entrance station kiosk, trading post, fish cleaning station, restrooms, boat launch, marina, campgrounds, the remnants of an outdoor amphitheater, group picnic areas, outdoor sport spaces, and a swimming lagoon with an associated snack bar and dressing room. These elements are described in detail in **Table 2** and below. As of 2023, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area offered 90 hookup campsites and 176 non-hookup and walk-in campsites.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008803 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Area [HDR-15])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

⁷⁸ "Fleming Meadows," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/fleming-meadows/>.

TABLE 2
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN FLEMING MEADOWS RECREATION AREA

Element	Type
Trading Post	Building
Entrance Station	Building
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Restroom	Building
Amphitheater (remnants)	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Picnic Area	Site
Snack Bar	Building
Dressing Room	Building
Swimming Lagoon	Site
Marina	Structure
Horseshoe Courts	Site
Softball Field	Site
Volleyball Court	Site

Trading Post



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 2
Fleming Meadows Trading Post, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows Trading Post is on the north end of the Fleming Meadows boat launch parking lot. Designed in 1971 by Caywood, the building is of wood-frame construction, rectangular in plan, and features stucco cladding.⁷⁹ The building is capped by a metal standing seam, side-gable roof with wide, exposed eaves. A wood deck with horizontal beams, a metal railing, and utility pole vertical supports extends around the entire perimeter of the building. The building has a cinderblock foundation, concrete foundations for the support posts, and is clad in concrete brick below the deck. The primary (southwest) façade is at street level and features two bays. The south bay features an offset, glazed, flush metal door and four large, fixed wood-frame windows that wrap around the southeast corner. A recessed bay at the northwest corner features two glazed, flush metal doors. The southwest façade features three bays and includes three fixed, wood-frame windows in the south bay, full-length vertical lights in the central bay, and a glazed, flush metal door and a series of fixed, wood-frame windows in the north bay. The rear (northeast) façade features a full-width deck on a hillside that slopes to the north towards Don Pedro Reservoir. A glazed, flush metal door and a series of fixed, wood-frame windows extend across the entire rear (northeast) façade. The northwest façade is devoid of fenestration and features double-hinged metal doors at the ground level. The footprint of the building and associated deck measures 100.6 feet x 80.5 feet.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. B-1, Job no. 70-28-528, March 15, 1971.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

The building's timber framing is supported by redwood utility posts that originally extended above the roofline, which was a common feature of Caywood's building designs throughout all three of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency campgrounds.⁸¹ The same decorative feature was repeated in the utility pole supports for the wood deck that wraps around the building's perimeter. In both cases, the poles have been shortened at various stages since 1972. Original light fixtures affixed to support posts at the entrance and deck perimeter have also been replaced during the interim.

Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 3
Fleming Meadows Entrance Station, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. The entrance station is clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration is fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Fleming Meadows entrance station is oriented southeast-northwest and located off Bonds Flat Road.

⁸¹ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. B-1, Job no. 70-28-528, March 15, 1971.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 4
Fleming Meadows Fish Cleaning Station, view facing southwest.

The Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds feature fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. Both stations share the same pole-frame construction method utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The stations have a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. Each station features a modern rectangular metal industrial sink. At both the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks stations, the original redwood slat roof has been replaced by corrugated metal sheets at some point after 2015.⁸²

⁸² Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14a])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 5
Fleming Meadows Restroom (representative).

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design and construction method from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.⁸³ The above restroom is located south of the Fleming Meadows boat launch.

⁸³ The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 6
Fleming Meadows Boat Launch, view facing north.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Fleming Meadows boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction and includes two piers and has an overall footprint of approximately 100 feet x 506 feet. The boat launch is along the West Bay shoreline and oriented north-south on a shallow peninsula north of the Trading Post and a fish cleaning station.

Amphitheater



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 7
Fleming Meadows Amphitheater, view facing northwest.

An outdoor amphitheater is one of the recreational features on the west end of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Situated within a copse of trees 0.12 miles west of the Fleming Meadows group picnic area, the amphitheater is within an approximately 30 feet x 30 feet clearing that gradually slopes to the north and overlooks Don Pedro Lake and the Fleming Meadows marina. Timber beams are packed into the ground to create four curved rows upon which are irregularly spaced wooden benches and a square, wooden projector platform. A south-facing, whitewashed wood board affixed to two timber posts once functioned as a projector screen. The amphitheater is no longer operational.

Marina



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 8

Fleming Meadows Marina, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area marina is 0.42 miles northeast of the Fleming Meadows entrance station kiosk. The original Fleming Meadows Marina was designed by Neil Patterson & Associates of Modesto, Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer of Turlock, and structural engineer Gordon W. Hart in 1971. The marina was opened to public use following a 1972 dedication ceremony.⁸⁴ A floating walkway connects the north shore of the marina parking lot with a permanent, U-shaped dock. The structure has an overall footprint of approximately 900 feet x 593 feet. Situated upon the dock are four utilitarian buildings that appear to have been constructed during the 1971–1972 construction period. The wood-frame, rectangular plan buildings are clad with T-111 and metal siding and capped with front-gable roofs with exposed eaves and covered by corrugated metal panels. Typical fenestration includes aluminum sliding windows, and the buildings feature similar glazed, flush metal doors. During ESA’s pedestrian survey, ESA staff observed that the buildings currently serve multiple functions, and operate as a marina general store and cafe, administrative office, general service building, and boat rental office. Three covered boat parking structures extend from the north end of the dock, and one additional boat parking structure extends from the south end of the dock.

⁸⁴ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008903 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Forever Resorts Marina [HDR-15f-15i])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 9
Fleming Meadows Campsite (representative).

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Blue Oaks, Moccasin Point, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area has three distinct campsite areas—“H” Area includes 90 hookup campsites and “A” and “B” Areas 176 non-hookup and walk-in campsites combined.⁸⁵ The “B” Area, which is located west of the houseboat marina, was converted from day use into campsites around 1981. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

⁸⁵ “Fleming Meadows,” Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/fleming-meadows/>.

Picnic Area



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 10
Fleming Meadows Group Picnic Area, view facing west.

The Fleming Meadows group picnic area is 1.4 miles east of the designated “B” campsite area. A rectangular plan, wood pole-frame structure with a concrete slab foundation overlooks Don Pedro Lake and the nearby houseboat marina. The structure is capped by a low-pitch, gable roof with corrugated metal sheets. The structure has no walls, aside from the south façade, which is enclosed with wooden fencing and has a footprint of approximately 28 feet x 29 feet. Several wood picnic tables and a metal utility shelving unit are situated within the shelter. Additional wood picnic tables, metal grills, and a raised wooden overlook platform surrounds the structure to the north and east. The picnic area is surrounded by mature trees and a restroom and paved parking lot to the east.

Swimming Lagoon



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 11
Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon, view facing south.

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon is a two-acre, irregular-shaped, earthen swimming feature located on the southwest portion of the recreation area. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, the lagoon bottom is primarily lined with sand and beach. An earthen dam at its south end was coated with gunite at some point during the 1990s. Two metal pipes located at the center of the lagoon serve as return flow spray nozzles. The original lagoon bottom and beach shoreline has an approximate footprint of roughly 350 feet x 400 feet. Two buildings—an associated snack bar and dressing room—are 116 feet north of the swimming lagoon shoreline. These buildings are described below.

Snack Bar



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 12

Fleming Meadows Snack Bar, view facing south.

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon snack bar is 166 feet north of the swimming lagoon shoreline and approximately 0.30 miles northwest of the Fleming Meadows entrance station kiosk. Constructed in 1971–1972, the concrete brick building is rectangular in plan with a 38 feet x 32 feet footprint and supported by a concrete slab foundation. It is capped by a side-gable roof with exposed redwood roof beams and corrugated metal panels. Redwood utility poles that once supported a flat, redwood slat awning surround the building on the south, east, and west façades. Aluminum-sash, jalousie and sliding windows wrap around the south façade’s southeast and southwest corners. The west façade features a flush metal door. The north façade features a louver metal door that is obscured from view by wood fencing.⁸⁶

The building’s roofing and awning has undergone several modifications. A previous evaluation indicates that the original 1971–1972 cedar shingles were replaced by concrete tile as some point before 2012.⁸⁷ The concrete tiles were then replaced by corrugated metal panels at some point between 2012 and 2023. The building’s original redwood slat awning was also removed during this period and only the supporting redwood utility poles and support beams are extant.

⁸⁶ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. C-4, Job no. 70-28-528, May 15, 1971.

⁸⁷ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008803 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar [HDR-15d])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Dressing Room



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 13
Fleming Meadows Dressing Room, view facing northeast.

Directly east of the Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon snack bar is an associated dressing room. Like the snack bar, the concrete block building is situated on a concrete slab foundation and has a footprint of approximately 28 feet x 88 feet. The irregular plan building is designed in three parts. The center of the building is comprised of a rectangular men's and women's restroom capped by a side-gabled roof with exposed redwood roof beams and corrugated metal panels. To the east and west, the restroom is flanked by T-shaped shower rooms. The previously open ceilings of the shower rooms have since been capped by flat, corrugated metal roofs.⁸⁸ The building is devoid of fenestration. Open men's and women's entrances on the north and south façades are partially obscured by wood fencing privacy screens. An additional flush, metal door is located on the north façade. Redwood support utility poles along the north and south facades that once extended above the dressing room roof now terminate at the roofline.⁸⁹

⁸⁸ Kevin Palmer, P-55-008803 (*Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar [HDR-15e]*), California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

Sport Fields



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 14
Fleming Meadows Softball Field, view facing south.

Since 1971–1972, portions of the west end of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area have been adapted for outdoor recreational sports. The softball field (pictured above) is the outdoor recreation space that retains the most physical indicators of its original use. Located about 0.15 miles northwest of the swimming lagoon, the softball field is a field of packed earth and sand that measures approximately 250 feet x 230 feet. Utilitarian metal fencing borders the field and a metal batter's box is situated on south end of the field. ESA staff observed chalk outline remnants, indicating that the field was used for recreation as some recent point. Two other spaces have been cleared for recreational use. A former volleyball court with a footprint of approximately 60 feet x 60 feet is 215 feet northwest of the softball field. A space with a footprint of approximately 70 feet x 70 feet that once contained horseshoe courts is 70 feet southeast of the softball field. During ESA's pedestrian survey, ESA staff observed that, while the two sites are extant, neither retained field markers or associated sporting accessories indicating recent use.

Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-008908)



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 15

View from Group Picnic Shelter, facing north.

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the DPRA. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Blue Oaks Recreation Area is on the West Bay shoreline of Don Pedro Reservoir and west of the Don Pedro Dam.⁹⁰ The recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period and are described in detail below. As of 2023, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area features an entrance station kiosk, a boat launch, group picnic area, public restrooms, a fish cleaning station, 34 partial hookup campsites, and 161 tent campsites.⁹¹

TABLE 3
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN BLUE OAK RECREATION AREA

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Restroom	Building
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Group Picnic Shelter	Structure

⁹⁰ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

⁹¹ "Blue Oaks," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/blue-oaks/>.

Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 16
Blue Oaks Entrance Station, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. Entrance stations are clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration is fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Blue Oaks entrance station is oriented east-west and located off Bonds Flat Road.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 17
Blue Oaks Restroom (representative).

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.⁹² The above restroom is located west of the Blue Oaks entrance station.

⁹² The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 18
Blue Oaks Fish Cleaning Station, view facing northeast.

The Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds feature fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. Both stations share the same pole-frame construction method utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The stations have a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. Each station features a modern rectangular metal industrial sink. At both the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks stations, the original redwood slat roof has been replaced by corrugated metal sheets at some point after 2015.⁹³

⁹³ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14a])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 19
Blue Oaks Boat Launch, view facing east.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Blue Oaks boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction and includes two piers. The overall footprint of the boat launch is 35 feet x 330 feet. The boat launch is oriented northeast-southwest and located along the West Bay shoreline north of the Blue Oaks entrance station.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 20
Blue Oaks Camp Site (representative).

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Blue Oaks, Moccasin Point, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Blue Oaks Recreation Area has four campsite areas (Area A–D) that contain a total of 34 partial hookup campsites and 161 tent campsites.⁹⁴ The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

⁹⁴ “Blue Oaks,” Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/blue-oaks/>.

Group Picnic Shelter



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 21
Blue Oaks Group Picnic Shelter, view facing southwest.

The Blue Oaks Group Picnic Shelter is west of the recreation area's boat launch. The wood pole-frame structure is rectangular in plan, has a concrete slab foundation, and an overall footprint of approximately 44 feet x 25 feet. A low-pitch, wood and concrete tile gable roof is supported by timber posts that extend above the roof. It is one of the few remaining structures to retain that feature from the original 1971–1972 construction designs. Oriented northeast-southwest, the structure is surrounded by wooden picnic tables. The picnic area is situated on a shallow peninsula overlooking Don Pedro Lake and is surrounded by mature trees and a paved parking lot and restroom to the south.

Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-008574)



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 22

View from Moccasin Point Marina, facing east.

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the DPRA. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Moccasin Point is along the northeast shoreline of the Moccasin Creek arm of the Don Pedro Reservoir. While most of the recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period, such as the entrance station kiosk, boat launch, camp sites, restrooms, and fish cleaning station, the original marina (c. 1978) was destroyed by fire in 2000 and subsequently rebuilt.⁹⁵ As of 2023, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area offers 18 full hookup campsites, 78 non-hookup campsites, day-use picnic areas, walking trails, boat launch, and full-service marina.⁹⁶ Individual elements of the Moccasin Point Recreation Area are described in **Table 4** and below.

⁹⁵ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008574 (Moccasin Point Recreation Area [HDR-13])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

⁹⁶ "Moccasin Point," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/moccasin-point/>.

TABLE 4
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN MOCCASIN POINT RECREATION AREA

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station ^{97*}	Structure
Restroom	Building
Marina	Structure

Entrance Station/Building at Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 23

Moccasin Point Entrance Station, view facing east.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. The entrance stations are clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration are fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint

⁹⁷ The Moccasin Point fish cleaning station was constructed at some point after 2015 and was not included in the original 1971–1972 construction plan.

of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Moccasin Point entrance station is oriented northwest-southeast and located off Jacksonville Road.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 24
Moccasin Point Boat Launch, view facing north.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Moccasin Point boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction, includes two piers, and has an overall footprint of approximately 68 feet x 400 feet. The boat launch is oriented northeast-southwest and north of the Moccasin Point restroom and fish cleaning station.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 25
Moccasin Point Fish Cleaning Station, view facing south.

The Moccasin Point fish cleaning station is a post-2015 construction designed to echo the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks Campgrounds fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. It features the same pole-frame construction method previously utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The station has a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. It features a primary, rectangular metal industrial sink and flat, metal panel roof.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 26
Representative Campsite

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Moccasin Point, Blue Oaks, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area contains five campground “Areas” (A–E) that are regularly interspersed along a stretch of land that slopes to the east towards the shoreline. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. Within these areas, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area offers 18 full hookup campsites and 78 non-hookup campsites. The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 27
Moccasin Point Restroom (representative),
view facing north.

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.⁹⁸ The above restroom is at the west corner of the Moccasin Point boat launch parking area.

⁹⁸ The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Marina



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 28

Moccasin Point Marina, view facing northeast.

The modern Moccasin Point Recreation Area marina is 0.39 miles northeast of the Moccasin Point entrance station kiosk. The original marina was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt the same year.⁹⁹ A floating walkway connects the north shore of the marina parking access road with a permanent, H-shaped dock. The overall footprint of the marina measures approximately 400 feet x 430 feet.

⁹⁹ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3-46.

5.2 Significance Evaluation

As described above, the recreation area at Don Pedro Reservoir was one of many established in California in the late-20th century and has undergone building renovations to contributing buildings during its period of use. Due to their similar design, age, and function, the following evaluation is provided for all three recreation areas (Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point) as both individual resources as well as the DPRAHD. As the criteria for the National Register and California Register are nearly identical, they are evaluated for both registers simultaneously. **Appendix C** provides the site record updates for the three individual resources as well as the DPRAHD.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

Archival research indicates that while the DPRA Recreation Areas reflect post-war recreation development in Tuolumne County as well as the 1960s–1970s era of recreational development at California reservoirs, it does not appear to possess any unique significance for this association. As described in the context discussion above, following World War II, local, State, and federal agencies responded to increasing demands for outdoor recreation facilities by adapting reservoir land and shorelines for public recreational use. From the 1950s to the 1970s, California saw the development of several major water development projects which, in turn, produced reservoirs with associated lakes and shorelines that were appealing to boating, fishing, and camping enthusiasts alike. In 1956, the DPR established the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and initiated a trend of transforming impounded dam waters into vibrant, public recreation facilities. During the 1950s and 1960s, California’s investment in water development projects such as the State Water Project created new reservoirs ideal for outdoor recreation, such as Lake Oroville (1950s–1960s) and New Melones Lake (1978). The DPRA’s recreational facilities built between 1971 and 1972 are typical later examples of California’s embrace of reservoir recreation during this period.

For an association with historic events and patterns to be historically significant, National Register Bulletin 15 states that “a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context.” Within the context of post-World War II recreational development in California, the DPRA Recreation Areas are associated with recreational use of reservoirs, but this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within the historic context. It was one of many recreation areas constructed with reservoirs throughout California during the latter half of the 20th century. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible due to their association with significant events under Criterion A/1, nor as a DPRAHD.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Preliminary archival research failed to identify any significant associations between the resources and lives of people significant in the past. The development of the DPRA and the subsequent development and operation of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas were the results of a collaboration between the TID, MID and CCSF. However, archival research did not indicate any specific individual of significance within these organizations having

attained prominence through their association with the DPRA or any associated recreation area. Additionally, while Tuolumne County's collective lobbying efforts were instrumental in the development of the DPRA, archival research did not indicate any specific individual as having attained prominence through these efforts nor through any specific association with any individual recreation area. For these reasons, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion B/2, nor as a DPRAHD.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The 1971–1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds. Each recreation area shared a cohesive overall design. The plan was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates and designed by the architectural and planning firm Caywood. Throughout the three recreation areas, Caywood utilized a pole-style construction method that utilizes pressure treated telephone poles set in concrete footings. The style was a cost-saving construction method promoted by the FHA in the 1960s that was touted for its economy and simplicity of design. The style shared several key aesthetic sensibilities of the Bay Regional Style, most notably its embrace of local, natural materials and its ability to blend into the surrounding topography so as not to impede upon the existing landscape.

For an association with design/construction as an example of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, National Register Bulletin 15 states that a property must be “an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history.” While a previous analysis recommended the DPRA Recreation Areas eligible under National Register Criterion C as an example of pole-style construction, the extant associated structures reflect minimal characteristics of their original pole-style construction and design elements and have undergone significant modifications since their original construction, as well as the earlier 2012–2015 evaluation. For instance, the Trading Post building originally had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure which were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. The removal has influenced the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, the shingle roof at the Trading Post and shingle roofs throughout the DPRA Recreation Areas have been replaced since 2015 with corrugated sheet metal roofs, which further impact the integrity of the site against its original design. Between this site-wide modification of design, and the loss of the DPRA Visitor Center (a major contributor to a unified pole-style aesthetic) in 2016, the DPRA Recreation Areas no longer reflect its original unifying architectural style.

Somewhat noteworthy is the fact that the construction of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates, which was known for its work on water resource projects throughout California, namely reservoir, irrigation, and fisheries development. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered a person important to water resource development in the state of California. As the founder of Clair A. Hill & Associates and the cofounder of CH2M-Hill, Hill oversaw several substantive water resource projects throughout California, such as the Lake Tahoe Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. During his 32-year tenure on the California Water Commission,

Hill was a primary author of the California Water Commission Plan and served as the Commission's chairman for 18 years. In 1992, Hill was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and was also a recipient of the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award.¹⁰⁰

To be eligible, however, per National Register Bulletin 15, a property must “express a particular phase in the development of the master’s career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect.” While Clair A. Hill & Associates is an internationally recognized engineering firm, the buildings and structures within the DPRA were designed by the Caywood architectural and planning group. Archival review did not indicate that Caywood should be considered an architectural firm of merit. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be important or representative examples of Clair A. Hill & Associates’ water resource development legacy. Similarly, while Clair A. Hill was an internationally renowned engineer, the DPRA Recreation Areas are not representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design or a reflection of Hill’s individual contribution to water resource development in California more broadly.

The loss of the unifying original aesthetic, as well as the of the Visitor Center in 2016, has resulted in the DPRA’s inability to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction. Additionally, the DPRA does not represent a professional highlight of Clair A. Hill’s body of work. Therefore, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion C/3, nor eligible as a DPRAHD.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

While most often applied to archaeological districts and sites, Criterion D/4 can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects that contain important information. For these types of properties to be eligible under Criterion D/4, they themselves must be, or must have been, the principal source of the important information, and the information must be considered important. The DPRA Recreation Areas are constructed of standard materials (wood and concrete) and with standard methodologies. It does not appear to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, or other information that is not already known. As such, they do not appear eligible for listing under Criterion D/4 as either individual resources or as a historic district.

Summary

In summary, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear eligible under any National Register of California Register criteria as either individual resources or as a DPRAHD. Based on a site survey, archival research, and the analysis presented in this memo, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as

¹⁰⁰ “Clair A. Hill & Associates,” CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

not eligible for individual listing, nor as a historic district, in the National Register or California Register.

6. Conclusions

Based on the results of the records search, background research, pedestrian survey, and resource significance evaluations, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as not eligible for individual listing, nor as a historic district, in the National Register or California Register.

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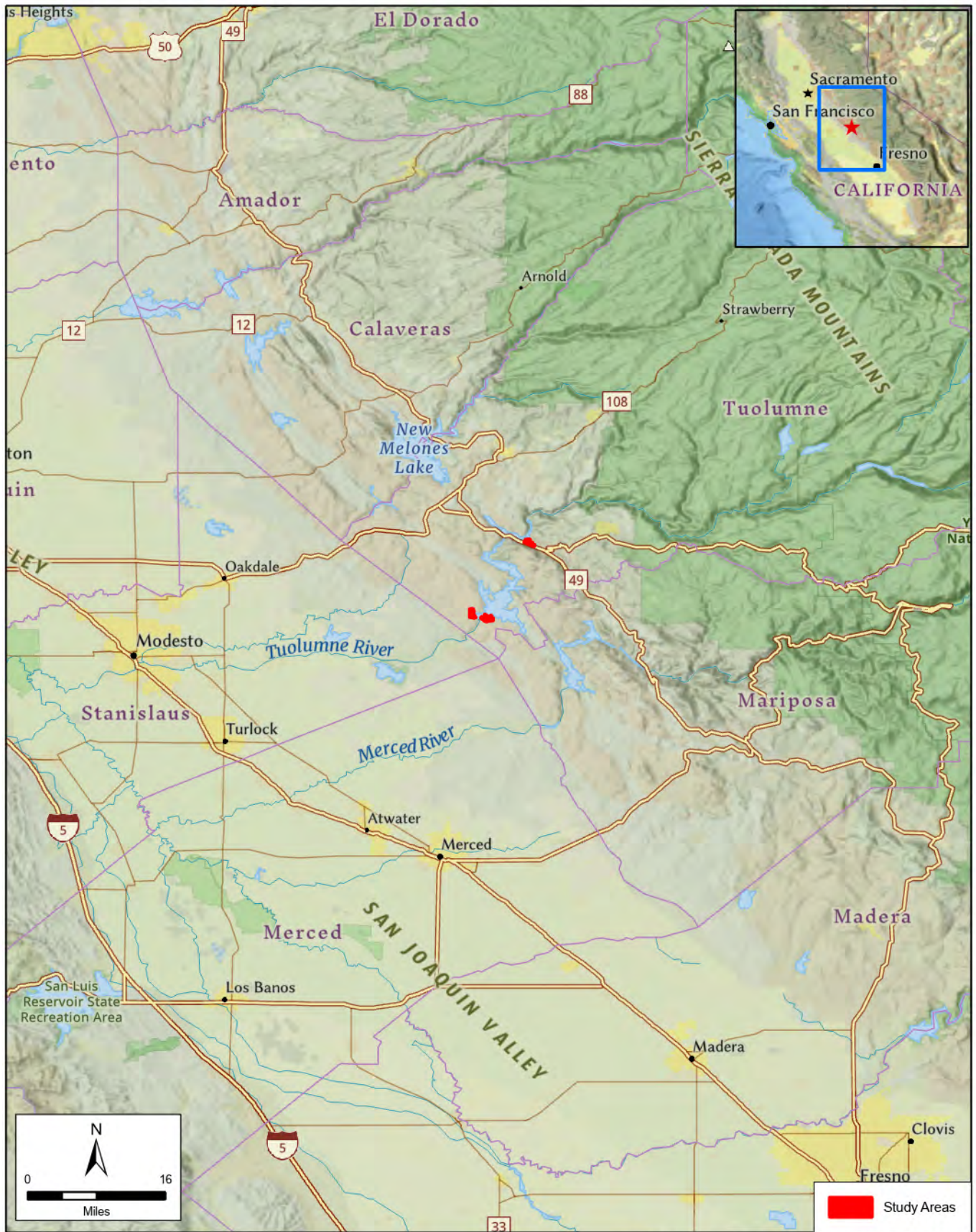
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Appendix A

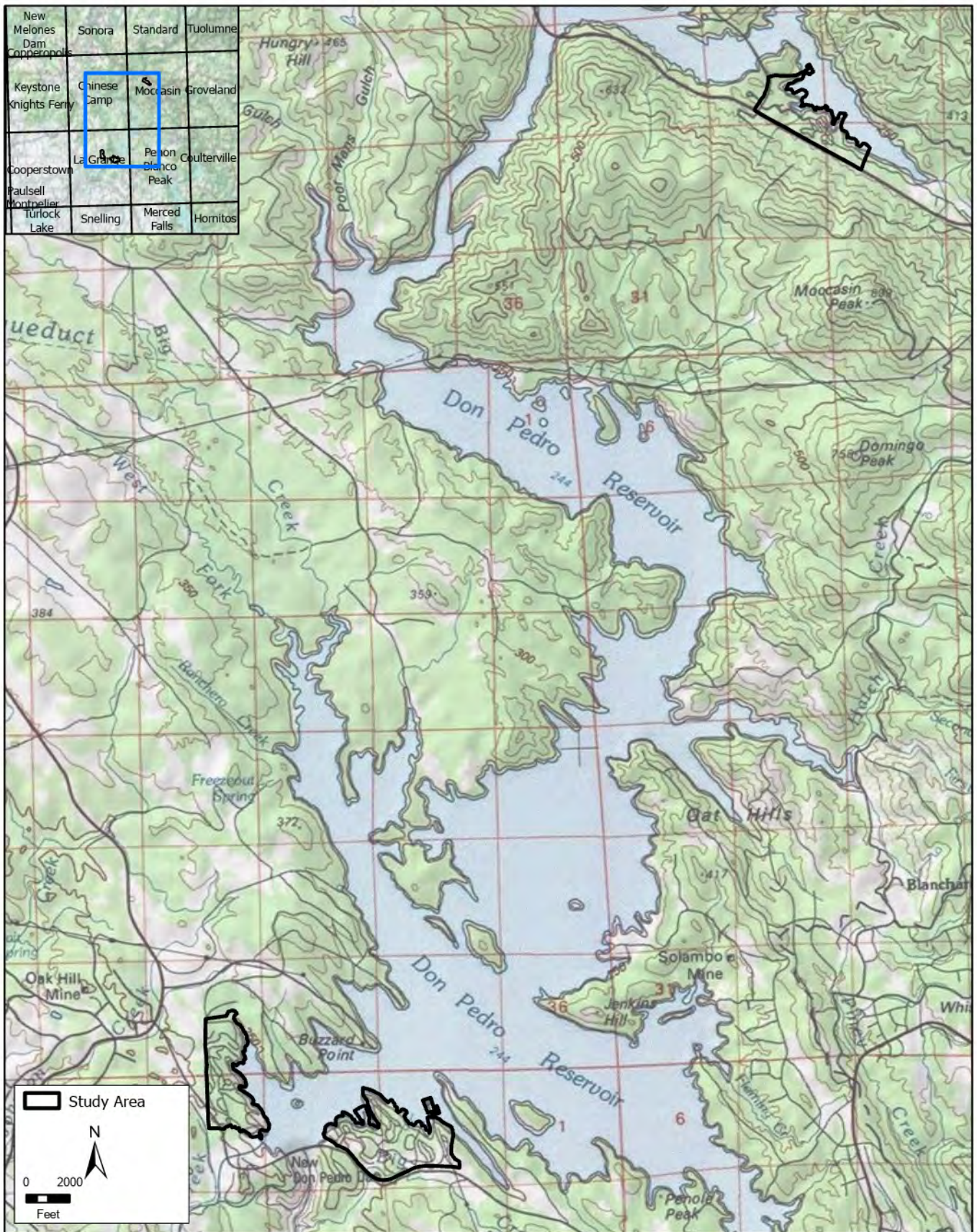
Maps



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

Figure 2
Project Location



SOURCE: Maxar, 2021; ESA, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

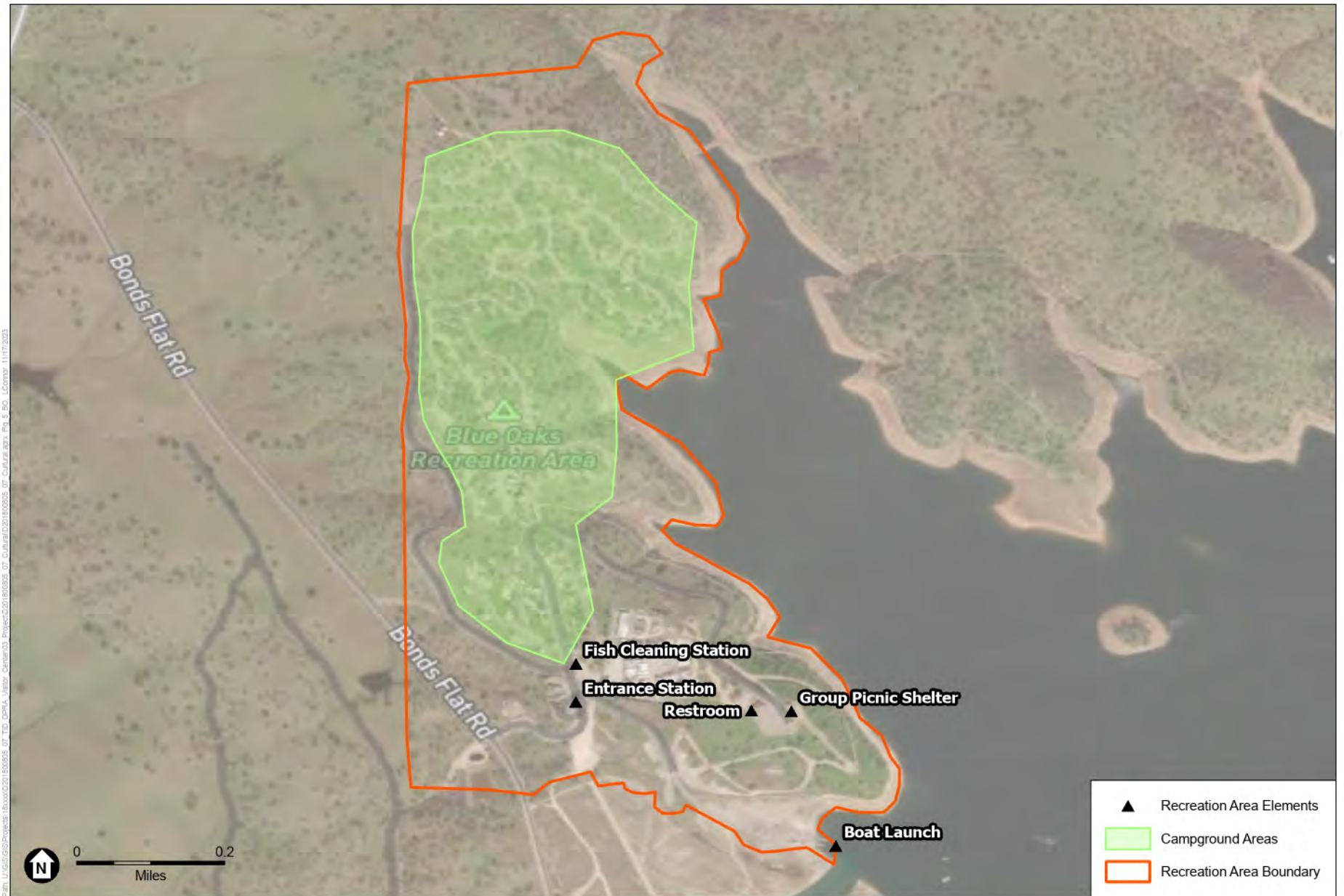
Figure 3
DPRA Contributing Recreation Areas



SOURCE: Maxar, 2021; ESA, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

Figure 4
Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Boundary and Elements



SOURCE: Maxar, 2021; ESA, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

Figure 5
Blue Oaks Recreation Area Boundary and Elements



SOURCE: Maxar, 2021; ESA, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.10

Figure 6
Moccasin Point Recreation Area Boundary and Elements

Appendix B

Previous DPR 523 Forms

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 9

*Resource Name or #: Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District

P1. Other Identifier: DPRA Historic District

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Various, see attached Location Maps Date: 2012; Mount Diablo, B.M.

c. Address: 21 Bonds Flat Road

City: La Grange

Zip: 95329

d. UTM: Zone 10; (NAD Conus 1983) See Continuation Sheet.

e. Other Locational Data: The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Headquarters building can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA. Elevation: roughly 800-1,000 feet.

*P3a. Description: The Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District is made up of those built environment elements that are associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Project. The Don Pedro Project is a hydroelectric generation and storage facility owned and operated by Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID). Its primary features consist of the Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir, located on the Tuolumne River. The Don Pedro Project provides water and power to thousands of Stanislaus County customers as part of TID and MID's larger network of power and water development projects. A component of the project is recreation. The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA), a department of TID and sponsored by TID, MID, and the City and County of San Francisco, manages all of the recreational activities undertaken within the project boundaries. Elements of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District include the three formal recreation areas in the project boundary (Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area) and the DPRA Headquarters and Visitor Center building. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of formal project-related recreational activities. This built environment district is associated with the Bay Region Tradition architectural style and the 1960s/1970s wave of new recreation facilities built in California around a number of large reservoirs created for water storage and hydroelectric power generation, such as that created for Lake Shasta near Redding, California.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP6. 1-3 story commercial building; HP9. Public utility building; HP11. Engineering structure;

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: Don Pedro Recreation Agency Headquarters north and east façades. View south. Photo taken 07/15/12. Digital image.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic Prehistoric Both
1971 to 1972

*P7. Owner and Address:

Resource Owners:
Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381
Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

Land Owners: same as above, plus
Bureau of Land Management
Mother Lode Field Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95824

*P8. Recorded by:
Judith Marvin,
Foothill Resources Ltd

P.O. Box 2040 Murphys, CA 95247 Kevin (Lex) Palmer
HDR Engineering Inc.
601 Union Street Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98101

*P9. Date Recorded: 07/06/12-08/17/12

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Judith Marvin 2014. *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts' Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299 Tuolumne County, California*. HDR Engineering, Inc. and Foothill Resources.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

DPR 523A (1/95)

*Required information

*Resource Name or #: Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District

D1. Historic Name: New Don Pedro Project

D2. Common Name: Don Pedro Recreation Agency

***D3. Detailed Description:** Refer to Table 1. Detailed descriptions of each district element can be found in the individual resource records, as each of the elements have also been recorded separately as individual resources. A detailed history of the district elements and the Don Pedro Project as a whole can be found in the associated report:

Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Judith Marvin 2014. *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts' Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299 Tuolumne County, California*. HDR Inc. and Foothill Resources.

***D5. Boundary Justification:** The Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District includes resources constructed from 1971-1972 within DPRA recreation areas. They are included within the Don Pedro Project TID/MID Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License 2299 Area of Potential Effects (APE).

***D6. Significance: Theme:** California Reservoir and Tuolumne County Recreation; Architecture, Landscape Architecture
Area: California and Tuolumne County

Period of Significance: 1970s

Applicable Criteria: Criteria A and C

This district consists of built environment elements that are associated with recreational activities at the Don Pedro Project. Elements of this district include all four of the Don Pedro Project recreation-related resources documented in the APE (Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the DPRA Headquarters and Visitor Center building), which were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of formal project-related recreational activities. This district is associated with the Bay Region Tradition architectural style and the 1960s/1970s wave of new recreation facilities built in California around a number of large reservoirs created for water storage and hydroelectric power generation that began in 1958 with the creation of the Lake Folsom State Recreation Area. Many of the buildings and structures, in keeping with the Bay Region Tradition, employ pole style construction and landscaping principles influenced by what landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and architect Charles Moore utilized at the notable Sea Ranch housing community in Sonoma County. The pole style construction is unique and affiliated with the 1960s era. The use of rough sawn redwood ramadas and beams were an attempt to mesh with the surrounding landscape, as was the undergrounding of electrical utilities. The DPRA headquarters and visitor center 16-sided building is a particularly unique building form.

The Federal Power Commission, FERC's predecessor, required the TID, MID, and City/County of San Francisco to include recreation facilities as part of the project during its construction in the 1970s because of lobbying efforts by Tuolumne County, and the growing need by city dwellers to pursue outdoor recreation. The Caywood architecture group and Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the recreation-related buildings and landscape features for the Project. The reservoir recreation emphasis in California began with Lake Folsom in the 1950s and other subsequent state and federally sponsored water projects, and increased with the post-war growth of outdoor recreation and the 1960s environmental movement. The Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District is associated with and representative of 1960s-1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development and, therefore, meets the significance requirements of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A, at the local and state level. See Continuation Sheet.

***D7. References:** July 10, 2012 interview at Don Pedro Recreation Agency headquarters with Carol Russell and Dave Jiguor, long-term Don Pedro Recreation Agency employees.

Barnes, Dwight H. 1987. *The Greening of Paradise Valley, Where the Land Owns the Water and the Power. The First 100 Years of the Modesto Irrigation District*. Modesto Irrigation District, Modesto, California.

Paterson, Alan M. 1987 *Land, Water and Power, A History of the Turlock Irrigation District, 1887-1987*. Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, California. Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District. *Don Pedro Project FERC No. 2299 Pre-Application Document*. Volume I of II. Turlock and Modesto: Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District, 2011.

Don Pedro Project Construction Drawings-Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District archives. Don Pedro Recreation Agency Headquarters flat files.

Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District. *Don Pedro Project FERC No. 2299 Pre-Application Document*. Volume I of II. Turlock and Modesto: Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District, 2011.

Turlock Irrigation District 125th Anniversary history page. Accessed August 1, 2012. <http://www.tid.org/125th-anniversary>

***D8. Evaluator:** Judith Marvin, Foothill Resources Ltd; Kevin (Lex) Palmer HDR Engineering Inc. **Date:** 08/20/12

Affiliation and Address: Foothill Resources, Ltd. Judith Marvin P.O. Box 2040 Murphys, CA 95247; Kevin (Lex) Palmer HDR 601 Union Street Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98101

*Recorded by: Judith Marvin, Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/06/12 – 08/17/12

■ Continuation Update

***P2. Location:**

d. UTM: Zone 10; (NAD Conus 1983):

Approx. center of Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Trading Post: 72883mE/ 4175947mN

Approx. center of Blue Oaks Recreation Area: 726260mE/ 4176371mN

Approx. center of Moccasin Point Recreation Area: 734628mE/ 4189798mN

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Headquarters building: 727067mE/ 4175559mN

*Recorded by: Judith Marvin, Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/06/12 – 08/17/12

■ Continuation Update

***B10. Significance (Continued):**

Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master engineering firm and Clair A. Hill, himself, a person important to the history of water resources in the state of California. However, the district and its elements are not highly representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design, particularly because most of the buildings and structures comprising the district were designed by the Caywood architectural group, who were more specialized in recreation related facilities. As well, Clair A. Hill's personal contributions to water resources in California were primarily focused on overall water resources planning and development in California and engineering design more directly related to water control, including irrigation. As such, the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District is not considered the product of a master (a component of Criterion C) or directly associated with or representative of the life of anyone important in local, state, or national history. Accordingly, the district does not meet the significance requirements of Criterion B.

The district is also associated with a unique pole style construction which developed during the 1960s. The overall design of the Don Pedro Project recreation-related resources, influenced by the Bay Region Tradition of architecture (used from the 1880s to 1970s), represents the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Because of these factors, the district is significant under NRHP Criterion C at the local and state levels of significance.

Finally, as the district elements are all well documented in design plans, photographs, and other archival documents, the district does not offer research potential for furthering our understanding of the history of the area. It, therefore, does not meet the significance requirements of Criterion D. Accordingly, the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District is significant under criteria A and C only, at a regional and state level, with a period of significance dating to the 1970s.

Overall, the district retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. There have been minimal impacts in design, materials, and workmanship due to limited modifications in function (change from day-use to camping in one area), the addition of some features (i.e., shade ramadas, food lockers, etc.), the removal of some features (i.e., removal of ramada overhangs and some poles due to deterioration), and roofing material modification (i.e., changes in roofing materials due to deterioration and need for materials with better longevity). Of the three formal recreation areas comprising elements of the district, the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks Recreation Areas retain the highest degree of integrity in design, materials, and workmanship. Changes to Camping Area B in the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area have resulted in a loss of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to conversion from day use to camping. Yet this is mitigated by the large-scale of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (the largest of the recreation areas) and the factor that the function—recreation—has remained the same. The DPRA headquarters and visitor center has undergone replacement of portions of its exterior materials due to its exposed location that lends to weathering, but again these changes have had limited impacts to the building's overall integrity, especially its integrity of design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association.

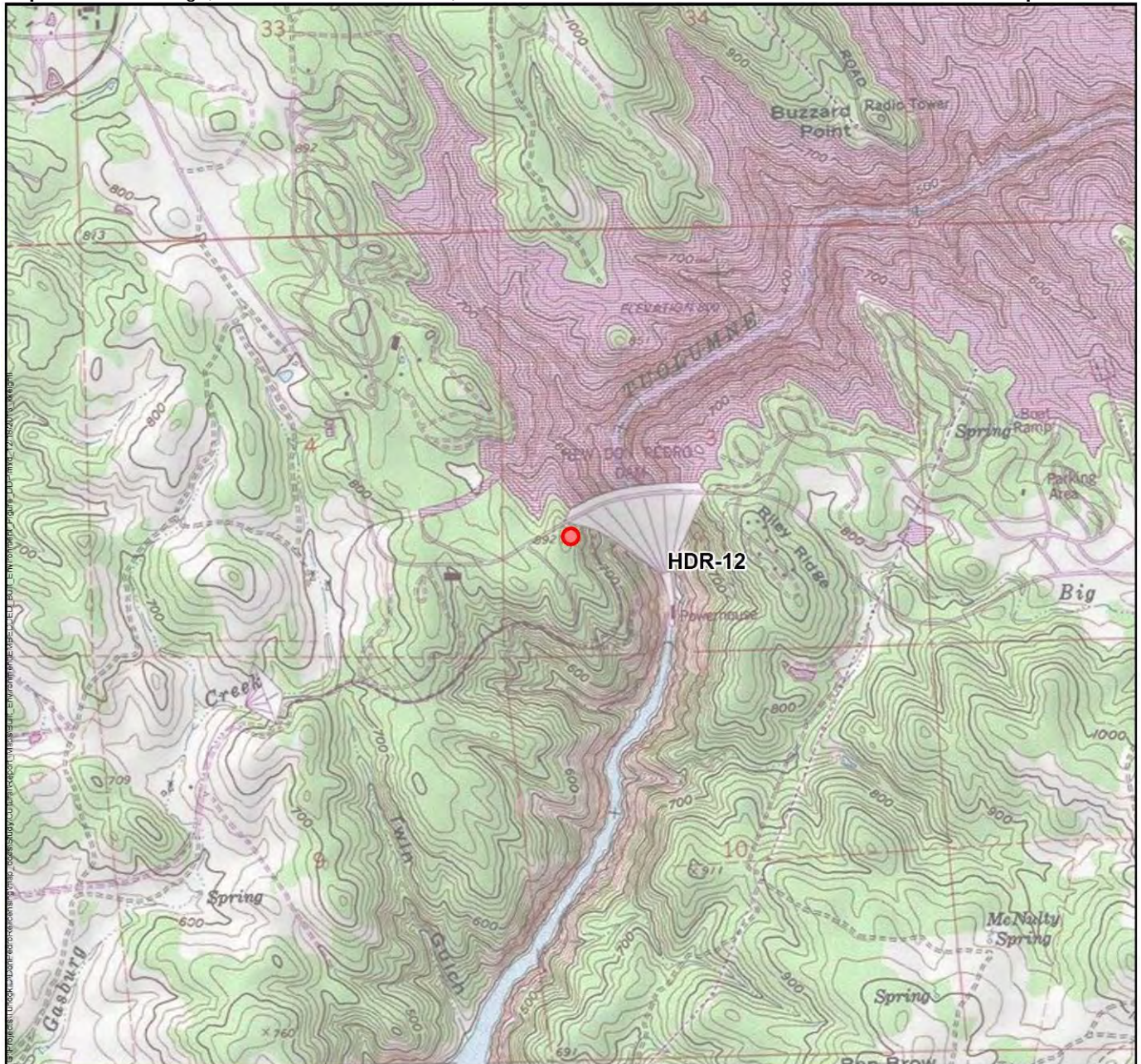
However, the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District is not historic in age, and does not meet the threshold of exceptional significance under NRHP Criteria Consideration G. As such, the district is ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Refer to Table 5-8 below for a summary of the district elements, including which elements contribute to the district's significance (contributing element) and which do not (non-contributing). Those that contribute exemplify the distinguishable characteristics by which the district has been determined significant (i.e., association with 1960s-1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development; representative of a unique construction method, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a specific type). Those elements that do not contribute to the district's significance do not exemplify these characteristics and/or do not retain enough integrity to convey the significance of the district.

Table 1. Summary of District Elements.

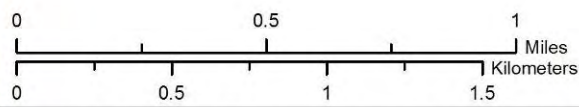
Building/Structure (Field Designation)	Date	Architectural Style	Designer
Headquarters and Visitor Center (P-55-8907/HDR-12)	1972	Pole	Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento
Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-8574/HDR 13)	1971-1972	Designed landscape	Clair A. Hill & Associates/Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento
Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-8908/HDR-14)	1971-1972	Designed Landscape	Clair A. Hill & Associates/Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento
Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-8803/HDR 15)	1971-1972	Designed Landscape	Clair A. Hill & Associates/Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento
4 total elements			

Table 2. Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Elements to the District.

Building/Structure (Field Designation)	Contributing/Non-Contributing Element	Integrity Considerations
Headquarters and Visitor Center (P-55-8907/HDR-12)	Contributing	Has lost integrity of materials and workmanship due to weathering that resulted in replacement of original building fabric.
Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-8574/HDR-13)	Contributing	Has lost some integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to construction of a new camping area.
Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-8908/HDR-14)	Contributing	Has lost some integrity of materials and workmanship due to changes to campsite furniture.
Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-8803/HDR-15)	Contributing	Has lost some integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to conversion of one day-use area to camping.
Total	4 District Elements (4 Contributing and 0 Non-contributing)	

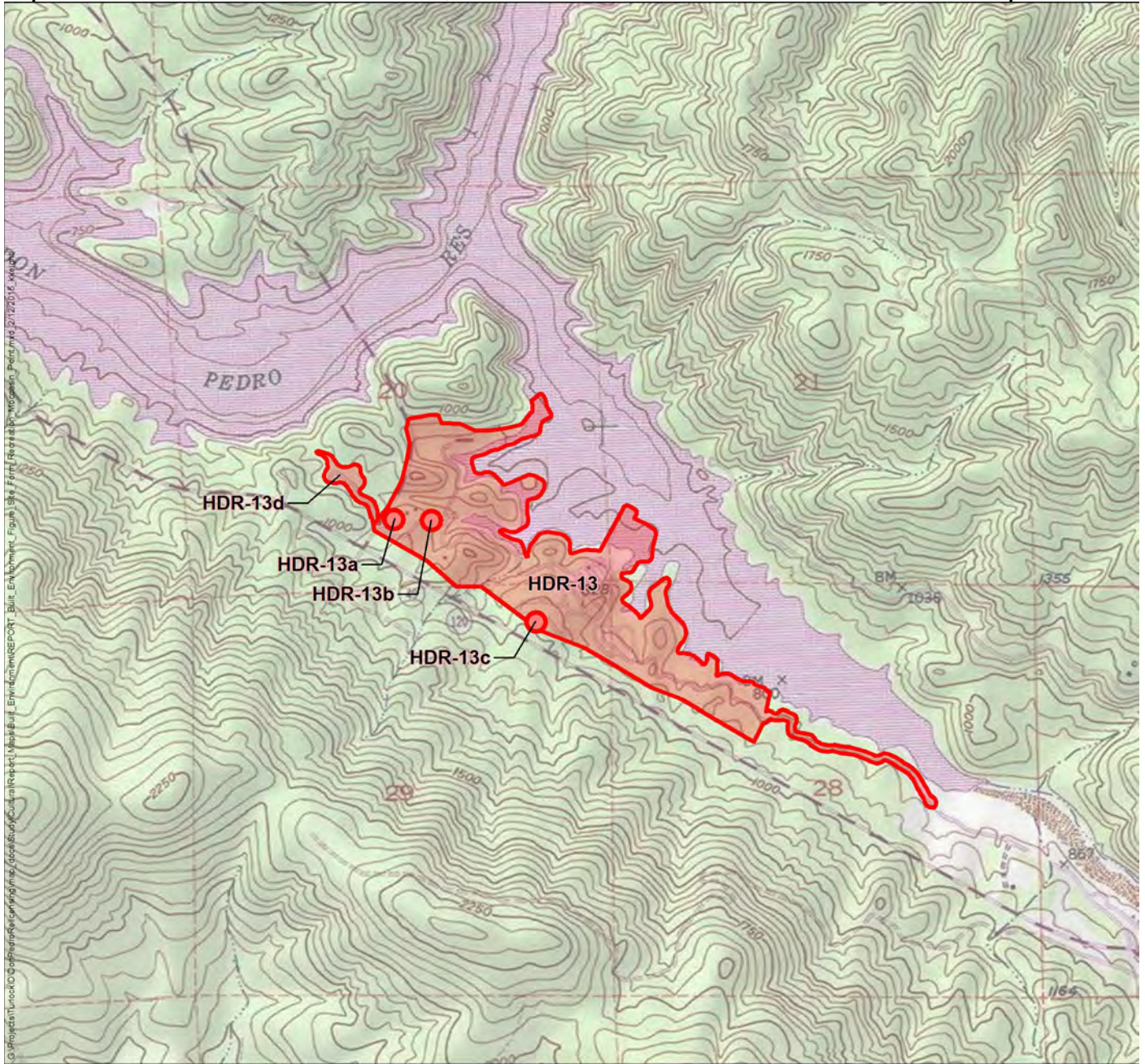


 Built Environment Resource



Magnetic declination:
 +12°57' E, changing
 -0°6'/year (2012)

Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc, Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District; Service Layer Credits: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed
 Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N
 Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

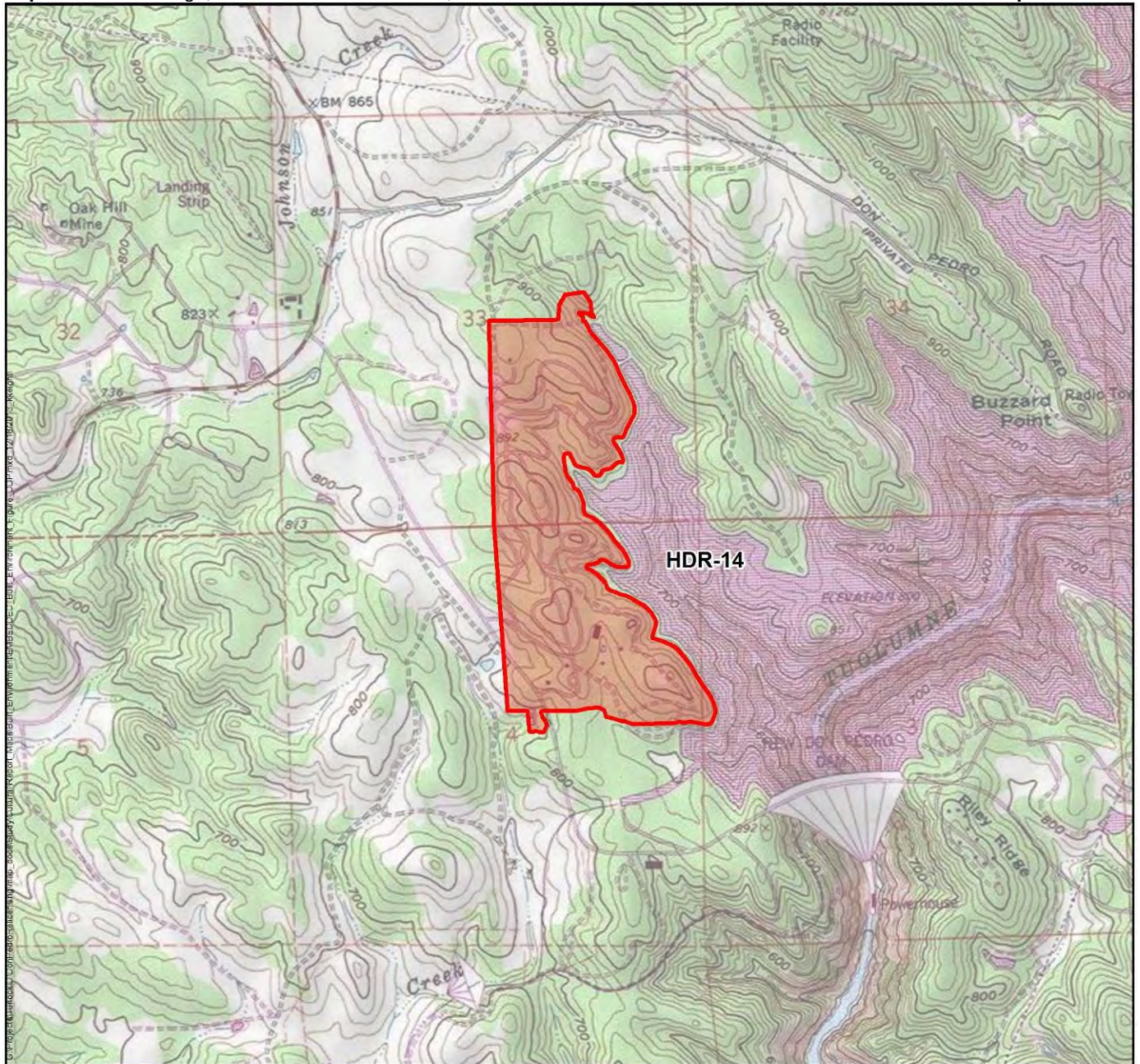



● Built Environment
▬ Features


0 2,000 4,000 Feet
 0 500 1,000 Meters

TN
 MN
 Magnetic declination:
 +12°57' E, changing
 -0°6'/year (2012)

Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc,
 Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District, terrain, landscape, water - ESRI
 Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N
 Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.



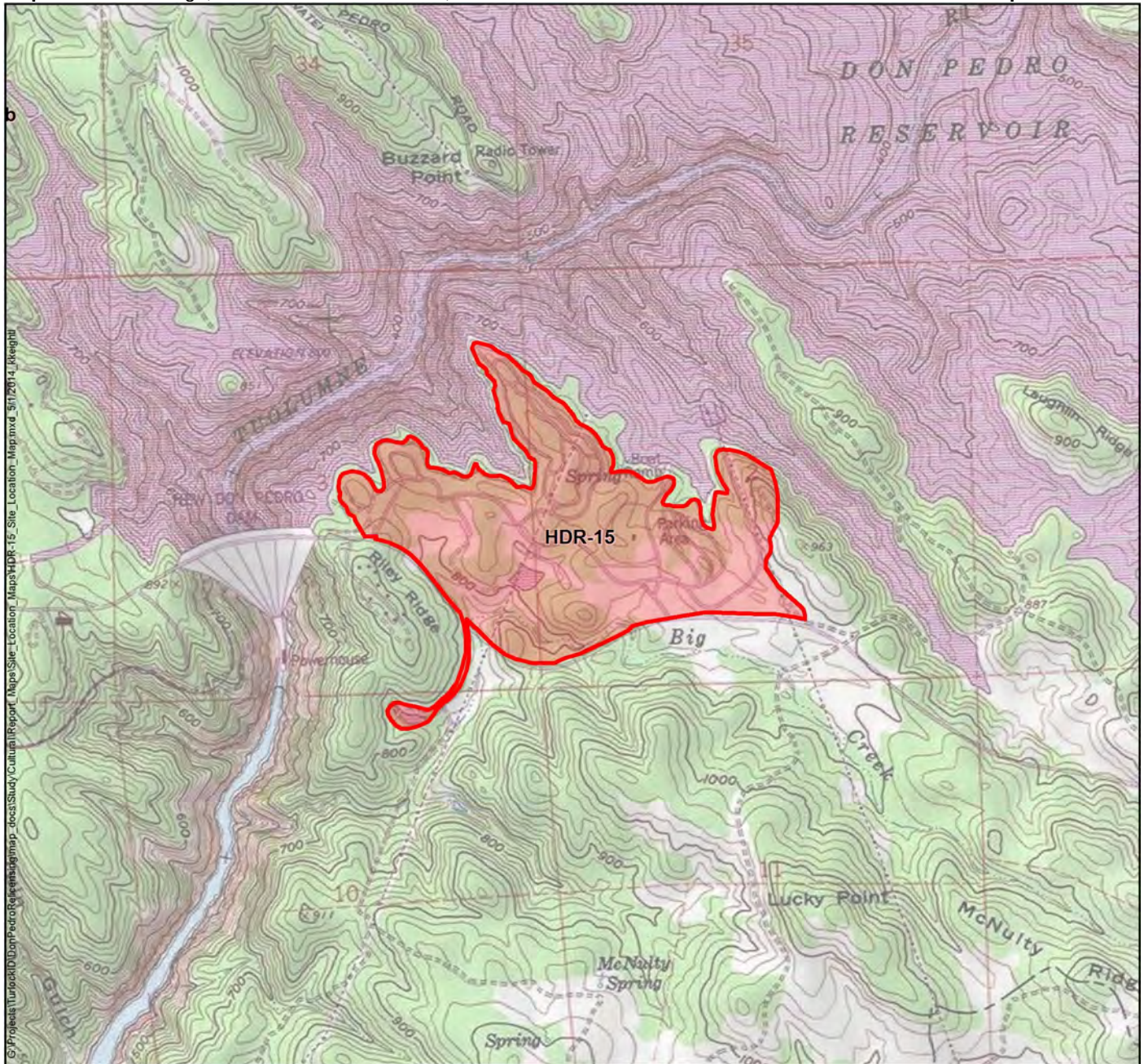
 Built Environment Resource






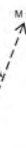
0 0.5 1 Miles
 0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometers

Magnetic declination:
 +12°57' E, changing
 -0°6'/year (2012)

Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc, Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District; Service Layer Credits: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC, Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed
 Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N
 Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.



 Built Environment
 Features

 TN
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 Magnetic declination:
 +12°57' E, changing
 -0°6'/year (2012)

0 2,000 4,000
 Feet
 0 610 1,220
 Meters

Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc,
 Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District, terrain, landscape, water - ESRI
 Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N
 Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (HDR-15)

P1. Other Identifier: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: La Grange, CA Date: Photorevised 1987; T 3S; R 14E ;SW ¼ and S ½ of NW ¼ and W ½ of SE ¼ of Sec 2; SE ¼ and NE ¼ of Sec 3 Mount Diablo, B.M.

c. Address: 11500 Bonds Flat Road

City: La Grange

Zip: 95329

d. UTM: Zone: 10; Various: See Continuation Sheets (NAD Conus 1983) – approximate center of resource

e. Other Locational Data:

Elevation: 800-900 feet.

From the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) headquarters, turn right on Bonds Flat Road and drive east 0.5 miles. Bear left into the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area.

***P3a. Description:** The Fleming Meadow Recreation Area is one of three formal recreation areas managed by the DPRA (the other two recreation areas are Blue Oaks and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas). DPRA is a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID), and sponsored by TID, Modesto Irrigation District (MID), and the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, constructed between 1971 and 1972, is the largest formal recreation area managed by the DPRA. It is located east of the Don Pedro Dam on the southwest corner of the Don Pedro Reservoir, known as West Bay, north of Bonds Flat Road. The area has a combination of camping, parking, marina, boat launch, fishing, swimming, and team sport facilities situated along an east-west axis. The area now has 176 tent camping sites and 90 full hook-up camp sites located in four separate areas A, B, D, and H. Area A is the largest, and has five restrooms within the camping loop. Area B has one restroom. Area D possesses two restrooms. Area H is the fourth area and caters to mobile homes and trailers, and has two comfort stations. A cluster of team sports (volleyball, horseshoes, and softball), an amphitheater, individual and group picnic areas, and a two-acre swimming lagoon are located in the southwestern portion of the recreation area. The lagoon complex area has an associated dressing room, snack bar, and water treatment building. Infrastructure for the area includes a wastewater treatment plant (HDR-15M) located 1,200 feet southwest of Bonds Flat Road. Continued on Continuation Sheet, Page 4

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP22 Reservoir; HP30 Trees; HP39 Other-campground and recreation area

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates,etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, area B. View south. Photo taken 04/15/12. Digital image.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic

Prehistoric Both

1971-1972 July 10, 2012 interview at Don Pedro Recreation Agency headquarters with Carol Russell and Dave Jigour, long-term Don Pedro Recreation Agency employees. Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District. *Don Pedro Project FERC No. 2299 Pre-Application Document*. Volume I of II. Turlock and Modesto: Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District, 2011.

***P7. Owner and Address: Resource and Land Owners:** Turlock Irrigation District 333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949 Turlock, CA 95381; Modesto Irrigation District 1231 11th Street

Modesto, CA 95351

***P8. Recorded by:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer, HDR Engineering Inc., 601 Union Street Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98101

***P9. Date Recorded:** 07/15/12

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Judith Marvin 2014. *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts' Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299 Tuolumne County, California*. HDR Engineering, Inc. and Foothill Resources.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 18

*NRHP Status Code:

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (HDR-15)

B1. Historic Name: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area

B2. Common Name: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area

B3. Original Use: Camping and water-related recreation **B4. Present Use:** Same

***B5. Architectural Style:** Pole-style construction

***B6. Construction History:** Constructed between 1971 and 1972 using pole-style construction based on designs by Clair A. Hill & Associates and Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento.

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**

***B8. Related Features:** Don Pedro Reservoir (P-55-8882/FR-6)

B9a. Architect: Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward (Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the layout and landscape features)

b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Outdoor recreation **Area:** Tuolumne County

Period of Significance: 1971-1972

Property Type: Recreation Area

Applicable Criteria: Criteria A and C

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, located at Don Pedro Reservoir, is representative of a California reservoir recreation tradition that began with Folsom Lake Recreation Area in 1956 and later, continued at other reservoirs, such as the New Melones Reservoir in 1980. This tradition increased with the post-war growth in recreation in the 1950s and 1960s due to the State Water Project at places like Lake Oroville, which resulted from the growing need by city dwellers to pursue outdoor recreation. In aesthetic design, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is associated with the Bay Region Tradition, which emphasizes an informal, natural, and rustic design emphasizing use of rough wood that began in the 1880s and continued into the 1970s.

The Caywood architecture group and Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the recreation area buildings and landscape features. They employed pole style construction and landscaping principles influenced by what landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and architect Charles Moore utilized at the notable Sea Ranch housing community in Sonoma County. The pole style construction is unique and affiliated with the 1960s era. The use of rough sawn redwood ramadas and beams were an attempt to mesh with the surrounding landscape, as was the undergrounding of electrical utilities. DPRA has continued to use these design guidelines from the early 1970s in new construction at the recreation area, with minor changes in materials due to fire suppression concerns in this isolated and dry region. Continued on Continuation Sheet, page 5.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes:

***B12. References:**

The American Institute of Architects. "The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects Third Edition, 1970." Accessed July 19, 2012. <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1970%20American%20Architects%20Directory.aspx>

Barnes, Dwight H. 1987. *The Greening of Paradise Valley, Where the Land Owns the Water and the Power. The First 100 Years of the Modesto Irrigation District.* Modesto Irrigation District, Modesto, California.

Clair A. Hill & Associates. August 15, 1969 Proposal for the Design of Recreational Facilities at the New Don Pedro Project. Located in Turlock Irrigation District archive files.

Gerwick, Ben C. 2002 *Clair A. Hill* in Memorial Tributes, Volume 10. National Academy Press, Washington D.C.

B13. Remarks: This resource is a contributing element of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District (P-55-8881). Continued on Continuation Sheet, Page 5.

***B14. Evaluator:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer

***Date of Evaluation:** 08/10/12

See Continuation Sheet, Page 3.

(This space reserved for official comments.)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 3 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (HDR-15)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/13/12

■ Continuation □ Update

***P3a. Description: (Continued)**

Water-related facilities involve a public concessionaire marina and private houseboat dock on the west shoreline and a boat launch. A northwest-trending peninsula where Camping Area A is located separates the boat launch and marina to the east from the private houseboat mooring area. A fish cleaning station is located south of the boat launch (TID/MID, PAD Volume I page 3-12, 2011). In total, buildings in the recreation area include an entrance station kiosk, one fish cleaning station, a trading post building, a snack bar building, a dressing room building, a water treatment building, and thirteen comfort stations. One comfort station, located near the entrance kiosk, was not on the original design plans for the recreation area. It may have been built in 1972, as it is of the same design and materials as the other comfort stations; at the latest it was constructed by the early 1980s (personal communication with Carol Russell in 2013, current DPRA Director).

Several changes have taken place at the recreation areas following their 1971-1972 construction. Fleming Meadows B recreation area was converted from day use to camping circa 1981. The ramadas found in all three recreation areas were originally constructed as roof overhangs on all the recreation buildings. They were constructed from the roofing beams that extended beyond the roofline with 2 x 2's nailed on top of them perpendicular to the beams, creating the effect of a ramada along the building perimeters. It was an aesthetic design that graced the perimeter of all the buildings in the recreation areas that rotted over time and have since been either removed or replaced. The ramadas over the entrance stations were raised to avoid collisions with large RVs. A few similarly constructed ramadas were originally located in the Fleming Meadows H area, with additional ramadas, of similar material and design, added to campsites at both the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks recreation areas for shade in the 1990s. The original shake roofs on the recreation buildings were replaced with tile roofing due to repeated damage by wildlife, and the tile roofs are being replaced with steel roofing due to structural damage caused by the weight of the tiles. The wood picnic tables at the campsites were replaced with stationary concrete picnic tables, due to fire concerns and a greater ease of maintenance. Concrete foot lockers have also been added to all of the campsites. The barbecue grill stands at the campsites were also replaced with fire rings, although both the barbecue grill stands and wooden picnic benches remain in the picnic areas. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, several restrooms were modified in the early 1990s. The group picnic, launch ramp and swimming lagoon restrooms at Fleming Meadows were modified. The lagoon dressing room (HDR-15e) interior has also been modified (Russell and Jigour interview, 2012).

***B10. Significance (Continued):**

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, completed in 1972, is associated with and representative of 1960s-1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development and, therefore, meets the significance requirements of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A, at the local and state level. As stated above, reservoir recreation emphasis in California began with the Folsom Lake Recreation Area in 1956, and other state and federally sponsored water projects, and increased with the post-war growth of outdoor recreation and the 1960s environmental movement.

Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master water resources engineering firm for their premiere work on a number of water resources projects throughout California. Clair A. Hill, founder of Clair A. Hill and Associates and later, cofounder of CH2M-Hill, was one of the primary authors of the California Water Commission Plan and served on the California Water Commission from 1949 to the mid-1990s, including serving as the commission's chairman for several years (Gerwick 2002:133-134). He was an honorary lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, earned the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1992. However, even though Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master engineering firm and Clair A. Hill, himself, a person important to the history of water resources in the state of California, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is not highly representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design, particularly because most of the buildings and structures were designed by Caywood architectural group, who were actually more specialized in recreation related facilities. As well, Clair A. Hill's personal contributions to water resources in California were primarily focused on overall water resources planning and development in California and engineering design more directly related to water control, including irrigation. As such, the recreation area is not considered the product of a master (a component of Criterion C) or directly associated with or representative of the life of anyone important in local, state, or national history. Accordingly, the recreation area does not meet the significance requirements of Criterion B

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is also associated with pole style construction which developed during the 1960s. The overall design of the recreation area resources, influenced by the Bay Region Tradition of architecture (used from the 1880s to 1970s), represent the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Because of these factors, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is significant under NRHP Criterion C at the local and state levels of significance.

Additionally, Fleming Meadows Recreation Area does not meet the significance requirements under Criterion D, as information on the recreation area is already readily available in the form of as-built drawings and construction specifications.

Fleming Meadows Recreation Area retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. It also retains integrity in design, materials, and workmanship. Changes to Camping Area B in the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area have resulted in a loss of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to conversion from day use to camping. Yet this is mitigated by the large-scale of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (the largest of the DPRA managed recreation areas) and the factor that the function—recreation—has remained the same. However, the recreation area is not historic in age, nor does it meet the threshold of exceptional significance under NRHP Criteria Consideration G. As such, the recreation area is ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

B13. Remarks (Continued): The DPRA has standardized plans for the recreation areas, which resulted in repetitive buildings and structures such as comfort stations, entrance stations, fish cleaning stations, and boat ramps. For these repetitive buildings and structures only one of each type of building/structure was documented in detail to serve as the type structure to describe all of the structures of that type. See the form for the Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-8908/HDR-14) for a description of the fish cleaning station and comfort stations. See the form for the Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-8574/HDR-13) for a description of the entrance station. Described on Continuation Sheets herein are the following buildings and structures: the Trading Post, Swimming Lagoon, Water Treatment Building, Snack Bar, Dressing Room, Marina, Boat Ramp, and Sewage Treatment Plant.

The Fleming Meadows Trading Post is a rectangular-shaped, pole-style, stucco-clad building constructed in 1971 that has a medium-pitched concrete shingle-clad side-gabled roof with wide eaves. The building has a wood deck around the entire perimeter with heavy horizontal beams, telephone pole supports, and a metal railing. The building is constructed with a northeast orientation towards the reservoir, its primary southwest façade is at street level, and the northeast façade has a full-width deck on a sloping hillside that promotes viewing of the Don Pedro Reservoir. The building has a concrete slab foundation and concrete brick cladding under the deck. Heavy wood lintels and sills surround all of the fenestration. The southwest primary façade has two bays. A recessed bay is located on the north corner with double-leaf metal doors. The south bay has an offset entrance with double-leaf glass doors with adjacent fixed wood picture windows that continue to the south corner. The southwest façade has three bays. The south bay has three wood picture windows. The central bay has two full-length fixed wood vertical lights. The north bay has a single-leaf metal door with a full light and a series of fixed wood picture windows that extend to the corner. The northeast façade has five bays. The south four bays have adjacent fixed wood picture windows. The north bay has a single-leaf metal door. The northwest façade has a ground level set of double-leaf metal doors and no fenestration on the deck level. The roof has exposed rafters and trusses that are secured with threaded bolts and nut connections to telephone poles on all facades. A metal ventilator is located in the center of the ridgeline. A 1972 image (on file at the DPRA headquarters building) taken after construction shows that the building formerly had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure on the southwest primary façade. These were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. These poles probably also existed on the northeast façade. This removal has influenced the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. UTM: Zone: 10; 72883mE/4175947mN (NAD Conus 1983).

Construction at the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area took place between 1971 and 1972. The original facilities completed by 1972 included the Trading Post located above the boat launch. Research in the irrigation districts archives and DPRA headquarters files did not locate any plans or documents for the Trading Post. A series of 1972 photographs showing the new facilities include a picture of the new Trading Post. The building has the same style elements as those designed by the architectural and planning firm of Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento. The building differs in that it is stucco-clad, and there are small similarities to the Riley Ridge employee housing contemporaneously designed by Turlock architect James W. B. Shade (P-55-8901/HDR-10a, P-55-8902/HDR-10b, P-55-8903/HDR-10c, P-55-8904/HDR-10d, and P-55-8905/HDR-10e). Thus the designer is unknown, but is undoubtedly either the Caywood firm or architect James Shade.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Trading Post, southwest primary façade and southeast façade,
View northwest, Photo taken 07/14/12

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 6 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Swimming Lagoon (HDR-15b)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: July 13, 2012

■ Continuation □ Update

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area has a swimming lagoon complex with a 2-acre irregular shaped swimming lagoon constructed in 1971 and 1972. It is the most intact designed landscape feature of the DPRA facilities. The complex includes a water treatment building, snack bar, and dressing room to the north. The lagoon bottom has a sand lining and beach. The south end has an earthen dam coated with gunite. The center of the lagoon has a metal pipe that issues water in a fountain from the water filtration building located to the southwest. The dam gunite coating is a surface modification applied during the mid-to-late 1990s (Russell and Jigour interview 2012). UTM: Zone: 10; 728415mE/4175566 mN (NAD Conus 1983).



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Lagoon and Picnic Area, View west, Photo taken 07/12

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 7 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon Water Treatment Building (HDR-15c)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/13/12

■ Continuation □ Update

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon Water Treatment Building was constructed in 1972 as part of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area swimming lagoon complex. The one-story water treatment building sits on a solid concrete foundation and is constructed of concrete bricks. The rectangular building has a front-gabled, standing-seam metal roof. The building is located west of the lagoon dam. The west primary façade has two single-leaf metal doors in the south and north corners. The south façade has double-leaf metal doors offset to the west. The east façade is pierced with metal pipes that extend east to a large metal chlorine tank that was added later. The north façade has a centrally located metal ventilation louver at the wall/foundation juncture. The building roof was modified to a metal roof in 2011 (Russell and Jigour interview 2012). A review of the building plans and field inspection indicates that the ten telephone poles that framed the building on all the facades and the west and east gable end redwood beams were removed, a modification also completed in 2011 (Russel and Jigour interview 2012). The eave has been reconstructed. UTM: Zone: 10; 728293mE/ 4175532mN (NAD Conus 1983).



**Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Water Treatment Building,
west primary façade and south façade, View northeast, Photo taken 07/12.**

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 8 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar (HDR-15d)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/13/12

■ Continuation □ Update

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon snack bar building was constructed between 1971 and 1972 and is located northwest of the lagoon. The concrete brick snack bar building has a rectangular floor plan and a concrete slab foundation. It is covered with a side-gabled roof. The primary south façade has multiple-light aluminum wrap-around windows in the southeast and southwest corners of the east and west façades. The north façade has a centrally located full louver metal door. The west façade has a single-leaf metal door located north of the wrap-around window. The medium-pitched roof is clad with concrete shingles and has a centrally located metal cooking ventilator piercing the southern slope of the roof. A flat-roofed ramada structure surrounds the building on the south primary façade and the east and west façades. The ramada and roof are supported by telephone poles that tie into the exposed rafter tails. UTM: Zone: 10; 728461mE/4175660mN (NAD Conus 1983).



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar, south primary façade and east façade,
View northwest, Photo taken 07/13/12

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 9 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon Dressing Room Building (HDR-15e)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/13/12

■ Continuation □ Update

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon dressing room building was constructed between 1971 and 1972 and is located northeast of the lagoon. Caywood produced five standardized designs for comfort stations that were employed in the DPRA facilities (e.g. Type I to V). The lagoon dressing room building is a unique design designated as a Type VI restroom, and is the only example of this building style in the DPRA managed facilities (Clair A. Hill Master Plan Drawing 1, 11, 12, 13, 1970). The concrete brick-clad building has a three part-design, with a rectangular side-gabled men's and women's restroom in the center, flanked by T-shaped shower rooms on the east and west ends. The shower rooms have open ceilings covered by a ramada. The building has a concrete slab foundation. The men's and women's shower rooms' primary east façade each have an open doorway. The restroom building west façade has an open men's restroom doorway. The restroom north façade has a centrally located single-leaf metal door to access the pipe chase room. The south façade has no fenestration. Each entrance on the north and south façades has a wood board and telephone pole frame privacy screen. Telephone poles support the redwood ramada roofs on the shower rooms. The gable roof of the restroom is covered with concrete shingles and the exposed redwood roof beams on the north and south façades are attached to telephone poles. The east and west gable ends have a deep eave and are filled with vertical redwood boards. UTM: Zone: 10; 728511mE/4175631mN (NAD Conus 1983).



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Dressing Rooms, east and west façades,
View northwest, Photo taken 07/13/12

Neil Patterson & Associates of Modesto, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer of Turlock produced the Fleming Meadows Marina design in 1971. The Marina opened in May 1972 with the DPRA dedication. It initially operated under the Lake Don Pedro Corporation, which won the DPRA concession operation bid. The marina expanded twice (details are not available in DPRA records or from marina operators) after being opened (Barnes 1987: 153). It is currently operated by the Forever Resorts, a public land use agency concessionaire specializing in boating rentals.

The Fleming Meadows Marina is composed of four utilitarian buildings erected on a U-shaped permanent dock. The buildings were constructed between 1971 and 1972, with the exception of one building (HDR-15h) that may have been constructed post-1972. The buildings include a gas and supply building (HDR-15f), an administration building/café (HDR-15g), a marine supply, sales, and service building (HDR-15h), and a rental office (HDR-15i). The buildings are rectangular wood-frame structures clad with T-111 siding and have front-gabled roofs covered with standing-seam metal panels. A floating walkway extends north from the shore to the marina for pedestrian access from the north shore of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area parking lot.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina, View north, Photo taken 07/13/12

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 11 of 18 *Resource Name or #: HDR-15f-k Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina Supplies Building and Forever Resorts Administrative Building (HDR-15f, HDR-15g)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: July 15, 2012

■ Continuation □ Update

The Small Boat Gas and Supplies building (HDR-15f) is located on the southwest corner of the marina. The primary east façade has an offset entry to the south with a metal door with multiple upper lights. The south façade has two aluminum slider windows in a west bay. The west façade has an offset entry to the south with a metal door with multiple upper lights. The shallow-pitched front-gabled roof has wide eaves. The northwest corner has been filled in with channeled wood cladding for storage.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina, Small Boat Gas and Supplies Building, east primary façade and north façade, View southwest, Photo taken 07/15/12

The two-story Forever Resorts administration building and Marina Café (HDR-15g) is the highest of the marina buildings and is located to the west of the gas and supply building. The café is located on the first floor and the offices are on the second floor. The building is flanked by one-story, front-gabled open porches on the east and west façades. The south primary façade has a centrally located metal door with multiple upper lights on the first story. The upper story is edged by a full-length balcony, which provides access to the three bays, each of which is fenestrated with an aluminum slider window and an adjacent single-leaf metal door with multiple upper lights. The first floor of the west façade has an exterior wood stair on the southwest corner that leads to the upper story. A single-leaf wood door for an electrical room is located in the westernmost bay. The upper story of the west façade has two bays; the south bay has an aluminum slider window and the north bay has a centrally located aluminum picture window with flanking slider windows. The first floor of the north façade has two bays. The west bay has a single-hung metal window, while the east bay has two aluminum slider windows and an offset entrance to the east of the windows that contains a single-leaf metal door with multiple upper lights. The second story of the north façade has four bays that each contain an aluminum slider window. The first floor of the east façade has an aluminum slider window in the northernmost bay, while the second story is fenestrated with an aluminum slider window in the upper gable end and an aluminum slider in the southernmost bay.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina Forever Resorts office and Marina Café south primary façade and west façade, View northwest, Photo taken 07/15/12

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 12 of 18 *Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina Service and Boat Rental Buildings (HDR-15h)
*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer *Date: 07/15/12 ■ Continuation □ Update

The Marine Supply, Engine Sales and Service building (HDR-15h) may post-date 1972 based on a review of the original marina plans (DPRA flat files). The one-story building is covered by a side-gabled roof of corrugated metal with exposed rafter tails and is clad with T-111 siding. The north primary façade has a single-leaf metal door, metal picture windows flanked by aluminum sliders, and a sliding glass door. The east and west facades have no fenestration. The south façade has three bays. The east and west bays have metal picture windows flanked by aluminum sliders; the central bay has a sliding wood door to facilitate boat servicing.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina, Marine Supplies, Engine Sales and Service Building, north primary façade and west façade, View southeast, Photo taken 07/15/12.

Page 13 of 18 *Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina Boat Rental and Boat Sheds (HDR-15i, HDR-15j, HDR-15k)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer

*Date: 07/15/12

■ Continuation □ Update

The building located on the southeast corner of the dock (HDR-15i) is used for houseboat and small boat rentals. It has a rectangular floor plan and channeled wood cladding. The east primary façade is fenestrated with a centrally located, single leaf metal door with multiple upper lights. The one-story, front-gabled open porch set on metal poles extends from the east façade. The south façade has two bays. The east bay has two aluminum slider windows; the west bay has a recessed entryway with a single-leaf metal door with multiple upper lights. The west façade has no fenestration. The north façade is fenestrated with two aluminum slider windows.

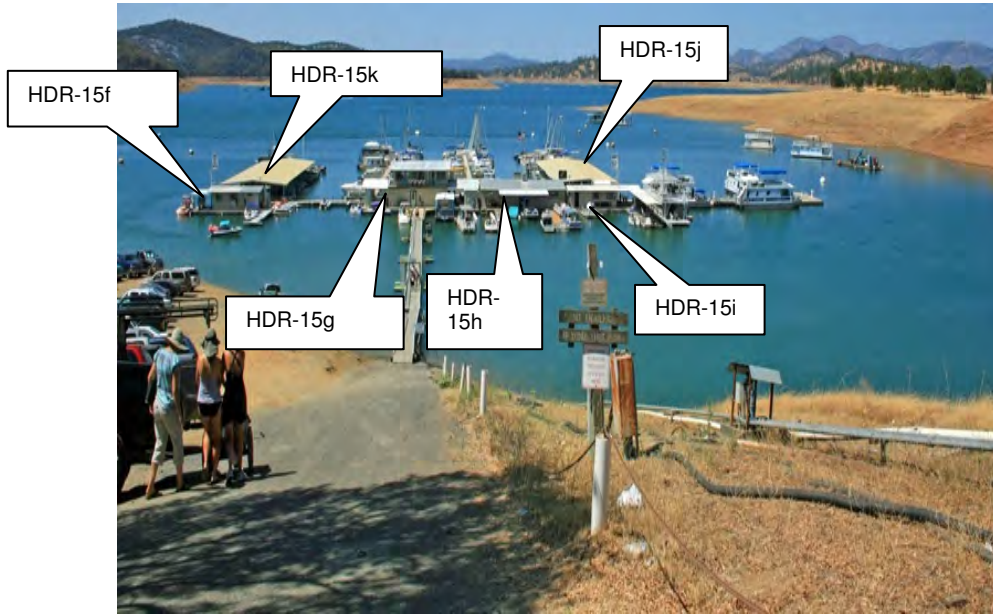


Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina, Houseboat and Small Boat Rental Building, east primary façade and north façade, View southwest, Photo taken 07/15/12

The west and east boat sheds (HDR-j, k) are identical. The open-sided structures have a front-gabled roof clad with standing seam metal panels. Boat slips are located under the sheds.



Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Marina, West Boat Shed, south primary façade and east façade, Photo taken 07/15/12



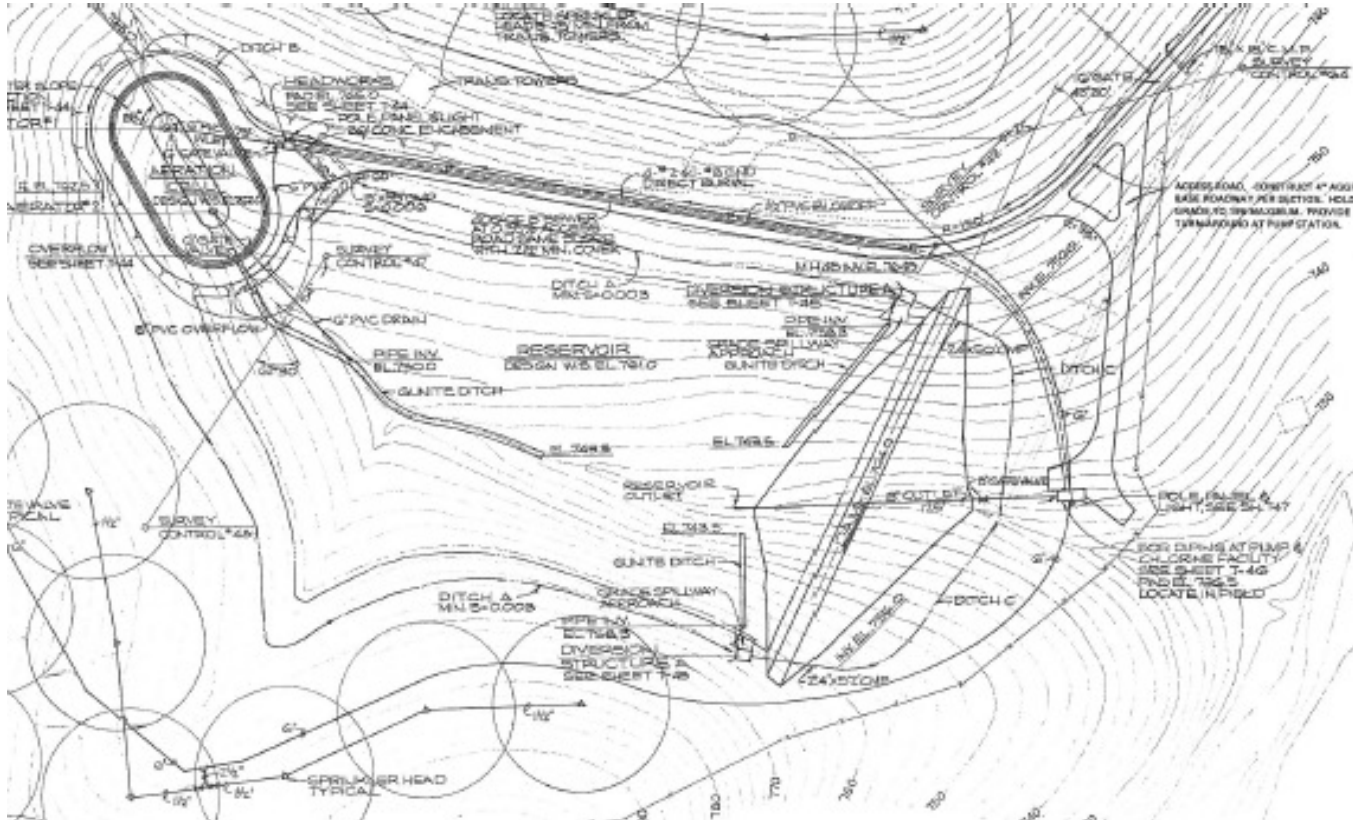
Page 15 of 18 *Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Boat Launch (HDR-15I)
*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer *Date: 07/13/12 ■ Continuation □ Update

The DPRA Blue Oaks, Fleming Meadows, and Moccasin Point recreation areas each have a boat launch ramp constructed between 1971 and 1972. This Fleming Meadows example is representative of the agency's boat launch facilities. The boat ramp is located at the northern end of a paved loop road. The launch ramp has a concrete surface with a north-south axis and is approximately 420 feet long and 100 feet wide. Two modern docks (estimated age at the 2000's) are located on the east and west sides of the ramp at the north end. Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the road and ramp. UTM: Zone: 10; 728944mE/4175951mN (NAD Conus 1983).

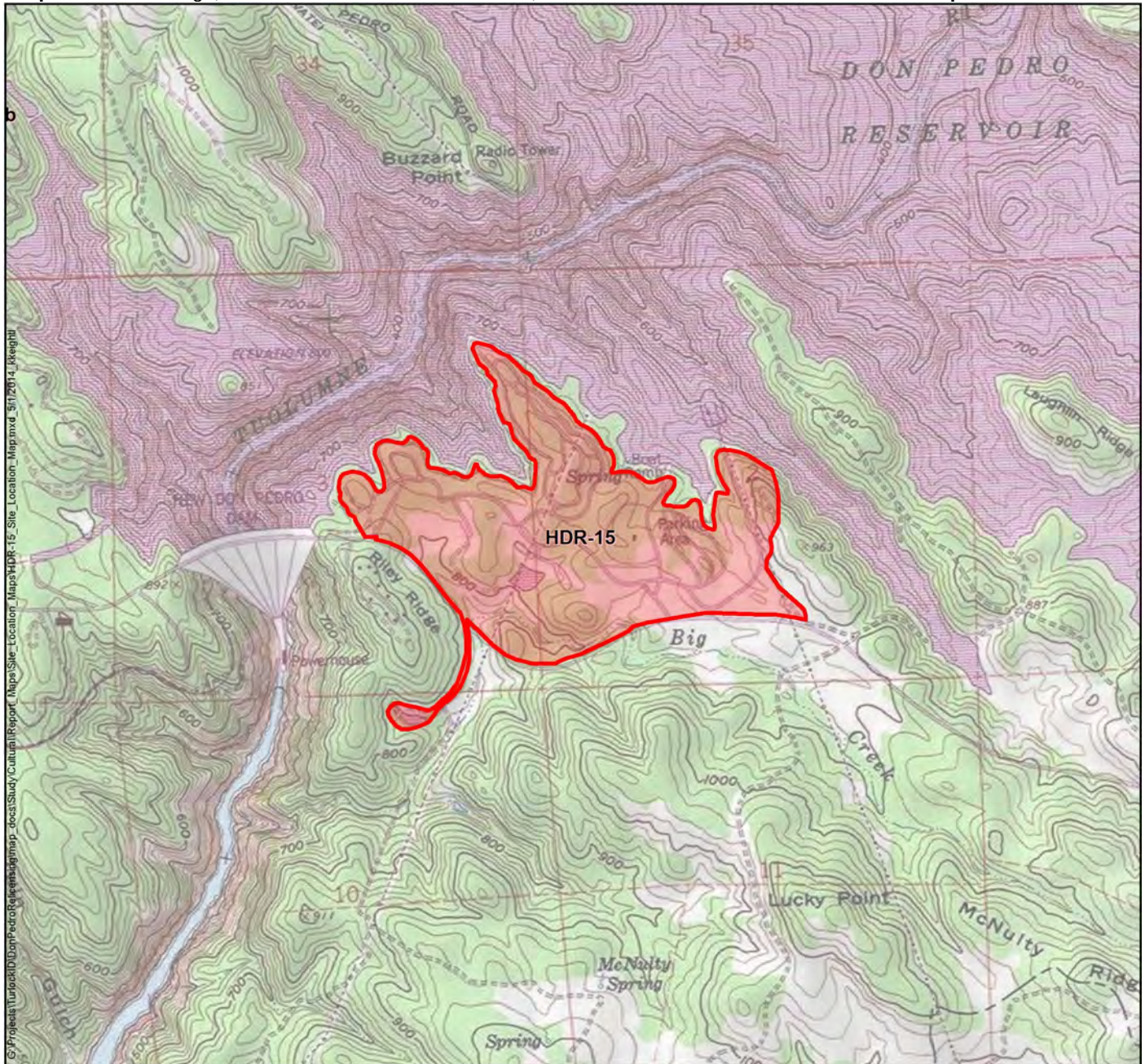


Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Boat Launch, View north, Photo taken 07/13/12

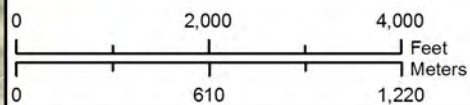
Two wastewater treatment ponds and a lift station are located southwest of Bonds Flat Road and the Riley Ridge housing area. They serve the Fleming Meadows campground, concessionaire housing, marina, and Riley Ridge TID/DPRA housing. A small oval-shaped pond is located on the west and a larger, irregular-shaped pond is located immediately to the east. The plant has one lift station.



Plan View of Fleming Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant. Clair A. Hill drawing T-41.



-  Built Environment
-  Features



Magnetic declination:
 +12°57' E, changing
 -0°6'/year (2012)

Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc,
 Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District, terrain, landscape, water - ESRI
 Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N

Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

Continuation Update

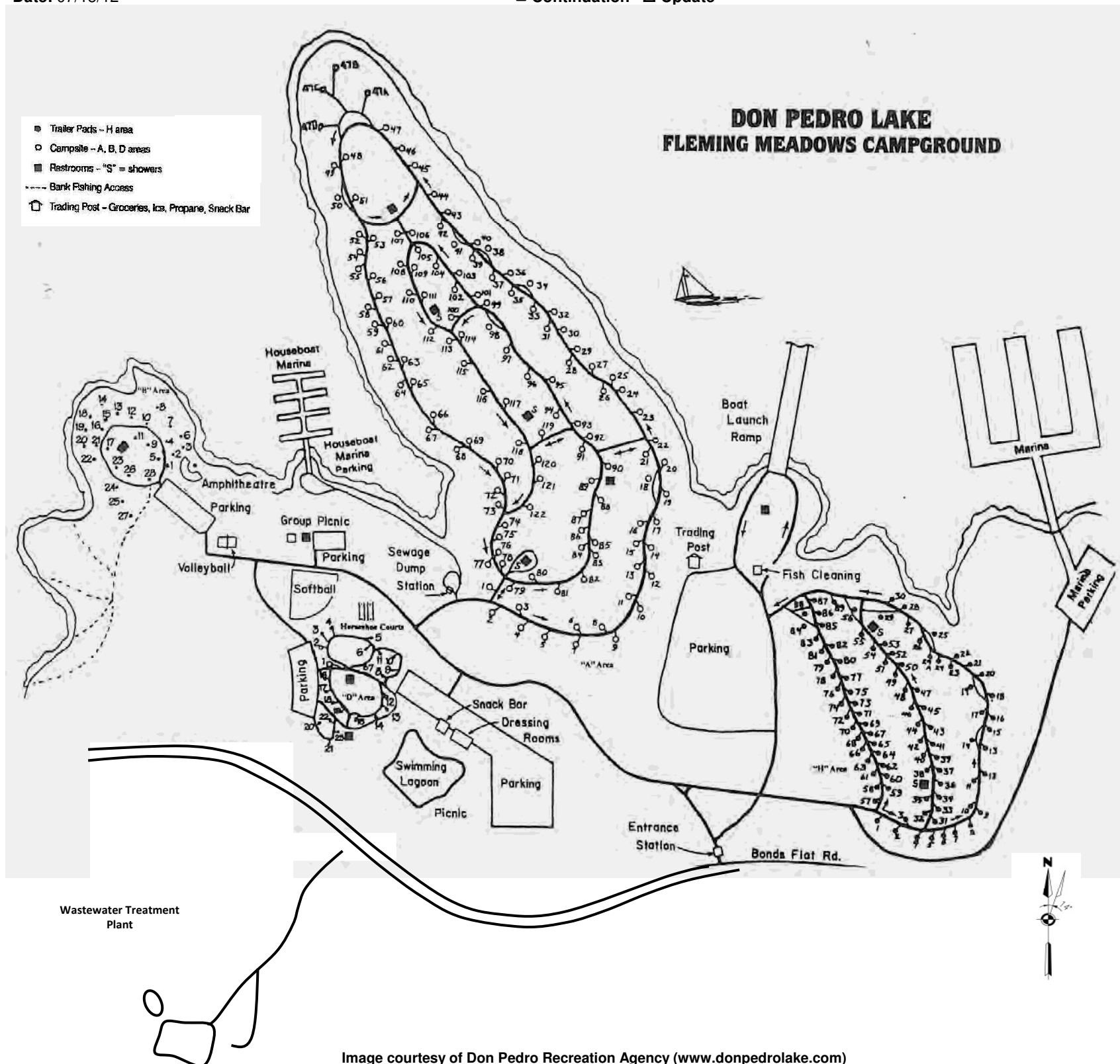


Image courtesy of Don Pedro Recreation Agency (www.donpedrolake.com)

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 9

*Resource Name or #: Blue Oaks Recreation Area (HDR-14)

P1. Other Identifier: Formerly known as Mexican Gulch Campground

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

***a. County:** Tuolumne

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** La Grange, CA **Date:** Photorevised 1987; **T 3S;R 14E ; SE¼ and S ½ of NE ¼ of Sec 33; NE ¼ of Sec 4; SW ¼ of NW ¼ of Sec 3; Mount Diablo, B.M.**

c. Address: 10200 Bonds Flat Road

City: La Grange

Zip: 95329

d. UTM: Zone: 10; 726260mE/4176371mN (NAD Conus 1983) – approximate center of resource

e. Other Locational Data:

Elevation: 800 feet.

Located on Bonds Flat Road, west of the Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir.

***P3a. Description:** The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is situated west of the Don Pedro Dam in the West Bay area of Don Pedro Reservoir, east of Bonds Flat Road. The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is one of three formal recreation areas managed by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) (the other two recreation areas are Fleming Meadows and Moccasin Point Recreation areas). DPRA is a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and sponsored by TID, Modesto Irrigation District (MID), and the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). Constructed in 1971 and 1972, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area presently has a group picnic area, 34 partial hook-up campsites, 2 full hook-up sites, and 161 tent camping sites. Buildings in the recreation area include entrance station kiosks, one fish cleaning station, and nine comfort stations. Water-related facilities include a boat launch and a concessionaire houseboat repair facility (TID/MID, PAD, 2011: Volume I, 3-13). Infrastructure includes a potable water tank established in 1971, and a second more recent tank that was installed in 2007. A sewage treatment plant that services the campground is located west of Bonds Flat Road. Continued on Continuation Sheet, page 3.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP22. Reservoir; HP30. Trees; HP39. Other-campground and recreation area

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: Blue Oaks Recreation Area, Area B. View north. Photo taken 07/15/12. Digital image.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic

Prehistoric Both

1971-1972 July 10, 2012 interview at Don Pedro Recreation Agency headquarters with Carol Russell and Dave Jigour, long-term Don Pedro Recreation Agency employees.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Resource Owners:

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381

Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

Land Owners: same as above,
plus Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95824

***P8. Recorded by:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer, HDR Engineering Inc., 601 Union Street Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98101 and Judith Marvin Foothill Resources, Ltd. PO Box 2040 Murphys, CA 95247

P9. Date Recorded: 07/15/12

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Judith Marvin 2014. *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts' Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299 Tuolumne County, California.* HDR Engineering, Inc. and Foothill Resources.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 9

*NRHP Status Code:

*Resource Name or #: Blue Oaks Recreation Area (HDR-14)

B1. Historic Name: Mexican Gulch Campground

B2. Common Name: Blue Oaks Recreation Area

B3. Original Use: Camping and water-related recreation

B4. Present Use: Same

***B5. Architectural Style:** Pole-style construction

***B6. Construction History:** Constructed in 1971-1972 using pole-style construction based on designs by Clair A. Hill & Associates and Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento.

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:**

Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** The recreation area is in the West Bay area of Don Pedro Reservoir (P-55-8882/FR-6).

B9a. Architect: Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward (Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the layout and landscape features)

b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Outdoor recreation

Area: Tuolumne County

Period of Significance: 1970s **Property Type:** Recreation Area **Applicable Criteria:** Criteria A and C

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area at Don Pedro Reservoir is representative of a California reservoir recreation tradition that began with the Folsom Lake Recreation Area established by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1956 on waters impounded by the Folsom and Nimbus dams, and later, continued at other reservoirs, such as the New Melones Reservoir in 1980. This tradition increased with the post-war growth in recreation in the 1950s and 1960s due to the State Water Project at places like Lake Oroville, which resulted from the growing need by city dwellers to pursue outdoor recreation. In aesthetic design, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area buildings are associated with the Bay Region Tradition, which emphasizes an informal, natural, and rustic design emphasizing use of rough wood that began in the 1880s and continued into the 1970s.

The Caywood architecture group and Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the buildings and landscape features at Blue Oaks Recreation Area. They employed pole style construction and landscaping principles influenced by what landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and architect Charles Moore utilized at the notable Sea Ranch housing community in Sonoma County. The pole style construction is unique and affiliated with the 1960s era. The use of rough sawn redwood ramadas and beams were an attempt to mesh with the surrounding landscape, as was the undergrounding of electrical utilities. DPRA has continued to use these design guidelines from the early 1970s in new construction at the recreation area, with minor changes in materials due to fire suppression concerns in this isolated and dry region. Continued on Continuation Sheet, page 3.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: HP22. Reservoir; HP30. Trees; HP39. Other-campground and recreation area

***B12. References:**

The American Institute of Architects. "The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects Third Edition, 1970." Accessed July 19, 2012. <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1970%20American%20Architects%20Directory.aspx>

Clair A. Hill & Associates. August 15, 1969 Proposal for the Design of Recreational Facilities at the New Don Pedro Project. Located in Turlock Irrigation District archive files.

Clair A. Hill & Associates-New Don Pedro Recreation Agency Phase II for Turlock Irrigation District Modesto Irrigation District "Waste Water Treatment Site Plan T-43." July 1970.

Gerwick, Ben C. 2002 *Clair A. Hill* in Memorial Tributes, Volume 10. National Academy Press, Washington D.C.

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID). 2011. Pre-Application Document. Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District, California.

B13. Remarks: This resource is a contributing element of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District (P-55-8881).

The DPRA has standardized plans for the recreation areas, which resulted in repetitive buildings and structures such as comfort stations, entrance stations, fish cleaning stations, and boat ramps. For these repetitive buildings and structures only one of each type of building/structure was documented in detail to serve as the type structure to describe all of the structures of that type. See Continuation Sheet, page 3.

See Continuation Sheet, Page 4

***B14. Evaluator:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer, Judith Marvin

***Date of Evaluation:** 08/10/12

(This space reserved for official comments.)

***P3a. Description (Continued):**

Changes have taken place at the recreation area following its 1971-1972 construction. The ramadas found in the recreation area were originally constructed as roof overhangs on all the recreation buildings. They were constructed from the roofing beams that extended beyond the roofline with 2 x 2's nailed on top of them perpendicular to the beams, creating the effect of a ramada along the building perimeters. It was an aesthetic design that graced the perimeter of all the buildings in the recreation area that rotted over time and has since been either removed or replaced. The ramadas over the entrance stations were raised to avoid collisions with large RVs. Additional pergolas, of similar material and design, added to campsites at the Blue Oaks Recreation Area for shade in the 1990s. The original shake roofs on the recreation buildings were replaced with tile roofing due to repeated damage by wildlife, and the tile roofs are being replaced with steel roofing due to structural damage caused by the weight of the tiles. The wood picnic tables at the campsites were replaced with stationary concrete picnic tables, due to fire concerns and a greater ease of maintenance. Concrete foot lockers have also been added to all of the campsites. The barbecue grill stands at the campsites were also replaced with fire rings, although both the barbecue grill stands and wooden picnic benches remain in the picnic areas. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, several restrooms were modified in the early 1990s. The group camp/picnic and the A area shower restrooms at Blue Oaks were modified.

***B10. Significance (Continued):**

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area, completed in 1972, is associated with and representative of 1960s-1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development and, therefore, meets the significance requirements of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A, at the local and state level. As stated above, reservoir recreation emphasis in California began with the Folsom Lake Recreation Area in 1956, and other state and federally sponsored water projects, and increased with the post-war growth of outdoor recreation and the 1960s environmental movement.

Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master water resources engineering firm for their premiere work on a number of water resources projects throughout California. Clair A. Hill, founder of Clair A. Hill and Associates and later, cofounder of CH2M-Hill, was one of the primary authors of the California Water Commission Plan and served on the California Water Commission from 1949 to the mid-1990s, including serving as the commission's chairman for several years (Gerwick 2002:133-134). He was an honorary lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, earned the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1992. However, even though Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master engineering firm and Clair A. Hill, himself, a person important to the history of water resources in the state of California, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area is not highly representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design, particularly because most of the buildings and structures were designed by Caywood architectural group, who were actually more specialized in recreation related facilities. As well, Clair A. Hill's personal contributions to water resources in California were primarily focused on overall water resources planning and development in California and engineering design more directly related to water control, including irrigation. As such, the recreation area is not considered the product of a master (a component of Criterion C) or directly associated with or representative of the life of anyone important in local, state, or national history. Accordingly, the recreation area does meet the significance requirements of Criterion B.

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is also associated with pole style construction which developed during the 1960s. The overall design of the Blue Oaks Recreation Area, influenced by the Bay Region Tradition of architecture (used from the 1880s to 1970s), represents the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Because of these factors, the recreation area is significant under NRHP Criterion C at the local and state levels of significance. The Blue Oaks Recreation Area resources are unique in that the original design guidelines established for the buildings and structures have been maintained.

Additionally, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area does not meet the significance requirements under Criterion D, as information on the recreation area is already readily available in the form of as-built drawings and construction specifications.

Blue Oaks Recreation Area retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. It also retains integrity in design, materials, and workmanship. However, the recreation area is not historic in age, nor does it meet the threshold of exceptional significance under NRHP Criteria Consideration G. As such, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area is ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

B13. Remarks (Continued): This record includes descriptions of the repetitive resources of the fish cleaning station and comfort station. For a description of an entrance station see the record for the Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-8574/HDR-13). For a description of a boat launch, see the record for the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-8803/HDR-15).

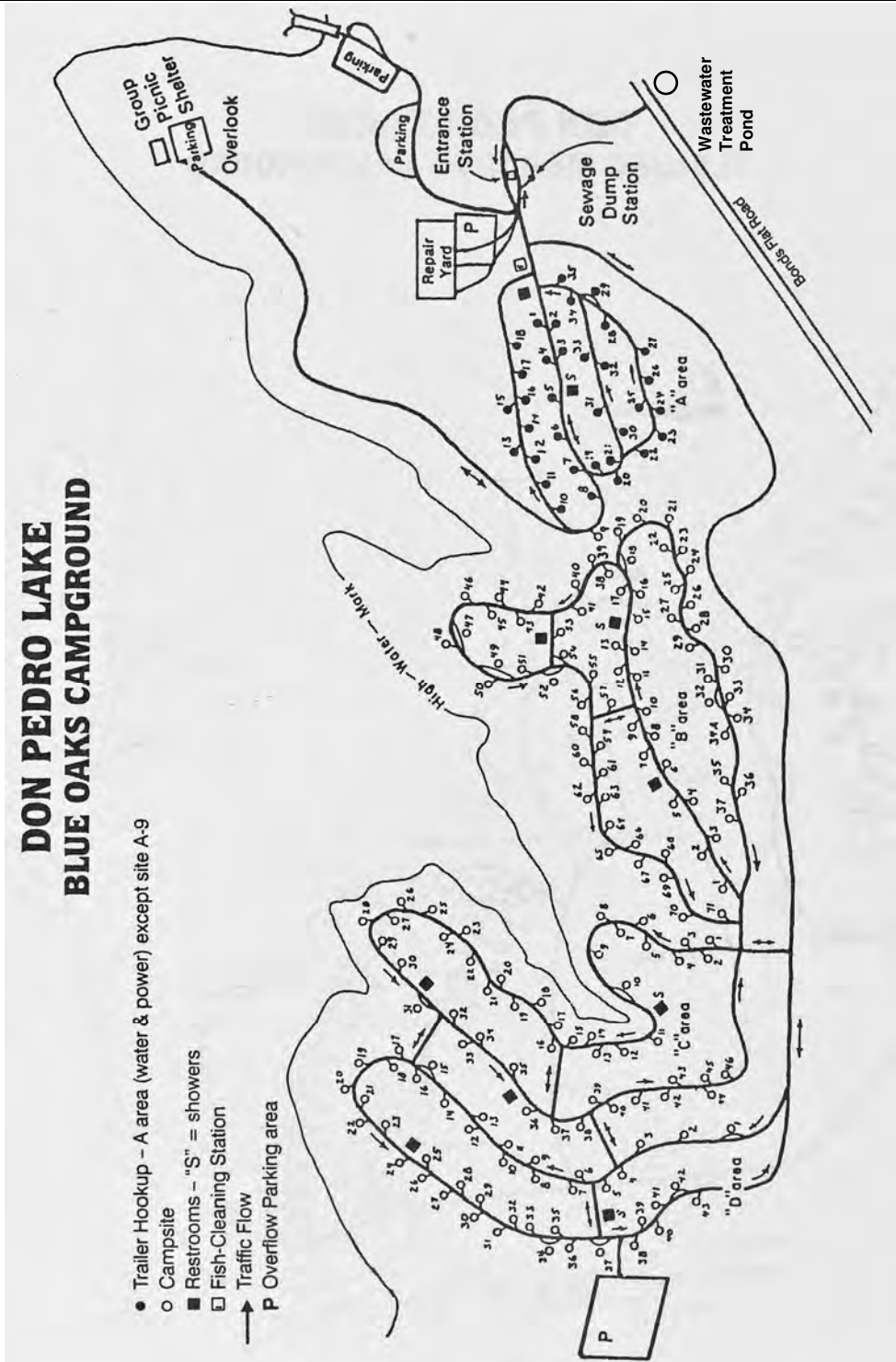


Image courtesy of Don Pedro Recreation Agency (www.donpedrolake.com)

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency Blue Oaks and Fleming Meadows campgrounds each have a fish cleaning station constructed in 1971. They have an identical telephone pole frame and redwood beam ramada design produced by the architectural and planning firm of Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento. The Blue Oaks campground fish cleaning station has a concrete slab foundation that supports a telephone pole at each of the four corners. The poles have two redwood beam cross members that hold up five north-south trending beams. These beams hold east-west trending redwood slats that provide shade over the centrally-located rectangular metal fish cleaning sink. The sink basin is supported by a concrete brick pedestal on the east and west. The sink pedestal north and south portions have a swinging wood door that allows access to the sink plumbing for maintenance. The building appears to retain its original integrity of materials, design, and workmanship.



HDR-14a Blue Oaks Recreation Area Fish Cleaning Station, south elevation and east primary façade, View northwest, Photo taken 07/13/12

The DPRA Blue Oaks, Fleming Meadows, and Moccasin Point campgrounds all have a standard comfort station design. Interviews with recreation agency personnel (Russell and Jigour interview 2012) indicate that the Blue Oaks (building BC-21) and Moccasin Point (building MCS-47) comfort stations retain their original interior integrity. They were constructed in 1971 using a wood pole frame design by the architectural and planning firm of Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento. The Blue Oaks comfort station has a concrete slab foundation and a front-gabled roof that is supported by three telephone poles on each façade. The center pole on the east and west façades form the gabled roof peak. The roof structure consists of redwood beams laid north-south that tie into the telephone poles. These beams hold east-west laid redwood slats that provide shade over the concrete brick walls that have no ceiling. The east and west façade entrances have no doors. The west façade women's entrance is offset to the north, and the east façade men's entrance is offset to the south. An interior wood wall that extends to support the roof ridge line divides the men's and women's portions. The north and south façades have no wall openings.



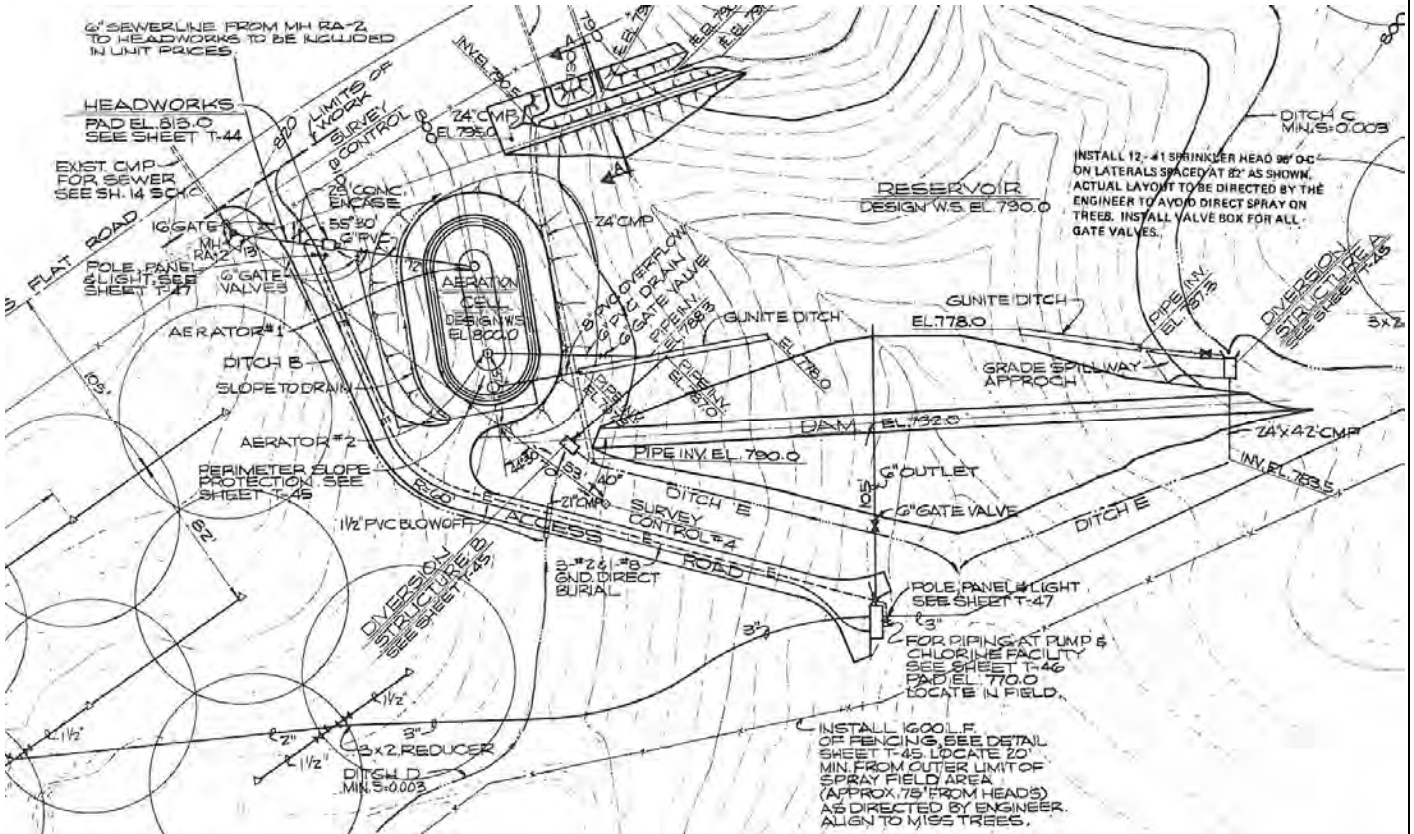
Blue Oaks Recreation Area Comfort Station south and east façades, View northwest, Photo taken 07/13/12

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area has a round steel water tank produced by the National Tank and Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles in 1971. The tank provided a potable water supply for the recreation area. It has a circular concrete slab foundation, an access hatch in the lower portion, and an adjacent metal access ladder with an enclosed steel safety cage that leads to the top of the tank. The Blue Oaks tank is 21 feet high, and has a 22-foot diameter with a 60,000-gallon capacity. A second, modern tank is located adjacent to the one constructed in 1971. This second tank was added in 2007 (personal communication with Carol Russell in 2013, current DPRA Director).

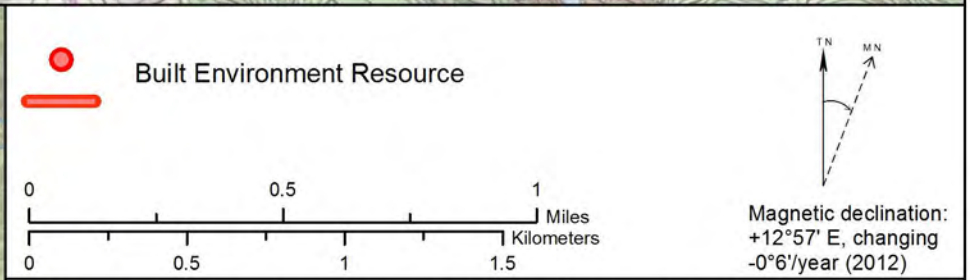
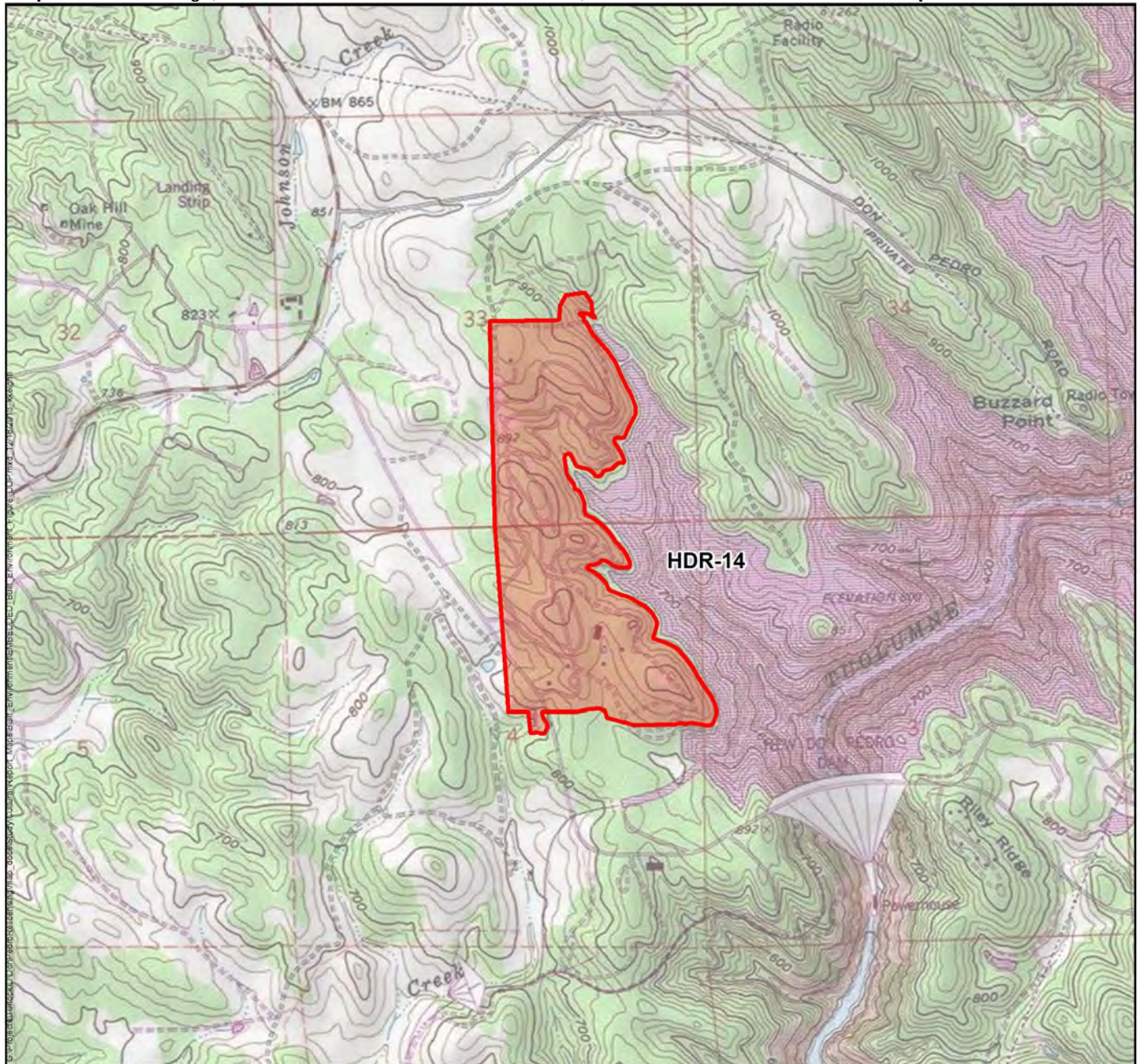


Blue Oaks Recreation Area water tanks, the older tank established at this site in 1971 is located on the left, View northwest, Photo taken 07/13/12

A wastewater treatment plant is located west of Bonds Flat Road and serves the Blue Oaks Recreation Area, the District warehouses on Bonds Flat Road, and the DPR Visitor Center. It has primary and secondary treatment ponds with a spray field near the pond site. This facility was rebuilt after being damaged in the 1997 flood (personal communication with Carol Russell in 2013, current DPR Director). The plant has two lift stations. One is located in the Blue Oaks Recreation Area and the other is situated near the dam spillway by the right abutment.



This 1970 Clair A. Hill drawing shows the right abutment wastewater treatment plan. Drawing T-43.



Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc, Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District; Service Layer Credits: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, iPC, Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed
Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N
Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 9

*Resource Name or #: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (HDR-13)

P1. Other Identifier: Moccasin Point campground

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

***a. County:** Tuolumne

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Moccasin, CA **Date:** Photorevised 1987 **T 1S;R 15E ;SE ¼ and SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 20; SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 21; NW ¼ of Sec 28; NE ¼ of NE ¼ of Sec 29; Mount Diablo, B.M.**

c. Address: 11401 Jacksonville Road

City: Jamestown

Zip: 95327

d. UTM: Zone: 10: 734628 **mE/4189798mN** (NAD Conus 1983) – approximate center of resource

e. Other Locational Data:

Elevation: 800-900 feet.

From the town of Moccasin, drive northwest on Highway 120/49 for roughly 2.5 miles. Turn right (north) on Jacksonville Road. Drive 0.1 miles and turn right into Moccasin Point Recreation Area.

***P3a. Description:** The Moccasin Point Recreation Area constructed between 1971 and 1972 is located in the northeast portion of the Don Pedro Reservoir on the southeast-northwest trending Moccasin Arm of the water body. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is one of three formal recreation areas managed by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) (the other two recreation areas are Blue Oaks and Fleming Meadows Recreations areas). DPRA is a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID, and sponsored by TID, Modesto Irrigation District (MID), and the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). Interviews with DPRA personnel indicate it is the most modified of the recreation areas, with the D and E camping areas added in 1978. The recreation area also grew to include a marina in 1978 (Russell and Jigour interview, 2012). A January 21, 2000 *Modesto Bee* article indicates that the marina burned down in 2000, and concessionaire operators rebuilt the facility that year. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area now has 18 full hook-up campsites, 50 tent campsites, 28 overflow campsites, and a picnic area.

Continued on Continuation Sheet Page 4.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP22. Reservoir; HP30. Trees; HP39. Other-campground and recreation area.

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

Moccasin Point Recreation Area campground. View east. Photo taken 07/13/12. Digital image.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic

Prehistoric Both

1971-1972 July 10, 2012 interview at Don Pedro Recreation Agency headquarters with Carol Russell and Dave Jigour, long-term Don Pedro Recreation Agency employees.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Resource Owners:

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381
Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

Land Owners: same as above,
plus Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95824

***P8. Recorded by:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer, HDR Engineering Inc., 601 Union Street Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98101 and Judith Marvin Foothill Resources, Ltd. PO Box 2040 Murphys, CA 95247

***P9. Date Recorded:** 07/13/12

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Judith Marvin 2014. *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation, Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts' Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299 Tuolumne County, California.* HDR Engineering, Inc. and Foothill Resources, LTD.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 9

*NRHP Status Code

*Resource Name or #: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (HDR-13)

B1. Historic Name: Moccasin Point Recreation Area

B2. Common Name: Moccasin Point Recreation Area

B3. Original Use: Camping and water-related recreation

B4. Present Use: Same

***B5. Architectural Style:** Pole-style construction

***B6. Construction History:** The recreation area was constructed between 1971 and 1972 using pole-style construction based on designs by Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento (Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the layout and landscape features).

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:**

Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** The recreation area is located on the Moccasin Creek Arm of Don Pedro Reservoir (FR-6).

B9a. Architect: Clair A. Hill & Associates/Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward **b. Builder:** Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Outdoor recreation

Area: Tuolumne County

Period of Significance: 1971-1972 **Property Type:** Recreation Area **Applicable Criteria:** Criteria A and C

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area located on Don Pedro Reservoir is representative of a California reservoir recreation tradition that began with the California Department of Parks and Recreation Folsom Lake Recreation Area established in 1956 on the American River and continued at other reservoirs, such as the New Melones Reservoir in 1980. This tradition increased with the post-war growth in recreation in the 1960s due to the State Water Project at places like Lake Oroville, which resulted from the growing need by city dwellers to pursue outdoor recreation. In aesthetic design, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area is associated with the Bay Region Tradition, which emphasizes an informal, natural, and rustic design emphasizing use of rough wood that began in the 1880s and continued into the 1970s.

The Caywood architecture group and Clair A. Hill & Associates designed the recreation area. They employed pole style construction and landscaping principles influenced by what landscape architect Lawrence Halprin and architect Charles Moore utilized at the notable Sea Ranch housing community in Sonoma County. The pole style construction is unique and affiliated with the 1960s era. The use of rough sawn redwood ramadas and beams were an attempt to mesh with the surrounding landscape, as was the undergrounding of electrical utilities. DPRA has continued to use these design guidelines from the early 1970s in new construction at the recreation area, with minor changes in materials due to fire suppression concerns in this isolated and dry region. Continued on Continuation Sheet, page 5.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: HP22. reservoir; HP30. Trees; HP39. Other-campground and recreation area.

***B12. References:**

The American Institute of Architects. "The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects Third Edition, 1970." Accessed July 19, 2012. <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1970%20American%20Architects%20Directory.aspx>

Clair A. Hill & Associates. August 15, 1969 Proposal for the Design of Recreational Facilities at the New Don Pedro Project. Located in Turlock Irrigation District archive files.

Gerwick, Ben C. 2002 *Clair A. Hill* in Memorial Tributes, Volume 10. National Academy Press, Washington D.C.

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID). 2011. Pre-Application Document. Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District, California.

Modesto Bee [Modesto, California]. 2000. Article on the Moccasin Point Recreation Area marina burning down. 21 January. Modesto, California.

B13. Remarks: This resource is a contributing element of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District (P-55-8881).

The DPRA has standardized plans for the recreation areas, which resulted in repetitive buildings and structures such as comfort stations, entrance stations, fish cleaning stations, and boat ramps. For these repetitive buildings and structures only one of each type of building/structure was documented in detail to serve as the type structure to describe all of the structures of that type. Continued on Continuation Sheet, page 5.

***B14. Evaluator:** Kevin (Lex) Palmer, HDR Engineering Inc.; Judith Marvin, Foothill Resources Ltd.

***Date of Evaluation:** 08/10/12

See Continuation Sheet, Page 3.

(This space reserved for official comments.)

DON PEDRO LAKE Moccasin Point Campground

- Campsite with full hook-ups
- Campsite with no hook-ups
- △ Restroom
- ▲ Shower restroom
- "D" and "E" areas = overflow sites

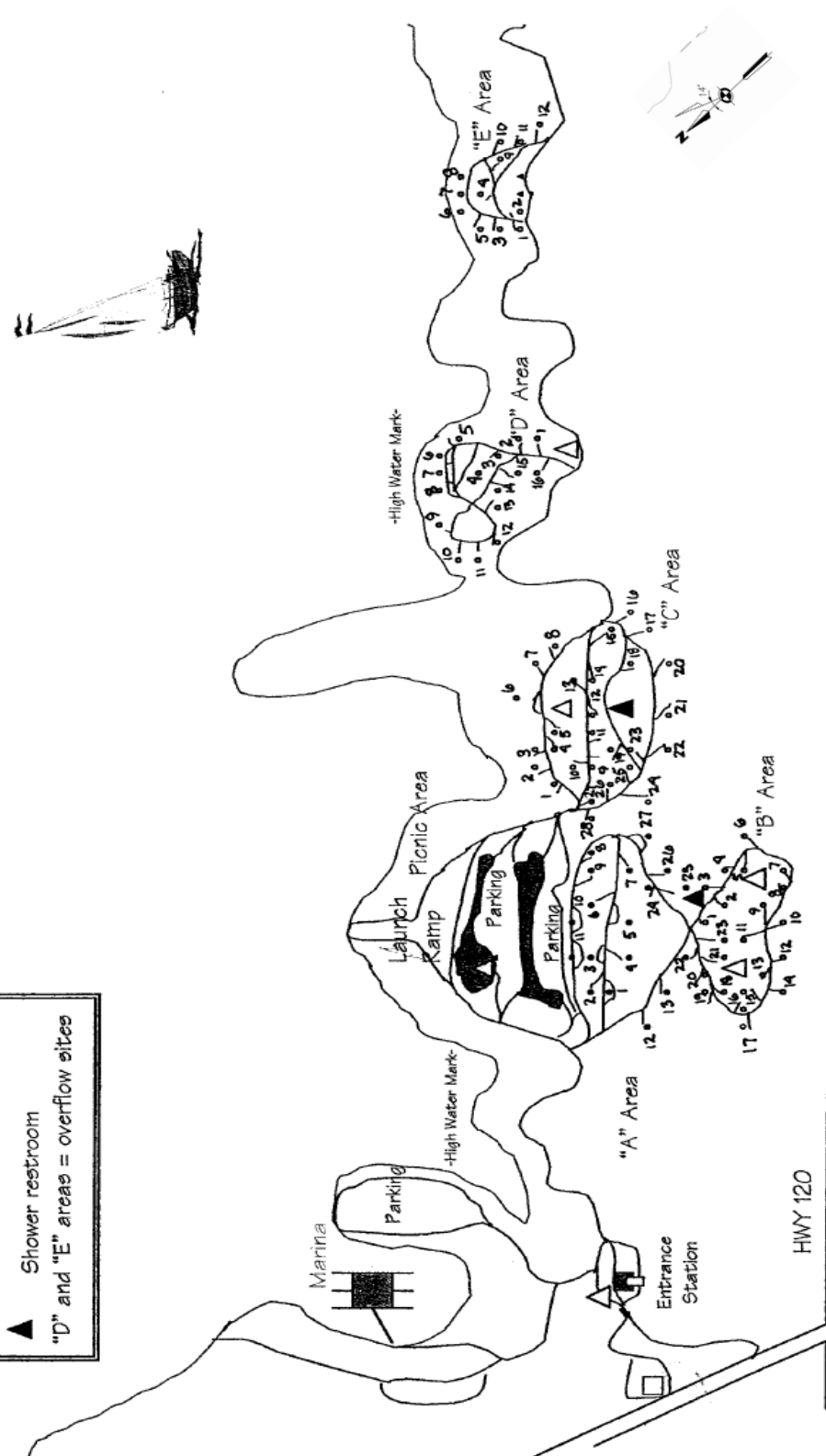


Image courtesy of Don Pedro Recreation Agency (www.donpedrolake.com)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 4 of 9

*Resource Name or #: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (HDR-13)

*Recorded by: Kevin (Lex) Palmer, Judith Marvin

*Date: 07/13/12

Continuation Update

***P3a. Description: (continued from Page 1)**

The 10 buildings at this facility include an entrance station kiosk, a warehouse building, 2 fish cleaning stations and 6 comfort stations. Supporting infrastructure resources include one water tank. DPRA employees are housed in modern doublewide trailers located in the south portion of the area. The trailers are privately owned by the regular and seasonal employees and come and go with the employees. Water-related infrastructure includes a boat launch and the marina (TID/MID, PAD Volume I, 2011:3-13).

Several changes have taken place at the recreation areas following their 1971-1972 construction. The ramadas found in all three recreation areas were originally constructed as roof overhangs on all the recreation buildings. They were constructed from the roofing beams that extended beyond the roofline with 2 x 2's nailed on top of them perpendicular to the beams, creating the effect of a ramada along the building perimeters. It was an aesthetic design that graced the perimeter of all the buildings in the recreation areas that rotted over time and have since been either removed or replaced. The ramadas over the entrance stations were raised to avoid collisions with large RVs. The original shake roofs on the recreation buildings were replaced with tile roofing due to repeated damage by wildlife, and the tile roofs are being replaced with steel roofing due to structural damage caused by the weight of the tiles. The wood picnic tables at the campsites were replaced with stationary concrete picnic tables, due to fire concerns and a greater ease of maintenance. Concrete foot lockers have also been added to all of the campsites. The barbecue grill stands at the campsites were also replaced with fire rings, although both the barbecue grill stands and wooden picnic benches remain in the picnic areas. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, several restrooms were modified in the early 1990s. At Moccasin Point, the launch ramp restroom was modified. Also, as already stated, the marina has been replaced and camping areas D and E were added following the original 1971-1972 construction of the recreation area.

***B10. Significance (Continued):**

Moccasin Point Recreation Area, completed in 1972, is associated with and representative of 1960s-1970s era California reservoir and Tuolumne County recreation development and, therefore, meets the significance requirements of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A, at the local and state level. As stated above, reservoir recreation emphasis in California began with the Folsom Lake Recreation Area in 1956, and other state and federally sponsored water projects, and increased with the post-war growth of outdoor recreation and the 1960s environmental movement.

Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master water resources engineering firm for their premiere work on a number of water resources projects throughout California. Clair A. Hill, founder of Clair A. Hill and Associates and later, cofounder of CH2M-Hill, was one of the primary authors of the California Water Commission Plan and served on the California Water Commission from 1949 to the mid-1990s, including serving as the commission's chairman for several years (Gerwick 2002:133-134). He was an honorary lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, earned the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1992. However, even though Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered a master engineering firm and Clair A. Hill, himself, a person important to the history of water resources in the state of California, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area is not highly representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design, particularly because most of the buildings and structures were designed by Caywood architectural group, who were actually more specialized in recreation related facilities. As well, Clair A. Hill's personal contributions to water resources in California were primarily focused on overall water resources planning and development in California and engineering design more directly related to water control, including irrigation. As such, the recreation area is not considered the product of a master (a component of Criterion C) or directly associated with or representative of the life of anyone important in local, state, or national history. Accordingly, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area does not meet the significance requirements of Criterion B.

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is also associated with pole style construction which developed during the 1960s. The overall design of the recreation area, influenced by the Bay Region Tradition of architecture (used from the 1880s to 1970s), represents the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Because of these factors, the recreation area is significant under NRHP Criterion C at the local and state levels of significance. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is unique in that the original design guidelines established for the buildings and structures have been maintained.

Additionally, the recreation area does not meet the significance requirements under Criterion D, as information on the recreation area is already readily available in the form of as-built drawings and construction specifications.

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. However, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area is not historic in age, nor does it meet the threshold of exceptional significance under NRHP Criteria Consideration G. As such, this resource is ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

B13. Remarks (Continued): The entrance station, warehouse, and water tank are described in this form. For a description of the fish cleaning stations and comfort stations see the form for the Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-8908/HDR-14). For a description of the boat launch see the form for the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-8803/HDR-15).

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency Blue Oaks, Fleming Meadows, and Moccasin Point campgrounds have a standard entrance station design produced by the architectural and planning firm of Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento. HDR-13a is the Moccasin Point campground entrance station. Constructed in 1971, the Hardie board and metal panel-clad rectangular-shaped entrance station has a low-pitched metal panel roof, and is set on a concrete foundation within a traffic island. The north and south façades have the same fenestration, and the east and west façades mirror each other. The narrow north façade has a fixed metal picture window in the upper wall. The west primary façade has a fixed metal picture window in the northwest corner, and an adjacent metal Dutch door. Hardie board cladding is located in the south corner. The building is sheltered by a ramada structure with two T-shaped supports. It is formed by telephone poles located on each corner, and redwood beam supports that runs east-west on the north and south sides under the roof eave. The upper level of the poles has the legs of the "T" on them. Five round wood poles rest on top of the T's, and hold redwood slats that provide shade for the building. The agency has replaced the original entrance station doors with Dutch doors (Russell and Jigour interview, 2012).

Caywood and Nopp's design firm utilized the unique pole form associated with the 1960s and worked to incorporate the DPRA buildings into the surrounding landscape by undergrounding utilities and using rough redwood cladding and beams. In many ways, the entrance stations set the tone for the visitor experience as they entered the recreation areas, with their rough sawn redwood ramadas, heavy exposed wood beams, and lack of overhead utility wires.



HDR-13a, Moccasin Point campground entrance station, north façade and west primary façade, View southeast, Photo taken 07/13/12

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area campground warehouse was constructed in 1971, and was initially used to store Don Pedro Project-related construction materials. It served as an operations-related storage building and offices for the Moccasin Point Recreation Area staff afterwards. The one-story rectangular building sits on a concrete slab. The wood-framed structure is clad with corrugated metal and is capped by a front-gabled roof. Based on the roofing nails, the exterior cladding appears to be a modern replacement. While no administrative records are available on the building, the pole-style construction is similar to the designs of the architectural and planning firm of Caywood, Nopp, Takata Hansen, and Ward of Sacramento, and was likely designed by the firm. The building is characterized by the external telephone pole supports that are attached to the exposed roof beams on the north and south facades and exposed wood truss in the gable ends. The east façade has a centrally located metal roll-up door. The north bay of this façade has a single-leaf metal door and two adjacent aluminum slider windows in the northeast corner. The north façade has an aluminum slider window and single-leaf metal door. The west and south façades have no fenestration. The medium-pitched corrugated metal-panel clad roof has six metal ventilators in the ridgeline. The building has obvious rot taking place on the exposed roof beams and telephone pole on the north and south facades.



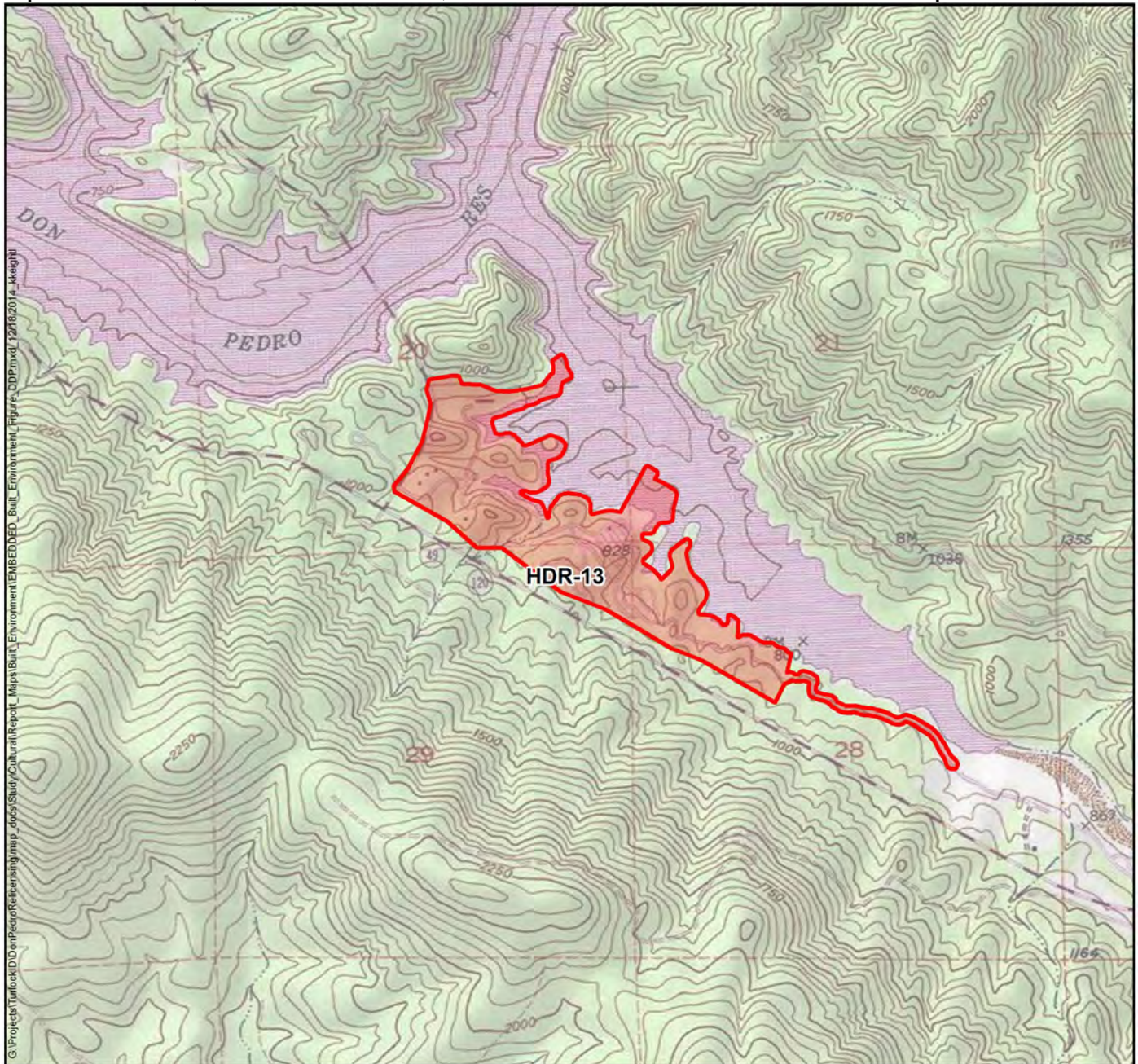
**Moccasin Point Recreation Area warehouse, east primary façade and north façade,
View west, Photo taken 07/13/12**

CONTINUATION SHEET

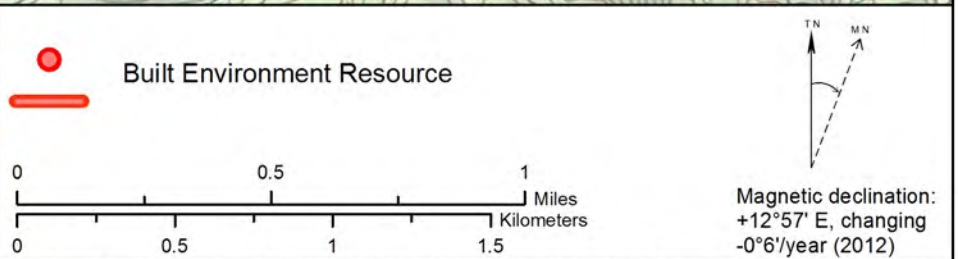
The Moccasin Point Recreation Area has a round (cylindrical) steel water tank produced by the National Tank and Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles in 1971 located in the campground for potable water supply. The tank has a circular concrete slab foundation, an access hatch in the lower portion, and an adjacent metal access ladder with an enclosed steel safety cage that leads to the top of the tank. The Moccasin Point tank is 18 feet high, has a 22 feet diameter with a 50,000 gallon-capacity.



Moccasin Point water tank, View west, Photo taken 07/13/12



G:\Projects\Turlock\DonPedro\Release\map_docs\Study\Cultural\Report_Maps\Built_Environment\Figure_DDE2.mxd/12/16/2014_kkaghi



Data Source: FERC boundary, Built Environment Data - HDR Inc, Recreation sites - Turlock Irrigation District; Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp. Projection: UTM NAD83, Zone 10N. Map information was compiled from the best available sources. This map product is for informational purposes relevant to its associated study or report. Users of this product should consult source data to determine the accuracy of the information.

Appendix C

DPR 523 Form Updates

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary P-55-008881

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code

Other Listings

Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 16

*Resource Name or #: Don Pedro Recreation Agency Historic District

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad La Grange and Moccasin Date T ; R ; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; B.M.

c. Address City Zip

d. UTM: Zone , mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data:

The DPRAHD consists of the three recreation areas at Don Pedro Reservoir, established by TID in 1971-1972: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA

***P3a. Description:**

The DPRA is made up of the extant built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP6. 1-3 story commercial building

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

Fleming Meadows Trading Post, view facing north. ESA, 2023.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:**

Historic Prehistoric Both

1971-1972. New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. B-1, Job no. 70-28-528, March 15, 1971.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381
Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

P8. Recorded by:

Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford / ESA
2600 Capitol Ave Ste 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

***P9. Date Recorded:** October 11, 2023

***P10. Survey Type:** intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Cleveland, Kathy, and Amy Langford. *Don Pedro Recreation Agency, Tuolumne County, California: Historic Resource Evaluation Report*. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District. December. 2023.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

Page 2 of 16

*NRHP Status Code 6z

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)

D1. Historic Name: __ D2. Common Name: __

*D3. **Detailed Description** (Discuss overall coherence of the district, its setting, visual characteristics, and minor features. List all elements of district.):

The DPRA is made up of the extant built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The three main contributing features are:

1. Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803) (1971-1972) – 11500 Bonds Flat Road
2. Blue Oak Recreation Area (P-55-8908) (APN 015-01-029) (1971-1972) – 10200 Bonds Flat Rd
3. Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-8574) (APN 015-01-038) (1971-1972) – 11401 Jacksonville Rd

DPR 523 form sets have been compiled for each recreation area and associated resource elements and types, and can be found appended to this form. See Continuation Sheet.

*D4. **Boundary Description** (Describe limits of district and attach map showing boundary and district elements.):

The DPRAHD consists of the three recreation areas at Don Pedro Reservoir, established by TID in 1971-1972: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA.

See Continuation Sheet.

*D5. **Boundary Justification:**

The boundary includes the three recreation areas associated with the original 1971-1972 recreation construction around Don Pedro Reservoir.

D6. **Significance: Theme** Recreation Area Tuolumne County

Period of Significance 1971-1972 **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss district's importance in terms of its historical context as defined by theme, period of significance, and geographic scope. Also address the integrity of the district as a whole.)

See Continuation Sheet

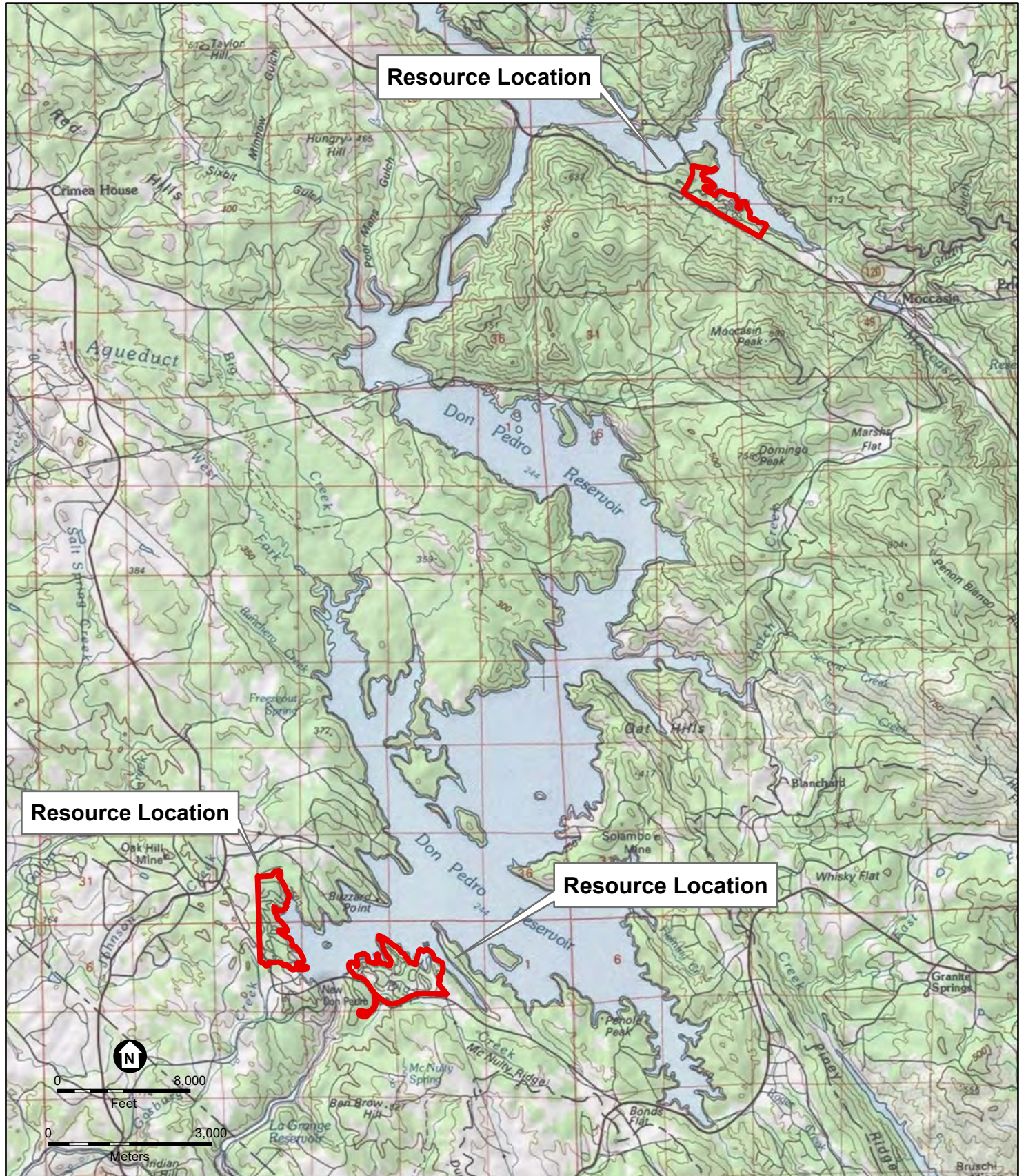
*D7. **References** (Give full citations including the names and addresses of any informants, where possible.):

See Continuation Sheet.

*D8. **Evaluator:** Kathy Cleveland and Dr Amy Langford, **Date:** December 2023

Affiliation and Address: ESA, 787 The Alameda, Ste. 250, San Jose, CA 95126

LOCATION MAP



***D3. Detailed Description**

During the architectural history survey, three recreation areas were recorded: Moccasin Point Recreation Area (P-55-008574), Blue Oaks Recreation Area (P-55-008908), and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area (P-55-008803). These three resources included a total of 27 individual elements, comprising 9 buildings, 10 structures, and 8 sites, as summarized in **Tables 1 to 3**. All three resources and their original associated elements were constructed between 1971 and 1972. Architectural elements for each recreation area are described and evaluated for National Register- and California Register-eligibility below. Due to their similar design, age, and function, some elements share similar descriptions and, in the case of the campsites, serve as a representative example of multiple resources within a given recreation area.

**TABLE 1
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN FLEMING MEADOWS RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Trading Post	Building
Entrance Station	Building
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Restroom	Building
Amphitheater (remnants)	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Picnic Area	Site
Snack Bar	Building
Dressing Room	Building
Swimming Lagoon	Site
Marina	Structure
Horseshoe Courts	Site
Softball Field	Site
Volleyball Court	Site

**TABLE 2
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN BLUE OAK RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Restroom	Building
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Group Picnic Shelter	Structure

**TABLE 3
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN MOCCASIN POINT RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station ^{1*}	Structure
Restroom	Building
Marina	Structure

***B10. Significance:** (Continued from page 2)

Turlock Irrigation District

For nineteenth century settlers in California’s Central Valley, access to water was a major determining factor in their economic and social success. This was particularly true in Stanislaus County where the local economy was fueled by dry farming a technique that relied on natural water rather than irrigation; crops, primarily of grain were planted in the fall, were then watered by the winter rains, and were harvested in the spring. With the decline of wheat in the late 1800s, California farmers began to look for more comprehensive methods of irrigation to diversify crops and provide a more stable water supply for the region’s smaller, family-owned farms.² For much of the nineteenth century, however, collectives of small farmers eager to initiate local irrigation programs were often stymied by California water laws that largely upheld a system of riparian water rights distribution that benefited large landowners.³

The widespread development of irrigation in California was accelerated by the passage of the 1887 Wright Act. The act, which was drafted and proposed by Modesto attorney and assemblyman C.C. Wright, enabled local communities to establish publicly controlled irrigation districts empowered with the legal authority to reclaim land and water previously monopolized by large riparian landowners.⁴ According to the California Department of Transportation, the provisions of the new law defined irrigation districts as “public corporations, empowered to issue bonds and condemn property, to levy and collect taxes,...maintain and operate irrigation works...[and] condemn in order to gain access to waterways that might otherwise be blocked by riparian owners.”⁵ The impact of the act on Central Valley water rights was sweeping. Between 1887 and 1896, 49 irrigation districts were established, most of which were clustered between Stockton and Bakersfield. By the late 1920s, that number had shrunk to seven districts, including the Modesto, Tulare, and Turlock irrigation districts.⁶

TID was the first irrigation district formed in California after the passage of the Wright Act. Established on June 6, 1887, TID quickly began to develop the infrastructure—namely canal systems, diversion pumps, and pump houses—needed to irrigate the local agricultural landscape with water from the Merced, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin rivers. The district’s initial irrigation system would later be expanded with the aqueduct systems build by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.⁷ In order to ensure stable, year-round crop irrigation for agriculture along the Tuolumne River, TID combined its efforts with the state’s second irrigation district, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID, established in July 1887), to construct the La Grange

¹ The Moccasin Point fish cleaning station was constructed at some point after 2015 and was not included in the original 1971–1972 construction plan.

² “TID History,” Turlock Irrigation District, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.tid.org/about-tid/tid-history/>.

³ Sydney T. Harding, *Water in California* (Palo Alto, CA: N-P Publications, 1960), 37.

⁴ California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems In California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures*, 2020, 14.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Environmental Science Associates, *Turlock Lake Rehabilitation Project, Stanislaus County, California, Cultural Resource Inventory Report*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, June 2022, 11.

Dam in 1893. In the following years, the region's water supply was further augmented by MID's Modesto Reservoir (1911) and TID's Davis Reservoir (1914).⁸

Despite its expanding irrigation infrastructure, the Central Valley struggled to store adequate water reserves to combat the region's prolonged dry periods. To increase water storage capacity and as a flood prevention measure, TID selected a site known as "Don Pedro's Bar," located several miles upstream of the La Grange Dam, for a future storage reservoir. Construction of what would become the original Don Pedro Dam and powerhouse began in 1921. When it was dedicated in 1923, the original Don Pedro Dam was the highest dam in the world, measuring a height of 283 feet.⁹ In June 1966, TID entered into an agreement with the County and City of San Francisco (CCSF) to initiate the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir. When construction was completed in May 1970, the New Don Pedro Dam rose 580 feet from the Tuolumne riverbed, was 2,800 feet thick at its base, and created a reservoir with a capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet of water.¹⁰ In November 1970, the dam's 12 ports were opened to transfer water storage to the new reservoir and subsequently submerged the original Don Pedro Dam structure. In time, the Don Pedro powerplant operated four generators capable of producing enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power approximately 37,000 households.¹¹

Don Pedro Recreation Agency

Plans for associated recreational facilities were underway well before the New Don Pedro Dam was completed. When construction of the Don Pedro Project commenced in 1967, TID and MID anticipated that recreation demands for what would become California's fifth largest reservoir would be substantial considering that approximately 600,000 people lived within 50 miles of the future lake.¹² The districts anticipated that the reservoir—which would boast a surface area of 13,000 acres and a 160-mile shoreline—could draw as many as 400,000 visitors each year.¹³

The regional demand for recreation was also apparent to Federal and State agencies. While TID and MID were initially reluctant to add recreation tourism to their management operations, Tuolumne County persuasively lobbied for the need for camping and boating facilities at the future reservoir during a series of Don Pedro Project Federal Power Commission (FPC) hearings in 1962. Swayed by the county, the FPC included a recreational development requirement in the requisite Project license. Per the FPC licensing requirement, all land and water that fell within the Don Pedro Project was to be made available for public recreational use.¹⁴

With the assistance of a \$7 million grant from the California Water Commission in 1965, the districts established the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) in 1967, a coalition of representatives of the MID, TID, and CCSF to oversee the development and establishment of a network of recreational facilities.¹⁵ In 1969, general manager of utilities for San Francisco and former Undersecretary of the Interior for the Kennedy Administration, James K. Carr, led an intra-agency field trip to the New Don Pedro Dam to convey the site's recreational potential to representatives of the TID, MID, National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).¹⁶ While the outing failed to secure the commitment of a federal agency to oversee the operations of any future recreation site, it energized immediate local efforts to proceed with plans for recreational development.¹⁷ With an additional \$8.6 million in state funds awarded in 1969, and the hiring of former USFS Northeastern Regional Director, George S. James, as Director of the DPRA in 1970, the districts began developing the recreation plan for the Don Pedro Project in earnest.¹⁸

The DPRA recreation plan included a total of three recreation areas-- Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds-- that shared a cohesive overall design. Redding-based firm Clair A. Hill & Associates won the DPRA facility

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "TID History."

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "Don Pedro About To Make Itself Felt," *Oakdale Leader*, March 15, 1972, 19.

¹³ Dwight H. Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley: The First 100 years (1887-1987) of the Modesto Irrigation District*, prepared for Modesto Irrigation District, 1987, accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.mid.org/about/history/gnrng_of_pvy.pdf.

¹⁴ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-37.

¹⁵ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

¹⁶ "US Officials Will Probe Dam Recreation Potential," *The Modesto Bee*, September 7, 1969.

¹⁷ "Thiel: County Should Operate Don Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, January 21, 1970, 53.

¹⁸ "Tuolumne Is Urged To Develop Plan For Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, February 26, 1971, 38.

design and construction contract. Hill then partnered with the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward (hereafter Caywood) to design the landscape, structures, and recreational buildings for the three sites. The team first focused its energy on the construction of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Hill developed the engineering design for the campground site, roads, and boating ramps. Preliminary archival research does not conclusively indicate whether the facilities were constructed by Hill or an unnamed contractor. Caywood developed the design for the campground entrances, fish cleaning stations, restrooms, group picnic shelters, and concession buildings at Fleming Meadows. Initial designs also included a 16-sided building at the south end of Don Pedro Reservoir that was to serve as the DPRA headquarters.¹⁹ Caywood's design utilized a pole-frame construction method that incorporated telephone pole frames, rough-sawn wood beam roofs, and masonry block construction walls for the buildings throughout the site. The landscaping plan employed underground utilities so as to not distract visitors from the natural environment.²⁰ This design, which aimed to integrate the built environment with the surround topography, was adopted at the subsequent recreation areas.²¹ The marina at Fleming Meadows was designed by the Modesto firm Neil Patterson & Associates, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Turlock-based Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer in 1971.²²

The 1971-1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas.. Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is the largest facility and located on the southeast side of Don Pedro Reservoir. Its original features included 212 camping units, 87 of which included utility hookups for trailers, individual and group picnic areas, fish cleaning stations, a trading post, seven-lane boat launch, and marina.²³ The complex also included an outdoor "movie screen," as well as a two-acre swimming lagoon with an associate snack bar and dressing room.²⁴ The second development was the Blue Oak Recreation Area, which is situated on the southwest side of the reservoir. Its original features included 183 tent spaces, fish cleaning stations, a group picnic area, and a boat launch. The third development, Moccasin Point Recreation Area, is on a northeast portion of the reservoir situated approximately 18 miles north of the Don Pedro Dam. Its original features included a 75-site campground and picnic area and a two-lane boat launch, as well as a marina.²⁵ All three recreation areas opened to the public following a May 6, 1972, dedication ceremony.²⁶

Each site has undergone various site modifications since their initial construction between 1971 and 1972. Originally designed for day use, the Fleming Meadows recreation area "B" was converted into campsites around 1981. At all three sites, original shake roofs on recreation buildings were gradually replaced first by tile roofing, then by steel roofing. Similarly, original wood picnic tables were replaced by concrete picnic tables, concrete foot lockers were added to campsites, and some original grill stands were replaced by inset fire rings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), restrooms, group picnic areas, shower restrooms, and ramps were modified or reconfigured at various points throughout the 1990s. The marina at Moccasin Point Recreation Area was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt that same year.²⁷ The original DPRA Headquarters and Visitors Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road was destroyed by fire in 2016.²⁸ All three sites and their facilities are maintained and managed by the DPRA.

Clair A. Hill & Associates, Engineering Consultants

Clair A. Hill & Associates was a Redding-based engineering firm that oversaw the facility design and construction of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency facilities. The firm's founder, Clair A. Hill, was born in Redding, California, in 1909. Hill received education in forestry at Oregon State University and earned a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1934.²⁹

¹⁹ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-39. Hereafter, *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*.

²⁰ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

²¹ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-39.

²² Ibid.

²³ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up," *The Modesto Bee*, March 7, 1971, 10.

²⁴ "Don Pedro Prepares For Recreation Rush," *The Modesto Bee*, November 28, 1971, 14.

²⁵ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up."

²⁶ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-42.

²⁷ Ibid., 3-46.

²⁸ "Don Pedro visitors center is planned," *The Modesto Bee*, August 18, 2016, 1A.

²⁹ "Memorial Tribute: Mr. Clair A. Hill," National Academy of Engineering, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.nae.edu/19579/19581/20412/29891/Mr-Clair-A-Hill>.

In 1938, Hill founded the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates in his hometown of Redding.³⁰ The firm specialized in survey, photogrammetry, and engineering water projects pertaining to reservoirs, dams, and fish hatcheries throughout northern California. Before winning the DPRA contract, Clair A. Hill & Associates had overseen water resources work for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Sacramento Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the Bonneville Power Administration.³¹ In 1971, the company merged with a competing engineering firm, CH2M, to form the global engineering consulting firm CH2M-Hill, Inc.³²

For its contribution to California infrastructure and water development after World War II, Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered an engineering firm of merit. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered an individual important for his contributions to water resource development in California.

Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners

Sacramento firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners designed the landscaping, structures, and recreational buildings for the 1971-1972 DPRA construction project. Grant D. Caywood and Jack D. Nopp established the firm in 1963 and early designs included the Sacramento Medical Clinic (1964), the Sacramento Town & Country Lutheran Church (1968) and Rio Vista High School (1966).³³ Grant Caywood had earned a degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University in 1940³⁴ and Jack Dee Nopp earned a degree in Architecture from the University of Oregon in 1954.³⁵ Partners of the firm had worked on various California recreational and civic-related projects throughout their respective careers. Nopp served as the principal architect for the Oroville Dam Reservoir's Lime Saddle Park (1968).³⁶ Roderic Charles Ward designed the El Dorado County Administration buildings for South Lake Tahoe and Placerville (n.d.).³⁷ The firm had previously collaborated with Clair A. Hill & Associates on the design for the Sacramento Municipal Airport Master Plan in 1968.³⁸ While the Caywood firm oversaw the design of buildings and complexes throughout Northern California, preliminary archival review does not indicate that it was an architectural design firm of particular merit.

Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945-1975

The development of DPRA property for recreational use reflects the rising enthusiasm for outdoor recreation in the United States after World War II. The end of the conflict ushered in an unprecedented and prolonged period of prosperity for American military veterans and civilians alike. Wartime mobilization had initiated a period of economic vitality that persisted into the immediate postwar period. Empowered by the G.I. Bill, many veterans received a college education and became first-time homeowners. Civilians who gained highly sought-after skills on the Home Front continued to enjoy rising wages, job security, and paid vacation time. Overall, the nation's workforce was uniquely positioned with the time and discretionary income to enjoy outdoor recreation.³⁹ As a result, visits to state and national parks skyrocketed as more and more Americans adopted outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. To demonstrate this trend, one 1959 study reported an estimated 34 million American families had spent \$42 billion on various forms of recreation.⁴⁰ As outdoor enthusiasts

³⁰ "Clair A. Hill," Water Education Foundation, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/clair-hill>.

³¹ "Clair A. Hill & Associates," CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

³² Ibid.

³³ "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Nopp, Jack D(ee)" AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_N.pdf.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ "Obituary: Roderic Charles Ward," accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.pricefuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderic-Ward>.

³⁸ "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

³⁹ Clayne R. Jensen, *Outdoor Recreation in America* (Minneapolis: Burgess Publication Co, 1985), 33-35.

⁴⁰ Robert Coughlin, "A \$40 Billion Bill Just for Fun" in "The Good Life," *Life*, no. 47 (December 28, 1959), 69, quoted in Foster Rhea Dulles, *A History of Recreation: American Learns to Play* (New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1965), 398.

fostered a personal relationship with the natural environment, many also became invested in a growing conservation movement to preserve that environment for future generations.⁴¹

The unprecedented embrace of “leisure” as an activity that could be enjoyed by most people during the postwar period prompted ongoing debates about the extent to which the federal government was obligated to support recreational activities for its citizenry. For much of the early twentieth century, social scientists had touted recreational activity as an effective tool to revive individuals and, in turn, make that individual a more effective and efficient worker. By that logic, some social scientists reasoned, recreational self-improvement and relaxation was both important for individual well-being and vital to the overall health of the body politic.⁴² In 1958, the federal government established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) to determine the current and future recreation needs of American communities across the country. In 1962, the Commission presented its findings in an extensive report entitled *Outdoor Recreation in America*, which predicted an increased demand for passive and active recreation facilities through the year 2000. The report noted a particularly urgent need for open spaces for camping, hiking, and nature observation, as well as recreational facilities related to water sports, boating, and fishing.⁴³ According to ORRRC Chairman Laurence Rockefeller, providing avenues of organized leisure would alleviate the dreaded “Sunday frustration” of American workers and broadly improved the wellbeing of American society at large.⁴⁴ In 1963, the Department of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the express mission to support state, local, and private organizations with outdoor recreation planning and facility development.⁴⁵

True to the federal government’s predictions, demands for public recreational facilities grew apace with America’s enthusiasm for the outdoors during the 1970s. A 1976 survey of American leisure behavior reported that over 51 million Americans reported camping that year, 22 million went hunting, 35.2 million participated in boating, and an astonishing 65 million Americans went fishing.⁴⁶ Reservoirs—with their ease of access for visitors, proximity to interstate highways and densely populated areas—were particularly popular sites for camping and water-related activities.⁴⁷

The DPRA facilities reflected California’s burgeoning enthusiasm for utilizing reservoirs for recreational boating and camping after World War II.⁴⁸ An early iteration of this practice emerged out of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project, which developed recreational facilities at Folsom Lake on the American River in 1956 which would eventually be operated and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.⁴⁹ The fishing, boating, and houseboat recreation facilities at Lake Oroville on the Feather River were products of the California State Water Project of the 1950s and 1960s.⁵⁰ The development of recreation facilities at New Melones Lake in 1978 further solidified that Californians were developing a deep and abiding enthusiasm for outdoor and water-relation recreation.⁵¹ Within this context, the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point campgrounds, with their associated picnic, swimming, fishing, and boating amenities, are typical examples of the recreational facilities developed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s and reflect the complementary relationship between outdoor recreation and water development during the postwar period.⁵²

⁴¹ Jan E. Dizard, *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Amherst and Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), 42.

⁴² Dulles, 398.

⁴³ Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, “ORRRC Study Report 19: National Recreation Survey,” Washington, D.C.: Washington Printing Office, 1962), pp. 1-397.

⁴⁴ Laurence S. Rockefeller, “Leisure—the New Challenge,” *Vital Speeches*, no. 27 (December 1, 1960), 3, quoted in Dulles, 390.

⁴⁵ The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was later absorbed into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1978-1981), until the responsibilities for outdoor recreation was permanently transferred to the National Park Service. Carlson et al, 130-32.

⁴⁶ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, Janet MacLean, and James A. Peterson, *Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1979), 62-63.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁴⁸ “Recreation Change Is Ahead,” *The Modesto Bee*, January 29, 1971, 54.

⁴⁹ “Plans For Folsom Road Is Backed By Supervisor,” *The Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1956, 43.

⁵⁰ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-46.

⁵¹ “Districts eye U.S. Don Pedro takeover,” *The Modesto Bee*, June 27, 1978, 20.

⁵² M.F. Brewer, “Incorporating Recreational Values into Benefit-Cost Analysis,” *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (Western Farm Economics Association 35* (August 6,7,8, 1962), 23.

Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction

Rustic Vernacular Style

The aesthetic sensibilities of the style were logical progressions of an intentional design ethic cultivated by the NPS since its inception in 1916. Informed by the innovations of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, Henry Hubbard, and other influential landscape architects, the designs of the nation's first national parks sought to harmonize the built environment with unvarnished beauty of the natural environment. In turn, park design and preservation standards came to adopt "naturalistic practices in construction, often described as 'rustic,' called for native materials of timber and rock and methods of pioneer craftsmen and woodsmen."⁵³ Early examples of the successful execution of this new "rustic" design program was the ambitious Yosemite Village project, which resulted in the construction of a Administration Building (1924), a Post Office (c.1925), and Yosemite Museum (1926).⁵⁴ Over the next several decades, "rustic, vernacular architecture" came to be used to describe simplified buildings constructed from natural, native materials that integrated with their surroundings in material, proportion, overall feeling.⁵⁵

One NPS publication defined rustic architecture as:

"Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."⁵⁶

National Register Bulletin 31 defines "vernacular architecture" as:

"...this type can be idiosyncratic amalgams of building traditions and styles, strongly reflecting the personality of the builder, or they may represent the more potent cultural dynamic of time and place. A key feature of vernacular buildings is their affinity for and adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Architectural "style" is insignificant in comparison to the form of the building, its construction materials, and the layout of the rooms."⁵⁷

With its embrace of the ideals of the Back-to-Nature and Conservation Movements - namely that people and their buildings had distinct, discreet relationships with their natural environment - the rustic vernacular style became an organic framework for the construction of recreational residences, buildings, and structures.⁵⁸ For a more extensive examination of rustic architecture in national parks, please consult *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (1986), pages 1-21.⁵⁹

By the mid twentieth century, the emerging architectural tradition of national parks embraced built environments that "responded to their sites" by integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.⁶⁰ While recreational and residential buildings often integrated features from multiple architectural styles, they nevertheless tended to reflect a cohesive populist philosophy. Character-defining features of the Rustic Vernacular Style included:

- Buildings constructed with native, natural materials particularly stone, log, and wood.
- Embrace of natural colors that blended with the environment.

⁵³ Linda Flint McClelland, *NRHP Nomination Form: Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks*, 1995, 1.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁵⁵ Steve McNeil, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., and USDA Forest Service, "Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreational Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959," prepared for the USDA Forest Service, May 30, 2003, 59.

⁵⁶ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 93.

⁵⁷ Barbara Wyatt, ed., "Draft National Register Bulletin 31: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, Washington, D.C., 1987. Quoted in McNeil et al, 59.

⁵⁸ McNeil et al, 60.

⁵⁹ Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (National Park Service: Department of the Interior, November, 1986), 1-21.

⁶⁰ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 3.

- Functional architectural elements were selected for their utility and their ability to integrate with the terrain or topography.
- Overall building design was intended to be viewed from all sides.
- Buildings avoided vertical emphasis and embraced proportions that fit the site and its surroundings.
- Buildings occasionally incorporate historical or local cultural details.
- Groupe of buildings generally shared a central architectural theme to create continuity throughout a park or district.⁶¹

Pole Frame Construction Methods

A major component of DPRA architecture is the utilization of pole-frame construction. The pole building system—embedding widely spaces round or square poles into the ground as the primary means of support for a roof and floor—has been used as a cost- and labor-efficient alternative to conventional building methods along steep hills, on rocky soil, or in flood- and earthquake-prone regions for centuries.⁶² The construction method was first introduced to the West Coast during the 1950s as a cost-saving method endorsed by the Federal Housing Administration to develop otherwise prohibitively expensive land parcels. Early projects—such as the 1953 Marx Hyatt residence in Atherton, California—were residential buildings constructed along steep hillsides.⁶³ The economy, framing flexibility, and simplified foundation system made pole building particularly suited to outbuildings and ancillary structures such as barns, utility buildings, and garages.⁶⁴ By the early 1970s, federal agencies such as the FHA and the U.S. Forest Service had recognized that the method held promise for other building types for its “permanence, economy, ease of construction, aesthetics...marginal land utilization, and amelioration of fire hazard.”⁶⁵ The utility of this construction method in a hillside setting is demonstrated by the Fleming Meadows Trading Post and the former DPRA headquarters building (which burned down in 2016).⁶⁶

Bay Regional Style

The functionality of pole-frame construction and the features of the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a natural synergy with California’s modern vernacular architecture, particularly the Bay Regional Style. Developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and refined by Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and William Wurster, the Bay Regional Style articulated a rising concern regarding the natural environment.⁶⁷ The vernacular architectural style emerged during the 1880s and retained popularity among California architects into the 1970s. The periodization of the style has been divided into a First, Second, and Third tradition, each emphasizing some variation of a consistently informal and natural design approach. Indelibly attuned to the interplay between modern design’s embrace of elements such as clean, unaffected lines and large windows and the natural materials of California’s vernacular domestic architecture, its practitioners constructed spaces that invited the outside in and invited an unimpeded view of the natural surroundings.⁶⁸

While the Bay Regional Style and the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a similar aesthetic vocabulary, and evidence suggests that architects like Bernard Maybeck influenced the rustic architecture at a number of national parks, the influence of the Bay Regional Style on the built environment within the DPRA is less overt.⁶⁹ The Third Bay Tradition, which took place during the 1960s and 1970s, is perhaps best represented by Sonoma County’s Sea Ranch complex (1964-65) designed by architect

⁶¹ Ibid., 61-62.

⁶² Doug Merrilees, Evelyn V. Loveday, and Ralph Wolfe, *Low-Cost Pole Building Construction* (Charlotte, Vermont: Garden Way Publishing, 1980), 1-11.

⁶³ Lt. R.W. Ard, Jr., “Pole Buildings,” *Coast Guard Engineer’s Digest* (Oct-Dec., 1974), 64-68.

⁶⁴ Leigh W. Seddon, *Practical Pole Building Construction* (Nashville, Tennessee: Williamson Books, 1985), 11.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 68.

⁶⁶ “Don Pedro recreation area visitors center burns down,” *The Modesto Bee*, May 27, 2016, A3.

⁶⁷ GEI Consultants, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, prepared for the City of Sacramento, September 30, 2017, 3-3, 3-4.

⁶⁸ Planning Resource Associates, Inc., *Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, prepared for the City of Fresno, September 2008, 55.

⁶⁹ Tweed et al, 4.

Charles Moore and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.⁷⁰ The complex's use of rough sawn redwood and wood pole-frame construction to integrate with the natural landscape is echoed in the DPRAs campgrounds.⁷¹

Evaluation

The DPRAs are made up of the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRAs: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA. As described above, the recreation area at Don Pedro Reservoir was one of many established in California in the late-20th century and has undergone building renovations to contributing buildings during its period of use.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

Archival research indicates that while the DPRAs Recreation Areas reflect post-war recreation development in Tuolumne County as well as the 1960s–1970s era of recreational development at California reservoirs, it does not appear to possess any unique significance for this association. As described in the context discussion above, following World War II, local, State, and federal agencies responded to increasing demands for outdoor recreation facilities by adapting reservoir land and shorelines for public recreational use. From the 1950s to the 1970s, California saw the development of several major water development projects which, in turn, produced reservoirs with associated lakes and shorelines that were appealing to boating, fishing, and camping enthusiasts alike. In 1956, the DPR established the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and initiated a trend of transforming impounded dam waters into vibrant, public recreation facilities. During the 1950s and 1960s, California's investment in water development projects such as the State Water Project created new reservoirs ideal for outdoor recreation, such as Lake Oroville (1950s–1960s) and New Melones Lake (1978). The DPRAs recreational facilities built between 1971 and 1972 are typical later examples of California's embrace of reservoir recreation during this period.

For an association with historic events and patterns to be historically significant, National Register Bulletin 15 states that "a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context." Within the context of post-World War II recreational development in California, the DPRAs Recreation Areas are associated with recreational use of reservoirs, but this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within the historic context. It was one of many recreation areas constructed with reservoirs throughout California during the latter half of the 20th century. As such, the DPRAs Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible due to their association with significant events under Criterion A/1, nor as a DPRAs historic district.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Preliminary archival research failed to identify any significant associations between the resources and lives of people significant in the past. The development of the DPRAs and the subsequent development and operation of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas were the results of a collaboration between the TID, MID and CCSF. However, archival research did not indicate any specific individual of significance within these organizations having attained prominence through their association with the DPRAs or any associated recreation area. Additionally, while Tuolumne County's collective lobbying efforts were instrumental in the development of the DPRAs, archival research did not indicate any specific individual as having attained prominence through these efforts nor through any specific association with any individual recreation area. For these reasons, the DPRAs Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion B/2, nor as a DPRAs historic district.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The 1971–1972 DPRAs construction plan established three total recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds. Each recreation area shared a cohesive overall design. The plan was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates and designed by the architectural and planning firm Caywood. Throughout the three recreation areas, Caywood utilized a pole-style construction method that utilizes pressure treated telephone poles set in concrete

⁷⁰ California Department of Transportation, *Tract Housing in California, 1945-1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation*, Sacramento, California, 2011, 92-93.

⁷¹ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-40.

footings. The style was a cost-saving construction method promoted by the FHA in the 1960s that was touted for its economy and simplicity of design. The style shared several key aesthetic sensibilities of the Bay Regional Style, most notably its embrace of local, natural materials and its ability to blend into the surrounding topography so as not to impede upon the existing landscape.

For an association with design/construction as an example of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, National Register Bulletin 15 states that a property must be “an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history.” While a previous analysis recommended the DPRA Recreation Areas eligible under National Register Criterion C as an example of pole-style construction, the extant associated structures reflect minimal characteristics of their original pole-style construction and design elements and have undergone significant modifications since their earlier 2012–2015 evaluation. For instance, the Trading Post building originally had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure which were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. The removal has influenced the building’s integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, the shingle roof at the Trading Post and shingle roofs throughout the DPRA Recreation Areas have been replaced since 2015 with corrugated sheet metal roofs, which further impact the integrity of the site against its original design. Between this site-wide modification of design, and the loss of the DPRA Visitor Center (a major contributor to a unified pole-style aesthetic) in 2016, the DPRA Recreation Areas no longer reflect their original pole-style construction style with Bay Region Tradition influence.

Somewhat noteworthy is the fact that the construction of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates, which was known for its work on water resource projects throughout California, namely reservoir, irrigation, and fisheries development. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered a person important to water resource development in the state of California. As the founder of Clair A. Hill & Associates and the cofounder of CH2M-Hill, Hill oversaw several substantive water resource projects throughout California, such as the Lake Tahoe Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. During his 32-year tenure on the California Water Commission, Hill was a primary author of the California Water Commission Plan and served as the Commission’s chairman for 18 years. In 1992, Hill was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and was also a recipient of the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award.

To be eligible, however, per National Register Bulletin 15, a property must “express a particular phase in the development of the master’s career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect.” While Clair A. Hill & Associates is an internationally recognized engineering firm, the buildings and structures within the DPRA were designed by the Caywood architectural and planning group. Archival review did not indicate that Caywood should be considered an architectural firm of merit. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be important or representative examples of Clair A. Hill & Associates’ water resource development legacy. Similarly, while Clair A. Hill was an internationally renowned engineer, the DPRA Recreation Areas are not representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design or a reflection of Hill’s individual contribution to water resource development in California more broadly.

The loss of the unifying pole-style aesthetic, as well as the of the Visitor Center in 2016, has resulted in the DPRA’s inability to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction. Additionally, the DPRA does not represent a professional highlight of Clair A. Hill’s body of work. Therefore, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion C/3, nor eligible as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

While most often applied to archaeological districts and sites, Criterion D/4 can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects that contain important information. For these types of properties to be eligible under Criterion D/4, they themselves must be, or must have been, the principal source of the important information, and the information must be considered important. The DPRA Recreation Areas are constructed of standard materials (wood and concrete) and with standard methodologies. It does not appear to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, or other information that is not already known. As such, they do not appear eligible for listing under Criterion D/4 as either individual resources or as a historic district.

Integrity

In addition to being eligible for listing under at least one of the four California Register or National Register criteria, a property must also retain sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance. There are seven aspects to consider when evaluating the integrity of a property: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register or National Register, nor as a historic district; a further assessment of integrity is not presented.

Conclusions

Based on a site survey, archival research, and the analysis presented in this memo, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as neither eligible for individual listing, nor eligible as a historic district, in the California Register or National Register under any criteria. As such, the three recreation areas and their associated elements would not be considered historical resources under CEQA. No further analysis is required.

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PRIMARY RECORD

Primary P-55-008574

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code

Other Listings

Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 22

*Resource Name or #: Moccasin Point Recreation Area

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Moccasin, CA Date 2021 T 3S ; R 14E ; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; B.M.

c. Address 11401 Jacksonville Road City Jamestown Zip 95327

d. UTM: Zone , mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data:

From the town of Moccasin, drive northwest on Highway 120/49 for approximately 2.5 miles. Turn right (north) on Jacksonville Road. Drive 0.1 miles and turn right into the Moccasin Point Recreation Parking Area.

*P3a. Description:

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA), a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Moccasin Point is situated along the northeast shoreline of the Moccasin Creek arm of the Don Pedro Reservoir. While most of the recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period, such as the entrance station kiosk, boat launch, camp sites, restrooms, and fish cleaning station, the original marina (c.1978) was destroyed by fire in 2000 and subsequently rebuilt.¹ As of 2023, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area offers 18 full hookup campsites, 78 non-hookup campsites, day-use picnic areas, walking trails, boat launch, and full-service marina.² For descriptions of repetitive elements of the Moccasin Point Recreation Area, such as the entrance station kiosk, restroom, fish cleaning station, campsite, and boat launch, see the record for the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP22. Reservoir; HP39. Other-campground and recreation area

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

View from Moccasin Point Marina, view facing east. ESA, 2023.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic Prehistoric Both
1971-1972. *The Modesto Bee*.

*P7. Owner and Address:

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381

Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

P8. Recorded by:

Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford / ESA
2600 Capitol Ave Ste 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

*P9. Date Recorded: October 11, 2023

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: Cleveland, Kathy, and Amy Langford. *Don Pedro Recreation Agency, Tuolumne County, California: Historic Resource Evaluation Report*. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District. December. 2023.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

¹ Kevin Palmer, P-55-8574 (Moccasin Point Recreation Area [HDR-13]), California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

² "Moccasin Point," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/moccasin-point/>.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or # Moccasin Point Recreation Area *NRHP Status Code 6z
Page 2 of 22

- B1. Historic Name: Moccasin Point Recreation Area
B2. Common Name: Moccasin Point Recreation Area
B3. Original Use: Recreation Area B4. Present Use: Recreation Area
*B5. Architectural Style: pole-style
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
1972-1973 original construction

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:
See continuation sheet.

B9a. Architect: Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward b. Builder:

*B10. Significance: Theme recreation Area Tuolumne County
Period of Significance 1972-1973 Property Type recreation area Applicable Criteria n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

See continuation sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

*B12. References:

See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

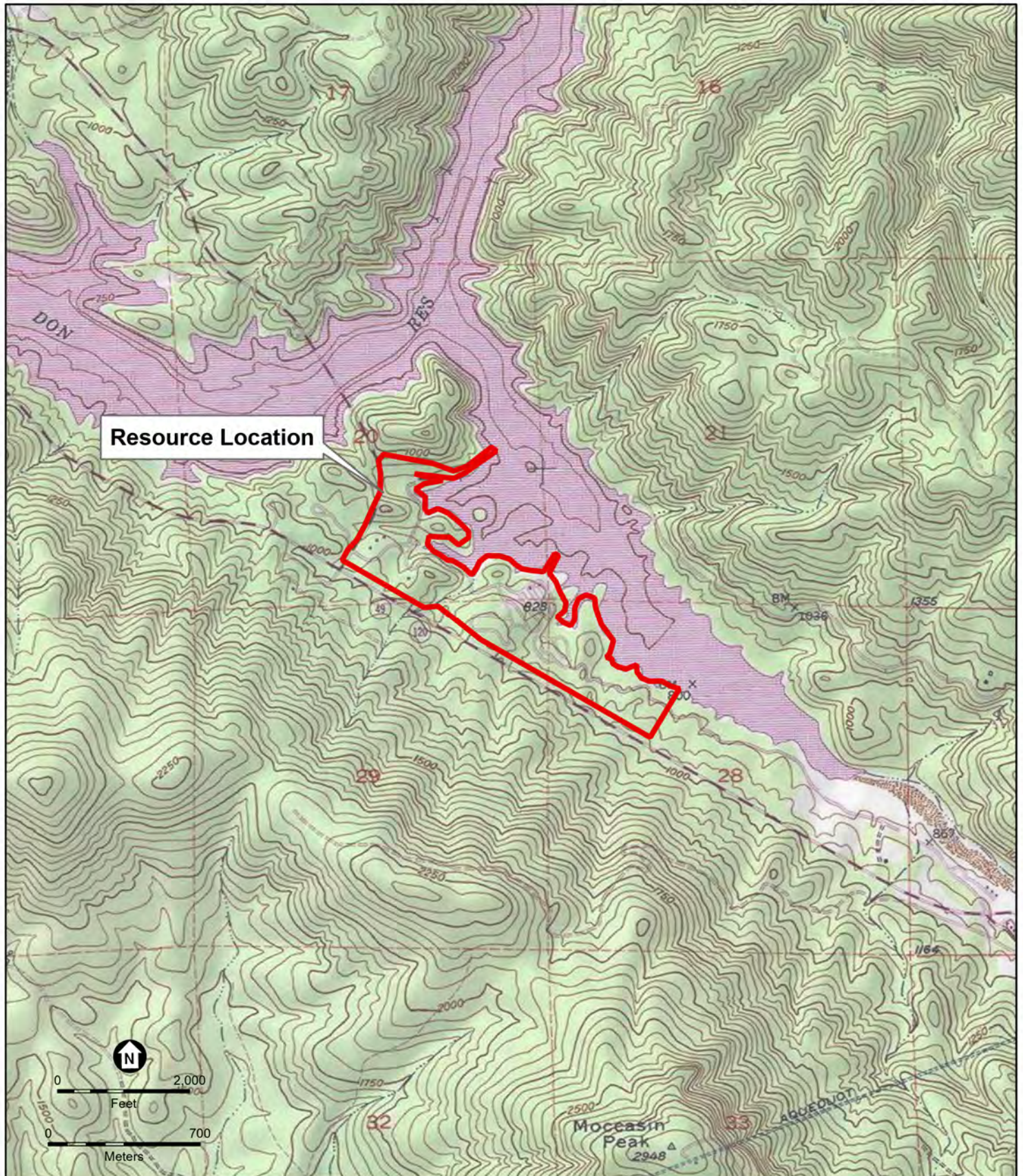
n/a

*B14. Evaluator: Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford, ESA
*Date of Evaluation: December 2023

See continuation sheet.

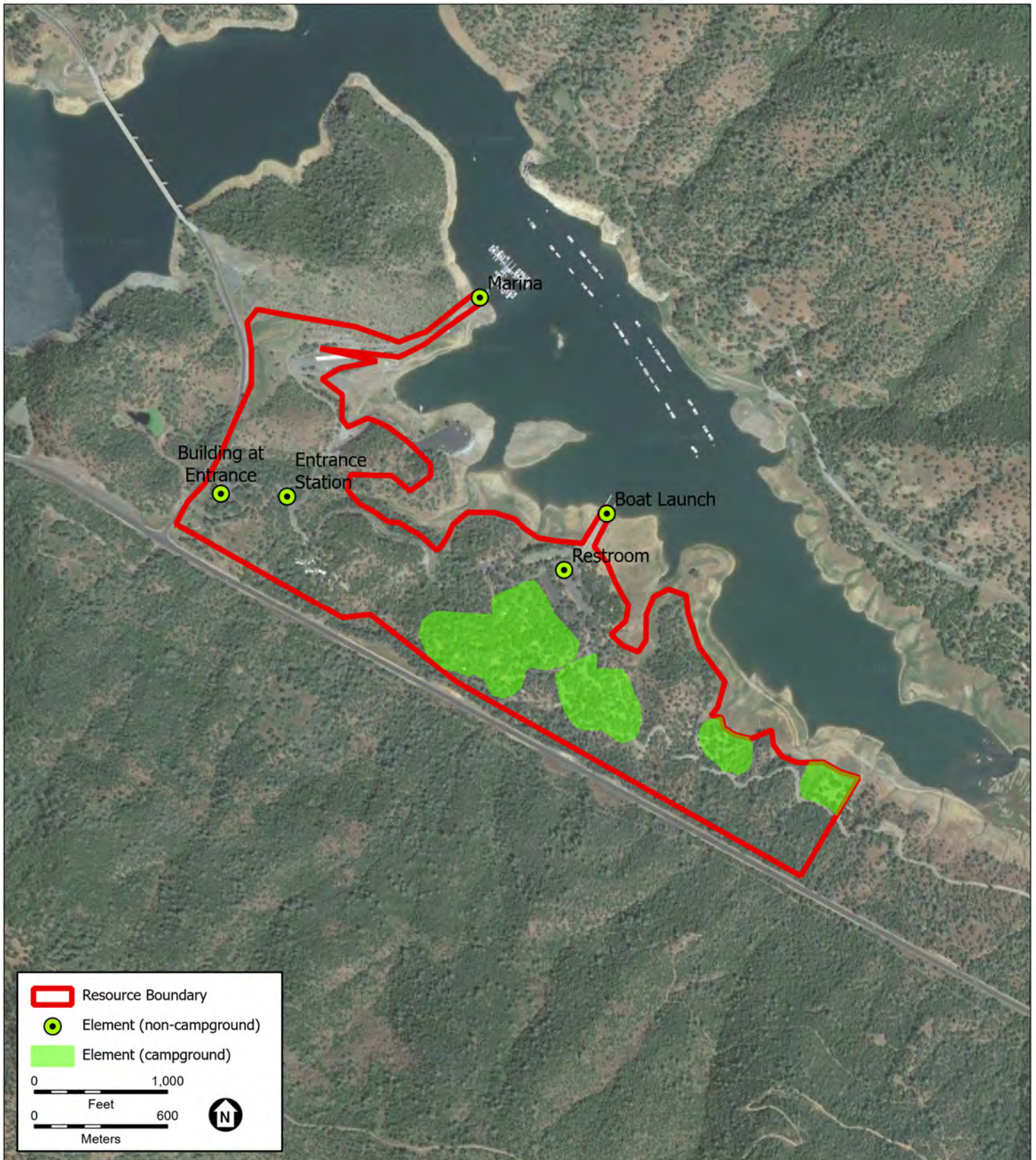
(This space reserved for official comments.)

LOCATION MAP



SKETCH MAP

Trinomial:



CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 5 of 22

*Resource Name or # Moccasin Point Recreation Area

*Recorded by: **Kathy Cleveland and Dr Amy Langford, ESA** *Date: **December 2023**

Continuation

Update

***B8. Related Features:**

The Moccasin Point Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the DPRA. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Moccasin Point is along the northeast shoreline of the Moccasin Creek arm of the Don Pedro Reservoir. While most of the recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period, such as the entrance station kiosk, boat launch, camp sites, restrooms, and fish cleaning station, the original marina (c. 1978) was destroyed by fire in 2000 and subsequently rebuilt.¹ As of 2023, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area offers 18 full hookup campsites, 78 non-hookup campsites, day-use picnic areas, walking trails, boat launch, and full-service marina.² Individual elements of the Moccasin Point Recreation Area are described in **Table 1** and below.

**TABLE 1
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN MOCCASIN POINT RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station ^{3*}	Structure
Restroom	Building
Marina	Structure

¹ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008574 (Moccasin Point Recreation Area [HDR-13])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

² "Moccasin Point," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/moccasin-point/>.

³ The Moccasin Point fish cleaning station was constructed at some point after 2015 and was not included in the original 1971–1972 construction plan.

Entrance Station/Building at Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 1

Moccasin Point Entrance Station, view facing east.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. The entrance stations are clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration are fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Moccasin Point entrance station is oriented northwest-southeast and located off Jacksonville Road.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 2

Moccasin Point Boat Launch, view facing north.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Moccasin Point boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction, includes two piers, and has an overall footprint of approximately 68 feet x 400 feet. The boat launch is oriented northeast-southwest and north of the Moccasin Point restroom and fish cleaning station.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 3
**Moccasin Point Fish Cleaning Station, view
facing south.**

The Moccasin Point fish cleaning station is a post-2015 construction designed to echo the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks Campgrounds fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. It features the same pole-frame construction method previously utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The station has a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. It features a primary, rectangular metal industrial sink and flat, metal panel roof.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 4
Representative Campsite

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Moccasin Point, Blue Oaks, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area contains five campground “Areas” (A–E) that are regularly interspersed along a stretch of land that slopes to the east towards the shoreline. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. Within these areas, the Moccasin Point Recreation Area offers 18 full hookup campsites and 78 non-hookup campsites. The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 5
**Moccasin Point Restroom (representative),
view facing north.**

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.⁴ The above restroom is at the west corner of the Moccasin Point boat launch parking area.

⁴ The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Marina



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 6

Moccasin Point Marina, view facing northeast.

The modern Moccasin Point Recreation Area marina is 0.39 miles northeast of the Moccasin Point entrance station kiosk. The original marina was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt the same year.⁵ A floating walkway connects the north shore of the marina parking access road with a permanent, H-shaped dock. The overall footprint of the marina measures approximately 400 feet x 430 feet.

***B10. Significance:** (Continued from page 2)

Turlock Irrigation District

For nineteenth century settlers in California's Central Valley, access to water was a major determining factor in their economic and social success. This was particularly true in Stanislaus County where the local economy was fueled by dry farming a technique that relied on natural water rather than irrigation; crops, primarily of grain were planted in the fall, were then watered by the winter rains, and were harvested in the spring. With the decline of wheat in the late 1800s, California farmers began to look for more comprehensive methods of irrigation to diversify crops and provide a more stable water supply for the region's smaller, family-owned farms.⁶ For much of the nineteenth century, however, collectives of small farmers eager to initiate local irrigation programs were often stymied by California water laws that largely upheld a system of riparian water rights distribution that benefited large landowners.⁷

The widespread development of irrigation in California was accelerated by the passage of the 1887 Wright Act. The act, which was drafted and proposed by Modesto attorney and assemblyman C.C. Wright, enabled local communities to establish publicly controlled irrigation districts empowered with the legal authority to reclaim land and water previously monopolized by

⁵ *Historic Properties Study: Volume III*, 3-46.

⁶ "TID History," Turlock Irrigation District, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.tid.org/about-tid/tid-history/>.

⁷ Sydney T. Harding, *Water in California* (Palo Alto, CA: N-P Publications, 1960), 37.

large riparian landowners.⁸ According to the California Department of Transportation, the provisions of the new law defined irrigation districts as “public corporations, empowered to issue bonds and condemn property, to levy and collect taxes,...maintain and operate irrigation works...[and] condemn in order to gain access to waterways that might otherwise be blocked by riparian owners.”⁹ The impact of the act on Central Valley water rights was sweeping. Between 1887 and 1896, 49 irrigation districts were established, most of which were clustered between Stockton and Bakersfield. By the late 1920s, that number had shrunk to seven districts, including the Modesto, Tulare, and Turlock irrigation districts.¹⁰

TID was the first irrigation district formed in California after the passage of the Wright Act. Established on June 6, 1887, TID quickly began to develop the infrastructure—namely canal systems, diversion pumps, and pump houses—needed to irrigate the local agricultural landscape with water from the Merced, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin rivers. The district’s initial irrigation system would later be expanded with the aqueduct systems build by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.¹¹ In order to ensure stable, year-round crop irrigation for agriculture along the Tuolumne River, TID combined its efforts with the state’s second irrigation district, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID, established in July 1887), to construct the La Grange Dam in 1893. In the following years, the region’s water supply was further augmented by MID’s Modesto Reservoir (1911) and TID’s Davis Reservoir (1914).¹²

Despite its expanding irrigation infrastructure, the Central Valley struggled to store adequate water reserves to combat the region’s prolonged dry periods. To increase water storage capacity and as a flood prevention measure, TID selected a site known as “Don Pedro’s Bar,” located several miles upstream of the La Grange Dam, for a future storage reservoir. Construction of what would become the original Don Pedro Dam and powerhouse began in 1921. When it was dedicated in 1923, the original Don Pedro Dam was the highest dam in the world, measuring a height of 283 feet.¹³ In June 1966, TID entered into an agreement with the County and City of San Francisco (CCSF) to initiate the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir. When construction was completed in May 1970, the New Don Pedro Dam rose 580 feet from the Tuolumne riverbed, was 2,800 feet thick at its base, and created a reservoir with a capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet of water.¹⁴ In November 1970, the dam’s 12 ports were opened to transfer water storage to the new reservoir and subsequently submerged the original Don Pedro Dam structure. In time, the Don Pedro powerplant operated four generators capable of producing enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power approximately 37,000 households.¹⁵

Don Pedro Recreation Agency

Plans for associated recreational facilities were underway well before the New Don Pedro Dam was completed. When construction of the Don Pedro Project commenced in 1967, TID and MID anticipated that recreation demands for what would become California’s fifth largest reservoir would be substantial considering that approximately 600,000 people lived within 50 miles of the future lake.¹⁶ The districts anticipated that the reservoir—which would boast a surface area of 13,000 acres and a 160-mile shoreline—could draw as many as 400,000 visitors each year.¹⁷

The regional demand for recreation was also apparent to Federal and State agencies. While TID and MID were initially reluctant to add recreation tourism to their management operations, Tuolumne County persuasively lobbied for the need for camping and boating facilities at the future reservoir during a series of Don Pedro Project Federal Power Commission (PFC) hearings in 1962. Swayed by the county, the PFC included a recreational development requirement in the requisite Project

⁸ California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems In California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures*, 2020, 14.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Environmental Science Associates, *Turlock Lake Rehabilitation Project, Stanislaus County, California, Cultural Resource Inventory Report*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, June 2022, 11.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “TID History.”

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ “Don Pedro About To Make Itself Felt,” *Oakdale Leader*, March 15, 1972, 19.

¹⁷ Dwight H. Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley: The First 100 years (1887-1987) of the Modesto Irrigation District*, prepared for Modesto Irrigation District, 1987, accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.mid.org/about/history/grnng_of_pvy.pdf.

license. Per the FPC licensing requirement, all land and water that fell within the Don Pedro Project was to be made available for public recreational use.¹⁸

With the assistance of a \$7 million grant from the California Water Commission in 1965, the districts established the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) in 1967, a coalition of representatives of the MID, TID, and CCSF to oversee the development and establishment of a network of recreational facilities.¹⁹ In 1969, general manager of utilities for San Francisco and former Undersecretary of the Interior for the Kennedy Administration, James K. Carr, led an intra-agency field trip to the New Don Pedro Dam to convey the site's recreational potential to representatives of the TID, MID, National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).²⁰ While the outing failed to secure the commitment of a federal agency to oversee the operations of any future recreation site, it energized immediate local efforts to proceed with plans for recreational development.²¹ With an additional \$8.6 million in state funds awarded in 1969, and the hiring of former USFS Northeastern Regional Director, George S. James, as Director of the DPRA in 1970, the districts began developing the recreation plan for the Don Pedro Project in earnest.²²

The DPRA recreation plan included a total of three recreation areas-- Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds-- that shared a cohesive overall design. Redding-based firm Clair A. Hill & Associates won the DPRA facility design and construction contract. Hill then partnered with the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward (hereafter Caywood) to design the landscape, structures, and recreational buildings for the three sites. The team first focused its energy on the construction of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Hill developed the engineering design for the campground site, roads, and boating ramps. Preliminary archival research does not conclusively indicate whether the facilities were constructed by Hill or an unnamed contractor. Caywood developed the design for the campground entrances, fish cleaning stations, restrooms, group picnic shelters, and concession buildings at Fleming Meadows. Initial designs also included a 16-sided building at the south end of Don Pedro Reservoir that was to serve as the DPRA headquarters.²³ Caywood's design utilized a pole-frame construction method that incorporated telephone pole frames, rough-sawn wood beam roofs, and masonry block construction walls for the buildings throughout the site. The landscaping plan employed underground utilities so as to not distract visitors from the natural environment.²⁴ This design, which aimed to integrate the built environment with the surround topography, was adopted at the subsequent recreation areas.²⁵ The marina at Fleming Meadows was designed by the Modesto firm Neil Patterson & Associates, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Turlock-based Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer in 1971.²⁶

The 1971-1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas.. Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is the largest facility and located on the southeast side of Don Pedro Reservoir. Its original features included 212 camping units, 87 of which included utility hookups for trailers, individual and group picnic areas, fish cleaning stations, a trading post, seven-lane boat launch, and marina.²⁷ The complex also included an outdoor "movie screen," as well as a two-acre swimming lagoon with an associate snack bar and dressing room.²⁸ The second development was the Blue Oak Recreation Area, which is situated on the southwest side of the reservoir. Its original features included 183 tent spaces, fish cleaning stations, a group picnic area, and a boat launch. The third development, Moccasin Point Recreation Area, is on a northeast portion of the reservoir situated approximately 18 miles north of the Don Pedro Dam. Its original features included a 75-site campground and

¹⁸ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1, 3-37.*

¹⁹ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley.*

²⁰ "US Officials Will Probe Dam Recreation Potential," *The Modesto Bee*, September 7, 1969.

²¹ "Thiel: County Should Operate Don Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, January 21, 1970, 53.

²² "Tuolumne Is Urged To Develop Plan For Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, February 26, 1971, 38.

²³ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-39. Hereafter, *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1.*

²⁴ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley.*

²⁵ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1, 3-39.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up," *The Modesto Bee*, March 7, 1971, 10.

²⁸ "Don Pedro Prepares For Recreation Rush," *The Modesto Bee*, November 28, 1971, 14.

picnic area and a two-lane boat launch, as well as a marina.²⁹ All three recreation areas opened to the public following a May 6, 1972, dedication ceremony.³⁰

Each site has undergone various site modifications since their initial construction between 1971 and 1972. Originally designed for day use, the Fleming Meadows recreation area "B" was converted into campsites around 1981. At all three sites, original shake roofs on recreation buildings were gradually replaced first by tile roofing, then by steel roofing. Similarly, original wood picnic tables were replaced by concrete picnic tables, concrete foot lockers were added to campsites, and some original grill stands were replaced by inset fire rings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), restrooms, group picnic areas, shower restrooms, and ramps were modified or reconfigured at various points throughout the 1990s. The marina at Moccasin Point Recreation Area was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt that same year.³¹ The original DPRA Headquarters and Visitors Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road was destroyed by fire in 2016.³² All three sites and their facilities are maintained and managed by the DPRA.

Clair A. Hill & Associates, Engineering Consultants

Clair A. Hill & Associates was a Redding-based engineering firm that oversaw the facility design and construction of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency facilities. The firm's founder, Clair A. Hill, was born in Redding, California, in 1909. Hill received education in forestry at Oregon State University and earned a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1934.³³ In 1938, Hill founded the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates in his hometown of Redding.³⁴ The firm specialized in survey, photogrammetry, and engineering water projects pertaining to reservoirs, dams, and fish hatcheries throughout northern California. Before winning the DPRA contract, Clair A. Hill & Associates had overseen water resources work for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Sacramento Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the Bonneville Power Administration.³⁵ In 1971, the company merged with a competing engineering firm, CH2M, to form the global engineering consulting firm CH2M-Hill, Inc.³⁶

For its contribution to California infrastructure and water development after World War II, Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered an engineering firm of merit. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered an individual important for his contributions to water resource development in California.

Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners

Sacramento firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners designed the landscaping, structures, and recreational buildings for the 1971-1972 DPRA construction project. Grant D. Caywood and Jack D. Nopp established the firm in 1963 and early designs included the Sacramento Medical Clinic (1964), the Sacramento Town & Country Lutheran Church (1968) and Rio Vista High School (1966).³⁷ Grant Caywood had earned a degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University in 1940³⁸ and Jack Dee Nopp earned a degree in Architecture from the University of Oregon in 1954.³⁹ Partners of the firm had worked on various California recreational and civic-related projects throughout their respective careers. Nopp served as the principal architect for the Oroville Dam Reservoir's Lime Saddle Park (1968).⁴⁰ Roderic Charles

²⁹ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up."

³⁰ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II*, 3-42.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 3-46.

³² "Don Pedro visitors center is planned," *The Modesto Bee*, August 18, 2016, 1A.

³³ "Memorial Tribute: Mr. Clair A. Hill," National Academy of Engineering, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.nae.edu/19579/19581/20412/29891/Mr-Clair-A-Hill>.

³⁴ "Clair A. Hill," Water Education Foundation, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/clair-hill>.

³⁵ "Clair A. Hill & Associates," CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ "Nopp, Jack D(ee)" AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_N.pdf.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

Ward designed the El Dorado County Administration buildings for South Lake Tahoe and Placerville (n.d.).⁴¹ The firm had previously collaborated with Clair A. Hill & Associates on the design for the Sacramento Municipal Airport Master Plan in 1968.⁴² While the Caywood firm oversaw the design of buildings and complexes throughout Northern California, preliminary archival review does not indicate that it was an architectural design firm of particular merit.

Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945-1975

The development of DPRA property for recreational use reflects the rising enthusiasm for outdoor recreation in the United States after World War II. The end of the conflict ushered in an unprecedented and prolonged period of prosperity for American military veterans and civilians alike. Wartime mobilization had initiated a period of economic vitality that persisted into the immediate postwar period. Empowered by the G.I. Bill, many veterans received a college education and became first-time homeowners. Civilians who gained highly sought-after skills on the Home Front continued to enjoy rising wages, job security, and paid vacation time. Overall, the nation's workforce was uniquely positioned with the time and discretionary income to enjoy outdoor recreation.⁴³ As a result, visits to state and national parks skyrocketed as more and more Americans adopted outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. To demonstrate this trend, one 1959 study reported an estimated 34 million American families had spent \$42 billion on various forms of recreation.⁴⁴ As outdoor enthusiasts fostered a personal relationship with the natural environment, many also became invested in a growing conservation movement to preserve that environment for future generations.⁴⁵

The unprecedented embrace of "leisure" as an activity that could be enjoyed by most people during the postwar period prompted ongoing debates about the extent to which the federal government was obligated to support recreational activities for its citizenry. For much of the early twentieth century, social scientists had touted recreational activity as an effective tool to revive individuals and, in turn, make that individual a more effective and efficient worker. By that logic, some social scientists reasoned, recreational self-improvement and relaxation was both important for individual well-being and vital to the overall health of the body politic.⁴⁶ In 1958, the federal government established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) to determine the current and future recreation needs of American communities across the country. In 1962, the Commission presented its findings in an extensive report entitled *Outdoor Recreation in America*, which predicted an increased demand for passive and active recreation facilities through the year 2000. The report noted a particularly urgent need for open spaces for camping, hiking, and nature observation, as well as recreational facilities related to water sports, boating, and fishing.⁴⁷ According to ORRRC Chairman Laurence Rockefeller, providing avenues of organized leisure would alleviate the dreaded "Sunday frustration" of American workers and broadly improved the wellbeing of American society at large.⁴⁸ In 1963, the Department of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the express mission to support state, local, and private organizations with outdoor recreation planning and facility development.⁴⁹

True to the federal government's predictions, demands for public recreational facilities grew apace with America's enthusiasm for the outdoors during the 1970s. A 1976 survey of American leisure behavior reported that over 51 million Americans reported camping that year, 22 million went hunting, 35.2 million participated in boating, and an astonishing 65 million

⁴¹ "Obituary: Roderic Charles Ward," accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.pricefuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderic-Ward>.

⁴² "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

⁴³ Clayne R. Jensen, *Outdoor Recreation in America* (Minneapolis: Burgess Publication Co, 1985), 33-35.

⁴⁴ Robert Coughlin, "A \$40 Billion Bill Just for Fun" in "The Good Life," *Life*, no. 47 (December 28, 1959), 69, quoted in Foster Rhea Dulles, *A History of Recreation: American Learns to Play* (New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1965), 398.

⁴⁵ Jan E. Dizard, *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Amherst and Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), 42.

⁴⁶ Dulles, 398.

⁴⁷ Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, "ORRRC Study Report 19: National Recreation Survey," Washington, D.C.: Washington Printing Office, 1962), pp. 1-397.

⁴⁸ Laurence S. Rockefeller, "Leisure—the New Challenge," *Vital Speeches*, no. 27 (December 1, 1960), 3, quoted in Dulles, 390.

⁴⁹ The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was later absorbed into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1978-1981), until the responsibilities for outdoor recreation was permanently transferred to the National Park Service. Carlson et al, 130-32.

Americans went fishing.⁵⁰ Reservoirs—with their ease of access for visitors, proximity to interstate highways and densely populated areas—were particularly popular sites for camping and water-related activities.⁵¹

The DPRA facilities reflected California's burgeoning enthusiasm for utilizing reservoirs for recreational boating and camping after World War II.⁵² An early iteration of this practice emerged out of the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project, which developed recreational facilities at Folsom Lake on the American River in 1956 which would eventually be operated and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.⁵³ The fishing, boating, and houseboat recreation facilities at Lake Oroville on the Feather River were products of the California State Water Project of the 1950s and 1960s.⁵⁴ The development of recreation facilities at New Melones Lake in 1978 further solidified that Californians were developing a deep and abiding enthusiasm for outdoor and water-recreation.⁵⁵ Within this context, the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point campgrounds, with their associated picnic, swimming, fishing, and boating amenities, are typical examples of the recreational facilities developed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s and reflect the complementary relationship between outdoor recreation and water development during the postwar period.⁵⁶

Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction

Rustic Vernacular Style

The aesthetic sensibilities of the style were logical progressions of an intentional design ethic cultivated by the NPS since its inception in 1916. Informed by the innovations of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, Henry Hubbard, and other influential landscape architects, the designs of the nation's first national parks sought to harmonize the built environment with unvarnished beauty of the natural environment. In turn, park design and preservation standards came to adopt "naturalistic practices in construction, often described as 'rustic,' called for native materials of timber and rock and methods of pioneer craftsmen and woodsmen."⁵⁷ Early examples of the successful execution of this new "rustic" design program was the ambitious Yosemite Village project, which resulted in the construction of a Administration Building (1924), a Post Office (c.1925), and Yosemite Museum (1926).⁵⁸ Over the next several decades, "rustic, vernacular architecture" came to be used to describe simplified buildings constructed from natural, native materials that integrated with their surroundings in material, proportion, overall feeling.⁵⁹

One NPS publication defined rustic architecture as:

"Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."⁶⁰

National Register Bulletin 31 defines "vernacular architecture" as:

"...this type can be idiosyncratic amalgams of building traditions and styles, strongly reflecting the personality of the builder, or they may represent the more potent cultural dynamic of time and place. A key feature of vernacular

⁵⁰ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, Janet MacLean, and James A. Peterson, *Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1979), 62-63.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁵² "Recreation Change Is Ahead," *The Modesto Bee*, January 29, 1971, 54.

⁵³ "Plans For Folsom Road Is Backed By Supervisor," *The Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1956, 43.

⁵⁴ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II*, 3-46.

⁵⁵ "Districts eye U.S. Don Pedro takeover," *The Modesto Bee*, June 27, 1978, 20.

⁵⁶ M.F. Brewer, "Incorporating Recreational Values into Benefit-Cost Analysis," *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (Western Farm Economics Association* 35 (August 6,7,8, 1962), 23.

⁵⁷ Linda Flint McClelland, *NRHP Nomination Form: Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks*, 1995, 1.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁵⁹ Steve McNeil, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., and USDA Forest Service, "Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreational Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959," prepared for the USDA Forest Service, May 30, 2003, 59.

⁶⁰ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 93.

buildings is their affinity for and adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Architectural “style” is insignificant in comparison to the form of the building, its construction materials, and the layout of the rooms.”⁶¹

With its embrace of the ideals of the Back-to-Nature and Conservation Movements - namely that people and their buildings had distinct, discreet relationships with their natural environment - the rustic vernacular style became an organic framework for the construction of recreational residences, buildings, and structures.⁶² For a more extensive examination of rustic architecture in national parks, please consult *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (1986), pages 1-21.⁶³

By the mid twentieth century, the emerging architectural tradition of national parks embraced built environments that “responded to their sites” by integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.⁶⁴ While recreational and residential buildings often integrated features from multiple architectural styles, they nevertheless tended to reflect a cohesive populist philosophy. Character-defining features of the Rustic Vernacular Style included:

- Buildings constructed with native, natural materials particularly stone, log, and wood.
- Embrace of natural colors that blended with the environment.
- Functional architectural elements were selected for their utility and their ability to integrate with the terrain or topography.
- Overall building design was intended to be viewed from all sides.
- Buildings avoided vertical emphasis and embraced proportions that fit the site and its surroundings.
- Buildings occasionally incorporate historical or local cultural details.
- Groupe of buildings generally shared a central architectural theme to create continuity throughout a park or district.⁶⁵

Pole Frame Construction Methods

A major component of DPRA architecture is the utilization of pole-frame construction. The pole building system—embedding widely spaces round or square poles into the ground as the primary means of support for a roof and floor—has been used as a cost- and labor-efficient alternative to conventional building methods along steep hills, on rocky soil, or in flood- and earthquake-prone regions for centuries.⁶⁶ The construction method was first introduced to the West Coast during the 1950s as a cost-saving method endorsed by the Federal Housing Administration to develop otherwise prohibitively expensive land parcels. Early projects—such as the 1953 Marx Hyatt residence in Atherton, California—were residential buildings constructed along steep hillsides.⁶⁷ The economy, framing flexibility, and simplified foundation system made pole building particularly suited to outbuildings and ancillary structures such as barns, utility buildings, and garages.⁶⁸ By the early 1970s, federal agencies such as the FHA and the U.S. Forest Service had recognized that the method held promise for other building types for its “permanence, economy, ease of construction, aesthetics...marginal land utilization, and amelioration of fire hazard.”⁶⁹

⁶¹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., “Draft National Register Bulletin 31: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, Washington, D.C., 1987. Quoted in McNeil et al, 59.

⁶² McNeil et al, 60.

⁶³ Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (National Park Service: Department of the Interior, November, 1986), 1-21.

⁶⁴ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942,” National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 3.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 61-62.

⁶⁶ Doug Merrilees, Evelyn V. Loveday, and Ralph Wolfe, *Low-Cost Pole Building Construction* (Charlotte, Vermont: Garden Way Publishing, 1980), 1-11.

⁶⁷ Lt. R.W. Ard, Jr., “Pole Buildings,” *Coast Guard Engineer’s Digest* (Oct-Dec., 1974), 64-68.

⁶⁸ Leigh W. Seddon, *Practical Pole Building Construction* (Nashville, Tennessee: Williamson Books, 1985), 11.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 68.

The utility of this construction method in a hillside setting is demonstrated by the Fleming Meadows Trading Post and the former DPRA headquarters building (which burned down in 2016).⁷⁰

Bay Regional Style

The functionality of pole-frame construction and the features of the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a natural synergy with California's modern vernacular architecture, particularly the Bay Regional Style. Developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and refined by Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and William Wurster, the Bay Regional Style articulated a rising concern regarding the natural environment.⁷¹ The vernacular architectural style emerged during the 1880s and retained popularity among California architects into the 1970s. The periodization of the style has been divided into a First, Second, and Third tradition, each emphasizing some variation of a consistently informal and natural design approach. Indelibly attuned to the interplay between modern design's embrace of elements such as clean, unaffected lines and large windows and the natural materials of California's vernacular domestic architecture, its practitioners constructed spaces that invited the outside in and invited an unimpeded view of the natural surroundings.⁷²

While the Bay Regional Style and the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a similar aesthetic vocabulary, and evidence suggests that architects like Bernard Maybeck influenced the rustic architecture at a number of national parks, the influence of the Bay Regional Style on the built environment within the DPRA is less overt.⁷³ The Third Bay Tradition, which took place during the 1960s and 1970s, is perhaps best represented by Sonoma County's Sea Ranch complex (1964-65) designed by architect Charles Moore and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.⁷⁴ The complex's use of rough sawn redwood and wood pole-frame construction to integrate with the natural landscape is echoed in the DPRA campgrounds.⁷⁵

Evaluation

The DPRA is made up of the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA. As described above, the recreation area at Don Pedro Reservoir was one of many established in California in the late-20th century and has undergone building renovations to contributing buildings during its period of use.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

Archival research indicates that while the DPRA Recreation Areas reflect post-war recreation development in Tuolumne County as well as the 1960s–1970s era of recreational development at California reservoirs, it does not appear to possess any unique significance for this association. As described in the context discussion above, following World War II, local, State, and federal agencies responded to increasing demands for outdoor recreation facilities by adapting reservoir land and shorelines for public recreational use. From the 1950s to the 1970s, California saw the development of several major water development projects which, in turn, produced reservoirs with associated lakes and shorelines that were appealing to boating, fishing, and camping enthusiasts alike. In 1956, the DPR established the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and initiated a trend of transforming impounded dam waters into vibrant, public recreation facilities. During the 1950s and 1960s, California's investment in water development projects such as the State Water Project created new reservoirs ideal for outdoor recreation, such as Lake Oroville (1950s–1960s) and New Melones Lake (1978). The DPRA's recreational facilities built between 1971 and 1972 are typical later examples of California's embrace of reservoir recreation during this period.

⁷⁰ "Don Pedro recreation area visitors center burns down," *The Modesto Bee*, May 27, 2016, A3.

⁷¹ GEI Consultants, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, prepared for the City of Sacramento, September 30, 2017, 3-3, 3-4.

⁷² Planning Resource Associates, Inc., *Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, prepared for the City of Fresno, September 2008, 55.

⁷³ Tweed et al, 4.

⁷⁴ California Department of Transportation, *Tract Housing in California, 1945-1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation*, Sacramento, California, 2011, 92-93.

⁷⁵ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-40.

For an association with historic events and patterns to be historically significant, National Register Bulletin 15 states that “a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context.” Within the context of post-World War II recreational development in California, the DPRA Recreation Areas are associated with recreational use of reservoirs, but this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within the historic context. It was one of many recreation areas constructed with reservoirs throughout California during the latter half of the 20th century. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible due to their association with significant events under Criterion A/1, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Preliminary archival research failed to identify any significant associations between the resources and lives of people significant in the past. The development of the DPRA and the subsequent development and operation of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas were the results of a collaboration between the TID, MID and CCSF. However, archival research did not indicate any specific individual of significance within these organizations having attained prominence through their association with the DPRA or any associated recreation area. Additionally, while Tuolumne County’s collective lobbying efforts were instrumental in the development of the DPRA, archival research did not indicate any specific individual as having attained prominence through these efforts nor through any specific association with any individual recreation area. For these reasons, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion B/2, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The 1971–1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds. Each recreation area shared a cohesive overall design. The plan was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates and designed by the architectural and planning firm Caywood. Throughout the three recreation areas, Caywood utilized a pole-style construction method that utilizes pressure treated telephone poles set in concrete footings. The style was a cost-saving construction method promoted by the FHA in the 1960s that was touted for its economy and simplicity of design. The style shared several key aesthetic sensibilities of the Bay Regional Style, most notably its embrace of local, natural materials and its ability to blend into the surrounding topography so as not to impede upon the existing landscape.

For an association with design/construction as an example of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, National Register Bulletin 15 states that a property must be “an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history.” While a previous analysis recommended the DPRA Recreation Areas eligible under National Register Criterion C as an example of pole-style construction, the extant associated structures reflect minimal characteristics of their original pole-style construction and design elements and have undergone significant modifications since their earlier 2012–2015 evaluation. For instance, the Trading Post building originally had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure which were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. The removal has influenced the building’s integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, the shingle roof at the Trading Post and shingle roofs throughout the DPRA Recreation Areas have been replaced since 2015 with corrugated sheet metal roofs, which further impact the integrity of the site against its original design. Between this site-wide modification of design, and the loss of the DPRA Visitor Center (a major contributor to a unified pole-style aesthetic) in 2016, the DPRA Recreation Areas no longer reflect their original pole-style construction style with Bay Region Tradition influence.

Somewhat noteworthy is the fact that the construction of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates, which was known for its work on water resource projects throughout California, namely reservoir, irrigation, and fisheries development. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered a person important to water resource development in the state of California. As the founder of Clair A. Hill & Associates and the cofounder of CH2M-Hill, Hill oversaw several substantive water resource projects throughout California, such as the Lake Tahoe Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. During his 32-year tenure on the California Water Commission, Hill was a primary author of the California Water Commission Plan and served as the Commission’s chairman for 18 years. In 1992, Hill was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and was also a recipient of the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award.

To be eligible, however, per National Register Bulletin 15, a property must “express a particular phase in the development of the master’s career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect.” While Clair A. Hill & Associates is an internationally recognized engineering firm, the buildings and structures within the DPRA were designed by the Caywood architectural and planning group. Archival review did not indicate that Caywood should be considered an architectural firm of merit. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be important or representative examples of Clair A. Hill &

Associates' water resource development legacy. Similarly, while Clair A. Hill was an internationally renowned engineer, the DPRA Recreation Areas are not representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design or a reflection of Hill's individual contribution to water resource development in California more broadly.

The loss of the unifying pole-style aesthetic, as well as the of the Visitor Center in 2016, has resulted in the DPRA's inability to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction. Additionally, the DPRA does not represent a professional highlight of Clair A. Hill's body of work. Therefore, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion C/3, nor eligible as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

While most often applied to archaeological districts and sites, Criterion D/4 can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects that contain important information. For these types of properties to be eligible under Criterion D/4, they themselves must be, or must have been, the principal source of the important information, and the information must be considered important. The DPRA Recreation Areas are constructed of standard materials (wood and concrete) and with standard methodologies. It does not appear to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, or other information that is not already known. As such, they do not appear eligible for listing under Criterion D/4 as either individual resources or as a historic district.

Integrity

In addition to being eligible for listing under at least one of the four California Register or National Register criteria, a property must also retain sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance. There are seven aspects to consider when evaluating the integrity of a property: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register or National Register, nor as a historic district; a further assessment of integrity is not presented.

Conclusions

Based on a site survey, archival research, and the analysis presented in this memo, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as neither eligible for individual listing, nor eligible as a historic district, in the California Register or National Register under any criteria. As such, the three recreation areas and their associated elements would not be considered historical resources under CEQA. No further analysis is required.

*B12. References: (Continued from page 2)

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PRIMARY RECORD

Page 1 of 30

*Resource Name or #: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad La Grange, CA Date 2021 T 3S ; R 14E ; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; B.M.

c. Address 11500 Bonds Flat Road City La Grange Zip 95329

d. UTM: Zone , mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data: From La Grange Road, turn onto Bonds Flat Road and drive east for 3.25 miles. Turn left into the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area.

*P3a. Description:

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA), a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is located on the southwest portion of the Don Pedro Reservoir and east of the Don Pedro Dam and is the largest of the DPRA's recreation areas.¹ Elements of the recreation area dating to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period include an entrance station kiosk, trading post, fish cleaning station, restrooms, boat launch, marina, campgrounds, an outdoor amphitheater, group picnic areas, outdoor sport spaces, and a swimming lagoon with an associated snack bar and dressing room. As of 2023, the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area offered 90 hookup campsites and 176 non-hookup and walk-in campsites.²

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP 39 Other-campground and recreation area;

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: View of Fleming Meadows boat launch and campground "A" area, facing southwest. ESA, 2023.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic Prehistoric Both
1971-1972. *The Modesto Bee*.

*P7. Owner and Address:

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381

Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

P8. Recorded by:

Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford / ESA
2600 Capitol Ave Ste 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

*P9. Date Recorded:

October 11, 2023

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: Cleveland, Kathy, and Amy Langford. *Don Pedro Recreation Agency, Tuolumne County, California: Historic Resource Evaluation Report*. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District. December. 2023.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

¹ Kevin Palmer, P-55-8803 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Area [HDR-15]), California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

² "Fleming Meadows," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/fleming-meadows/>.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or # Fleming Meadows Recreation Area *NRHP Status Code 6z
Page 2 of 30

- B1. Historic Name: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area
B2. Common Name: Fleming Meadows Recreation Area
B3. Original Use: Recreation Area B4. Present Use: Recreation Area
*B5. Architectural Style: pole-style
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
1972-1973 original construction

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:
See continuation sheet.

B9a. Architect: Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward b. Builder:

*B10. Significance: Theme recreation Area Tuolumne County
Period of Significance 1972-1973 Property Type recreation area Applicable Criteria n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

See continuation sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

*B12. References:

See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

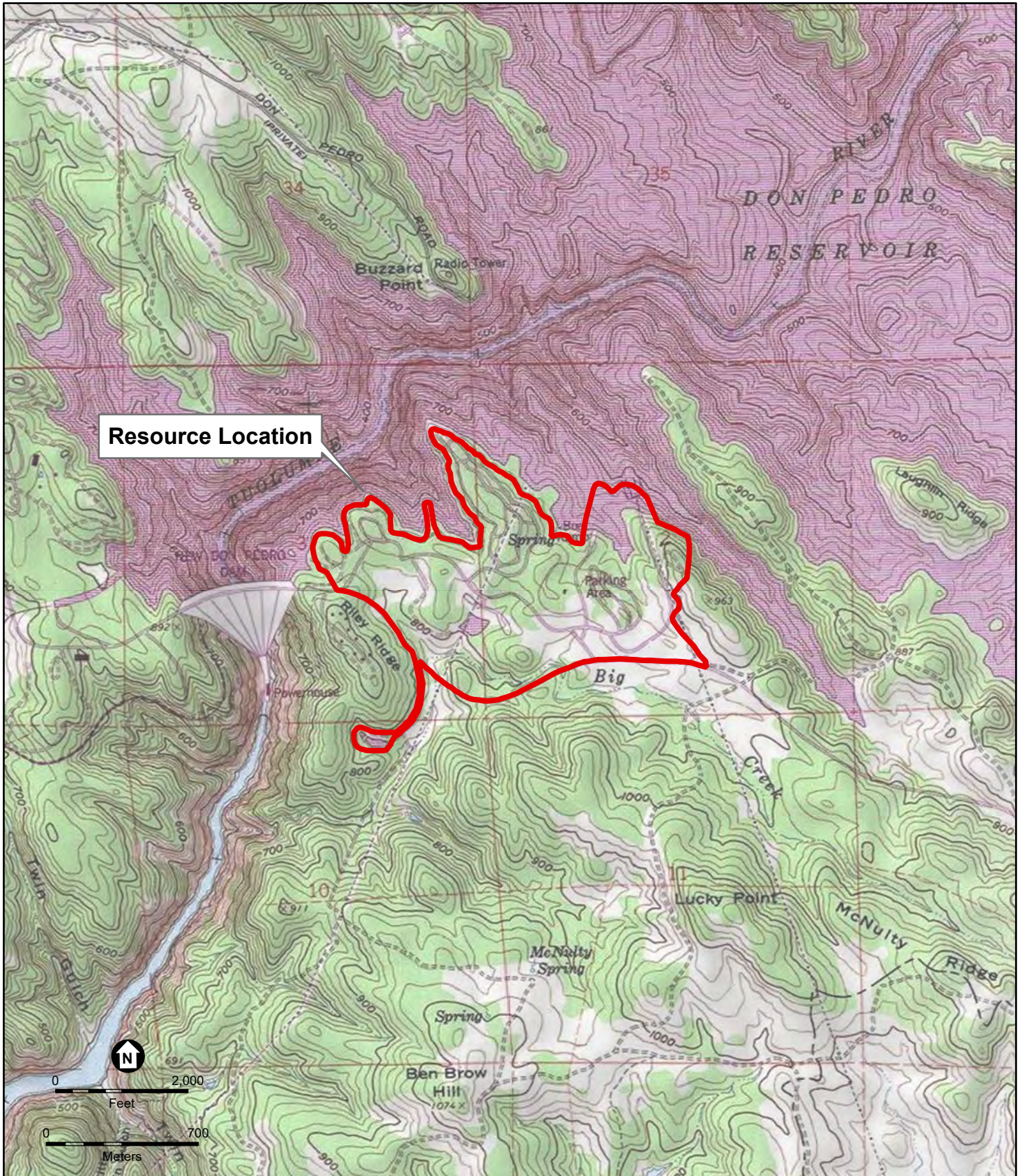
n/a

*B14. Evaluator: Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford, ESA
*Date of Evaluation: December 2023

See continuation sheet.

(This space reserved for official comments.)

LOCATION MAP

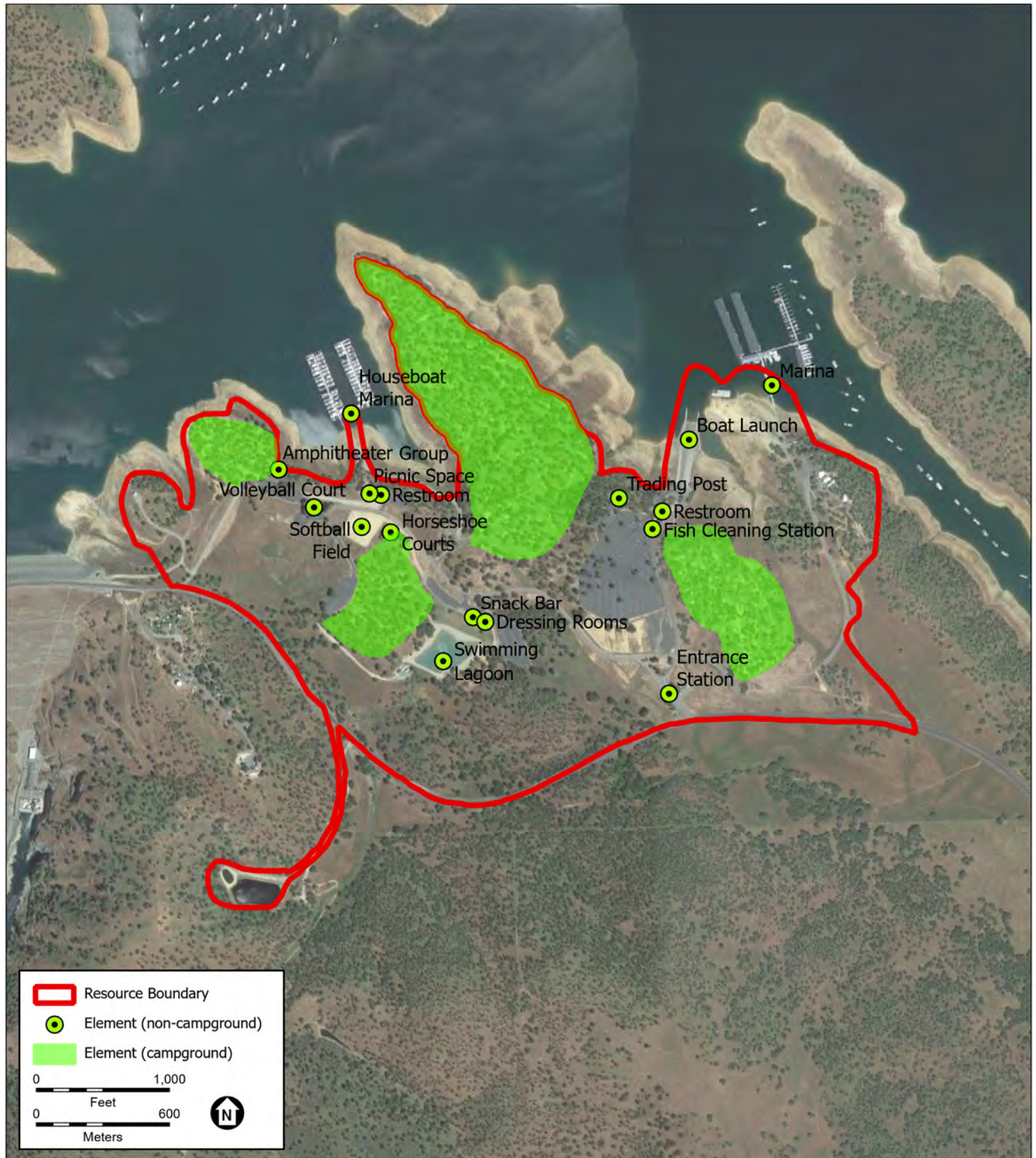


SKETCH MAP

Trinomial:

*Drawn By: Robin Hoffman

*Date: 19 December 2023



***B8. Related Features:**

Elements of the recreation area dating to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period consists of: an entrance station kiosk, trading post, fish cleaning station, restrooms, boat launch, marina, campgrounds, the remnants of an outdoor amphitheater, group picnic areas, outdoor sport spaces, and a swimming lagoon with an associated snack bar and dressing room. These elements are described in detail in **Table 1** and below.

**TABLE 1
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN FLEMING MEADOWS RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Trading Post	Building
Entrance Station	Building
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Restroom	Building
Amphitheater (remnants)	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Camp Site	Site
Picnic Area	Site
Snack Bar	Building
Dressing Room	Building
Swimming Lagoon	Site
Marina	Structure
Horseshoe Courts	Site
Softball Field	Site
Volleyball Court	Site

Trading Post



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 1

Fleming Meadows Trading Post, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows Trading Post is on the north end of the Fleming Meadows boat launch parking lot. Designed in 1971 by Caywood, the building is of wood-frame construction, rectangular in plan, and features stucco cladding.¹ The building is capped by a metal standing seam, side-gable roof with wide, exposed eaves. A wood deck with horizontal beams, a metal railing, and utility pole vertical supports extends around the entire perimeter of the building. The building has a cinderblock foundation, concrete foundations for the support posts, and is clad in concrete brick below the deck. The primary (southwest) façade is at street level and features two bays. The south bay features an offset, glazed, flush metal door and four large, fixed wood-frame windows that wrap around the southeast corner. A recessed bay at the northwest corner features two glazed, flush metal doors. The southwest façade features three bays and includes three fixed, wood-frame windows in the south bay, full-length vertical lights in the central bay, and a glazed, flush metal door and a series of fixed, wood-frame windows in the north bay. The rear (northeast) façade features a full-width deck on a hillside that slopes to the north towards Don Pedro Reservoir. A glazed, flush metal door and a series of fixed, wood-frame windows extend across the entire rear (northeast) façade. The northwest façade is devoid of fenestration and features double-hinged metal doors at the ground level. The footprint of the building and associated deck measures 100.6 feet x 80.5 feet.²

The building's timber framing is supported by redwood utility posts that originally extended above the roofline, which was a common feature of Caywood's building designs throughout all three of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency campgrounds.³ The same decorative feature was repeated in the utility pole supports for the wood deck that wraps around the building's perimeter. In both cases, the poles have been shortened at various stages since 1972. Original light fixtures affixed to support posts at the entrance and deck perimeter have also been replaced during the interim.

¹ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. B-1, Job no. 70-28-528, March 15, 1971.

² Ibid.

³ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. B-1, Job no. 70-28-528, March 15, 1971.

Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 2
Fleming Meadows Entrance Station, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. The entrance station is clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration is fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Fleming Meadows entrance station is oriented southeast-northwest and located off Bonds Flat Road.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 3
Fleming Meadows Fish Cleaning Station, view facing southwest.

The Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds feature fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. Both stations share the same pole-frame construction method utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The stations have a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. Each station features a modern rectangular metal industrial sink. At both the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks stations, the original redwood slat roof has been replaced by corrugated metal sheets at some point after 2015.⁴

⁴ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14a])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 4

Fleming Meadows Restroom (representative).

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design and construction method from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.⁵ The above restroom is located south of the Fleming Meadows boat launch.

⁵ The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 5

Fleming Meadows Boat Launch, view facing north.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Fleming Meadows boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction and includes two piers and has an overall footprint of approximately 100 feet x 506 feet. The boat launch is along the West Bay shoreline and oriented north-south on a shallow peninsula north of the Trading Post and a fish cleaning station.

Amphitheater



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 6
**Fleming Meadows Amphitheater, view facing
northwest.**

An outdoor amphitheater is one of the recreational features on the west end of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Situated within a copse of trees 0.12 miles west of the Fleming Meadows group picnic area, the amphitheater is within an approximately 30 feet x 30 feet clearing that gradually slopes to the north and overlooks Don Pedro Lake and the Fleming Meadows marina. Timber beams are packed into the ground to create four curved rows upon which are irregularly spaced wooden benches and a square, wooden projector platform. A south-facing, whitewashed wood board affixed to two timber posts once functioned as a projector screen. The amphitheater is no longer operational.

Marina



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 7

Fleming Meadows Marina, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area marina is 0.42 miles northeast of the Fleming Meadows entrance station kiosk. The original Fleming Meadows Marina was designed by Neil Patterson & Associates of Modesto, Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer of Turlock, and structural engineer Gordon W. Hart in 1971. The marina was opened to public use following a 1972 dedication ceremony.⁶ A floating walkway connects the north shore of the marina parking lot with a permanent, U-shaped dock. The structure has an overall footprint of approximately 900 feet x 593 feet. Situated upon the dock are four utilitarian buildings that appear to have been constructed during the 1971–1972 construction period. The wood-frame, rectangular plan buildings are clad with T-111 and metal siding and capped with front-gable roofs with exposed eaves and covered by corrugated metal panels. Typical fenestration includes aluminum sliding windows, and the buildings feature similar glazed, flush metal doors. During ESA's pedestrian survey, ESA staff observed that the buildings currently serve multiple functions, and operate as a marina general store and cafe, administrative office, general service building, and boat rental office. Three covered boat parking structures extend from the north end of the dock, and one additional boat parking structure extends from the south end of the dock.

⁶ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008903 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Forever Resorts Marina [HDR-15f-15i])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 8

Fleming Meadows Campsite (representative).

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Blue Oaks, Moccasin Point, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area has three distinct campsite areas— “H” Area includes 90 hookup campsites and “A” and “B” Areas 176 non-hookup and walk-in campsites combined.⁷ The “B” Area, which is located west of the houseboat marina, was converted from day use into campsites around 1981. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

⁷ “Fleming Meadows,” Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/fleming-meadows/>.

Picnic Area



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 9
Fleming Meadows Group Picnic Area, view facing west.

The Fleming Meadows group picnic area is 1.4 miles east of the designated “B” campsite area. A rectangular plan, wood pole-frame structure with a concrete slab foundation overlooks Don Pedro Lake and the nearby houseboat marina. The structure is capped by a low-pitch, gable roof with corrugated metal sheets. The structure has no walls, aside from the south façade, which is enclosed with wooden fencing and has a footprint of approximately 28 feet x 29 feet. Several wood picnic tables and a metal utility shelving unit are situated within the shelter. Additional wood picnic tables, metal grills, and a raised wooden overlook platform surrounds the structure to the north and east. The picnic area is surrounded by mature trees and a restroom and paved parking lot to the east.

Swimming Lagoon



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 10
Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon, view facing south.

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon is a two-acre, irregular-shaped, earthen swimming feature located on the southwest portion of the recreation area. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, the lagoon bottom is primarily lined with sand and beach. An earthen dam at its south end was coated with gunite at some point during the 1990s. Two metal pipes located at the center of the lagoon serve as return flow spray nozzles. The original lagoon bottom and beach shoreline has an approximate footprint of roughly 350 feet x 400 feet. Two buildings—an associated snack bar and dressing room—are 116 feet north of the swimming lagoon shoreline. These buildings are described below.

Snack Bar



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 11

Fleming Meadows Snack Bar, view facing south.

The Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon snack bar is 166 feet north of the swimming lagoon shoreline and approximately 0.30 miles northwest of the Fleming Meadows entrance station kiosk. Constructed in 1971–1972, the concrete brick building is rectangular in plan with a 38 feet x 32 feet footprint and supported by a concrete slab foundation. It is capped by a side-gable roof with exposed redwood roof beams and corrugated metal panels. Redwood utility poles that once supported a flat, redwood slat awning surround the building on the south, east, and west façades. Aluminum-sash, jalousie and sliding windows wrap around the south façade's southeast and southwest corners. The west façade features a flush metal door. The north façade features a louver metal door that is obscured from view by wood fencing. 8

The building's roofing and awning has undergone several modifications. A previous evaluation indicates that the original 1971–1972 cedar shingles were replaced by concrete tile as some point before 2012.⁹ The concrete tiles were then replaced by corrugated metal panels at some point between 2012 and 2023. The building's original redwood slat awning was also removed during this period and only the supporting redwood utility poles and support beams are extant.

⁸ New Don Pedro Reservoir Recreational Facilities Phase III Building Plans, Drawing No. C-4, Job no. 70-28-528, May 15, 1971.

⁹ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008803 (Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar [HDR-15d])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Dressing Room



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 12
**Fleming Meadows Dressing Room, view facing
northeast.**

Directly east of the Fleming Meadows Swimming Lagoon snack bar is an associated dressing room. Like the snack bar, the concrete block building is situated on a concrete slab foundation and has a footprint of approximately 28 feet x 88 feet. The irregular plan building is designed in three parts. The center of the building is comprised of a rectangular men's and women's restroom capped by a side-gabled roof with exposed redwood roof beams and corrugated metal panels. To the east and west, the restroom is flanked by T-shaped shower rooms. The previously open ceilings of the shower rooms have since been capped by flat, corrugated metal roofs.¹⁰ The building is devoid of fenestration. Open men's and women's entrances on the north and south façades are partially obscured by wood fencing privacy screens. An additional flush, metal door is located on the north façade. Redwood support utility poles along the north and south facades that once extended above the dressing room roof now terminate at the roofline.¹¹

¹⁰ Kevin Palmer, P-55-008803 (*Fleming Meadows Recreation Area Snack Bar [HDR-15e]*), California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

¹¹ Ibid.

Sport Fields



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 13

Fleming Meadows Softball Field, view facing south.

Since 1971–1972, portions of the west end of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area have been adapted for outdoor recreational sports. The softball field (pictured above) is the outdoor recreation space that retains the most physical indicators of its original use. Located about 0.15 miles northwest of the swimming lagoon, the softball field is a field of packed earth and sand that measures approximately 250 feet x 230 feet. Utilitarian metal fencing borders the field and a metal batter's box is situated on south end of the field. ESA staff observed chalk outline remnants, indicating that the field was used for recreation as some recent point. Two other spaces have been cleared for recreational use. A former volleyball court with a footprint of approximately 60 feet x 60 feet is 215 feet northwest of the softball field. A space with a footprint of approximately 70 feet x 70 feet that once contained horseshoe courts is 70 feet southeast of the softball field. During ESA's pedestrian survey, ESA staff observed that, while the two sites are extant, neither retained field markers or associated sporting accessories indicating recent use.

***B10. Significance:** (Continued from page 2)

Turlock Irrigation District

For nineteenth century settlers in California's Central Valley, access to water was a major determining factor in their economic and social success. This was particularly true in Stanislaus County where the local economy was fueled by dry farming a technique that relied on natural water rather than irrigation; crops, primarily of grain were planted in the fall, were then watered by the winter rains, and were harvested in the spring. With the decline of wheat in the late 1800s, California farmers began to look for more comprehensive methods of irrigation to diversify crops and provide a more stable water supply for the region's smaller, family-owned farms.¹² For much of the nineteenth century, however, collectives of small farmers eager to initiate

¹² "TID History," Turlock Irrigation District, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.tid.org/about-tid/tid-history/>.

local irrigation programs were often stymied by California water laws that largely upheld a system of riparian water rights distribution that benefited large landowners.¹³

The widespread development of irrigation in California was accelerated by the passage of the 1887 Wright Act. The act, which was drafted and proposed by Modesto attorney and assemblyman C.C. Wright, enabled local communities to establish publicly controlled irrigation districts empowered with the legal authority to reclaim land and water previously monopolized by large riparian landowners.¹⁴ According to the California Department of Transportation, the provisions of the new law defined irrigation districts as “public corporations, empowered to issue bonds and condemn property, to levy and collect taxes,...maintain and operate irrigation works...[and] condemn in order to gain access to waterways that might otherwise be blocked by riparian owners.”¹⁵ The impact of the act on Central Valley water rights was sweeping. Between 1887 and 1896, 49 irrigation districts were established, most of which were clustered between Stockton and Bakersfield. By the late 1920s, that number had shrunk to seven districts, including the Modesto, Tulare, and Turlock irrigation districts.¹⁶

TID was the first irrigation district formed in California after the passage of the Wright Act. Established on June 6, 1887, TID quickly began to develop the infrastructure—namely canal systems, diversion pumps, and pump houses—needed to irrigate the local agricultural landscape with water from the Merced, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin rivers. The district's initial irrigation system would later be expanded with the aqueduct systems built by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.¹⁷ In order to ensure stable, year-round crop irrigation for agriculture along the Tuolumne River, TID combined its efforts with the state's second irrigation district, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID, established in July 1887), to construct the La Grange Dam in 1893. In the following years, the region's water supply was further augmented by MID's Modesto Reservoir (1911) and TID's Davis Reservoir (1914).¹⁸

Despite its expanding irrigation infrastructure, the Central Valley struggled to store adequate water reserves to combat the region's prolonged dry periods. To increase water storage capacity and as a flood prevention measure, TID selected a site known as “Don Pedro's Bar,” located several miles upstream of the La Grange Dam, for a future storage reservoir. Construction of what would become the original Don Pedro Dam and powerhouse began in 1921. When it was dedicated in 1923, the original Don Pedro Dam was the highest dam in the world, measuring a height of 283 feet.¹⁹ In June 1966, TID entered into an agreement with the County and City of San Francisco (CCSF) to initiate the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir. When construction was completed in May 1970, the New Don Pedro Dam rose 580 feet from the Tuolumne riverbed, was 2,800 feet thick at its base, and created a reservoir with a capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet of water.²⁰ In November 1970, the dam's 12 ports were opened to transfer water storage to the new reservoir and subsequently submerged the original Don Pedro Dam structure. In time, the Don Pedro powerplant operated four generators capable of producing enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power approximately 37,000 households.²¹

Don Pedro Recreation Agency

Plans for associated recreational facilities were underway well before the New Don Pedro Dam was completed. When construction of the Don Pedro Project commenced in 1967, TID and MID anticipated that recreation demands for what would become California's fifth largest reservoir would be substantial considering that approximately 600,000 people lived within 50

¹³ Sydney T. Harding, *Water in California* (Palo Alto, CA: N-P Publications, 1960), 37.

¹⁴ California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems In California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures*, 2020, 14.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Environmental Science Associates, *Turlock Lake Rehabilitation Project, Stanislaus County, California, Cultural Resource Inventory Report*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, June 2022, 11.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ “TID History.”

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

miles of the future lake.²² The districts anticipated that the reservoir—which would boast a surface area of 13,000 acres and a 160-mile shoreline—could draw as many as 400,000 visitors each year.²³

The regional demand for recreation was also apparent to Federal and State agencies. While TID and MID were initially reluctant to add recreation tourism to their management operations, Tuolumne County persuasively lobbied for the need for camping and boating facilities at the future reservoir during a series of Don Pedro Project Federal Power Commission (FPC) hearings in 1962. Swayed by the county, the FPC included a recreational development requirement in the requisite Project license. Per the FPC licensing requirement, all land and water that fell within the Don Pedro Project was to be made available for public recreational use.²⁴

With the assistance of a \$7 million grant from the California Water Commission in 1965, the districts established the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) in 1967, a coalition of representatives of the MID, TID, and CCSF to oversee the development and establishment of a network of recreational facilities.²⁵ In 1969, general manager of utilities for San Francisco and former Undersecretary of the Interior for the Kennedy Administration, James K. Carr, led an intra-agency field trip to the New Don Pedro Dam to convey the site's recreational potential to representatives of the TID, MID, National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).²⁶ While the outing failed to secure the commitment of a federal agency to oversee the operations of any future recreation site, it energized immediate local efforts to proceed with plans for recreational development.²⁷ With an additional \$8.6 million in state funds awarded in 1969, and the hiring of former USFS Northeastern Regional Director, George S. James, as Director of the DPRA in 1970, the districts began developing the recreation plan for the Don Pedro Project in earnest.²⁸

The DPRA recreation plan included a total of three recreation areas-- Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds-- that shared a cohesive overall design. Redding-based firm Clair A. Hill & Associates won the DPRA facility design and construction contract. Hill then partnered with the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward (hereafter Caywood) to design the landscape, structures, and recreational buildings for the three sites. The team first focused its energy on the construction of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Hill developed the engineering design for the campground site, roads, and boating ramps. Preliminary archival research does not conclusively indicate whether the facilities were constructed by Hill or an unnamed contractor. Caywood developed the design for the campground entrances, fish cleaning stations, restrooms, group picnic shelters, and concession buildings at Fleming Meadows. Initial designs also included a 16-sided building at the south end of Don Pedro Reservoir that was to serve as the DPRA headquarters.²⁹ Caywood's design utilized a pole-frame construction method that incorporated telephone pole frames, rough-sawn wood beam roofs, and masonry block construction walls for the buildings throughout the site. The landscaping plan employed underground utilities so as to not distract visitors from the natural environment.³⁰ This design, which aimed to integrate the built environment with the surround topography, was adopted at the subsequent recreation areas.³¹ The marina at Fleming Meadows was designed by the Modesto firm Neil Patterson & Associates, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Turlock-based Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer in 1971.³²

The 1971-1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas.. Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is the largest facility and located on the southeast side of Don Pedro Reservoir. Its original features included 212 camping units, 87 of which included utility hookups for trailers, individual and group picnic areas, fish cleaning stations, a trading post, seven-

²² "Don Pedro About To Make Itself Felt," *Oakdale Leader*, March 15, 1972, 19.

²³ Dwight H. Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley: The First 100 years (1887-1987) of the Modesto Irrigation District*, prepared for Modesto Irrigation District, 1987, accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.mid.org/about/history/grmng_of_pvy.pdf.

²⁴ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-37.

²⁵ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

²⁶ "US Officials Will Probe Dam Recreation Potential," *The Modesto Bee*, September 7, 1969.

²⁷ "Thiel: County Should Operate Don Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, January 21, 1970, 53.

²⁸ "Tuolumne Is Urged To Develop Plan For Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, February 26, 1971, 38.

²⁹ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-39. Hereafter, *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*.

³⁰ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

³¹ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-39.

³² *Ibid*.

lane boat launch, and marina.³³ The complex also included an outdoor “movie screen,” as well as a two-acre swimming lagoon with an associate snack bar and dressing room.³⁴ The second development was the Blue Oak Recreation Area, which is situated on the southwest side of the reservoir. Its original features included 183 tent spaces, fish cleaning stations, a group picnic area, and a boat launch. The third development, Moccasin Point Recreation Area, is on a northeast portion of the reservoir situated approximately 18 miles north of the Don Pedro Dam. Its original features included a 75-site campground and picnic area and a two-lane boat launch, as well as a marina.³⁵ All three recreation areas opened to the public following a May 6, 1972, dedication ceremony.³⁶

Each site has undergone various site modifications since their initial construction between 1971 and 1972. Originally designed for day use, the Fleming Meadows recreation area “B” was converted into campsites around 1981. At all three sites, original shake roofs on recreation buildings were gradually replaced first by tile roofing, then by steel roofing. Similarly, original wood picnic tables were replaced by concrete picnic tables, concrete foot lockers were added to campsites, and some original grill stands were replaced by inset fire rings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), restrooms, group picnic areas, shower restrooms, and ramps were modified or reconfigured at various points throughout the 1990s. The marina at Moccasin Point Recreation Area was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt that same year.³⁷ The original DPRA Headquarters and Visitors Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road was destroyed by fire in 2016.³⁸ All three sites and their facilities are maintained and managed by the DPRA.

Clair A. Hill & Associates, Engineering Consultants

Clair A. Hill & Associates was a Redding-based engineering firm that oversaw the facility design and construction of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency facilities. The firm’s founder, Clair A. Hill, was born in Redding, California, in 1909. Hill received education in forestry at Oregon State University and earned a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1934.³⁹ In 1938, Hill founded the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates in his hometown of Redding.⁴⁰ The firm specialized in survey, photogrammetry, and engineering water projects pertaining to reservoirs, dams, and fish hatcheries throughout northern California. Before winning the DPRA contract, Clair A. Hill & Associates had overseen water resources work for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Sacramento Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the Bonneville Power Administration.⁴¹ In 1971, the company merged with a competing engineering firm, CH2M, to form the global engineering consulting firm CH2M-Hill, Inc.⁴²

For its contribution to California infrastructure and water development after World War II, Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered an engineering firm of merit. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered an individual important for his contributions to water resource development in California.

Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners

Sacramento firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners designed the landscaping, structures, and recreational buildings for the 1971-1972 DPRA construction project. Grant D. Caywood and Jack D. Nopp established the firm in 1963 and early designs included the Sacramento Medical Clinic (1964), the Sacramento Town & Country Lutheran Church (1968) and Rio Vista High School (1966).⁴³ Grant Caywood had earned a degree in Architectural Engineering from

³³ “Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up,” *The Modesto Bee*, March 7, 1971, 10.

³⁴ “Don Pedro Prepares For Recreation Rush,” *The Modesto Bee*, November 28, 1971, 14.

³⁵ “Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up.”

³⁶ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II*, 3-42.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 3-46.

³⁸ “Don Pedro visitors center is planned,” *The Modesto Bee*, August 18, 2016, 1A.

³⁹ “Memorial Tribute: Mr. Clair A. Hill,” National Academy of Engineering, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.nae.edu/19579/19581/20412/29891/Mr-Clair-A-Hill>.

⁴⁰ “Clair A. Hill,” Water Education Foundation, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/clair-hill>.

⁴¹ “Clair A. Hill & Associates,” CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ “Caywood, Grant Dodd,” AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

Iowa State University in 1940⁴⁴ and Jack Dee Nopp earned a degree in Architecture from the University of Oregon in 1954.⁴⁵ Partners of the firm had worked on various California recreational and civic-related projects throughout their respective careers. Nopp served as the principal architect for the Oroville Dam Reservoir's Lime Saddle Park (1968).⁴⁶ Roderic Charles Ward designed the El Dorado County Administration buildings for South Lake Tahoe and Placerville (n.d.).⁴⁷ The firm had previously collaborated with Clair A. Hill & Associates on the design for the Sacramento Municipal Airport Master Plan in 1968.⁴⁸ While the Caywood firm oversaw the design of buildings and complexes throughout Northern California, preliminary archival review does not indicate that it was an architectural design firm of particular merit.

Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945-1975

The development of DPRA property for recreational use reflects the rising enthusiasm for outdoor recreation in the United States after World War II. The end of the conflict ushered in an unprecedented and prolonged period of prosperity for American military veterans and civilians alike. Wartime mobilization had initiated a period of economic vitality that persisted into the immediate postwar period. Empowered by the G.I. Bill, many veterans received a college education and became first-time homeowners. Civilians who gained highly sought-after skills on the Home Front continued to enjoy rising wages, job security, and paid vacation time. Overall, the nation's workforce was uniquely positioned with the time and discretionary income to enjoy outdoor recreation.⁴⁹ As a result, visits to state and national parks skyrocketed as more and more Americans adopted outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. To demonstrate this trend, one 1959 study reported an estimated 34 million American families had spent \$42 billion on various forms of recreation.⁵⁰ As outdoor enthusiasts fostered a personal relationship with the natural environment, many also became invested in a growing conservation movement to preserve that environment for future generations.⁵¹

The unprecedented embrace of "leisure" as an activity that could be enjoyed by most people during the postwar period prompted ongoing debates about the extent to which the federal government was obligated to support recreational activities for its citizenry. For much of the early twentieth century, social scientists had touted recreational activity as an effective tool to revive individuals and, in turn, make that individual a more effective and efficient worker. By that logic, some social scientists reasoned, recreational self-improvement and relaxation was both important for individual well-being and vital to the overall health of the body politic.⁵² In 1958, the federal government established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) to determine the current and future recreation needs of American communities across the country. In 1962, the Commission presented its findings in an extensive report entitled *Outdoor Recreation in America*, which predicted an increased demand for passive and active recreation facilities through the year 2000. The report noted a particularly urgent need for open spaces for camping, hiking, and nature observation, as well as recreational facilities related to water sports, boating, and fishing.⁵³ According to ORRRC Chairman Laurence Rockefeller, providing avenues of organized leisure would alleviate the dreaded "Sunday frustration" of American workers and broadly improved the wellbeing of American society at

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ "Nopp, Jack D(ee)" AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_N.pdf.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ "Obituary: Roderic Charles Ward," accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.pricefuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderic-Ward>.

⁴⁸ "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

⁴⁹ Clayne R. Jensen, *Outdoor Recreation in America* (Minneapolis: Burgess Publication Co, 1985), 33-35.

⁵⁰ Robert Coughlin, "A \$40 Billion Bill Just for Fun" in "The Good Life," *Life*, no. 47 (December 28, 1959), 69, quoted in Foster Rhea Dulles, *A History of Recreation: American Learns to Play* (New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1965), 398.

⁵¹ Jan E. Dizard, *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Amherst and Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), 42.

⁵² Dulles, 398.

⁵³ Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, "ORRRC Study Report 19: National Recreation Survey," Washington, D.C.: Washington Printing Office, 1962), pp. 1-397.

large.⁵⁴ In 1963, the Department of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the express mission to support state, local, and private organizations with outdoor recreation planning and facility development.⁵⁵

True to the federal government's predictions, demands for public recreational facilities grew apace with America's enthusiasm for the outdoors during the 1970s. A 1976 survey of American leisure behavior reported that over 51 million Americans reported camping that year, 22 million went hunting, 35.2 million participated in boating, and an astonishing 65 million Americans went fishing.⁵⁶ Reservoirs—with their ease of access for visitors, proximity to interstate highways and densely populated areas—were particularly popular sites for camping and water-related activities.⁵⁷

The DPRA facilities reflected California's burgeoning enthusiasm for utilizing reservoirs for recreational boating and camping after World War II.⁵⁸ An early iteration of this practice emerged out of the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project, which developed recreational facilities at Folsom Lake on the American River in 1956 which would eventually be operated and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.⁵⁹ The fishing, boating, and houseboat recreation facilities at Lake Oroville on the Feather River were products of the California State Water Project of the 1950s and 1960s.⁶⁰ The development of recreation facilities at New Melones Lake in 1978 further solidified that Californians were developing a deep and abiding enthusiasm for outdoor and water-recreation.⁶¹ Within this context, the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point campgrounds, with their associated picnic, swimming, fishing, and boating amenities, are typical examples of the recreational facilities developed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s and reflect the complementary relationship between outdoor recreation and water development during the postwar period.⁶²

Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction

Rustic Vernacular Style

The aesthetic sensibilities of the style were logical progressions of an intentional design ethic cultivated by the NPS since its inception in 1916. Informed by the innovations of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, Henry Hubbard, and other influential landscape architects, the designs of the nation's first national parks sought to harmonize the built environment with unvarnished beauty of the natural environment. In turn, park design and preservation standards came to adopt "naturalistic practices in construction, often described as 'rustic,' called for native materials of timber and rock and methods of pioneer craftsmen and woodsmen."⁶³ Early examples of the successful execution of this new "rustic" design program was the ambitious Yosemite Village project, which resulted in the construction of a Administration Building (1924), a Post Office (c.1925), and Yosemite Museum (1926).⁶⁴ Over the next several decades, "rustic, vernacular architecture" came to be used to describe simplified buildings constructed from natural, native materials that integrated with their surroundings in material, proportion, overall feeling.⁶⁵

One NPS publication defined rustic architecture as:

⁵⁴ Laurence S. Rockefeller, "Leisure—the New Challenge," *Vital Speeches*, no. 27 (December 1, 1960), 3, quoted in Dulles, 390.

⁵⁵ The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was later absorbed into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1978-1981), until the responsibilities for outdoor recreation was permanently transferred to the National Park Service. Carlson et al, 130-32.

⁵⁶ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, Janet MacLean, and James A. Peterson, *Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1979), 62-63.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁵⁸ "Recreation Change Is Ahead," *The Modesto Bee*, January 29, 1971, 54.

⁵⁹ "Plans For Folsom Road Is Backed By Supervisor," *The Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1956, 43.

⁶⁰ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-46.

⁶¹ "Districts eye U.S. Don Pedro takeover," *The Modesto Bee*, June 27, 1978, 20.

⁶² M.F. Brewer, "Incorporating Recreational Values into Benefit-Cost Analysis," *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (Western Farm Economics Association* 35 (August 6,7,8, 1962), 23.

⁶³ Linda Flint McClelland, *NRHP Nomination Form: Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks*, 1995, 1.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁶⁵ Steve McNeil, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., and USDA Forest Service, "Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreational Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959," prepared for the USDA Forest Service, May 30, 2003, 59.

"Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."⁶⁶

National Register Bulletin 31 defines "vernacular architecture" as:

"...this type can be idiosyncratic amalgams of building traditions and styles, strongly reflecting the personality of the builder, or they may represent the more potent cultural dynamic of time and place. A key feature of vernacular buildings is their affinity for and adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Architectural "style" is insignificant in comparison to the form of the building, its construction materials, and the layout of the rooms."⁶⁷

With its embrace of the ideals of the Back-to-Nature and Conservation Movements - namely that people and their buildings had distinct, discreet relationships with their natural environment - the rustic vernacular style became an organic framework for the construction of recreational residences, buildings, and structures.⁶⁸ For a more extensive examination of rustic architecture in national parks, please consult *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (1986), pages 1-21.⁶⁹

By the mid twentieth century, the emerging architectural tradition of national parks embraced built environments that "responded to their sites" by integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.⁷⁰ While recreational and residential buildings often integrated features from multiple architectural styles, they nevertheless tended to reflect a cohesive populist philosophy. Character-defining features of the Rustic Vernacular Style included:

- Buildings constructed with native, natural materials particularly stone, log, and wood.
- Embrace of natural colors that blended with the environment.
- Functional architectural elements were selected for their utility and their ability to integrate with the terrain or topography.
- Overall building design was intended to be viewed from all sides.
- Buildings avoided vertical emphasis and embraced proportions that fit the site and its surroundings.
- Buildings occasionally incorporate historical or local cultural details.
- Groupe of buildings generally shared a central architectural theme to create continuity throughout a park or district.⁷¹

Pole Frame Construction Methods

A major component of DPRA architecture is the utilization of pole-frame construction. The pole building system—embedding widely spaces round or square poles into the ground as the primary means of support for a roof and floor—has been used as a cost- and labor-efficient alternative to conventional building methods along steep hills, on rocky soil, or in flood- and earthquake-prone regions for centuries.⁷² The construction method was first introduced to the West Coast during the 1950s as a cost-saving method endorsed by the Federal Housing Administration to develop otherwise prohibitively expensive land parcels. Early projects—such as the 1953 Marx Hyatt residence in Atherton, California—were residential buildings constructed

⁶⁶ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 93.

⁶⁷ Barbara Wyatt, ed., "Draft National Register Bulletin 31: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, Washington, D.C., 1987. Quoted in McNeil et al, 59.

⁶⁸ McNeil et al, 60.

⁶⁹ Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (National Park Service: Department of the Interior, November, 1986), 1-21.

⁷⁰ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 3.

⁷¹ Ibid., 61-62.

⁷² Doug Merrilees, Evelyn V. Loveday, and Ralph Wolfe, *Low-Cost Pole Building Construction* (Charlotte, Vermont: Garden Way Publishing, 1980), 1-11.

along steep hillsides.⁷³ The economy, framing flexibility, and simplified foundation system made pole building particularly suited to outbuildings and ancillary structures such as barns, utility buildings, and garages.⁷⁴ By the early 1970s, federal agencies such as the FHA and the U.S. Forest Service had recognized that the method held promise for other building types for its “permanence, economy, ease of construction, aesthetics...marginal land utilization, and amelioration of fire hazard.”⁷⁵ The utility of this construction method in a hillside setting is demonstrated by the Fleming Meadows Trading Post and the former DPRA headquarters building (which burned down in 2016).⁷⁶

Bay Regional Style

The functionality of pole-frame construction and the features of the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a natural synergy with California’s modern vernacular architecture, particularly the Bay Regional Style. Developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and refined by Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and William Wurster, the Bay Regional Style articulated a rising concern regarding the natural environment.⁷⁷ The vernacular architectural style emerged during the 1880s and retained popularity among California architects into the 1970s. The periodization of the style has been divided into a First, Second, and Third tradition, each emphasizing some variation of a consistently informal and natural design approach. Indelibly attuned to the interplay between modern design’s embrace of elements such as clean, unaffected lines and large windows and the natural materials of California’s vernacular domestic architecture, its practitioners constructed spaces that invited the outside in and invited an unimpeded view of the natural surroundings.⁷⁸

While the Bay Regional Style and the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a similar aesthetic vocabulary, and evidence suggests that architects like Bernard Maybeck influenced the rustic architecture at a number of national parks, the influence of the Bay Regional Style on the built environment within the DPRA is less overt.⁷⁹ The Third Bay Tradition, which took place during the 1960s and 1970s, is perhaps best represented by Sonoma County’s Sea Ranch complex (1964-65) designed by architect Charles Moore and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.⁸⁰ The complex’s use of rough sawn redwood and wood pole-frame construction to integrate with the natural landscape is echoed in the DPRA campgrounds.⁸¹

Evaluation

The DPRA is made up of the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA. As described above, the recreation area at Don Pedro Reservoir was one of many established in California in the late-20th century and has undergone building renovations to contributing buildings during its period of use.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

Archival research indicates that while the DPRA Recreation Areas reflect post-war recreation development in Tuolumne County as well as the 1960s–1970s era of recreational development at California reservoirs, it does not appear to possess any unique significance for this association. As described in the context discussion above, following World War II, local, State, and federal agencies responded to increasing demands for outdoor recreation facilities by adapting reservoir land and shorelines

⁷³ Lt. R.W. Ard, Jr., “Pole Buildings,” *Coast Guard Engineer’s Digest* (Oct-Dec., 1974), 64-68.

⁷⁴ Leigh W. Seddon, *Practical Pole Building Construction* (Nashville, Tennessee: Williamson Books, 1985), 11.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 68.

⁷⁶ “Don Pedro recreation area visitors center burns down,” *The Modesto Bee*, May 27, 2016, A3.

⁷⁷ GEI Consultants, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, prepared for the City of Sacramento, September 30, 2017, 3-3, 3-4.

⁷⁸ Planning Resource Associates, Inc., *Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, prepared for the City of Fresno, September 2008, 55.

⁷⁹ Tweed et al, 4.

⁸⁰ California Department of Transportation, *Tract Housing in California, 1945-1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation*, Sacramento, California, 2011, 92-93.

⁸¹ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-40.

for public recreational use. From the 1950s to the 1970s, California saw the development of several major water development projects which, in turn, produced reservoirs with associated lakes and shorelines that were appealing to boating, fishing, and camping enthusiasts alike. In 1956, the DPR established the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and initiated a trend of transforming impounded dam waters into vibrant, public recreation facilities. During the 1950s and 1960s, California's investment in water development projects such as the State Water Project created new reservoirs ideal for outdoor recreation, such as Lake Oroville (1950s–1960s) and New Melones Lake (1978). The DPRA's recreational facilities built between 1971 and 1972 are typical later examples of California's embrace of reservoir recreation during this period.

For an association with historic events and patterns to be historically significant, National Register Bulletin 15 states that "a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context." Within the context of post-World War II recreational development in California, the DPRA Recreation Areas are associated with recreational use of reservoirs, but this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within the historic context. It was one of many recreation areas constructed with reservoirs throughout California during the latter half of the 20th century. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible due to their association with significant events under Criterion A/1, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Preliminary archival research failed to identify any significant associations between the resources and lives of people significant in the past. The development of the DPRA and the subsequent development and operation of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas were the results of a collaboration between the TID, MID and CCSF. However, archival research did not indicate any specific individual of significance within these organizations having attained prominence through their association with the DPRA or any associated recreation area. Additionally, while Tuolumne County's collective lobbying efforts were instrumental in the development of the DPRA, archival research did not indicate any specific individual as having attained prominence through these efforts nor through any specific association with any individual recreation area. For these reasons, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion B/2, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The 1971–1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds. Each recreation area shared a cohesive overall design. The plan was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates and designed by the architectural and planning firm Caywood. Throughout the three recreation areas, Caywood utilized a pole-style construction method that utilizes pressure treated telephone poles set in concrete footings. The style was a cost-saving construction method promoted by the FHA in the 1960s that was touted for its economy and simplicity of design. The style shared several key aesthetic sensibilities of the Bay Regional Style, most notably its embrace of local, natural materials and its ability to blend into the surrounding topography so as not to impede upon the existing landscape.

For an association with design/construction as an example of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, National Register Bulletin 15 states that a property must be "an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history." While a previous analysis recommended the DPRA Recreation Areas eligible under National Register Criterion C as an example of pole-style construction, the extant associated structures reflect minimal characteristics of their original pole-style construction and design elements and have undergone significant modifications since their earlier 2012–2015 evaluation. For instance, the Trading Post building originally had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure which were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. The removal has influenced the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, the shingle roof at the Trading Post and shingle roofs throughout the DPRA Recreation Areas have been replaced since 2015 with corrugated sheet metal roofs, which further impact the integrity of the site against its original design. Between this site-wide modification of design, and the loss of the DPRA Visitor Center (a major contributor to a unified pole-style aesthetic) in 2016, the DPRA Recreation Areas no longer reflect their original pole-style construction style with Bay Region Tradition influence.

Somewhat noteworthy is the fact that the construction of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates, which was known for its work on water resource projects throughout California, namely reservoir, irrigation, and fisheries development. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered a person important to water resource development in the state of California. As the founder of Clair A. Hill & Associates and the cofounder of CH2M-Hill, Hill oversaw several substantive water resource projects throughout California, such as the Lake Tahoe Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. During his 32-year tenure on the California Water Commission, Hill was a primary author of the California Water Commission Plan and served as the Commission's chairman for

18 years. In 1992, Hill was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and was also a recipient of the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award.

To be eligible, however, per National Register Bulletin 15, a property must “express a particular phase in the development of the master’s career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect.” While Clair A. Hill & Associates is an internationally recognized engineering firm, the buildings and structures within the DPRA were designed by the Caywood architectural and planning group. Archival review did not indicate that Caywood should be considered an architectural firm of merit. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be important or representative examples of Clair A. Hill & Associates’ water resource development legacy. Similarly, while Clair A. Hill was an internationally renowned engineer, the DPRA Recreation Areas are not representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design or a reflection of Hill’s individual contribution to water resource development in California more broadly.

The loss of the unifying pole-style aesthetic, as well as the of the Visitor Center in 2016, has resulted in the DPRA’s inability to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction. Additionally, the DPRA does not represent a professional highlight of Clair A. Hill’s body of work. Therefore, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion C/3, nor eligible as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

While most often applied to archaeological districts and sites, Criterion D/4 can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects that contain important information. For these types of properties to be eligible under Criterion D/4, they themselves must be, or must have been, the principal source of the important information, and the information must be considered important. The DPRA Recreation Areas are constructed of standard materials (wood and concrete) and with standard methodologies. It does not appear to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, or other information that is not already known. As such, they do not appear eligible for listing under Criterion D/4 as either individual resources or as a historic district.

Integrity

In addition to being eligible for listing under at least one of the four California Register or National Register criteria, a property must also retain sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance. There are seven aspects to consider when evaluating the integrity of a property: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register or National Register, nor as a historic district; a further assessment of integrity is not presented.

Conclusions

Based on a site survey, archival research, and the analysis presented in this memo, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as neither eligible for individual listing, nor eligible as a historic district, in the California Register or National Register under any criteria. As such, the three recreation areas and their associated elements would not be considered historical resources under CEQA. No further analysis is required.

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PRIMARY RECORD

Page 1 of 23

*Resource Name or #: Blue Oaks Recreation Area

P1. Other Identifier: Formerly known as Mexican Gulch Campground

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Tuolumne

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad La Grange, CA Date 2021 T 3S ; R 14E; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; B.M.

c. Address 10200 Bonds Flat Road City La Grange Zip 95329

d. UTM: Zone , mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data: Located on Bonds Flat Road, due west of the Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir.

***P3a. Description:**

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA), a department of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Blue Oaks Recreation Area is located on the West Bay shoreline of Don Pedro Reservoir and west of the Don Pedro Dam.¹ The recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period and are described in detail below. As of 2023, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area features an entrance station kiosk, a boat launch, group picnic area, public restrooms, a fish cleaning station, 34 partial hookup campsites, and 161 tent campsites.² For descriptions of repetitive elements of the Moccasin Point Recreation Area, such as the entrance station kiosk, restroom, fish cleaning station, campsite, and boat launch, see the record for the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP39. Other-Campground and Recreation Area

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

View from Blue Oaks group picnic shelter, facing north. ESA, 2023.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:**

Historic Prehistoric Both
1971-1972. *The Modesto Bee*.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381

Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95351

P8. Recorded by:

Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford / ESA
2600 Capitol Ave Ste 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

***P9. Date Recorded:** October 11, 2023

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Cleveland, Kathy, and Amy Langford. *Don Pedro Recreation Agency, Tuolumne County, California: Historic Resource Evaluation Report*. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Turlock Irrigation District. December. 2023.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

¹ Kevin Palmer, P-55-8908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14]), California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

² "Blue Oaks," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/blue-oaks/>.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or # Blue Oaks Recreation Area *NRHP Status Code 6z
Page 2 of 23

- B1. Historic Name: Blue Oaks Recreation Area
B2. Common Name: Blue Oaks Recreation Area
B3. Original Use: Recreation Area B4. Present Use: Recreation Area
*B5. Architectural Style: pole-style
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
1972-1973 original construction

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:
See continuation sheet.

B9a. Architect: Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward b. Builder:

*B10. Significance: Theme recreation Area Tuolumne County
Period of Significance 1972-1973 Property Type recreation area Applicable Criteria n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

See continuation sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

*B12. References:

See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

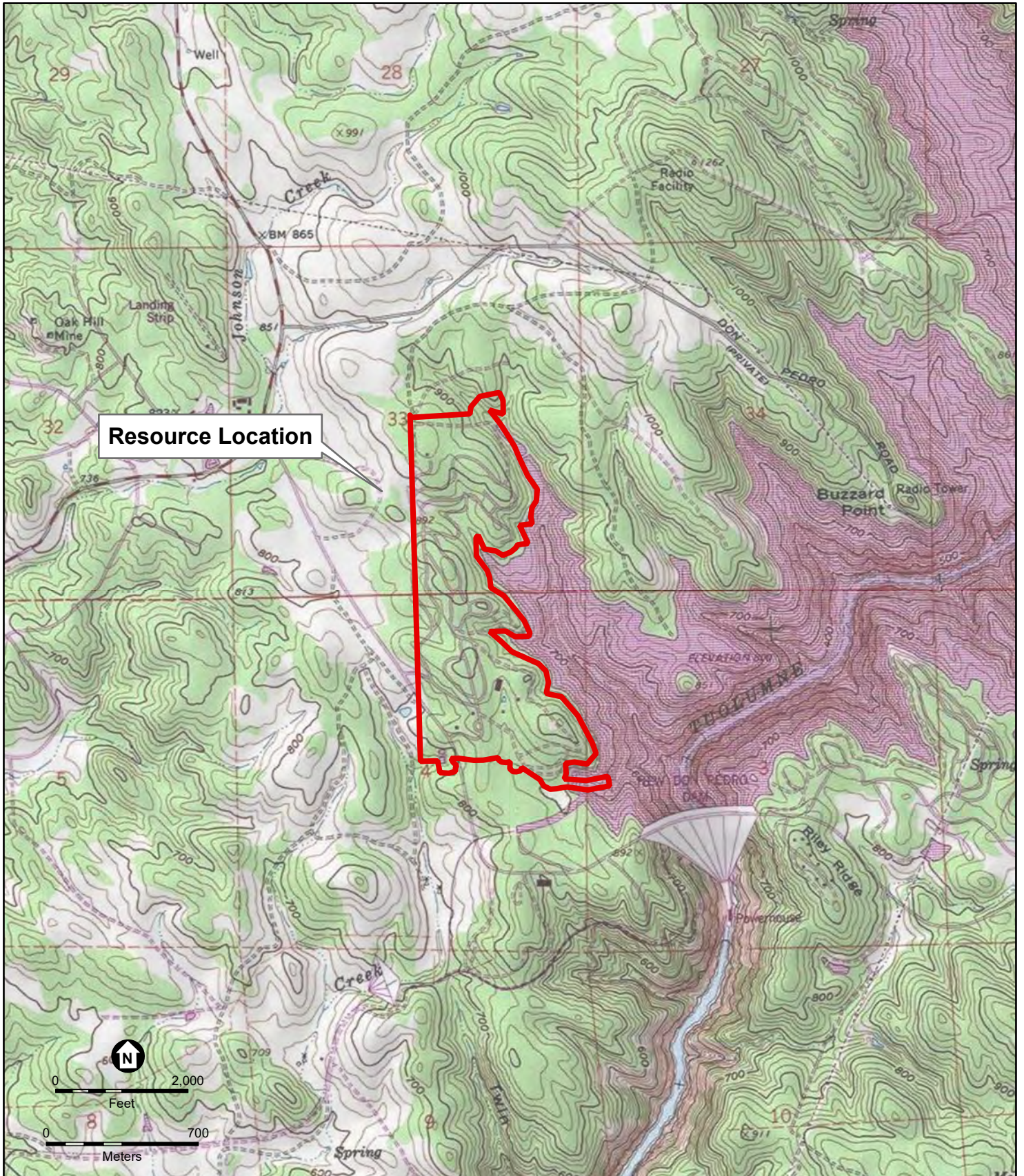
n/a

*B14. Evaluator: Kathy Cleveland and Amy Langford, ESA
*Date of Evaluation: December 2023

See continuation sheet.

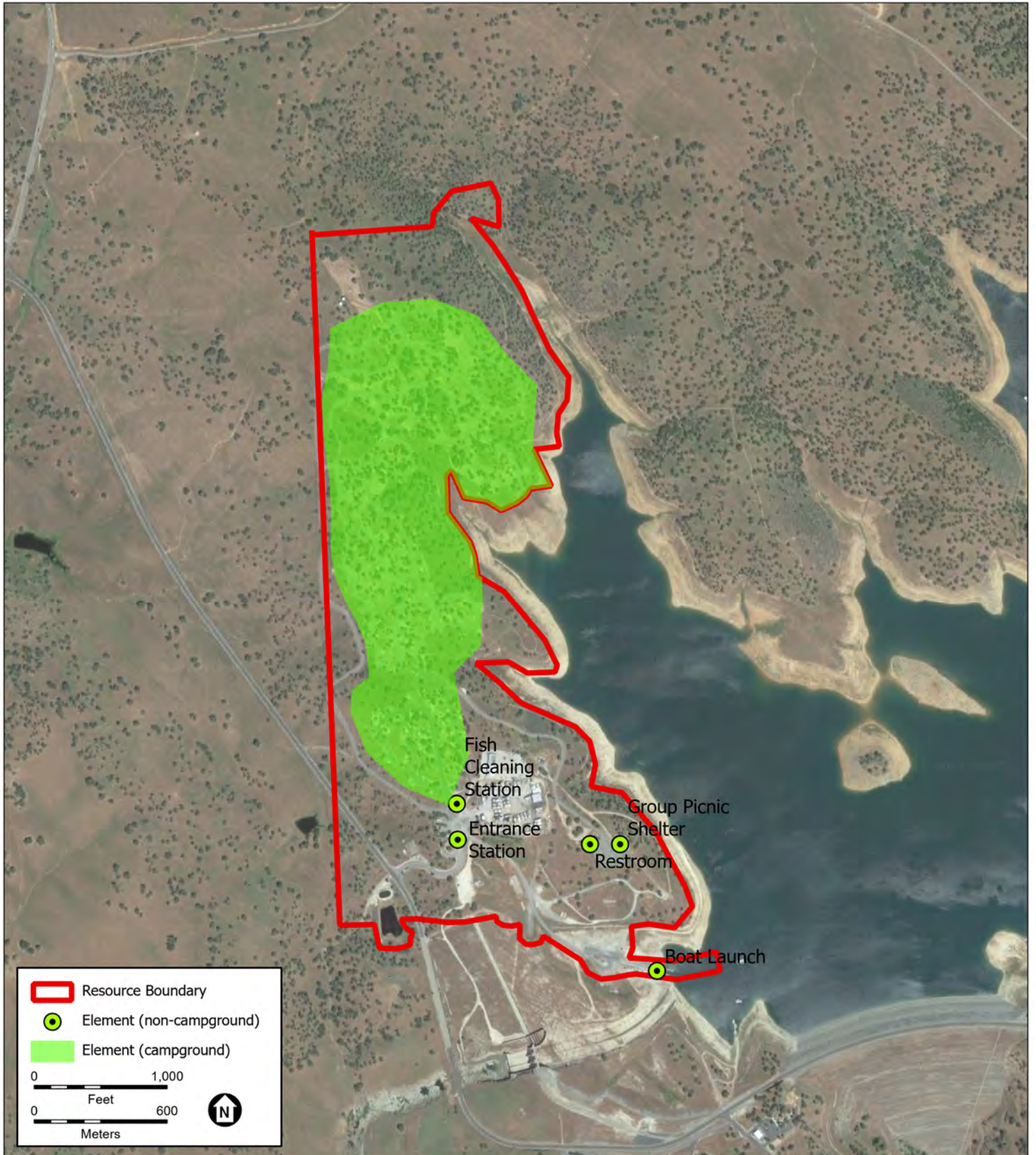
(This space reserved for official comments.)

LOCATION MAP



SKETCH MAP

Trinomial:



CONTINUATION SHEET

Trinomial

Page 5 of 23

*Resource Name or # Blue Oaks Recreation Area

*Recorded by: **Kathy Cleveland and Dr Amy Langford, ESA** *Date: **December 2023**

Continuation

Update

***B8. Related Features:**

The Blue Oaks Recreation Area is one of three recreation areas managed by the DPRA. Constructed between 1971 and 1972, Blue Oaks Recreation Area is on the West Bay shoreline of Don Pedro Reservoir and west of the Don Pedro Dam.¹ The recreation area's elements date to the original 1971 to 1972 construction period and are described in detail below. As of 2023, the Blue Oaks Recreation Area features an entrance station kiosk, a boat launch, group picnic area, public restrooms, a fish cleaning station, 34 partial hookup campsites, and 161 tent campsites.²

**TABLE 1
 BUILT ENVIRONMENT ELEMENTS DOCUMENTED WITHIN BLUE OAK RECREATION AREA**

Element	Type
Entrance Station	Building
Restroom	Building
Camp Site	Site
Fish Cleaning Station	Structure
Boat Launch	Structure
Group Picnic Shelter	Structure

¹ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

² "Blue Oaks," Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/blue-oaks/>.

Entrance Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project
Photo 1

Blue Oaks Entrance Station, view facing north.

The Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area entrance station kiosks were constructed by the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood in 1971 and share an identical design. The entrance stations are wood, pole-frame, single-story buildings with a rectangular plan and situated upon a concrete foundation within a traffic island located at each recreation area's entrance. Entrance stations are clad with board and metal panels and capped by a low-pitched metal panel roof. Typical fenestration is fixed metal picture windows and each station currently feature replacement metal Dutch doors. Utility telephone poles extend above the roof to support an overhang of redwood slats extends beyond the station roof eaves. The footprint of the stations and associated overhangs are approximately 30 feet x 20 feet. The Blue Oaks entrance station is oriented east-west and located off Bonds Flat Road.

Restroom



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project
Photo 2

Blue Oaks Restroom (representative).

The restrooms at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas share the same design from the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood. Designed in 1971, they are of wooden, utility pole-frame construction with cinder block walls and a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 28 feet by 30 feet. The restrooms have no ceiling, leaving an open space between the exterior walls and roof. They are capped by a front-gable roof supported by timber posts and beams. The original redwood slat roofs have been replaced with corrugated metal panels at some point after 2015.³ The above restroom is located west of the Blue Oaks entrance station.

³ The original redwood roof structure was extant during an earlier, 2015 evaluation. Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14b])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Fish Cleaning Station



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 3

**Blue Oaks Fish Cleaning Station, view facing
northeast.**

The Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds feature fish cleaning stations constructed in 1971. Both stations share the same pole-frame construction method utilized by the Caywood architectural and planning firm. The stations have a concrete slab foundation with a footprint of approximately 16 feet x 18 feet that supports four utility poles arranged in a rectangular plan. Each station features a modern rectangular metal industrial sink. At both the Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks stations, the original redwood slat roof has been replaced by corrugated metal sheets at some point after 2015.⁴

⁴ Kevin Palmer, *P-55-008908 (Blue Oaks Recreation Area [HDR-14a])*, California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set (site record), On file, Central California Information Center, California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, 2012.

Boat Launch



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 4

Blue Oaks Boat Launch, view facing east.

To facilitate water-related recreational activities, each of the campgrounds at Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point features a boat launch designed by Clair A. Hill & Associates and constructed between 1971 and 1972. The Blue Oaks boat launch is of concrete asphalt construction and includes two piers. The overall footprint of the boat launch is 35 feet x 330 feet. The boat launch is oriented northeast-southwest and located along the West Bay shoreline north of the Blue Oaks entrance station.

Camp Site



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project
Photo 5

Blue Oaks Camp Site (representative).

The original 1971–1972 landscape designs for Blue Oaks, Moccasin Point, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Areas incorporated distinct areas tailored for day use, picnicking, and campsite recreation. The Blue Oaks Recreation Area has four campsite areas (Area A–D) that contain a total of 34 partial hookup campsites and 161 tent campsites.⁵ The general footprint of the average non-hookup campsite measures approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. Individual campsites are situated either on concrete slabs or packed earth and are surrounded by mature trees. Since 1972, campsite features have been updated. Original wood picnic tables have been replaced by concrete picnic tables, some original grill stands have been replaced by inset fire rings, and concrete foot lockers have been added.

⁵ “Blue Oaks,” Don Pedro Lake, accessed November 2, 2023, <https://www.donpedrolake.com/blue-oaks/>.

Group Picnic Shelter



SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Don Pedro Recreation Agency Visitor Center Project

Photo 6

Blue Oaks Group Picnic Shelter, view facing southwest.

The Blue Oaks Group Picnic Shelter is west of the recreation area's boat launch. The wood pole-frame structure is rectangular in plan, has a concrete slab foundation, and an overall footprint of approximately 44 feet x 25 feet. A low-pitch, wood and concrete tile gable roof is supported by timber posts that extend above the roof. It is one of the few remaining structures to retain that feature from the original 1971–1972 construction designs. Oriented northeast-southwest, the structure is surrounded by wooden picnic tables. The picnic area is situated on a shallow peninsula overlooking Don Pedro Lake and is surrounded by mature trees and a paved parking lot and restroom to the south.

***B10. Significance:** (Continued from page 2)

Turlock Irrigation District

For nineteenth century settlers in California's Central Valley, access to water was a major determining factor in their economic and social success. This was particularly true in Stanislaus County where the local economy was fueled by dry farming a technique that relied on natural water rather than irrigation; crops, primarily of grain were planted in the fall, were then watered by the winter rains, and were harvested in the spring. With the decline of wheat in the late 1800s, California farmers began to look for more comprehensive methods of irrigation to diversify crops and provide a more stable water supply for the region's smaller, family-owned farms.⁶ For much of the nineteenth century, however, collectives of small farmers eager to initiate local irrigation programs were often stymied by California water laws that largely upheld a system of riparian water rights distribution that benefited large landowners.⁷

The widespread development of irrigation in California was accelerated by the passage of the 1887 Wright Act. The act, which was drafted and proposed by Modesto attorney and assemblyman C.C. Wright, enabled local communities to establish publicly controlled irrigation districts empowered with the legal authority to reclaim land and water previously monopolized by large riparian landowners.⁸ According to the California Department of Transportation, the provisions of the new law defined irrigation districts as "public corporations, empowered to issue bonds and condemn property, to levy and collect taxes,...maintain and operate irrigation works...[and] condemn in order to gain access to waterways that might otherwise be blocked by riparian owners."⁹ The impact of the act on Central Valley water rights was sweeping. Between 1887 and 1896, 49 irrigation districts were established, most of which were clustered between Stockton and Bakersfield. By the late 1920s, that number had shrunk to seven districts, including the Modesto, Tulare, and Turlock irrigation districts.¹⁰

TID was the first irrigation district formed in California after the passage of the Wright Act. Established on June 6, 1887, TID quickly began to develop the infrastructure—namely canal systems, diversion pumps, and pump houses—needed to irrigate the local agricultural landscape with water from the Merced, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin rivers. The district's initial irrigation system would later be expanded with the aqueduct systems build by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.¹¹ In order to ensure stable, year-round crop irrigation for agriculture along the Tuolumne River, TID combined its efforts with the state's second irrigation district, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID, established in July 1887), to construct the La Grange Dam in 1893. In the following years, the region's water supply was further augmented by MID's Modesto Reservoir (1911) and TID's Davis Reservoir (1914).¹²

Despite its expanding irrigation infrastructure, the Central Valley struggled to store adequate water reserves to combat the region's prolonged dry periods. To increase water storage capacity and as a flood prevention measure, TID selected a site known as "Don Pedro's Bar," located several miles upstream of the La Grange Dam, for a future storage reservoir. Construction of what would become the original Don Pedro Dam and powerhouse began in 1921. When it was dedicated in 1923, the original Don Pedro Dam was the highest dam in the world, measuring a height of 283 feet.¹³ In June 1966, TID entered into an agreement with the County and City of San Francisco (CCSF) to initiate the construction of the New Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir. When construction was completed in May 1970, the New Don Pedro Dam rose 580 feet from the Tuolumne riverbed, was 2,800 feet thick at its base, and created a reservoir with a capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet of water.¹⁴ In November 1970, the dam's 12 ports were opened to transfer water storage to the new reservoir and subsequently

⁶ "TID History," Turlock Irrigation District, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.tid.org/about-tid/tid-history/>.

⁷ Sydney T. Harding, *Water in California* (Palo Alto, CA: N-P Publications, 1960), 37.

⁸ California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems In California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures*, 2020, 14.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Environmental Science Associates, *Turlock Lake Rehabilitation Project, Stanislaus County, California, Cultural Resource Inventory Report*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, June 2022, 11.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ "TID History."

¹⁴ Ibid.

submerged the original Don Pedro Dam structure. In time, the Don Pedro powerplant operated four generators capable of producing enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power approximately 37,000 households.¹⁵

Don Pedro Recreation Agency

Plans for associated recreational facilities were underway well before the New Don Pedro Dam was completed. When construction of the Don Pedro Project commenced in 1967, TID and MID anticipated that recreation demands for what would become California's fifth largest reservoir would be substantial considering that approximately 600,000 people lived within 50 miles of the future lake.¹⁶ The districts anticipated that the reservoir—which would boast a surface area of 13,000 acres and a 160-mile shoreline—could draw as many as 400,000 visitors each year.¹⁷

The regional demand for recreation was also apparent to Federal and State agencies. While TID and MID were initially reluctant to add recreation tourism to their management operations, Tuolumne County persuasively lobbied for the need for camping and boating facilities at the future reservoir during a series of Don Pedro Project Federal Power Commission (FPC) hearings in 1962. Swayed by the county, the FPC included a recreational development requirement in the requisite Project license. Per the FPC licensing requirement, all land and water that fell within the Don Pedro Project was to be made available for public recreational use.¹⁸

With the assistance of a \$7 million grant from the California Water Commission in 1965, the districts established the Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) in 1967, a coalition of representatives of the MID, TID, and CCSF to oversee the development and establishment of a network of recreational facilities.¹⁹ In 1969, general manager of utilities for San Francisco and former Undersecretary of the Interior for the Kennedy Administration, James K. Carr, led an intra-agency field trip to the New Don Pedro Dam to convey the site's recreational potential to representatives of the TID, MID, National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).²⁰ While the outing failed to secure the commitment of a federal agency to oversee the operations of any future recreation site, it energized immediate local efforts to proceed with plans for recreational development.²¹ With an additional \$8.6 million in state funds awarded in 1969, and the hiring of former USFS Northeastern Regional Director, George S. James, as Director of the DPRA in 1970, the districts began developing the recreation plan for the Don Pedro Project in earnest.²²

The DPRA recreation plan included a total of three recreation areas-- Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds-- that shared a cohesive overall design. Redding-based firm Clair A. Hill & Associates won the DPRA facility design and construction contract. Hill then partnered with the Sacramento architectural and planning firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen and Ward (hereafter Caywood) to design the landscape, structures, and recreational buildings for the three sites. The team first focused its energy on the construction of the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. Hill developed the engineering design for the campground site, roads, and boating ramps. Preliminary archival research does not conclusively indicate whether the facilities were constructed by Hill or an unnamed contractor. Caywood developed the design for the campground entrances, fish cleaning stations, restrooms, group picnic shelters, and concession buildings at Fleming Meadows. Initial designs also included a 16-sided building at the south end of Don Pedro Reservoir that was to serve as the DPRA headquarters.²³ Caywood's design utilized a pole-frame construction method that incorporated telephone pole frames, rough-sawn wood beam roofs, and masonry block construction walls for the buildings throughout the site. The landscaping plan employed underground utilities so as to not distract visitors from the natural environment.²⁴ This design, which aimed to

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Don Pedro About To Make Itself Felt," *Oakdale Leader*, March 15, 1972, 19.

¹⁷ Dwight H. Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley: The First 100 years (1887-1987) of the Modesto Irrigation District*, prepared for Modesto Irrigation District, 1987, accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.mid.org/about/history/gmrng_of_pvy.pdf.

¹⁸ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-37.

¹⁹ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

²⁰ "US Officials Will Probe Dam Recreation Potential," *The Modesto Bee*, September 7, 1969.

²¹ "Thiel: County Should Operate Don Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, January 21, 1970, 53.

²² "Tuolumne Is Urged To Develop Plan For Pedro," *The Modesto Bee*, February 26, 1971, 38.

²³ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-39. Hereafter, *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*.

²⁴ Barnes, *The Greening of Paradise Valley*.

integrate the built environment with the surround topography, was adopted at the subsequent recreation areas.²⁵ The marina at Fleming Meadows was designed by the Modesto firm Neil Patterson & Associates, Structural Engineer Gordon W. Hart, and Turlock-based Farouk Nasser & Associates Design Engineer in 1971.²⁶

The 1971-1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas.. Fleming Meadows Recreation Area is the largest facility and located on the southeast side of Don Pedro Reservoir. Its original features included 212 camping units, 87 of which included utility hookups for trailers, individual and group picnic areas, fish cleaning stations, a trading post, seven-lane boat launch, and marina. ²⁷ The complex also included an outdoor "movie screen," as well asl a two-acre swimming lagoon with an associate snack bar and dressing room.²⁸ The second development was the Blue Oak Recreation Area, which is situated on the southwest side of the reservoir. Its original features included 183 tent spaces, fish cleaning stations, a group picnic area, and a boat launch. The third development, Moccasin Point Recreation Area, is on a northeast portion of the reservoir situated approximately 18 miles north of the Don Pedro Dam. Its original features included a 75-site campground and picnic area and a two-lane boat launch, as well as a marina.²⁹ All three recreation areas opened to the public following a May 6, 1972, dedication ceremony.³⁰

Each site has undergone various site modifications since their initial construction between 1971 and 1972. Originally designed for day use, the Fleming Meadows recreation area "B" was converted into campsites around 1981. At all three sites, original shake roofs on recreation buildings were gradually replaced first by tile roofing, then by steel roofing. Similarly, original wood picnic tables were replaced by concrete picnic tables, concrete foot lockers were added to campsites, and some original grill stands were replaced by inset fire rings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), restrooms, group picnic areas, shower restrooms, and ramps were modified or reconfigured at various points throughout the 1990s. The marina at Moccasin Point Recreation Area was constructed in 1978, burned down in 2000, and rebuilt that same year.³¹ The original DPRA Headquarters and Visitors Center located at 10201 Bonds Flat Road was destroyed by fire in 2016.³² All three sites and their facilities are maintained and managed by the DPRA.

Clair A. Hill & Associates, Engineering Consultants

Clair A. Hill & Associates was a Redding-based engineering firm that oversaw the facility design and construction of the Don Pedro Recreation Agency facilities. The firm's founder, Clair A. Hill, was born in Redding, California, in 1909. Hill received education in forestry at Oregon State University and earned a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1934.³³ In 1938, Hill founded the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates in his hometown of Redding.³⁴ The firm specialized in survey, photogrammetry, and engineering water projects pertaining to reservoirs, dams, and fish hatcheries throughout northern California. Before winning the DPRA contract, Clair A. Hill & Associates had overseen water resources work for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Sacramento Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the Bonneville Power Administration.³⁵ In 1971, the company merged with a competing engineering firm, CH2M, to form the global engineering consulting firm CH2M-Hill, Inc.³⁶

For its contribution to California infrastructure and water development after World War II, Clair A. Hill & Associates can be considered an engineering firm of merit. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered an individual important for his contributions to water resource development in California.

²⁵ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-39.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up," *The Modesto Bee*, March 7, 1971, 10.

²⁸ "Don Pedro Prepares For Recreation Rush," *The Modesto Bee*, November 28, 1971, 14.

²⁹ "Don Pedro Recreation Facility Package Begins To Shape Up."

³⁰ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II1*, 3-42.

³¹ Ibid., 3-46.

³² "Don Pedro visitors center is planned," *The Modesto Bee*, August 18, 2016, 1A.

³³ "Memorial Tribute: Mr. Clair A. Hill," National Academy of Engineering, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.nae.edu/19579/19581/20412/29891/Mr-Clair-A-Hill>.

³⁴ "Clair A. Hill," Water Education Foundation, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/clair-hill>.

³⁵ "Clair A. Hill & Associates," CH2M Hill Alumni Association, accessed October 27, 2023, <https://ch2mhillalumni.org/clair-a-hill-associates/>.

³⁶ Ibid.

Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners

Sacramento firm Caywood, Nopp, Takata, Hansen, and Ward, Architects & Planners designed the landscaping, structures, and recreational buildings for the 1971-1972 DPRA construction project. Grant D. Caywood and Jack D. Nopp established the firm in 1963 and early designs included the Sacramento Medical Clinic (1964), the Sacramento Town & Country Lutheran Church (1968) and Rio Vista High School (1966).³⁷ Grant Caywood had earned a degree in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State University in 1940³⁸ and Jack Dee Nopp earned a degree in Architecture from the University of Oregon in 1954.³⁹ Partners of the firm had worked on various California recreational and civic-related projects throughout their respective careers. Nopp served as the principal architect for the Oroville Dam Reservoir's Lime Saddle Park (1968).⁴⁰ Roderic Charles Ward designed the El Dorado County Administration buildings for South Lake Tahoe and Placerville (n.d.).⁴¹ The firm had previously collaborated with Clair A. Hill & Associates on the design for the Sacramento Municipal Airport Master Plan in 1968.⁴² While the Caywood firm oversaw the design of buildings and complexes throughout Northern California, preliminary archival review does not indicate that it was an architectural design firm of particular merit.

Postwar Recreational Development in the United States, 1945-1975

The development of DPRA property for recreational use reflects the rising enthusiasm for outdoor recreation in the United States after World War II. The end of the conflict ushered in an unprecedented and prolonged period of prosperity for American military veterans and civilians alike. Wartime mobilization had initiated a period of economic vitality that persisted into the immediate postwar period. Empowered by the G.I. Bill, many veterans received a college education and became first-time homeowners. Civilians who gained highly sought-after skills on the Home Front continued to enjoy rising wages, job security, and paid vacation time. Overall, the nation's workforce was uniquely positioned with the time and discretionary income to enjoy outdoor recreation.⁴³ As a result, visits to state and national parks skyrocketed as more and more Americans adopted outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and boating. To demonstrate this trend, one 1959 study reported an estimated 34 million American families had spent \$42 billion on various forms of recreation.⁴⁴ As outdoor enthusiasts fostered a personal relationship with the natural environment, many also became invested in a growing conservation movement to preserve that environment for future generations.⁴⁵

The unprecedented embrace of "leisure" as an activity that could be enjoyed by most people during the postwar period prompted ongoing debates about the extent to which the federal government was obligated to support recreational activities for its citizenry. For much of the early twentieth century, social scientists had touted recreational activity as an effective tool to revive individuals and, in turn, make that individual a more effective and efficient worker. By that logic, some social scientists reasoned, recreational self-improvement and relaxation was both important for individual well-being and vital to the overall health of the body politic.⁴⁶ In 1958, the federal government established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) to determine the current and future recreation needs of American communities across the country. In 1962, the Commission presented its findings in an extensive report entitled *Outdoor Recreation in America*, which predicted an increased demand for passive and active recreation facilities through the year 2000. The report noted a particularly urgent need for open spaces for camping, hiking, and nature observation, as well as recreational facilities related to water sports,

³⁷ "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ "Nopp, Jack D(ee)" AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_N.pdf.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "Obituary: Roderic Charles Ward," accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.pricefuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderic-Ward>.

⁴² "Caywood, Grant Dodd," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects (1970), accessed October 27, 2023, https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1970_C.pdf.

⁴³ Clayne R. Jensen, *Outdoor Recreation in America* (Minneapolis: Burgess Publication Co, 1985), 33-35.

⁴⁴ Robert Coughlin, "A \$40 Billion Bill Just for Fun" in "The Good Life," *Life*, no. 47 (December 28, 1959), 69, quoted in Foster Rhea Dulles, *A History of Recreation: American Learns to Play* (New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1965), 398.

⁴⁵ Jan E. Dizard, *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Amherst and Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), 42.

⁴⁶ Dulles, 398.

boating, and fishing.⁴⁷ According to ORRRC Chairman Laurence Rockefeller, providing avenues of organized leisure would alleviate the dreaded “Sunday frustration” of American workers and broadly improved the wellbeing of American society at large.⁴⁸ In 1963, the Department of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the express mission to support state, local, and private organizations with outdoor recreation planning and facility development.⁴⁹

True to the federal government’s predictions, demands for public recreational facilities grew apace with America’s enthusiasm for the outdoors during the 1970s. A 1976 survey of American leisure behavior reported that over 51 million Americans reported camping that year, 22 million went hunting, 35.2 million participated in boating, and an astonishing 65 million Americans went fishing.⁵⁰ Reservoirs—with their ease of access for visitors, proximity to interstate highways and densely populated areas—were particularly popular sites for camping and water-related activities.⁵¹

The DPRA facilities reflected California’s burgeoning enthusiasm for utilizing reservoirs for recreational boating and camping after World War II.⁵² An early iteration of this practice emerged out of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project, which developed recreational facilities at Folsom Lake on the American River in 1956 which would eventually be operated and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.⁵³ The fishing, boating, and houseboat recreation facilities at Lake Oroville on the Feather River were products of the California State Water Project of the 1950s and 1960s.⁵⁴ The development of recreation facilities at New Melones Lake in 1978 further solidified that Californians were developing a deep and abiding enthusiasm for outdoor and water-relation recreation.⁵⁵ Within this context, the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point campgrounds, with their associated picnic, swimming, fishing, and boating amenities, are typical examples of the recreational facilities developed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s and reflect the complementary relationship between outdoor recreation and water development during the postwar period.⁵⁶

Regional Rustic Vernacular Style and Pole-Frame Construction

Rustic Vernacular Style

The aesthetic sensibilities of the style were logical progressions of an intentional design ethic cultivated by the NPS since its inception in 1916. Informed by the innovations of Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, Henry Hubbard, and other influential landscape architects, the designs of the nation’s first national parks sought to harmonize the built environment with unvarnished beauty of the natural environment. In turn, park design and preservation standards came to adopt “naturalistic practices in construction, often described as ‘rustic,’ called for native materials of timber and rock and methods of pioneer craftsmen and woodsmen.”⁵⁷ Early examples of the successful execution of this new “rustic” design program was the ambitious Yosemite Village project, which resulted in the construction of a Administration Building (1924), a Post Office (c.1925), and Yosemite Museum (1926).⁵⁸ Over the next several decades, “rustic, vernacular architecture” came to be used

⁴⁷ Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, “ORRRC Study Report 19: National Recreation Survey,” Washington, D.C.: Washington Printing Office, 1962), pp. 1-397.

⁴⁸ Laurence S. Rockefeller, “Leisure—the New Challenge,” *Vital Speeches*, no. 27 (December 1, 1960), 3, quoted in Dulles, 390.

⁴⁹ The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was later absorbed into the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1978-1981), until the responsibilities for outdoor recreation was permanently transferred to the National Park Service. Carlson et al, 130-32.

⁵⁰ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, Janet MacLean, and James A. Peterson, *Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene* (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1979), 62-63.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁵² “Recreation Change Is Ahead,” *The Modesto Bee*, January 29, 1971, 54.

⁵³ “Plans For Folsom Road Is Backed By Supervisor,” *The Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1956, 43.

⁵⁴ *Historic Properties Study: Volume II*, 3-46.

⁵⁵ “Districts eye U.S. Don Pedro takeover,” *The Modesto Bee*, June 27, 1978, 20.

⁵⁶ M.F. Brewer, “Incorporating Recreational Values into Benefit-Cost Analysis,” *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (Western Farm Economics Association* 35 (August 6,7,8, 1962), 23.

⁵⁷ Linda Flint McClelland, *NRHP Nomination Form: Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks*, 1995, 1.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 39.

to describe simplified buildings constructed from natural, native materials that integrated with their surroundings in material, proportion, overall feeling.⁵⁹

One NPS publication defined rustic architecture as:

“Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.”⁶⁰

National Register Bulletin 31 defines “vernacular architecture” as:

“...this type can be idiosyncratic amalgams of building traditions and styles, strongly reflecting the personality of the builder, or they may represent the more potent cultural dynamic of time and place. A key feature of vernacular buildings is their affinity for and adaptation to landscape, climate, and cultural patterns. Architectural “style” is insignificant in comparison to the form of the building, its construction materials, and the layout of the rooms.”⁶¹

With its embrace of the ideals of the Back-to-Nature and Conservation Movements - namely that people and their buildings had distinct, discreet relationships with their natural environment - the rustic vernacular style became an organic framework for the construction of recreational residences, buildings, and structures.⁶² For a more extensive examination of rustic architecture in national parks, please consult *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (1986), pages 1-21.⁶³

By the mid twentieth century, the emerging architectural tradition of national parks embraced built environments that “responded to their sites” by integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.⁶⁴ While recreational and residential buildings often integrated features from multiple architectural styles, they nevertheless tended to reflect a cohesive populist philosophy. Character-defining features of the Rustic Vernacular Style included:

- Buildings constructed with native, natural materials particularly stone, log, and wood.
- Embrace of natural colors that blended with the environment.
- Functional architectural elements were selected for their utility and their ability to integrate with the terrain or topography.
- Overall building design was intended to be viewed from all sides.
- Buildings avoided vertical emphasis and embraced proportions that fit the site and its surroundings.
- Buildings occasionally incorporate historical or local cultural details.
- Groups of buildings generally shared a central architectural theme to create continuity throughout a park or district.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ Steve McNeil, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., and USDA Forest Service, “Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreational Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959,” prepared for the USDA Forest Service, May 30, 2003, 59.

⁶⁰ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942,” National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 93.

⁶¹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., “Draft National Register Bulletin 31: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, Washington, D.C., 1987. Quoted in McNeil et al, 59.

⁶² McNeil et al, 60.

⁶³ Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (National Park Service: Department of the Interior, November, 1986), 1-21.

⁶⁴ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942,” National Park Service: Division of Cultural Resource Management, February 1977, 3.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 61-62.

Pole Frame Construction Methods

A major component of DPRA architecture is the utilization of pole-frame construction. The pole building system—embedding widely spaced round or square poles into the ground as the primary means of support for a roof and floor—has been used as a cost- and labor-efficient alternative to conventional building methods along steep hills, on rocky soil, or in flood- and earthquake-prone regions for centuries.⁶⁶ The construction method was first introduced to the West Coast during the 1950s as a cost-saving method endorsed by the Federal Housing Administration to develop otherwise prohibitively expensive land parcels. Early projects—such as the 1953 Marx Hyatt residence in Atherton, California—were residential buildings constructed along steep hillsides.⁶⁷ The economy, framing flexibility, and simplified foundation system made pole building particularly suited to outbuildings and ancillary structures such as barns, utility buildings, and garages.⁶⁸ By the early 1970s, federal agencies such as the FHA and the U.S. Forest Service had recognized that the method held promise for other building types for its “permanence, economy, ease of construction, aesthetics...marginal land utilization, and amelioration of fire hazard.”⁶⁹ The utility of this construction method in a hillside setting is demonstrated by the Fleming Meadows Trading Post and the former DPRA headquarters building (which burned down in 2016).⁷⁰

Bay Regional Style

The functionality of pole-frame construction and the features of the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a natural synergy with California’s modern vernacular architecture, particularly the Bay Regional Style. Developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and refined by Bay Area architects such as Bernard Maybeck and William Wurster, the Bay Regional Style articulated a rising concern regarding the natural environment.⁷¹ The vernacular architectural style emerged during the 1880s and retained popularity among California architects into the 1970s. The periodization of the style has been divided into a First, Second, and Third tradition, each emphasizing some variation of a consistently informal and natural design approach. Indelibly attuned to the interplay between modern design’s embrace of elements such as clean, unaffected lines and large windows and the natural materials of California’s vernacular domestic architecture, its practitioners constructed spaces that invited the outside in and invited an unimpeded view of the natural surroundings.⁷²

While the Bay Regional Style and the Rustic Vernacular Style shared a similar aesthetic vocabulary, and evidence suggests that architects like Bernard Maybeck influenced the rustic architecture at a number of national parks, the influence of the Bay Regional Style on the built environment within the DPRA is less overt.⁷³ The Third Bay Tradition, which took place during the 1960s and 1970s, is perhaps best represented by Sonoma County’s Sea Ranch complex (1964-65) designed by architect Charles Moore and landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.⁷⁴ The complex’s use of rough sawn redwood and wood pole-frame construction to integrate with the natural landscape is echoed in the DPRA campgrounds.⁷⁵

Evaluation

The DPRA is made up of the built environment elements associated with recreation activities at the Don Pedro Reservoir. Elements include the three formal recreation areas associated with the DPRA: Moccasin Point Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Fleming Meadows Recreation Area. These resources were all built in 1971-1972 for the sole purpose of recreational activities. The Fleming Meadows Recreation Area and the Blue Oaks Recreation Area can all be accessed via Bonds Flat Road, just to the east or west of Don Pedro Dam. The Moccasin Point Recreation Area can be accessed from

⁶⁶ Doug Merrilees, Evelyn V. Loveday, and Ralph Wolfe, *Low-Cost Pole Building Construction* (Charlotte, Vermont: Garden Way Publishing, 1980), 1-11.

⁶⁷ Lt. R.W. Ard, Jr., “Pole Buildings,” *Coast Guard Engineer’s Digest* (Oct-Dec., 1974), 64-68.

⁶⁸ Leigh W. Seddon, *Practical Pole Building Construction* (Nashville, Tennessee: Williamson Books, 1985), 11.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 68.

⁷⁰ “Don Pedro recreation area visitors center burns down,” *The Modesto Bee*, May 27, 2016, A3.

⁷¹ GEI Consultants, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey Results*, prepared for the City of Sacramento, September 30, 2017, 3-3, 3-4.

⁷² Planning Resource Associates, Inc., *Mid-Century Modernism Historic Context*, prepared for the City of Fresno, September 2008, 55.

⁷³ Tweed et al, 4.

⁷⁴ California Department of Transportation, *Tract Housing in California, 1945-1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation*, Sacramento, California, 2011, 92-93.

⁷⁵ HDR Engineering, Inc., Foothill Resources, LTD, *Historic Properties Study: Volume III, Study Report, Don Pedro Project, FERC No. 2299*, prepared for Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, May 2015, 3-40.

Highway 120/49, roughly 1.5 miles northwest of Moccasin, CA. As described above, the recreation area at Don Pedro Reservoir was one of many established in California in the late-20th century and has undergone building renovations to contributing buildings during its period of use.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

Archival research indicates that while the DPRA Recreation Areas reflect post-war recreation development in Tuolumne County as well as the 1960s–1970s era of recreational development at California reservoirs, it does not appear to possess any unique significance for this association. As described in the context discussion above, following World War II, local, State, and federal agencies responded to increasing demands for outdoor recreation facilities by adapting reservoir land and shorelines for public recreational use. From the 1950s to the 1970s, California saw the development of several major water development projects which, in turn, produced reservoirs with associated lakes and shorelines that were appealing to boating, fishing, and camping enthusiasts alike. In 1956, the DPR established the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and initiated a trend of transforming impounded dam waters into vibrant, public recreation facilities. During the 1950s and 1960s, California's investment in water development projects such as the State Water Project created new reservoirs ideal for outdoor recreation, such as Lake Oroville (1950s–1960s) and New Melones Lake (1978). The DPRA's recreational facilities built between 1971 and 1972 are typical later examples of California's embrace of reservoir recreation during this period.

For an association with historic events and patterns to be historically significant, National Register Bulletin 15 states that "a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context." Within the context of post-World War II recreational development in California, the DPRA Recreation Areas are associated with recreational use of reservoirs, but this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within the historic context. It was one of many recreation areas constructed with reservoirs throughout California during the latter half of the 20th century. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible due to their association with significant events under Criterion A/1, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Preliminary archival research failed to identify any significant associations between the resources and lives of people significant in the past. The development of the DPRA and the subsequent development and operation of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas were the results of a collaboration between the TID, MID and CCSF. However, archival research did not indicate any specific individual of significance within these organizations having attained prominence through their association with the DPRA or any associated recreation area. Additionally, while Tuolumne County's collective lobbying efforts were instrumental in the development of the DPRA, archival research did not indicate any specific individual as having attained prominence through these efforts nor through any specific association with any individual recreation area. For these reasons, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion B/2, nor as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The 1971–1972 DPRA construction plan established three total recreation areas—Fleming Meadows, Blue Oak, and Moccasin Point campgrounds. Each recreation area shared a cohesive overall design. The plan was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates and designed by the architectural and planning firm Caywood. Throughout the three recreation areas, Caywood utilized a pole-style construction method that utilizes pressure treated telephone poles set in concrete footings. The style was a cost-saving construction method promoted by the FHA in the 1960s that was touted for its economy and simplicity of design. The style shared several key aesthetic sensibilities of the Bay Regional Style, most notably its embrace of local, natural materials and its ability to blend into the surrounding topography so as not to impede upon the existing landscape.

For an association with design/construction as an example of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, National Register Bulletin 15 states that a property must be "an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history." While a previous analysis recommended the DPRA Recreation Areas eligible under National Register Criterion C as an example of pole-style construction, the extant associated structures reflect minimal characteristics of their original pole-style construction and design elements and have undergone significant modifications since their earlier 2012–2015 evaluation. For instance, the Trading Post building originally had vertical telephone poles incorporated into the wood shingle roof structure which were removed during a re-roofing and deck floor project at an unknown date. The removal has influenced the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally, the shingle roof at the Trading Post and shingle roofs throughout the DPRA Recreation Areas have been replaced since 2015 with corrugated sheet metal roofs, which further impact the integrity of the site against its original design. Between this site-wide modification of

design, and the loss of the DPRA Visitor Center (a major contributor to a unified pole-style aesthetic) in 2016, the DPRA Recreation Areas no longer reflect their original pole-style construction style with Bay Region Tradition influence.

Somewhat noteworthy is the fact that the construction of the Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point Recreation Areas was overseen by the engineering firm Clair A. Hill & Associates, which was known for its work on water resource projects throughout California, namely reservoir, irrigation, and fisheries development. Individually, Clair A. Hill can be considered a person important to water resource development in the state of California. As the founder of Clair A. Hill & Associates and the cofounder of CH2M-Hill, Hill oversaw several substantive water resource projects throughout California, such as the Lake Tahoe Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. During his 32-year tenure on the California Water Commission, Hill was a primary author of the California Water Commission Plan and served as the Commission's chairman for 18 years. In 1992, Hill was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and was also a recipient of the Association of California Water Agencies Lifetime Achievement Award.

To be eligible, however, per National Register Bulletin 15, a property must "express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft. A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect." While Clair A. Hill & Associates is an internationally recognized engineering firm, the buildings and structures within the DPRA were designed by the Caywood architectural and planning group. Archival review did not indicate that Caywood should be considered an architectural firm of merit. As such, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be important or representative examples of Clair A. Hill & Associates' water resource development legacy. Similarly, while Clair A. Hill was an internationally renowned engineer, the DPRA Recreation Areas are not representative of Clair A. Hill & Associates design or a reflection of Hill's individual contribution to water resource development in California more broadly.

The loss of the unifying pole-style aesthetic, as well as the of the Visitor Center in 2016, has resulted in the DPRA's inability to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction. Additionally, the DPRA does not represent a professional highlight of Clair A. Hill's body of work. Therefore, the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion C/3, nor eligible as a DPRA historic district.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

While most often applied to archaeological districts and sites, Criterion D/4 can also apply to buildings, structures, and objects that contain important information. For these types of properties to be eligible under Criterion D/4, they themselves must be, or must have been, the principal source of the important information, and the information must be considered important. The DPRA Recreation Areas are constructed of standard materials (wood and concrete) and with standard methodologies. It does not appear to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, or other information that is not already known. As such, they do not appear eligible for listing under Criterion D/4 as either individual resources or as a historic district.

Integrity

In addition to being eligible for listing under at least one of the four California Register or National Register criteria, a property must also retain sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance. There are seven aspects to consider when evaluating the integrity of a property: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As the DPRA Recreation Areas do not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register or National Register, nor as a historic district; a further assessment of integrity is not presented.

Conclusions

Based on a site survey, archival research, and the analysis presented in this memo, ESA recommends the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, Blue Oaks Recreation Area, and Moccasin Point Recreation Area as neither eligible for individual listing, nor eligible as a historic district, in the California Register or National Register under any criteria. As such, the three recreation areas and their associated elements would not be considered historical resources under CEQA. No further analysis is required.

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Appendix C

Tribal Consultation



No.	Date	From	To	AB 52?	Type	Subject
1	September 28, 2023	Robin Hoffman (Environmental Science Associates [ESA])	California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) General Information		email with formal request and map	Request for a Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts list for the Project.
2	November 3, 2023	Pricilla Torres-Fuentes (NAHC)	Robin Hoffman (ESA)		email with attachments (2)	Sacred Lands File search results (negative) and list of Native American contacts.
3	November 7, 2023	Bill Penney (Turlock Irrigation District [TID])	Lloyd Mathiesen (Chicken Ranch Rancharia of Me-Wuk Indians)	Yes	letter (vis USPS certified mail)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
4	November 7, 2023	Bill Penney (TID)	Neil Peyron (Tule River Indian Tribe)	Yes	letter (vis USPS certified mail)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
5	November 7, 2023	Bill Penney (TID)	Cosme Valdez (Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe)	Yes	letter (vis USPS certified mail)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
6	November 7, 2023	Bill Penney (TID)	Andrea Reich (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians)	Yes	letter (vis USPS certified mail)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
7	November 7, 2023	Bill Penney (TID)	Kenneth Woodrow (Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band)	Yes	letter (vis USPS certified mail)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
8	November 7, 2023	Robin Hoffman (ESA)	Lloyd Mathiesen (Chicken Ranch Rancharia of Me-Wuk Indians)	Yes	email with attachment (1)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
9	November 7, 2023	Robin Hoffman (ESA)	Neil Peyron (Tule River Indian Tribe)	Yes	email with attachment (1)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
10	November 7, 2023	Robin Hoffman (ESA)	Cosme Valdez (Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe)	Yes	email with attachment (1)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
11	November 7, 2023	Robin Hoffman (ESA)	Andrea Reich (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians)	Yes	email with attachment (1)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
12	November 7, 2023	Robin Hoffman (ESA)	Kenneth Woodrow (Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band)	Yes	email with attachment (1)	Project background information, request that Tribe contact TID if they would like to consult under AB 52.
13	December 18, 2023	Kyle Cox (Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council [Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians])	Bill Penney (TID)	Yes	letter	Acknowledging receipt of initial TID Project notification letter and request for more information on Project and site visit due to the presence of cultural resources in the Project Area vicinity.

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:41 AM
To: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Subject: SLF Search and Native American Contacts: ESA Project D201800805.10/Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center
Attachments: 01_D201800805_10_NAHC_request-combined_20230928.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I would like to request a Sacred Lands File search and list of Native American contacts for the *Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center*, in *Tuolumne County*. The formal request form, which also includes a project location map, is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Robin Hoffman

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

916-373-3710

916-373-5471 – Fax

nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: _____

County: _____

USGS Quadrangle Name: _____

Township: _____ **Range:** _____ **Section(s):** _____

Company/Firm/Agency: _____

Street Address: _____

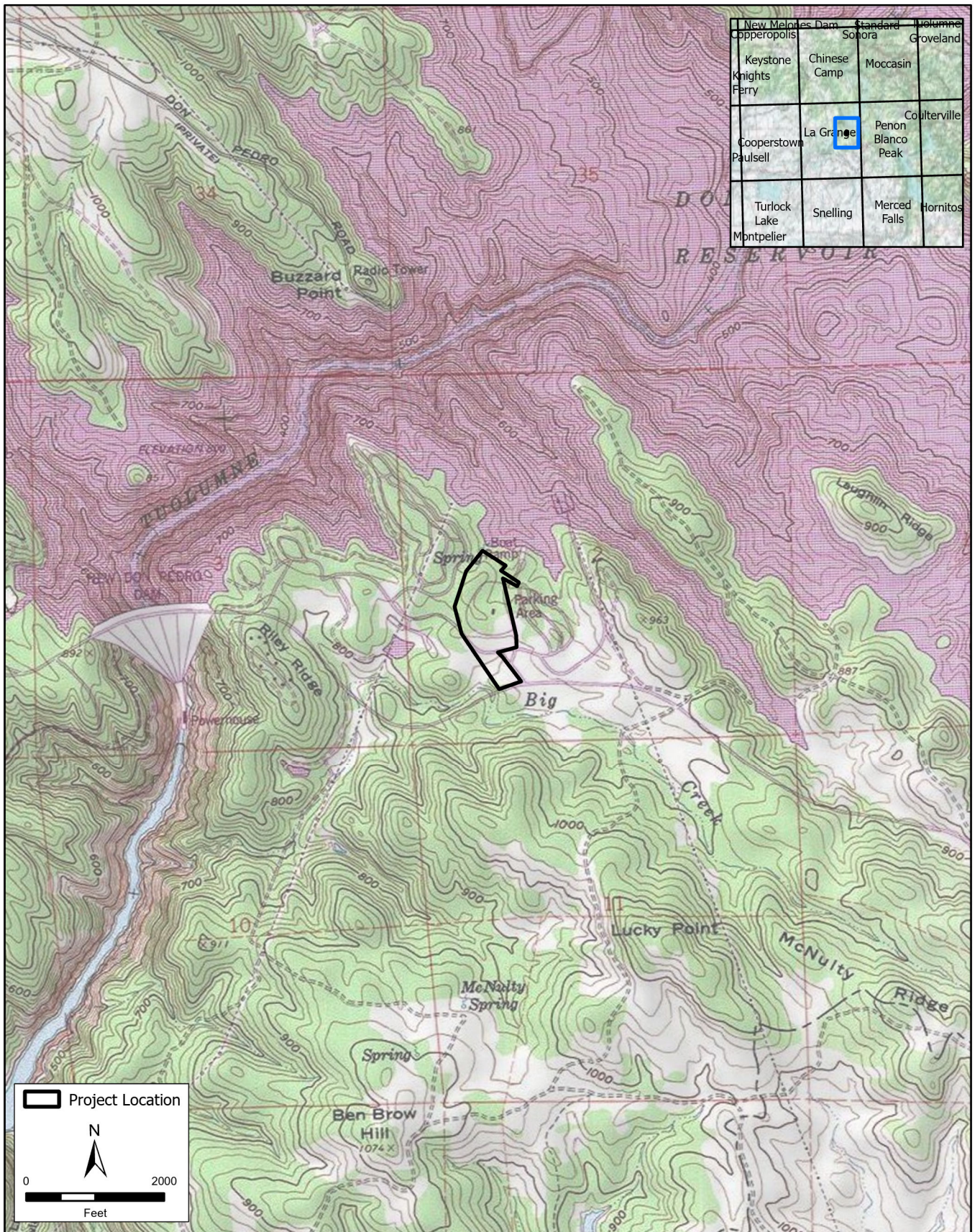
City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Project Description:



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Torres-Fuentes, Pricilla@NAHC <Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Robin Hoffman
Subject: D201800805.10/Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: SLF No 2023 D201800805.10 Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project 11.3.23.pdf; D201800805.10 Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center list.xlsx

Good afternoon,

Attached is the response to the project referenced above. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact our office email at nahc@nahc.ca.gov.

Regards,

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Blvd. Suite 100

West Sacramento, CA 95691

Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov

(916)373-3714 Direct

(916)373-3710 Office

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

November 3, 2023

Robin Hoffman
ESA

Via Email to: rhoffman@esassoc.com

**Re: D201800805.10/Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project,
Tuolumne County**

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

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: Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Tuolumne 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
Tuolumne	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	F	Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1159 Jamestown, CA, 95327	(209) 984-9066	(209) 984-9269	lmathiesen@crtribal.com	Me-Wuk	Alpine,Amador,Calaveras,Contra Costa,El Dorado,Fresno,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Sacramento,San	
	Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe	N	Cosme Valdez, Chairperson	P.O. Box 580986 Elk Grove, CA, 95758-0017	(916) 396-1173		valdezcome@comcast.net	Miwok	Alpine,Amador,Calaveras,Contra Costa,El Dorado,Fresno,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Sacramento,San	7/17/2023
	Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe	N	Leland Valdez, Cultural Resources		(916) 429-8047			Miwok	Alpine,Amador,Calaveras,Contra Costa,El Dorado,Fresno,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Sacramento,San	7/17/2023
	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	7/22/2016
	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	
	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	7/22/2016
	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	F	Stanley Cox, Cultural Resources Director	P. O. Box 699 Tuolumne, CA, 95379	(209) 928-5300		receptionist@mewuk.com	Me-Wuk	Fresno,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Stanislaus,Tuolumne	1/15/2019
	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	F	Andrea Reich, Chairperson	P.O. Box 699 Tuolumne, CA, 95379	(209) 928-5300	(209) 928-1677	andrea@mewuk.com	Me-Wuk	Fresno,Madera,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Stanislaus,Tuolumne	
	Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	N	Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson	1179 Rock Haven Ct. Salinas, CA, 93906	(831) 443-9702		kwood8934@aol.com	Foothill Yokut Mono	Alameda,Calaveras,Contra Costa,Fresno,Inyo,Kings,Madera,Marin,Mariposa,Merced,Mono,Monterey,San Benito,San	6/19/2023

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.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed D201800805.10/Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project, Tuolumne County.

Record: PROJ-2023-005147
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Tuolumne
NAHC Group: All

November 7, 2023

Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
P.O. Box 1159
Jamestown, CA, 95327

Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Honorable Chairperson Mathiesen:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes the Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project site encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road, to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir, within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Grange, California 7.5-minute topographic map (Figure 2). The Project is subject to State environmental regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with TID as CEQA lead agency.

As part of the cultural resources review of the Project under CEQA, TID would like to provide your Tribe with an opportunity to communicate concerns you might have regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID requests your Tribe's participation in the identification and protection of such resources that could be impacted by the Project, with the understanding that you or other members of your community might possess specialized knowledge of the area.

Please consider this letter and preliminary Project information as formal notification of a proposed project as required under CEQA, specifically Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 and Chapter 532 Statutes of 2014 (i.e. Assembly Bill 52). Please respond in writing within 30 days, pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1(d), if you wish to request consultation regarding possible significant effects that the Project may have on tribal cultural resources. Please provide a designated lead contact person if you have not already provided such information. TID understands that the locations of these resources are sensitive and resource locations would not be disclosed in public documents and would be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code § 6254.10.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 209-883-8385, or by email at bfpenney@tid.org.



Sincerely,

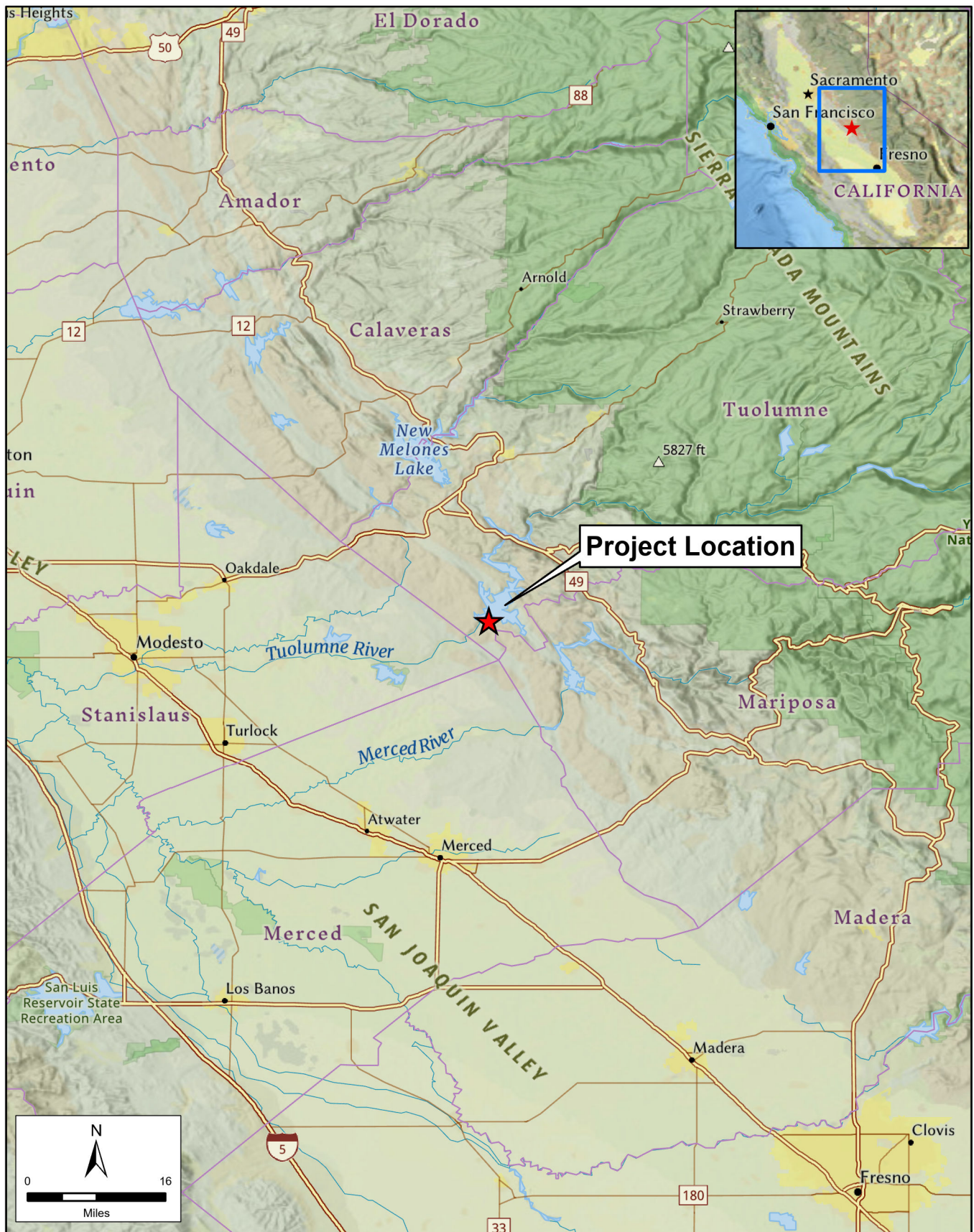
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Penney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Penney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Turlock Irrigation District

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – Map: Project Vicinity

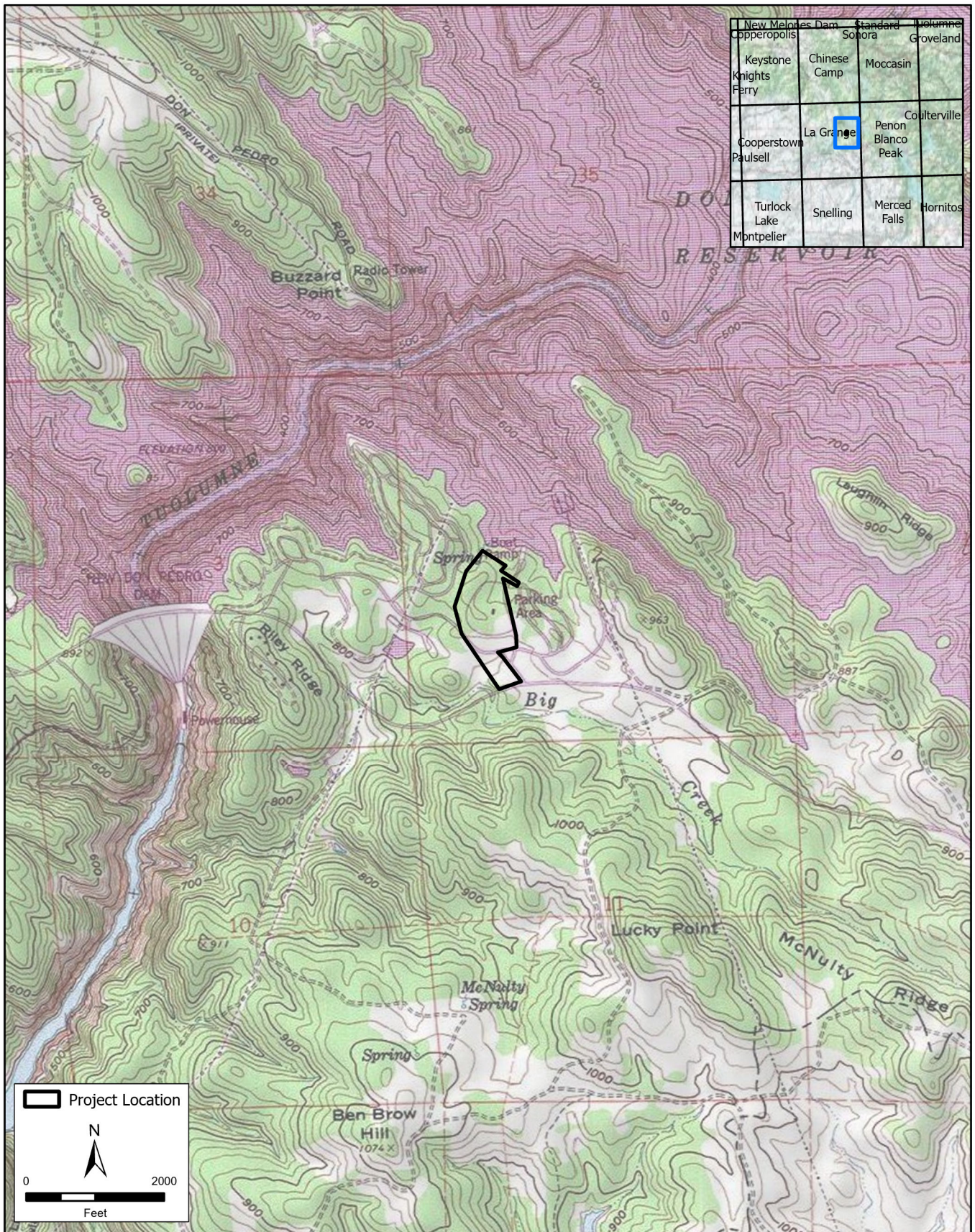
Figure 2 – Map: Project Location



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:56 AM
To: lmathiesen@crtribal.com
Cc: Bill F. Penney
Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: DPRA-VisitorCenter_TribalNotif_Mathiesen_20231107.pdf

Honorable Chairperson Mathiesen:

Please find attached project notification for the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California. The attached notification was also sent to you via U.S. Postal Service certified mail. Please let me know if your Tribe has any concerns regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID has requested that Environmental Science Associates, TID's environmental consultant for the Project, send this notification on their behalf.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, at 707-494-3349 or rhoffman@esassoc.com, or TID's Project Manager, Bill Penney, at 209-883-8385, or by email at bfpenney@tid.org. Thank you for your time,



Robin Hoffman, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Program Manager—Delta Region

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Petaluma, CA

707-494-3349 **cell**

707-796-7006 **direct**

RHoffman@esassoc.com | esassoc.com

We've Moved! Please update your records: 775 Baywood Drive, Suite 100, Petaluma, CA 94954.

November 7, 2023

Neil Peyron, Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258

Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Honorable Chairperson Peyron:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes the Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project site encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road, to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir, within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Grange, California 7.5-minute topographic map (Figure 2). The Project is subject to State environmental regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with TID as CEQA lead agency.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 209-883-8385, or by email at bfpenney@tid.org.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Penney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

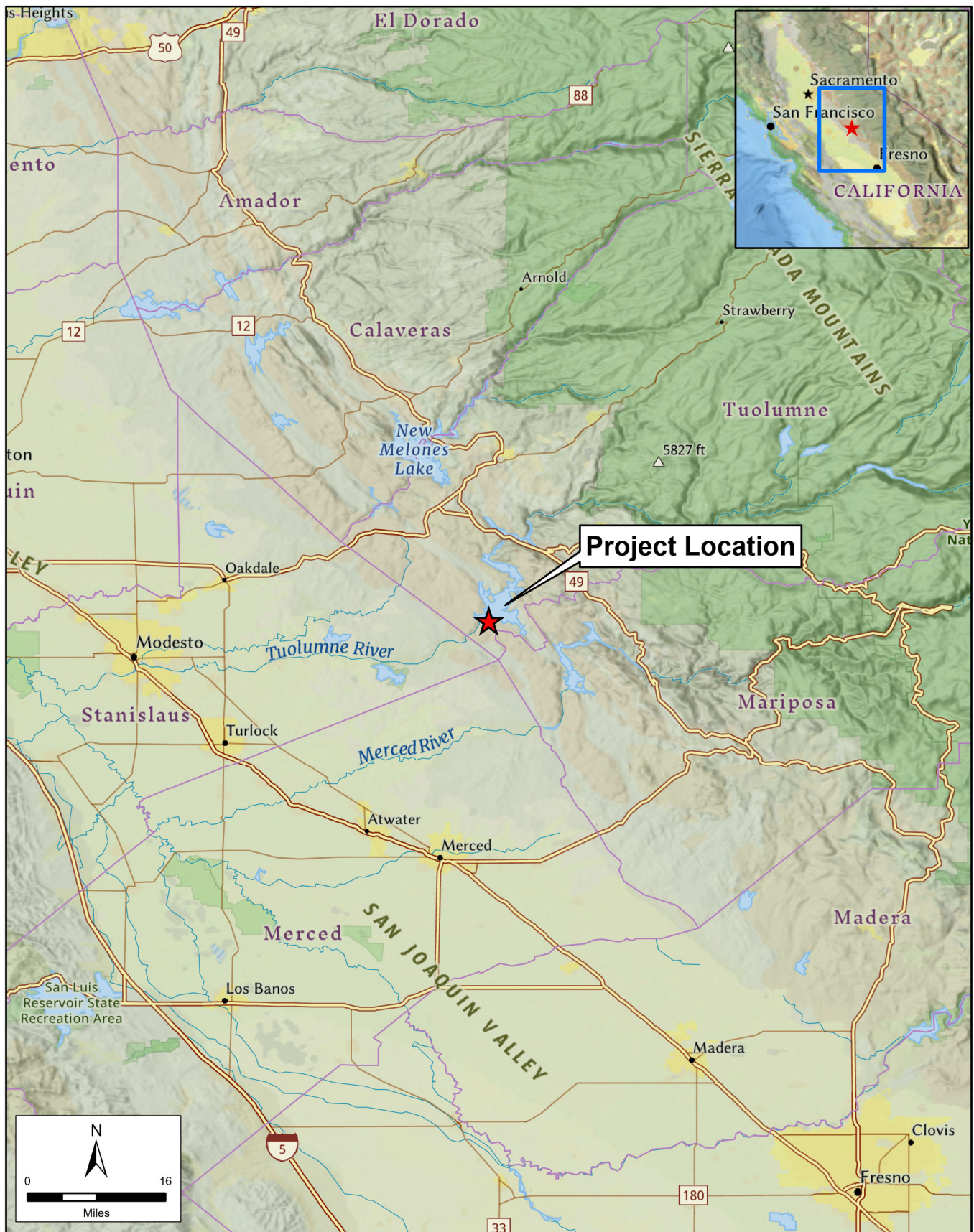
Bill Penney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Turlock Irrigation District

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – Map: Project Vicinity

Figure 2 – Map: Project Location

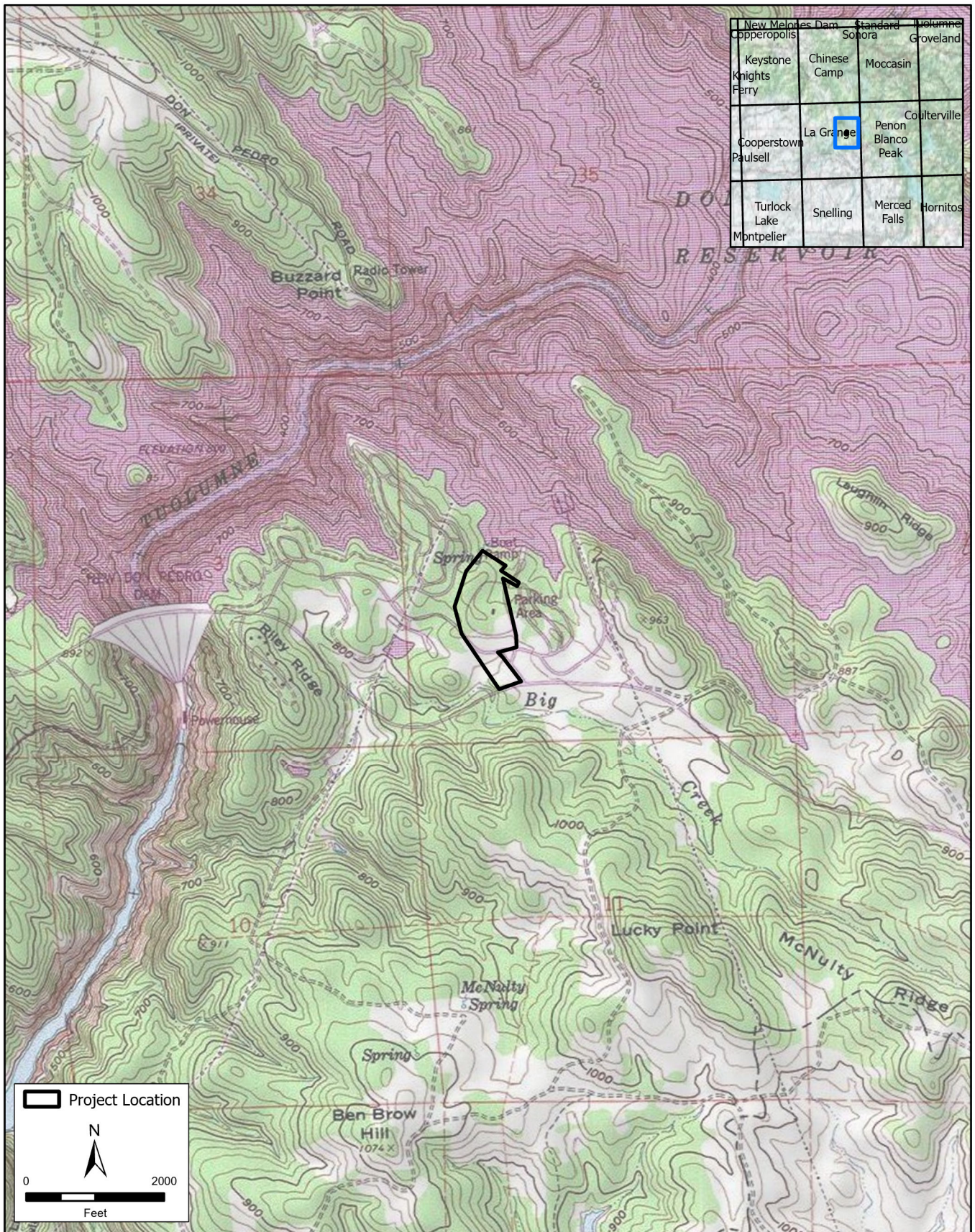
CC: Joey Garfield, Tule River Indian Tribe
Kerri Vera, Tule River Indian Tribe



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:58 AM
To: neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Cc: Bill F. Penney; joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov; kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: DPRA-VisitorCenter_TribalNotif_Peyron_20231107.pdf

Honorable Chairperson Peyron:

Please find attached project notification for the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California. The attached notification was also sent to you via U.S. Postal Service certified mail. Please let me know if your Tribe has any concerns regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID has requested that Environmental Science Associates, TID's environmental consultant for the Project, send this notification on their behalf.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, at 707-494-3349 or rhoffman@esassoc.com, or TID's Project Manager, Bill Penney, at 209-883-8385, or by email at bfpenney@tid.org. Thank you for your time,



Robin Hoffman, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Program Manager—Delta Region

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Petaluma, CA

707-494-3349 **cell**

707-796-7006 **direct**

RHoffman@esassoc.com | esassoc.com

We've Moved! Please update your records: 775 Baywood Drive, Suite 100, Petaluma, CA 94954.

November 7, 2023

Andrea Reich, Chairperson
Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
P.O. Box 699
Tuolumne, CA, 95379

Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Honorable Chairperson Reich:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes the Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project site encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road, to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir, within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Grange, California 7.5-minute topographic map (Figure 2). The Project is subject to State environmental regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with TID as CEQA lead agency.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 209-883-8385, or by email at bfpenney@tid.org.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Penney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

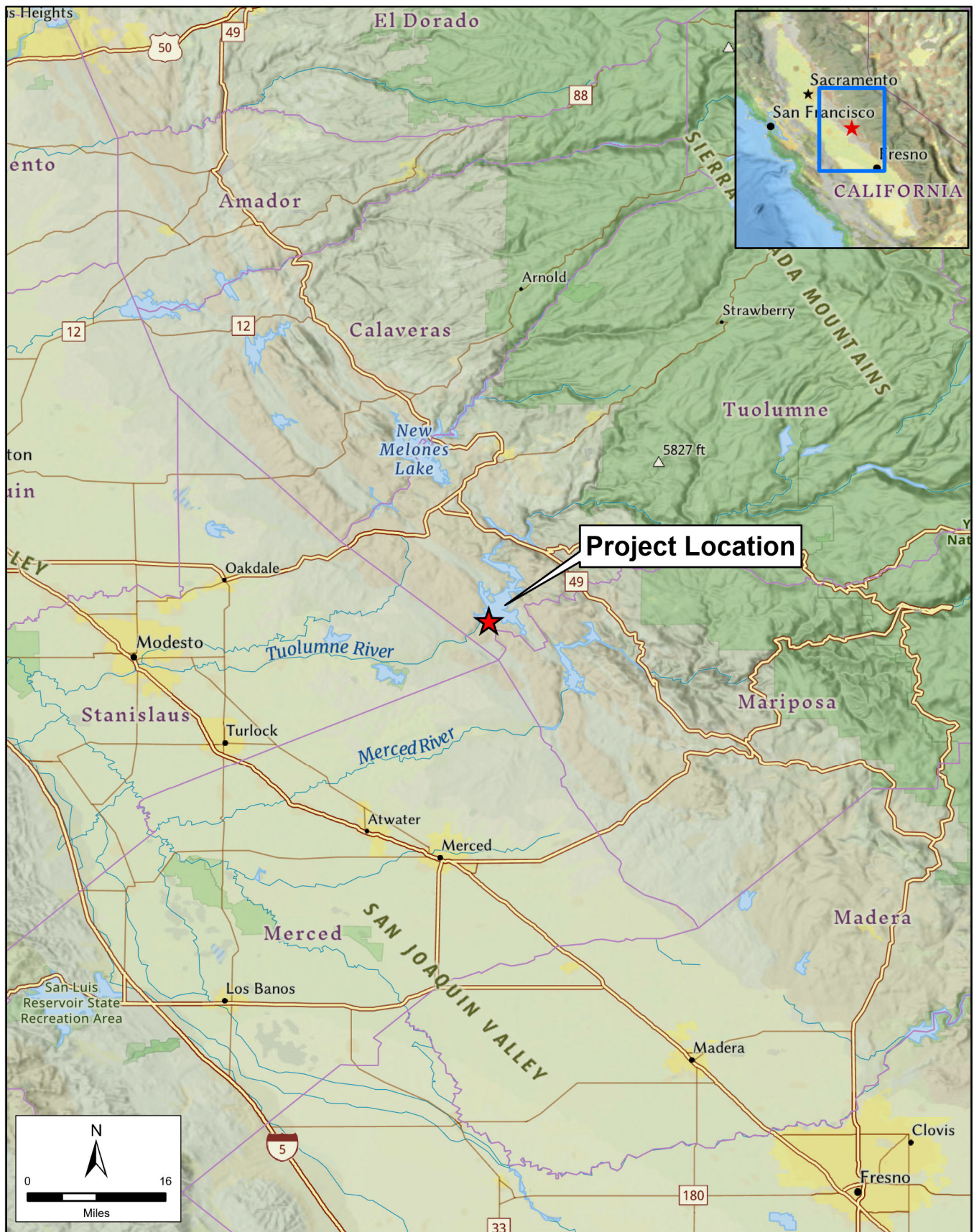
Bill Penney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Turlock Irrigation District

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – Map: Project Vicinity

Figure 2 – Map: Project Location

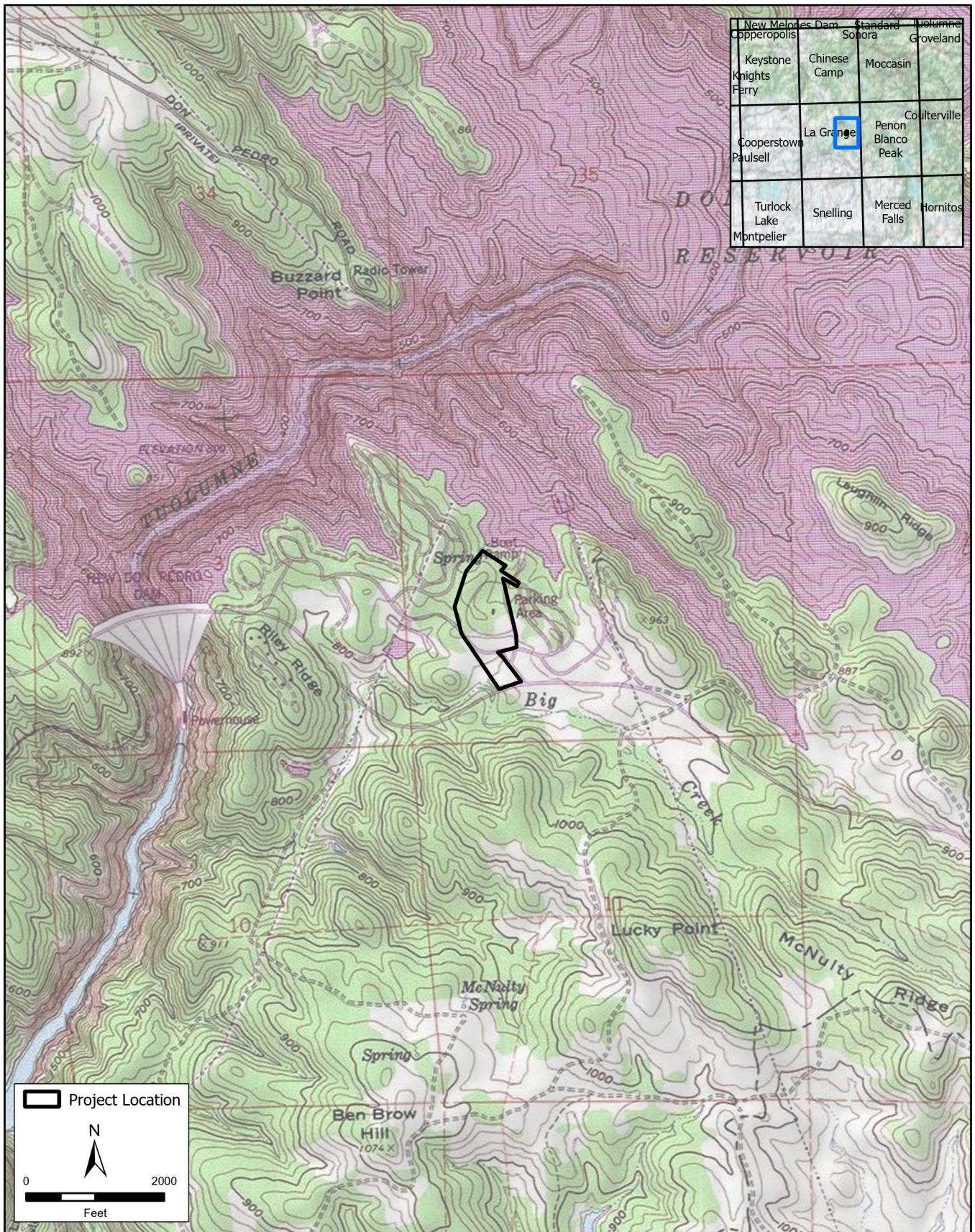
CC: Stanley Cox, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:00 AM
To: andrea@mewuk.com
Cc: Bill F. Penney; receptionist@mewuk.com
Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: DPRA-VisitorCenter_TribalNotif_Reich_20231107.pdf

Honorable Chairperson Reich:

Please find attached project notification for the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California. The attached notification was also sent to you via U.S. Postal Service certified mail. Please let me know if your Tribe has any concerns regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID has requested that Environmental Science Associates, TID's environmental consultant for the Project, send this notification on their behalf.

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Robin Hoffman, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Program Manager—Delta Region

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Petaluma, CA

707-494-3349 **cell**

707-796-7006 **direct**

RHoffman@esassoc.com | esassoc.com

We've Moved! Please update your records: 775 Baywood Drive, Suite 100, Petaluma, CA 94954.

November 7, 2023

Cosme Valdez, Chairperson
Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
P.O. Box 580986
Elk Grove, CA, 95758-0017

Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Honorable Chairperson Valdez:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes the Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project site encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road, to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir, within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Grange, California 7.5-minute topographic map (Figure 2). The Project is subject to State environmental regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with TID as CEQA lead agency.

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Sincerely,

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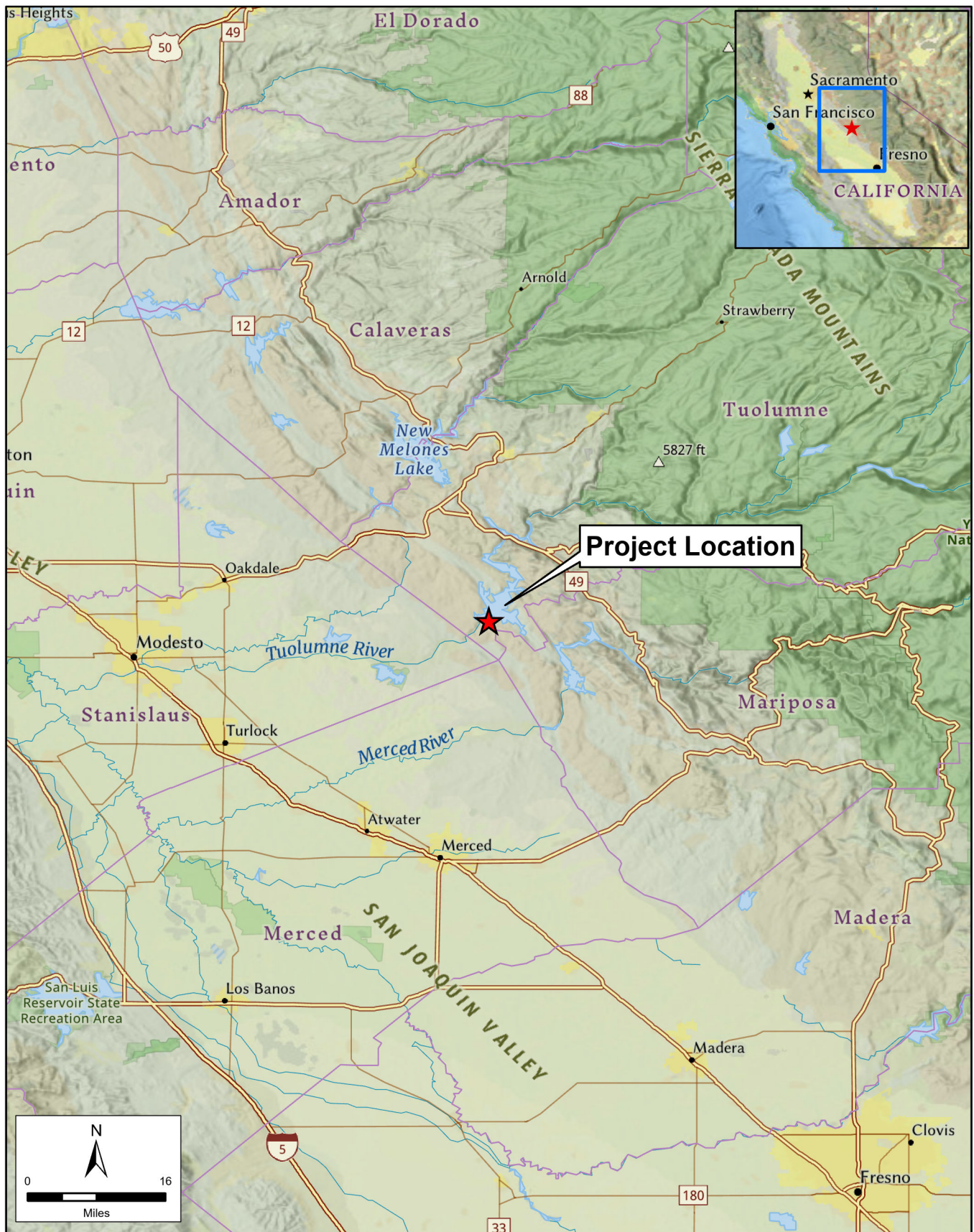
Bill Penney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Turlock Irrigation District

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – Map: Project Vicinity

Figure 2 – Map: Project Location

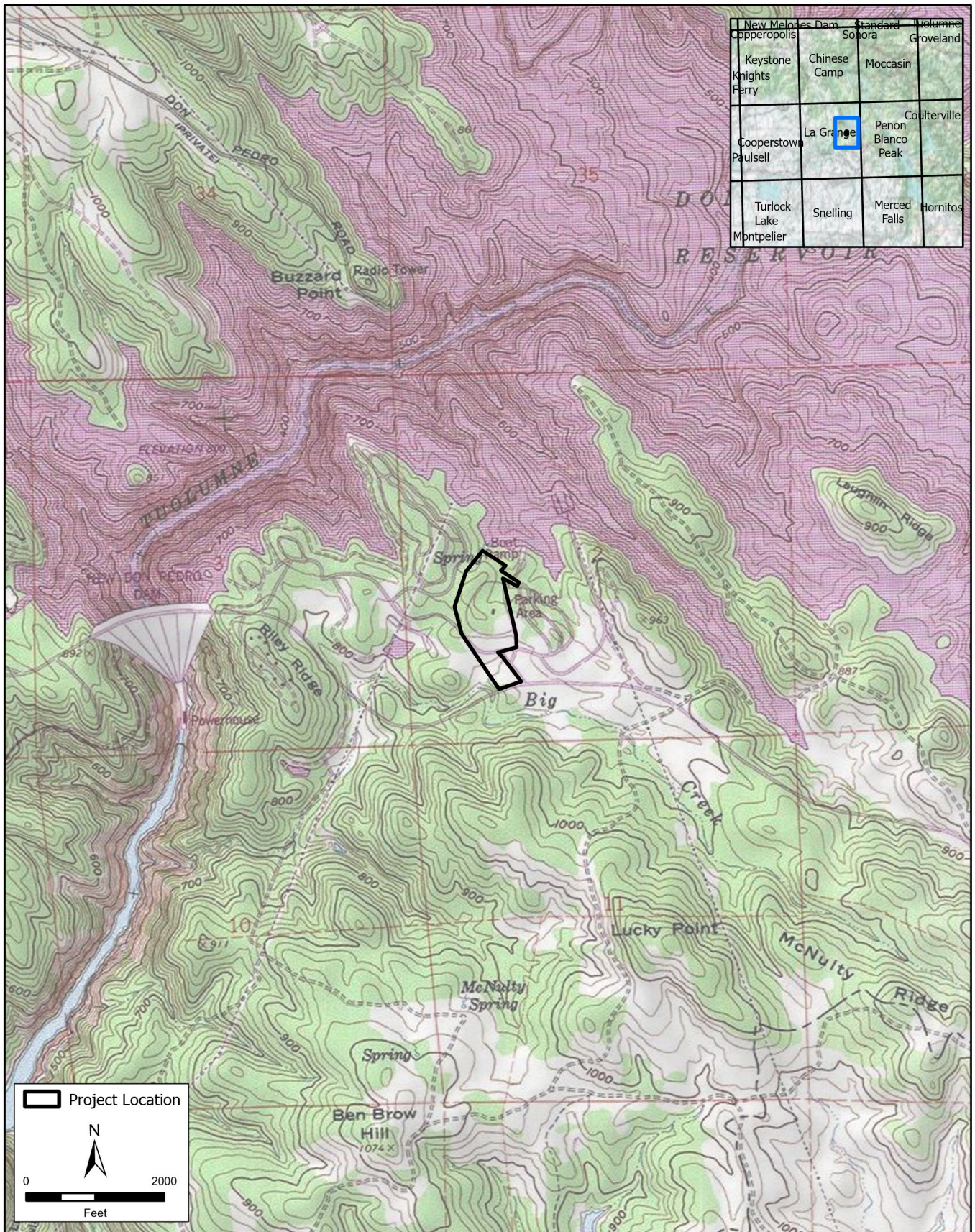
CC: Leland Valdez, Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:57 AM
To: valdezcome@comcast.net
Cc: Bill F. Penney
Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: DPRA-VisitorCenter_TribalNotif_Valdez_20231107.pdf

Honorable Chairperson Valdez:

Please find attached project notification for the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California. The attached notification was also sent to you via U.S. Postal Service certified mail. Please let me know if your Tribe has any concerns regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID has requested that Environmental Science Associates, TID's environmental consultant for the Project, send this notification on their behalf.

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Robin Hoffman, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Program Manager—Delta Region

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Petaluma, CA

707-494-3349 **cell**

707-796-7006 **direct**

RHoffman@esassoc.com | esassoc.com

We've Moved! Please update your records: 775 Baywood Drive, Suite 100, Petaluma, CA 94954.

November 7, 2023

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA, 93906

Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Honorable Chairperson Woodrow:

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes the Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project site encompasses 25.7 acres between the Fleming Meadows Recreation Area entrance along Bonds Flat Road, to the vicinity of the highwater mark on the south bank of Don Pedro Reservoir, within Township 3 South, Range 14 East (Mount Diablo Base Meridian), as depicted in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) La Grange, California 7.5-minute topographic map (Figure 2). The Project is subject to State environmental regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with TID as CEQA lead agency.

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Sincerely,

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Bill Penney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Turlock Irrigation District

Enclosure:

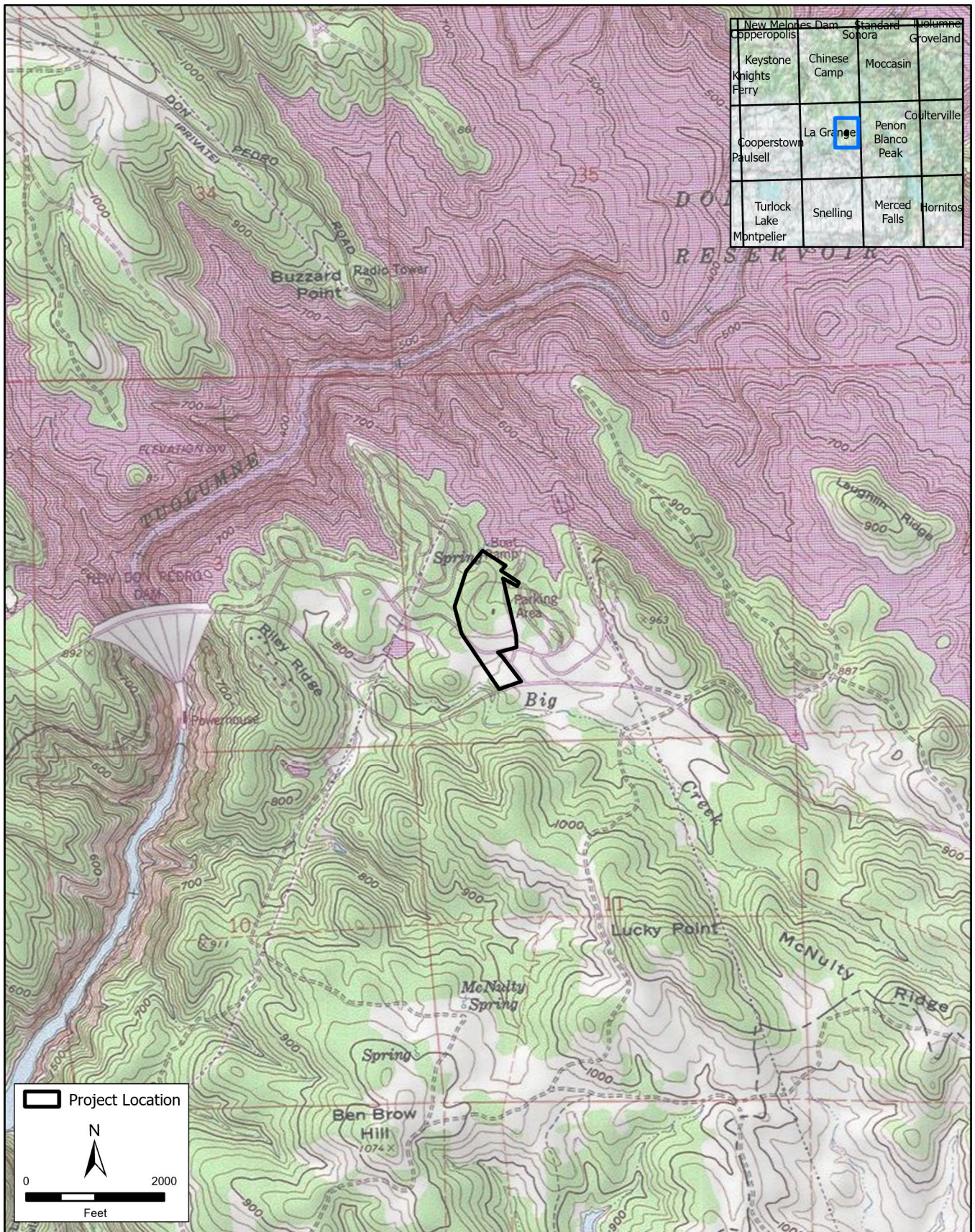
Figure 1 – Map: Project Vicinity
Figure 2 – Map: Project Location



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; National Geographic, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 1
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: ESA, 2023; USGS, 2023

TID DPRA Visitor Center Project. D201800805.07

Figure 2
Project Location

Robin Hoffman

From: Robin Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:01 AM
To: kwood8934@aol.com
Cc: Bill F. Penney
Subject: Notification of Don Pedro Recreation Area Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project
Attachments: DPRA-VisitorCenter_TribalNotif_Woodrow_20231107.pdf

Honorable Chairperson Woodrow:

Please find attached project notification for the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Don Pedro Recreation Area (DPRA) Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project (Project), which would entail modification of the existing trading post, construction of an additional building, and installation of associated utilities, all at the DPRA Fleming Meadows Recreation Area, in Tuolumne County, California. The attached notification was also sent to you via U.S. Postal Service certified mail. Please let me know if your Tribe has any concerns regarding cultural resources and tribal cultural resources important to your community that could be impacted by the Project. TID has requested that Environmental Science Associates, TID's environmental consultant for the Project, send this notification on their behalf.

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Robin Hoffman, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Program Manager—Delta Region

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Petaluma, CA

707-494-3349 **cell**

707-796-7006 **direct**

RHoffman@esassoc.com | esassoc.com

We've Moved! Please update your records: 775 Baywood Drive, Suite 100, Petaluma, CA 94954.



TUOLUMNE ME-WUK TRIBAL COUNCIL

Post Office Box 699

TUOLUMNE, CALIFORNIA 95379

Telephone (209) 928-5300

Fax (209) 928-1677

December 11, 2023

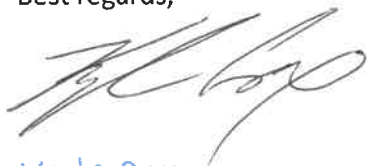
Bill Penney
Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive
Turlock, CA 95381

RE: Fleming Meadows Visitor Center Project

Dear Mr. Penney,

We are in receipt of your communication dated November 7th, 2023 regarding the above referenced project. Upon reviewing said documentation we are requesting more information in regards to the specific location of the area of potential impact. The reason for concern and further information is our records show several sites near the project area. If we could arrange a site visit and get more details on the work to be performed that would be helpful.

Best regards,



Kyle Cox

Cultural Resource Manager/ Tribal Vice Chairman

(209)770-7220

Appendix D
Cultural Resources
Confidential

