



## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 22, 2025

**Project:** Cultural resources records search – **North Central Fire Protection District Training Campus Project**

**To:** Jaymie Brauer, Principal Planner

**From:** Robert Parr, MS, RPA, Senior Archaeologist

**Subject:** Cultural Resources Records Search Results (RS#24-522)

### **Background**

A cultural resources records search (#24-522) was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (IC) at California State University, Bakersfield for the North Central Fire Protection District Training Campus Project, Fresno County, California. The purpose of the search was to determine whether any known cultural resources are located on or near the proposed Project that might be impacted by Project construction and/or activities.

### **Project Location**

The Project is located in unincorporated Fresno County, approximately 0.5-miles east of the city of Kerman, San Joaquin Valley, California (see Attachment A).

### **Project Description**

The North Central Fire Protection District (NCFPD) proposes the development of a new fire station with instructional, training and operational facilities on a specialized campus. Development of the proposed project would ensure crew readiness to respond to emergency incidents with the NCFPD's 230 square mile service area and support partner agencies when needed. Additionally, the project would allow the NCFPD to utilize the facilities at the campus for training exercises and community events related to the provision of emergency services.

The project is located on a 60-acre project site (APN 025-200-17S), within the County of Fresno, CA. The project site is located approximately 0.5-miles east of the Kerman city limits on the southwest corner of West Kearney Boulevard and South Howard Avenue. The site is bounded by railroad tracks to the south, agricultural fields to the north, east and west and rural residences to the north and west. The project will be completed in three phases: Phase 1 totaling 5.68 acres, Phase 2 totaling 17.41 acres, and Phase 3 totaling 35.20 acres.

Phase 1 consists of a fire station with three bays (15,400 square feet), an emergency operations center (15,200 square feet), drafting pit training area, leach field, parking lot and landscaping. Water will be provided from existing onsite water well on site. Once development commences on



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site, a potable water tank will be included for any of the buildings. In the future, the site may connect to the City's water service system. A septic system and leach field will also be constructed during Phase 1.

Phase 2 consists of the following training facilities: a fire apparatus building / big box building with six bays (14,400 square feet), electrical tower, generator area, water tank storage, roof props residential / commercial ventilation training with an outdoor classroom, propane props/tanks, cinder block, vehicle extrication with outdoor classroom, two-story Class A burn building with a live burn prop tower, five-story Class B burn building with a propane prop tower, small town prop training area, drone training area with research and development classrooms/tech labs and a fire training center (26,000 square feet) equipped with offices, classrooms, conference rooms, shower facilities, restrooms and tactical simulator training. Phase 2 will also include a storm water and recycled water retention basin, leach field, parking lot, landscaping and a maintenance facility/storage with three bays (16,620 square feet).

Phase 3 consists of the development of a concrete helipad site (Type 2), solar panel training area, electrical vehicle area, outdoor classroom, driving track course, driving track course classroom/observation tower, stormwater/recycled water retention basin (approximately 5.0 acres), lithium ion-battery storage training area and rail/train training area. Phase 3 will also include the dedication of a 30-foot easement for the future development of a roadway on the easterly border of the site.

The proposed new fire station will be operational 24 hours a day, every day of the calendar year and will be operated and maintained by the North Central Fire Protection District. The training facility will conduct two firefighter academies per year with approximately eight new trainees per academy class. Each academy is scheduled for six weeks or 30 days of training. It is anticipated that full buildout will occur over a 10-year period.

### **Results**

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

The records search indicated that the subject property has never been surveyed for cultural resources and it is not known if any exist on it. Three previous cultural resource studies have been conducted within a half mile of the Project (Binning 2008; Kile 2013; Whitley and Carey 2020). One historic-period cultural resource has been recorded within one half mile of the Project. This is a segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad grade (P-10-003930) that runs adjacent to the southern boundary of the project. No impacts to this resource are anticipated to occur. No further cultural resources, historical or prehistoric, have been identified within a half mile.



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A Sacred Lands File request was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission. A response dated November 26, 2024, indicates *negative* results (see Attachment B). On December 17, 2024, pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and Government Code §65300 *et seq*, letters were sent to each of the Native American tribes within the geographic area as identified by the NAHC (Attachment C). The letters included a description of the Project and location maps. To date, no responses have been received from the tribes that were contacted.

### Conclusions

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

However, there is still a possibility that historical or archaeological materials may be exposed during construction. Grading, as well as other ground-disturbing actions, have the potential to damage or destroy these previously unidentified and potentially significant cultural resources within the project area, including historical or archaeological resources. Disturbance of any deposits that have the potential to provide significant cultural data would be considered a significant impact. To reduce the potential impacts of the Project on cultural resources, the project shall comply with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations. The Project will have a less than significant impact related to cultural resources.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Parr', with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Robert E. Parr, MS, RPA  
Senior Archaeologist

Attachment A - Figures

Attachment B – NAHC Response Letter

Attachment C – Tribal Consultation Letter



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### References

(Note: Alpha-numeric designation in parentheses following citation refers to IC report reference number)

Binning, Jeanne

2008 Historic Property Survey Report for Route 180 Planned Westside Expressway from I-5 to Valentine Ave., Fresno, Fresno County, California. (FR-02501)

Kile, Mark

2013 Cultural Resources Assessment for the Double L Mobile Ranch Park Water Service Project, Kerman, Fresno County, California. (FR-02755)

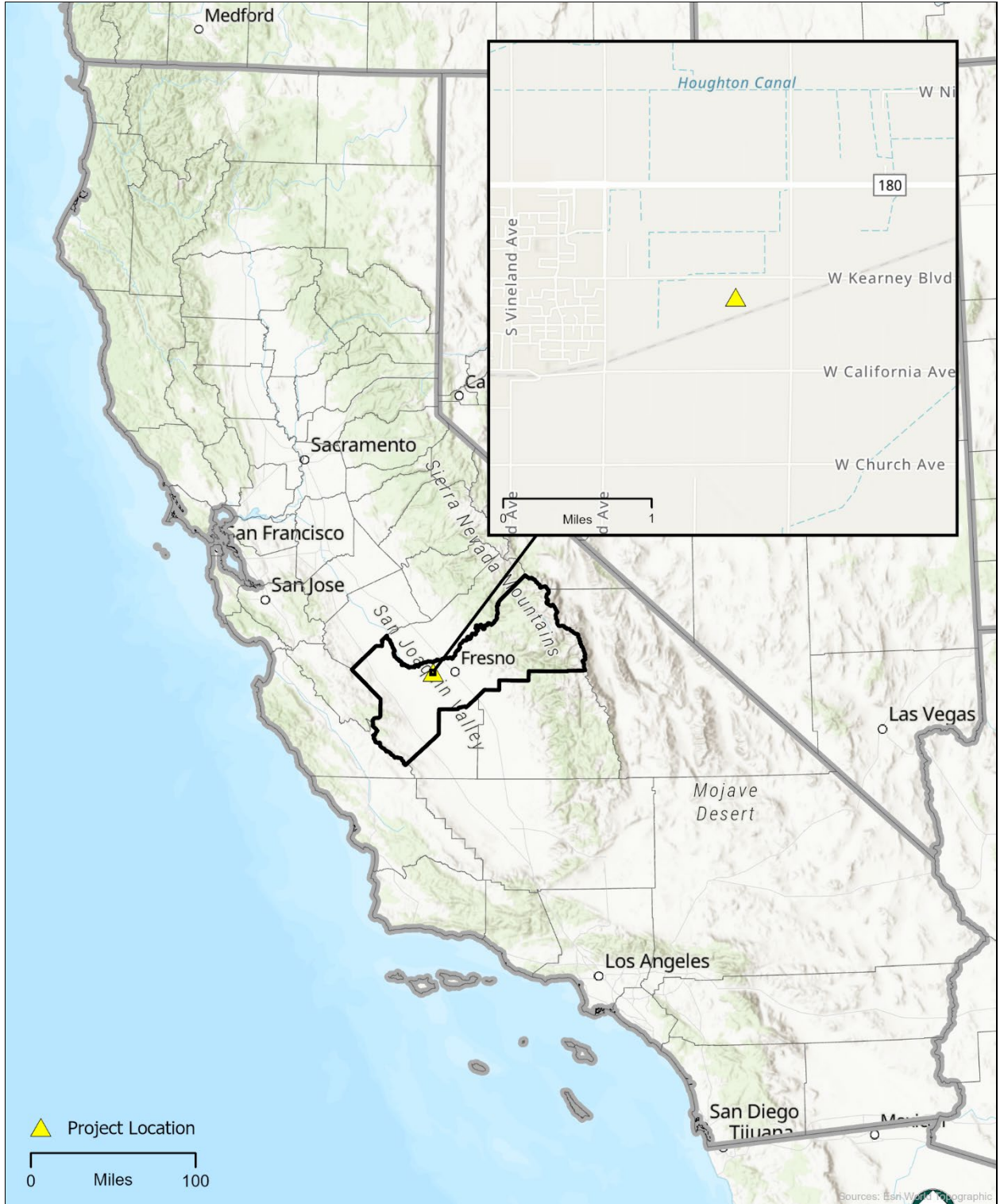
Whitley, David S. and Peter A. Carey

2020 Class III Inventory/Phase I Survey, Kerman Eastside Community Park Project, Fresno County, California. (FR-03152)



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## Attachment A Figures

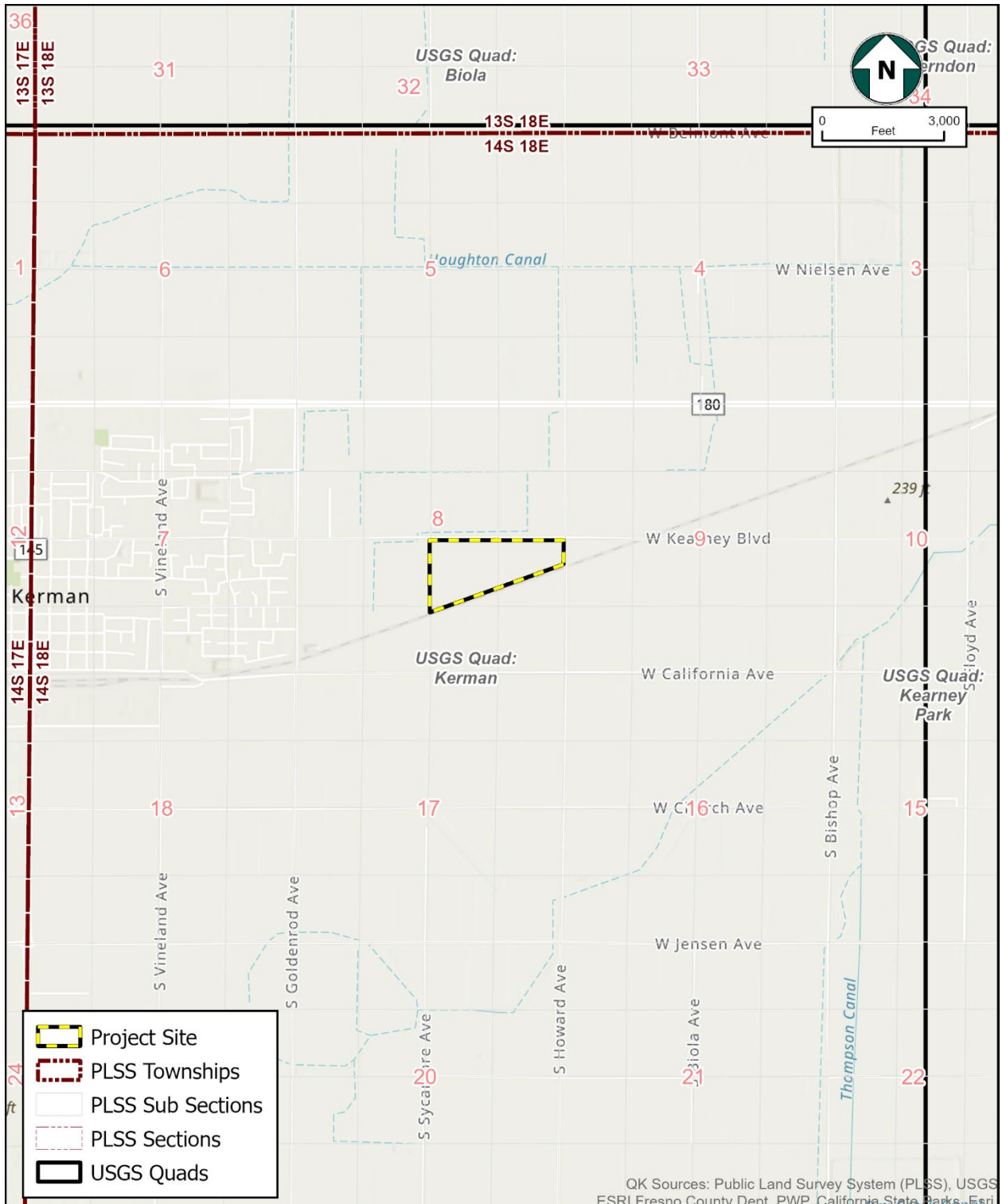


**Figure 1**  
**Regional Location**





**Figure 2**  
**Project Site**



**Figure 3**  
**PLSS/USGS Quad**







Figure 4  
 Topo





## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Attachment B  
NAHC Response Letter

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

November 26, 2024

Marisela Martinez  
QK Inc.

Via Email to: [Marisela.martinez@qkinc.com](mailto:Marisela.martinez@qkinc.com)

**Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, North Central Fire Protection District Campus Project, Fresno County**

Dear Ms. Martinez:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

*Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.*

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

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

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:



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  
**Bennae Calac**  
Pauma-Yuima Band of  
Luiseño Indians

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**Raymond C.  
Hitchcock**  
Miwok/Nisenan

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**  
1550 Harbor Boulevard  
Suite 100  
West Sacramento,  
California 95691  
(916) 373-2710

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: [Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Pricilla.Torres-Fuentes@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Pricilla Torres-Fuentes*

Pricilla Torres-Fuentes  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

Attachment C  
Tribal Consultation Letter





December 17, 2024

FROM: Tim Henry, Fire Chief, North Central Fire Protection District

RE: North Central Fire Protection District Campus Project, located at the southwest corner of South Howard Avenue and West Kearney Boulevard, Fresno County, California

Dear Tribal Leader:

The North Central Fire Protection District (NCFPD) proposed to construct the North Central Fire Protection District Campus Project (project). NCFPD is designated as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and holds the environmental review responsibilities for this project, including tribal consultation related to historic properties. Historic properties include archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, traditional cultural places and landscapes, plant and animal communities, and buildings and structures with significant tribal association.

The project is located outside of the city of Kerman, Fresno County, California (see Figure 1 through Figure 4).

NCFPD proposes the development of instruction, training and operational facilities at a single specialized campus. Development of the proposed project would ensure crew readiness to respond to emergency incidents with the NCFPD's approximately 230 square mile service area and support partner agencies when needed. Additionally, the project would allow the NCFPD to utilize the facilities at the campus for training exercises and community events related to the provision of emergency/first responder services.

The project is located on a 60-acre project site (APN 025-200-17S), within the County of Fresno, CA. The project site is located approximately 0.5-miles east of the Kerman city limits on the southwest corner of West Kearney Boulevard and South Howard Avenue. The site is bounded by railroad tracks to the south, agricultural fields to the north, east and west and rural residences to the north and west. The project will be completed in three phases: Phase 1 totaling 5.68 acres, Phase 2 totaling 17.41 acres, and Phase 3 totaling 35.20 acres. Construction of these phases are estimated to extend over a 10-year period, depending on available funding.

Phase 1 consists of a fire station with three bays (15,400 square feet), an emergency operations center (15,200 square feet), drafting pit training area, leach field, parking lot and landscaping.

Phase 2 consists of the following training facilities: a fire apparatus building / big box building with six bays (14,400 square feet), electrical tower, generator area, water tank storage, roof props residential / commercial ventilation training with an outdoor classroom, propane props/tanks,

cinder block, vehicle extrication with outdoor classroom, two-story Class A burn building with a live burn prop tower, five-story Class B burn building with a propane prop tower, small town prop training area, drone training area with research and development classrooms/tech labs and a fire training center (26,000 square feet) equipped with offices, classrooms, conference rooms, shower facilities, restrooms and tactical simulator training. Phase 2 will also include a reclamation pond, leach field, parking lot, landscaping and a maintenance facility/storage with three bays (16,620 square feet).

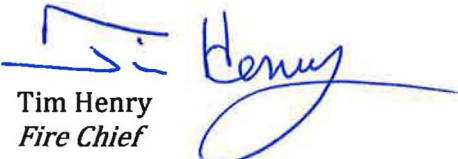
Phase 3 consists of the development of a concrete helipad site (Type 2), solar panel training area, electrical vehicle area, outdoor classroom, driving track course, driving track course classroom/observation tower, stormwater pond (approx. 4.3 acres), lithium ion-battery storage training area and rail/train training area. Phase 3 will also include the dedication of a 130' easement for the future development of a roadway.

The proposed training campus will be operational 24 hours a day, every day of the calendar year and will be operated and maintained by the NCFPD. It is anticipated that full buildout will occur over a 10-year period. The vertical Area of Potential Effect (APE) is at a depth of 12 feet below grade.

A cultural resources records search (#24-522) was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center at California State University, Bakersfield. The records search covered an area within one-half mile of the project and included a review of the *National Register of Historic Places*, *California Points of Historical Interest*, *California Registry of Historic Resources*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California State Historic Resources Inventory*, and a review of cultural resource reports on file. A Sacred Lands File Request (SLF) was also submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The SLF letter dated November 26, 2024, indicated negative results, and no tribal cultural resources were known to exist within the APE. The NAHC letter and the Cultural Resources technical memo are included herein.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing. Please submit your recommendations within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this request to Jaymie Brauer, QK, 5080 California Avenue, Suite 220, Bakersfield CA 93309, or [jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com](mailto:jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com), or Marisela Martínez, 601 Pollasky Avenue, Suite 301, Clovis, CA 93612, or [marisela.martinez@qkinc.com](mailto:marisela.martinez@qkinc.com).

Sincerely,

  
Tim Henry  
Fire Chief

Enclosures:

- Attachment 1: Figures
- Attachment 2: NAHC Response Letter
- Attachment 3: Cultural Resource Technical Memo

Phone Call/Email Log  
Tribal Contact under AB 52 for the NCFPD Campus Project

NAHC LIST

TRIBE CONTACT	DATE	COMMENTS
AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND VALENTIN LOPEZ, CHAIRPERSON (916) 743-5833	<b>1/7/2025</b>	Called and attempted to leave VM. VM box full.
AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND ED KETCHUM, VICE- CHAIRPERSON (530) 578-3864	<b>1/7/2025</b>	Called and attempted to leave VM. No VM prompt.
NORTH VALLEY YOKUTS / OHLONE TRIBE TIMOTHY PEREZ, TRIBAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER (209) 662-2788	<b>1/7/25</b>	Called and left VM.
NORTH VALLEY YOKUTS / OHLONE TRIBE KATHERINE PEREZ, CHAIRPERSON (209) 649-8972	<b>1/7/2025</b>	Called and left VM
TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE NEIL PEYRON, CHAIRPERSON (559) 781-4271	<b>1/7/2025</b>	Called and left VM
WUKSACHI INDIAN TRIBE / ESHOM VALLEY BAND KENNETH WOODROW, CHAIRPERSON (831) 443-9702	<b>1/7/2025</b>	Called phone number provided. Message states the phone number has been changed. Called and left VM.