

## Appendix D Cultural Letter Report

## Appendix

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May 15, 2024

Dwayne Mears, Principal  
PlaceWorks  
3 MacArthur Place, Suite 1100  
Santa Ana, California 92707

**RE:** Hope Elementary School District, Hope Junior High School Gymnasium and Parking,  
Porterville, Tulare County, California

Dear Mr. Mears:

This letter documents the completion of a Class III inventory/Phase I cultural resources survey for the Hope Elementary School District (HESD), Hope Junior High School Gymnasium and Parking Project (Project). The Project study area is proposing the construction of new facilities in addition to the existing school grounds that includes an extension to the current parking lot and a new gymnasium. The proposed Project totals two acres in which all staging, laydown, and construction activities will occur. The Project study area is situated just south of Porterville in Tulare County, California (Figure 1). Specifically, the study area is in Section 14 (T22S/R27E; MDBM) of the Porterville USGS 7.5' quadrangle map. This study was conducted by ASM Affiliates to assist in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Peter A. Carey, M.A. RPA, served as Principal Investigator.

In summary, no previous studies have been conducted within the Project area, and there are no known cultural resources within the Project area. One previous study has been conducted within 0.5-mile of the Project area and one previously recorded resource, the historic Railroad Grade (P-54-004626), has been recorded within 0.5-mile of the Project area. No cultural resources of any kind were identified within the Project area, and a determination of no adverse effect/no significant impact is recommended for the Project.

### **Project Description and Location**

- The proposed Project consists of the construction of a new gymnasium and the extension of an existing parking lot for the Hope Elementary School District. The Project is located at 613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue in a mixed suburban/light agricultural area in Porterville. Major cross streets are CA-65 to the west, West Teapot Dome Avenue to the north, and South Main Street/Orange Belt Drive to the east. Agricultural fields surround the property on all sides except across Teapot Dome Avenue to the northwest and northeast are mixed-zone residential lots.

### **Method of Study**

### **Records Search**

A records search was completed at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (IC), California State University, Bakersfield, on December 18, 2023. The records search review was completed in order to determine whether the study area had been previously surveyed for cultural resources, and/or whether any such resources were known to exist on it. The records search was completed to determine: (i) if prehistoric or historical archaeological sites had previously been recorded within the study area; (ii) if the Project area had been systematically surveyed by archaeologists prior to the initiation of this field study; and/or (iii) whether the region of the field Project was known to contain archaeological sites and to thereby be archaeologically sensitive. Records examined included archaeological site files and maps, the National Register of Historic Places, Historic Property Data File, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the California Points of Historic Interest.

According to the IC records, no previous studies have been conducted within the Project area and no cultural resources are known to exist within it (Figure 2). One previous study has been completed within 0.5-mi of the Project area (Table 1), and one cultural resource is known to exist within 0.5-mi of the Project area (Table 2). The results of the records search are provided in Appendix A.

**Table 1. Survey Reports within 0.5-miles of the Project Area**

Report No.	Year	Author (s)/Affiliation	Title
TU-01886	2020	Whitley, David S. and Carey, Peter A./ ASM Affiliates, Inc.	Class III Inventory/ Phase I Survey, Butterfield Corridor Project, Porterville, Tulare County, California

**Table 2. Previous Resources within 0.5-mi of the Project Area**

Primary #	Type	Description
P-54-004626	Structure	Historic Railroad Grade

Additionally, a *Sacred Lands File* request was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on December 4, 2023. The *Sacred Lands File* results were received on January 2, 2024, stating there were no known sacred sites or tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the study area. Outreach letters were sent on January 4, 2024, to tribes listed on the NAHC contact list with follow-up emails sent on February 9, 2024. Responses were received from the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians and the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, both deferring to more local tribes to the Project area.

No other responses have been received as of the writing of this memo. The results of the *Sacred Lands File* are provided in Appendix A along with a table detailing the correspondence with tribes.

**Field Survey**

An intensive Class III Inventory/Phase I survey of the 2-acre study area was conducted February 12, 2024, by ASM Assistant Archaeologist Maria Silva, B.A. The study area consists of agriculture land (an orange grove), as well as a leveled-out dirt area used as an extended parking zone (Figures 3 and 4). The entire study area was surveyed using 15-meter parallel transects.

Soils throughout the study area consist of brown alluvium with quaternary deposits. Native vegetation is absent throughout. Surface visibility was excellent throughout the entire study area. No cultural resources of any kind were identified.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

No cultural resources of any kind were identified during the Class III Inventory/Phase I survey of the proposed HESD Hope Junior High School Gymnasium and Parking Project area. Therefore, the development and use of the Project area does not have the potential to result in adverse impacts to significant or unique cultural resources and a determination of no adverse effect/ no significant impact is recommended for the Project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

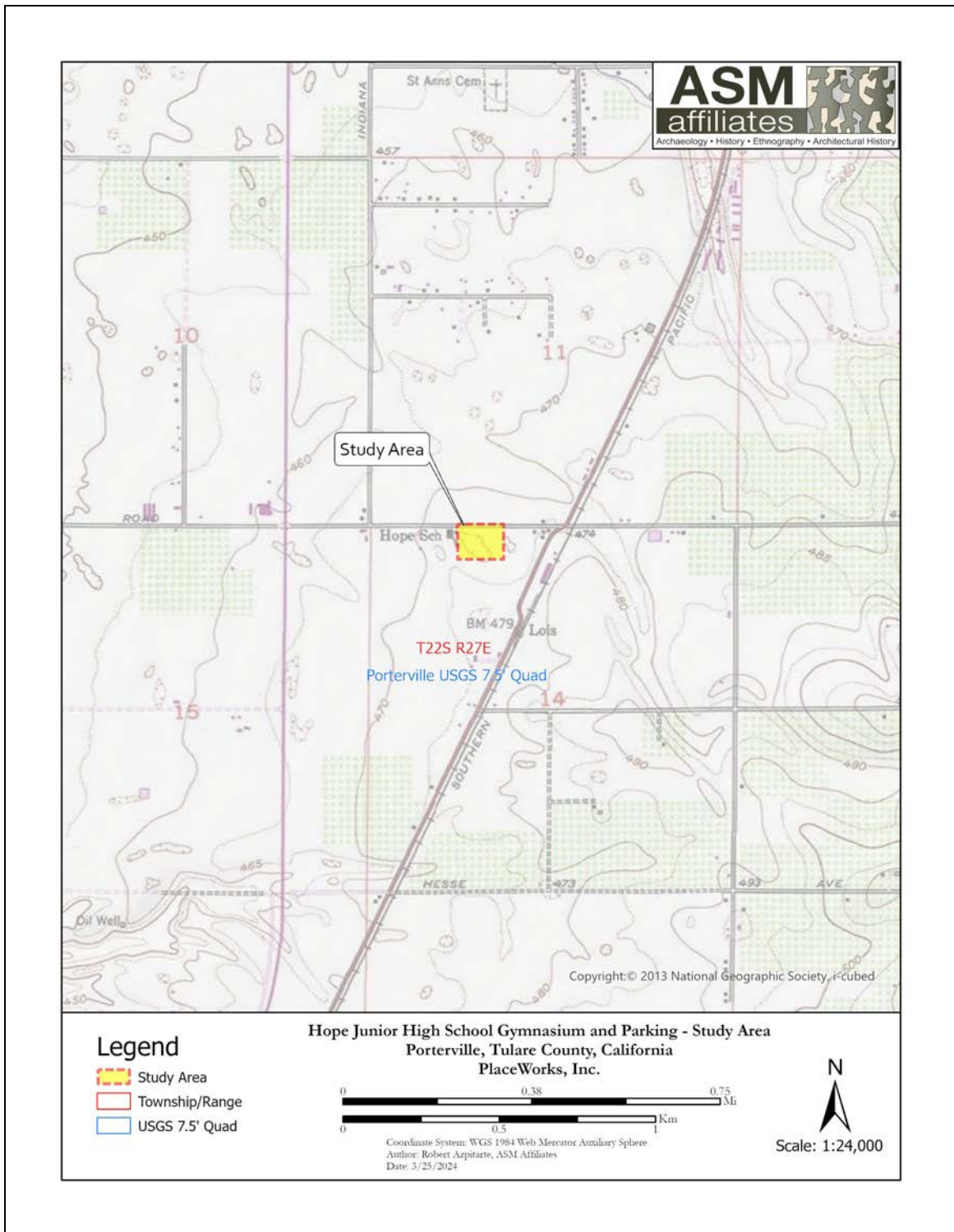
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Carey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Carey" clearly legible.

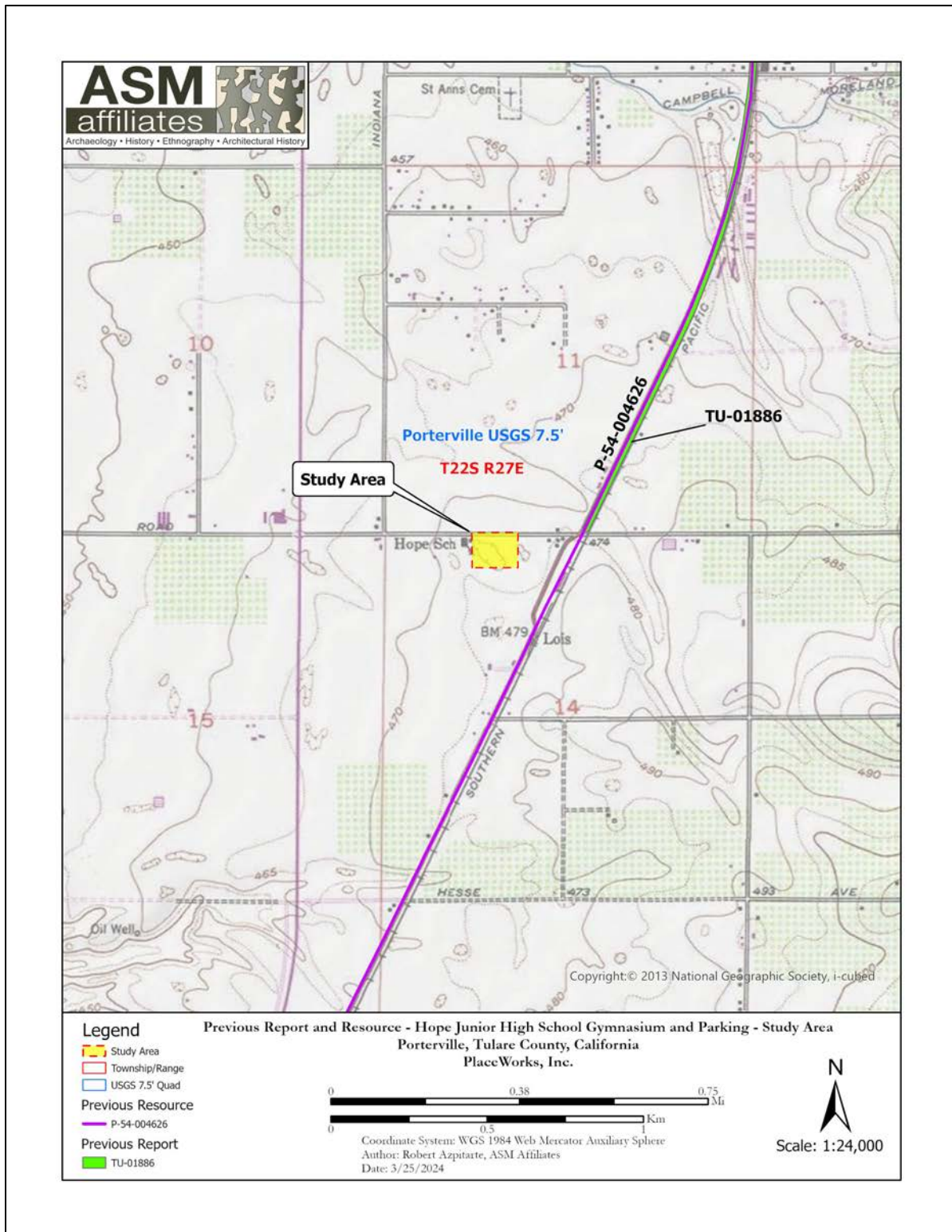
Peter A. Carey, M.A., RPA  
Director

### **Attachments**

- Figure 1. Location of study area, HESD, Hope Junior High School Gymnasium and Parking Project, Tulare County, California
- Figure 2. Previous Studies and Previously Recorded Resources map of the HESD, Hope Junior High Gymnasium and Parking Project study area, Tulare County, California.
- Figure 3. Project study area corridor overview, facing south.
- Figure 4. Project study area corridor overview, facing north.



**Figure 1. Location of study area, HESD, Hope Junior High Gymnasium and Parking Project Tulare County, California.**



**Figure 2. Previous Studies and Previously Recorded Resources map of the HESD, Hope Junior High Gymnasium and Parking Project study area, Tulare County, California.**



**Figure 3. Project study area corridor overview, facing south.**



**Figure 4. Project study area corridor overview, facing north.**



**Appendix A:**  
**Sacred Lands Files Results**

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# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 2, 2024

Peter Carey  
ASM Affiliates

**Via Email to:** [pcarey@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:pcarey@asmaffiliates.com)

**Re: PlaceWorks Hope School Project, Tulare County**

Dear Mr. Carey:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: [Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Cameron Vela  
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON  
**Reginald Pagaling**  
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**Buffy McQuillen**  
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,  
Nomlaki

SECRETARY  
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Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
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COMMISSIONER  
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Ohlone-Costanoan

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**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  
[nahc@nahc.ca.gov](mailto:nahc@nahc.ca.gov)  
NAHC.ca.gov

Native American Heritage Commission  
Native American Contact List  
Tulare County  
1/2/2024

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
Tulare	Kern Valley Indian Community	N	Brandy Kendricks,	30741 Foxridge Court Tehachapi, CA, 93561	(661) 821-1733		krazykendricks@hotmail.com	Kawaisu Tubatulabal Koso	Inyo,Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Tulare	8/23/2019
	Kern Valley Indian Community	N	Julie Turner, Secretary	P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA, 93240	Phone: (661) 340-0032			Kawaisu Tubatulabal Koso	Inyo,Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Tulare	
	Kern Valley Indian Community	N	Robert Robinson, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA, 93240	(760) 378-2915		bbutterbredt@gmail.com	Kawaisu Tubatulabal Koso	Inyo,Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Tulare	
	Tubatulabals of Kern Valley	N	Robert Gomez, Chairperson	P.O. Box 226 Lake Isabella, CA, 93240	(760) 379-4590	(760) 379-4592		Tubatulabal	Kern,Tulare	
	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
	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
	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.

Record: PROJ-2024-000011  
Report Type: List of Tribes  
Counties: Tulare  
NAHC Group: All

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed PlaceWorks Hope School Project, Tulare County.