

CULTURAL RESOURCES

ATTACHMENT B

to the
Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project
Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

This is a non-confidential redacted version of the full report with confidential information about the specific location of cultural resources removed for public issuance as a part of the CEQA document. If you require the confidential version, please request it along with your credentials that allow viewing of such confidential information, at the City contact listed on page 2 of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project, Fremont, Alameda County, California

FEBRUARY 2025



PREPARED FOR
Lamphier-Gregory

PREPARED BY
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Cover Image: View of Vallejo Mill circa 1880s to the southeast.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT FOR THE
VALLEJO MILL HISTORICAL PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS
AND DOG PARK PROJECT,
FREMONT, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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Archaeological and other heritage resources can be damaged or destroyed through uncontrolled public disclosure of information regarding their location. This document contains sensitive information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites, which should not be disclosed to the general public or unauthorized persons.

Information regarding the location, character, or ownership of a cultural resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 54 USC 307103 (National Historic Preservation Act) and 16 USC Section 470(h) (Archaeological Resources Protections Act)

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope: SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was retained by Lamphier-Gregory to provide archaeological support for the Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project(project), located in the city of Fremont, Alameda County, California. The proposed project includes the addition of a dog park, construction of four new pickleball courts with new lighting, construction of new parking stalls, installation of a perimeter concrete split-rail fence and gates, and other improvements, such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant walkways, new park furnishings, a new vault toilet location, drinking fountains, signage, and security and pathway lighting. The intent of this cultural resources inventory report is to identify potential cultural resources within and adjacent to the project area and, in turn, assist in the project's requirements to achieve California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

Dates of the Investigation: SWCA conducted an in-person records search of the project area and a 0.25-mile buffer at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Northwest Information Center (NWIC) on April 30, 2024. The records search results (NWIC File No. 23-1535) were received later that day, indicating that one previously recorded cultural resource (P-01-000227) is located in the project area. SWCA performed an intensive archaeological survey of the project area on May 8, 2024. The site record for P-01-000227 was updated, and no additional new archaeological sites or isolates were identified.

Investigation Constraints: None.

Number and Types of Identified Cultural Resources: One previously recorded cultural resource, P-01-000227, was updated during the current effort. No additional archaeological sites or isolates were identified.

Report Format: The format of this report follows *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format* (California Office of Historic Preservation [OHP] 1990).

Conclusions: P-01-000227 is located adjacent to project construction disturbance and should be avoided. The possibility of inadvertent discovery of cultural resources during grading remains but would be addressed through the following recommendations.

Recommendations: The project has been designed to avoid construction activities within P-01-000227, which is located adjacent to the limit of work. The project would be required to implement the standard City procedures to address the potential for accidental discovery of cultural resources pursuant to Standard Development Requirement (SDR) Fremont Municipal Code FMC 18.218.050(d)(2). SWCA recommends that environmentally sensitive area fencing be placed around the site boundary to limit accidental disturbance during construction activities.

SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(3): Archaeological Monitoring requires that new development projects with the potential to impact subsurface archaeological or cultural resources through grading, demolition, and/or new construction, shall implement archaeological monitoring prior to project work. Based on previous testing in 1986 by Archeo-Tec, a total of 11 trenches, eight hand-dug excavation units, and 78 auger bores were completed within the Park boundary, very limited cultural material was encountered outside of the current project footprint (Pastron et al. 1986). The previous testing results, coupled with the fact that the project area lies in a formerly active channel of Alameda Creek, indicates that there is low potential for buried historic or prehistoric deposits. As such, SWCA does not recommend monitoring of the current project area.

The proposed project will have a less-than-significant impact on cultural resources under CEQA if the above referenced recommendations are implemented and the conditions to comply with SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(2) related to the inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and human remains are implemented.

Disposition of Data: This report will be filed with the NWIC and the Half Moon Bay, California, office of SWCA. Field notes, photographs, and records related to the current study are on file at SWCA's Half Moon Bay office.

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INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was retained by Lamphier-Gregory to provide archaeological support for the Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project (project) located in the city of Fremont, Alameda County, California. The proposed project includes the addition of a dog park, construction of four new pickleball courts with new lighting, construction of new parking stalls, installation of a perimeter concrete split-rail fence and gates, and other improvements such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant walkways, new park furnishings, a new vault toilet location, drinking fountains, signage, and security and pathway lighting.

The purpose of this cultural resources inventory report is to identify, evaluate, and record any cultural resources that may be present within the project area. SWCA archaeologist Brandon Foster, M.A., conducted the fieldwork for this project, and SWCA archaeologist Christina Alonso, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) coauthored the report. These efforts were carried out under the direction of and reviewed for quality assurance/quality control by SWCA Senior Project Manager Christina Alonso, M.A., RPA, and Cultural Resources Principal Investigator Joshua Peabody, M.A., who meets and exceeds the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology (National Park Service [NPS] 1983). All work was completed to achieve California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance as it relates to cultural resources.

Project Description and Location

The project site is located within the historic Niles district of the city of Fremont, Alameda County, California (Figure 1). More specifically, it is located north of the intersection of Mission Boulevard (California State Route [SR] 238) and Niles Canyon Road (SR 84) within the Vallejo Mill Historical Park (Figure 2).

The project includes the creation of a dog park and pickleball courts, new concrete sidewalks and paving, a new accessible pathway, tree removal and new tree planting, and the installation of new asphalt parking stalls and driveway expansion (Figure 3).

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This regulatory framework section identifies the state laws, statutes, guidelines, and regulations that govern the identification and treatment of cultural resources and the analysis of potential impacts to cultural resources. The lead agency must consider the provisions and requirements of this regulatory framework when rendering decisions on projects that have the potential to affect cultural resources.

State Regulations

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), a division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), is responsible for carrying out the duties described in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) and maintaining the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The state-level regulatory framework also includes CEQA, which requires the identification and mitigation of substantial adverse impacts that may affect the significance of eligible historical and archaeological resources.

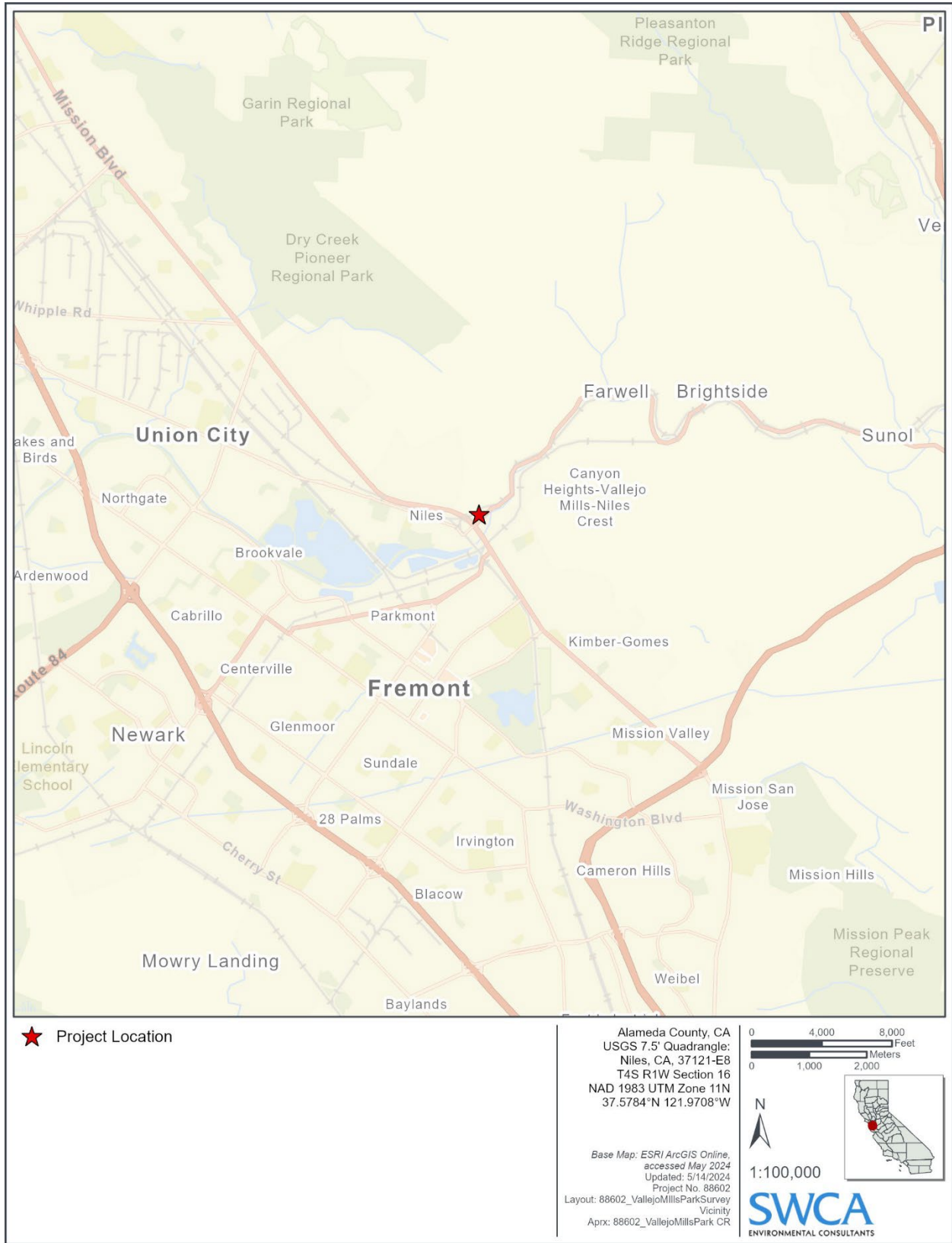


Figure 1. Project vicinity map.

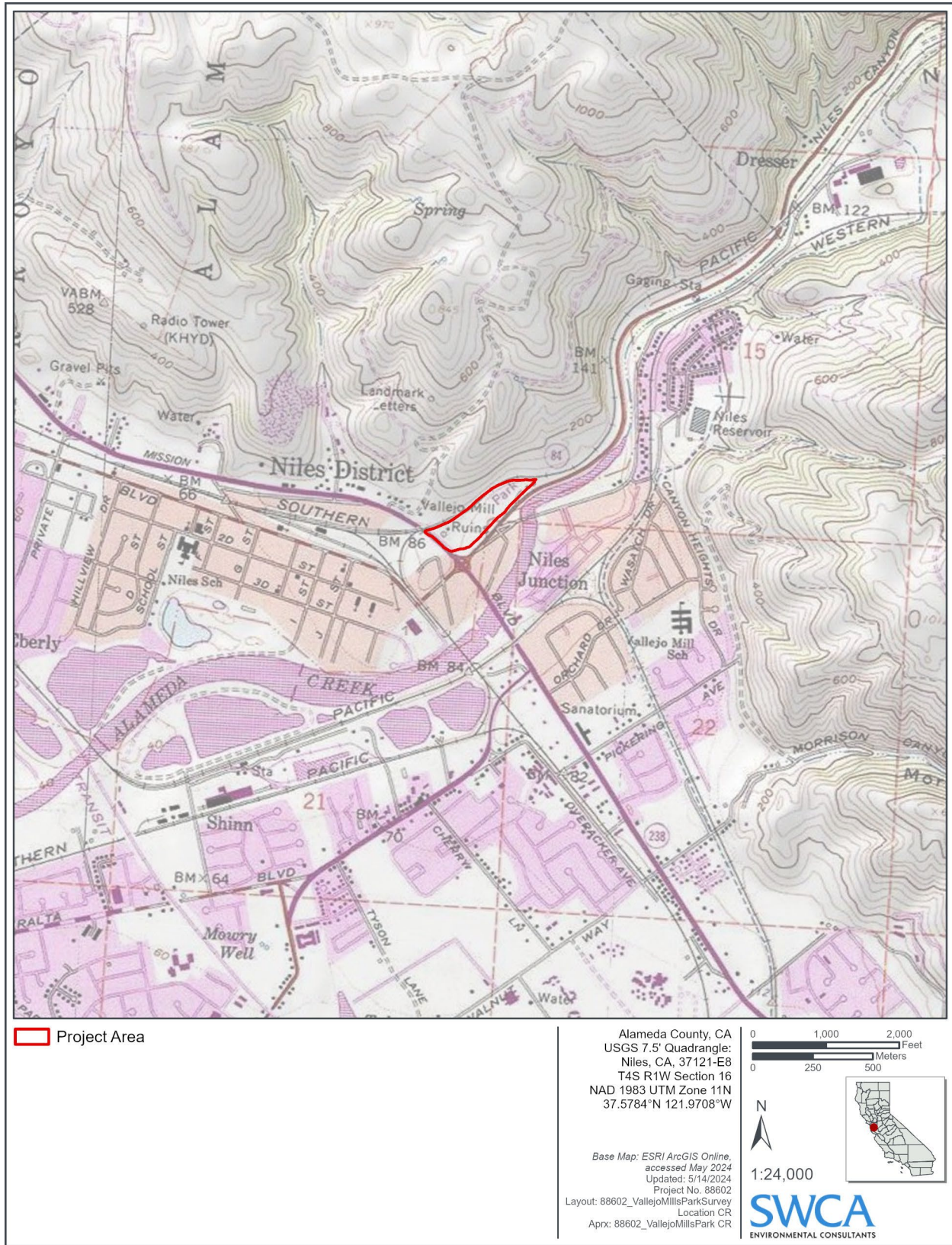


Figure 2. Project location map.

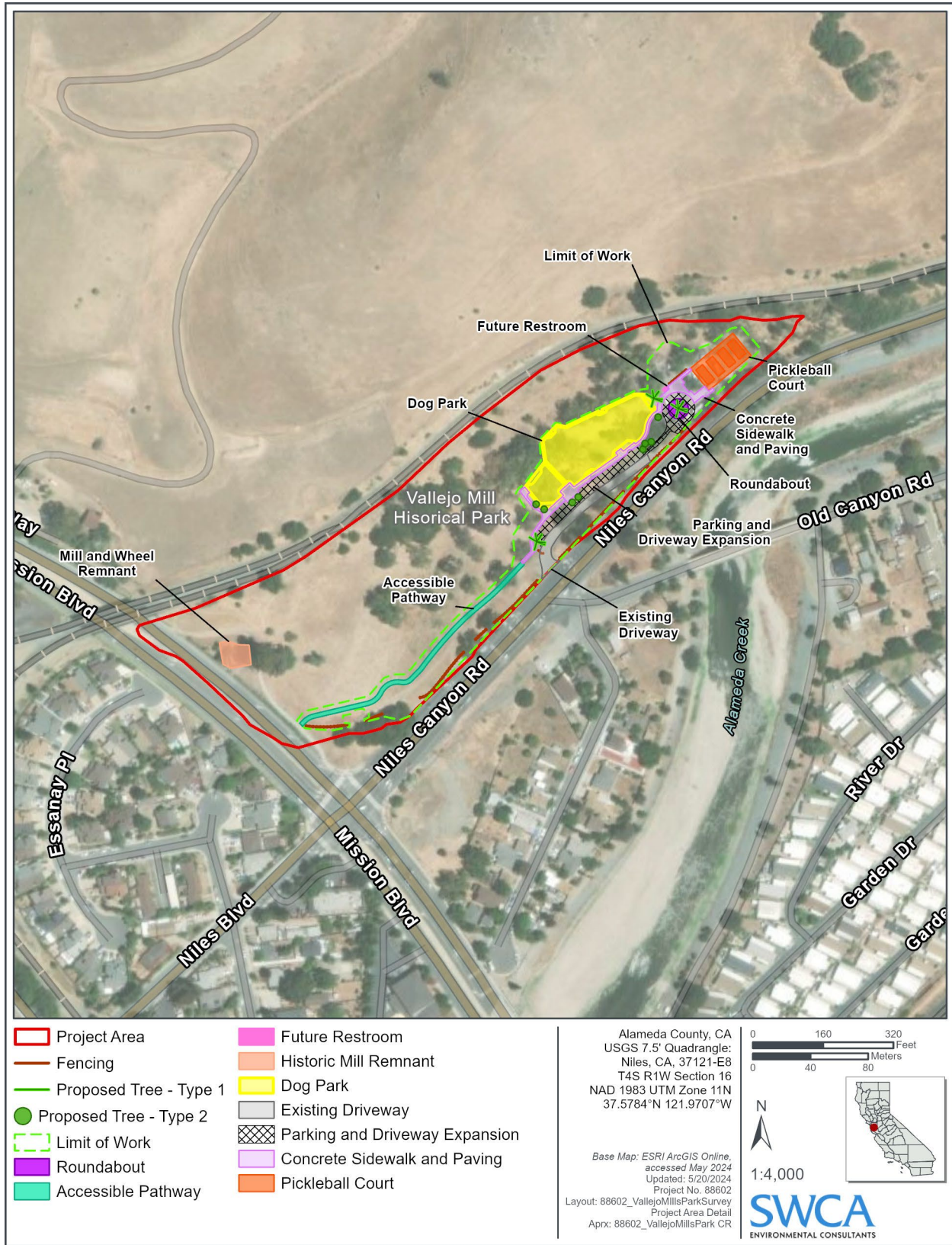


Figure 3. Project area map.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires a lead agency to analyze whether historical and/or archaeological resources may be adversely affected by a proposed project. Under CEQA, a “project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC Section 21084.1). Answering this question is a two-part process: first, the determination must be made as to whether the proposed project involves cultural resources. Second, if cultural resources are present, the proposed project must be analyzed for a potential “substantial adverse change in the significance” of the resource.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, for the purposes of CEQA, historical resources are as follows:

- A resource listed in, or formally determined eligible . . . for listing in the CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1; Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 4850 et seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or identified as significant in a historic resources survey meeting the requirements of Section PRC 5024.1(g).
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that the lead agency determines to be eligible for national, state, or local landmark listing; generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant (and therefore a historic resource under CEQA) if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR (as defined in PRC Section 5024.1; 14 CCR Section 4852).

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance. Resources whose historic integrity (as defined above) do not meet the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

According to CEQA, the fact that a resource is not listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR or is not included in a local register or survey shall not preclude the lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource (PRC Section 5024.1). Pursuant to CEQA, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource may have a significant effect on the environment (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)).

Substantial Adverse Change and Indirect Impacts to Historical Resources

The State CEQA Guidelines specify that a “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired” (Section 15064.5). Material impairment occurs when a project alters in an adverse manner or demolishes “those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion” or eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP, the CRHR, or a local register. In addition, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2, the “direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects.”

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, study of a project under CEQA requires consideration of “the whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the

environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.” State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(d) further defines direct and indirect impacts as follows:

- (1) A direct physical change in the environment is a physical change in the environment which is caused by and immediately related to the project.
- (2) An indirect physical change in the environment is a physical change in the environment, which is not immediately related to the project, but which is caused indirectly by the project. If a direct physical change in the environment in turn causes another change in the environment, then the other change is an indirect physical change in the environment.
- (3) An indirect physical change is to be considered only if that change is a reasonably foreseeable impact which may be caused by the project. A change which is speculative or unlikely to occur is not reasonably foreseeable.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In terms of archaeological resources, PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a “unique archaeological resource” as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

If it can be demonstrated that a proposed project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require that reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Sections 21083.2(a)–(c)). CEQA notes that, if an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological resource nor a historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered to be a significant effect on the environment (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)).

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Created in 1992 and implemented in 1998, the CRHR 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 are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1). Certain properties, including those listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, and California Historical Landmarks numbered 770 and higher are automatically listed in the CRHR. Other properties recognized under the California Points of Historical Interest program, identified as significant in historical resources surveys, or designated by local landmarks programs may be nominated for listing in the CRHR. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c), a resource, either an individual property or a contributor to a historic district, may be listed in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- **Criterion 2:** It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- **Criterion 3:** It 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.
- **Criterion 4:** It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

As previously stated, resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to convey the reasons for their significance, and resources whose historic integrity does not meet NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

Project-Specific Requirements

Standard Development Requirement (SDR) Fremont Municipal Code (FMC) 18.218.050(d)(2): Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. The following requirements shall be met to address the potential for accidental discovery of cultural resources during ground disturbing excavation:

- (A) The project proponent shall include a note on any plans that require ground disturbing excavation that there is a potential for exposing buried cultural resources.
- (B) The project proponent shall retain a professional archaeologist to provide a preconstruction briefing to supervisory personnel of any excavation contractor to alert them to the possibility of exposing buried cultural resources, including significant prehistoric archaeological resources. The briefing shall discuss any cultural resources, including archaeological objects, that could be exposed, the need to stop excavation at the discovery, and the procedures to follow regarding discovery protection and notification of the project proponent and archaeological team.
- (C) In the event that any human remains or historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during ground disturbing excavation, the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5(e) and (f), and of subsection (c)(2)(D) of this section, requiring cessation of work, notification, and immediate evaluation shall be followed.
- (D) If resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities that may be classified as historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources, ground disturbing activities shall cease immediately, and the planning manager shall be notified. The resources will be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and, in the planning manager's discretion, a tribal cultural monitor. If the resources are determined to be historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources, then a plan for avoiding the resources shall be prepared. If avoidance is infeasible, then all significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary and at the discretion of the consulting archaeologist, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and documentation according to current professional standards. Any plan for avoidance or mitigation shall be subject to the approval of the planning manager.

- (E) As used herein, “historical resource” means a historical resource as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a); “unique archaeological resource” means unique archaeological resource as defined by Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(g); and “tribal cultural resource” means tribal cultural resource as defined by Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21074. Collectively, these terms describe “significant cultural materials.”

SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(3): Archaeological Monitoring. New development projects with the potential to impact subsurface archaeological or cultural resources through grading, demolition, and/or new construction, if so determined by a site-specific study prepared by an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards for archaeology, shall implement the following measures prior to any grubbing, grading, or ground disturbing activities:

- (A) An archaeologist shall monitor construction-related ground disturbance within the vicinity of project site features identified as having the potential to include subsurface archaeological, cultural, or tribal cultural resources that could be impacted through ground-disturbing activities related to the construction of the project. Monitoring should continue until the archaeologist determines that there is a low potential for encountering subsurface archaeological, cultural, or tribal cultural resources. An archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards for archaeology shall oversee the monitoring. Any compensation for time and expenses related to this activity shall be borne by the project proponent.

PROJECT SETTING

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in Vallejo Mill Historical Park, which is located north of the intersection of Mission Boulevard (SR 238) and Niles Canyon Road (SR 84) at the southwestern end of Walpert Ridge. Vegetation in the park includes various oaks, eucalyptus, almond, olive, and sycamore trees. A larger stand of trees is located in the central and northeastern portion of the park, while the southwestern portion of the park is characterized by grasses and smaller stands of trees near the 1856 Vallejo Mill foundation along Mission Boulevard and at the Vallejo Mill Historical Park sign at the southern end of the park.

The project area is located on mostly well-consolidated Paleocene-age sandstone, shale, and conglomerate (California Department of Conservation [CDOC] 2015). The majority of the project area (~96 percent) is characterized by surface soils mapped as “riverwash”, with approximately two percent comprised of Los Osos silty clay loam. The riverwash soils consist of coarse-grain alluvial sediments deposited under high-energy conditions within the formerly active channel of Alameda Creek. Typical Los Osos silty clay loam soil profiles include a silty clay loam layer between the surface and 8 inches deep, which give way to silty clay up to 30 inches deep. Bedrock is typically encountered between 30 and 34 inches deep (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2024).

Historical U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps suggest that Alameda Creek, now located approximately 50 meters southeast of the project area and east of Niles Canyon Road, was diverted to its present location sometime between 1941 (Nationwide Environmental Title Research [NETR] Online 2024a) and 1955 (NETR Online 2024b). Prior to this diversion, branches of Alameda Creek trended

southwest through the project area. Additionally, Alameda Creek was diverted in the 1840s and 1850s after José de Jesús Vallejo constructed his first (1841) and second (1856) flour mills in the project area (Baker and Shoup 1992). These creek channels and diversions are still visible within the park.

Cultural Setting

The following sections provide background for the cultural and historical contexts of the project area, including a synopsis of the archaeological record in the greater region, a summary of available ethnographic literature and current status for tribal groups and native inhabitants of the region, and a summary of regional and local histories.

Precontact Overview

The project is situated in what is generally described as the San Francisco Bay Region, which is one of eight arbitrary organizational divisions of the state (Moratto 1984). This region includes all of today's San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties and portions of Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. Beginning in 1948, the Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS) was the primary temporal classification system being used and focused on burial practices and grave goods in the Early, Middle, and Late periods. This system, while outdated, became the building blocks for the current temporal schemes associated with California archaeology (Figure 4). The prehistory of this region is currently divided into six periods: Early Holocene (Lower Archaic; 9950–5450 BP), Early period (Middle Archaic; 5450–2450 BP), Lower Middle period (Initial Upper Archaic; 2450–1520 BP), Upper Middle period (Late Upper Archaic, 1520–900 BP), Initial Late period (Lower Emergent; 900–400 BP), and Terminal Late period (400 BP–Contact) (Milliken et al. 2007:101, 114–118). The San Francisco Bay area is where three different systems for organizing the archaeological record meet—the Early-Middle-Late Period, the Archaic-Emergent, and a hybrid system (Milliken et al. 2007). Therefore, a variety of period names within each section are mentioned below. Table 1 provides a short synopsis of the varying time schemes for the East Bay Area, Contra Costa County Region.

EARLY PERIOD/MIDDLE ARCHAIC (5450–2450 BP)

Archaeological sites characteristic of the Early period/Middle Archaic in the project area date to as early as 5,500 years ago and as late as 2,500 years ago (3500–500 B.C.). Such sites often contain manos and metates (grinding stones), as well as many mortar fragments, indicating that acorns and/or various seeds formed an important part of the diet (Moratto 1984:201). The period is marked by the first cut bead, the grooved *Olivella biplicata* rectangle bead (Vellanoweth 2001). Mortars and pestles begin to appear in the Bay Area archaeological record during this period. Also on the peninsula coast, *Olivella* rectangular beads (type L1) and Rossi square-stemmed and large side-notched projectile points are diagnostic of the Early period (Hylkema 2002:250).

LOWER MIDDLE PERIOD/INITIAL UPPER ARCHAIC (2450–1520 BP)

People inhabiting the San Francisco Bay region during the Lower Middle period (also known as the Berkeley period) practiced a maritime hunting and gathering economy. Large accumulations of marine shells, or “shell mounds,” formed over hundreds, or even thousands, of years through accretion at village sites fronting the Bay that were reused seasonally or year-round (Lightfoot 1997:135). These numerous shell mounds contain hundreds of burials as well as ceremonial items, house floors, hearths, and storage pits, indicating they were used as burial, ceremonial, and residential places (Lightfoot 1997:131–136; Lightfoot and Luby 2002:276–277).

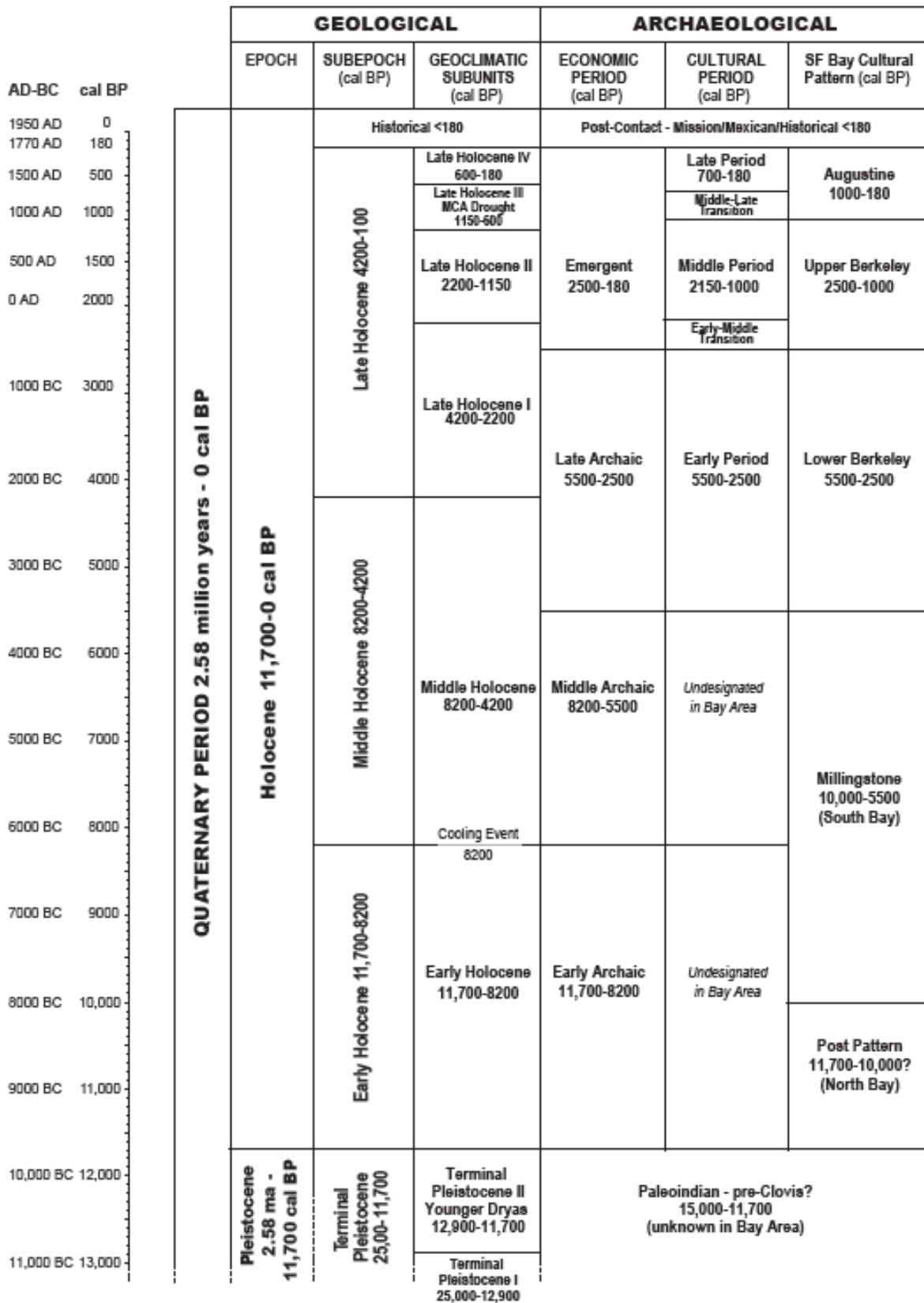


Figure 4. East Bay Interior/Central Bay Shore Region Periods, Patterns, and Aspects.

Artifacts typical of the Lower Middle period include spire-lopped *Olivella*, *Olivella* saucer beads, and circular abalone (*Haliotis* spp.) ornaments (Milliken et al. 2007:115). Assemblages generally have a relatively small frequency of flaked stone points; projectile points are commonly contracting stemmed and lanceolate types, some of which are made from obsidian (Hylkema 2002). Burials are variable-flexed and semi-flexed with inconsistent orientation.

Milling implements include large and small boulder or cobble mortars and various types of pestles, indicating that acorns formed an important part of the diet. In the South Bay, processing of hard seeds continued to be important throughout this period, as evidenced by the number of milling slabs and handstones in the artifact assemblages from that area (Hylkema 2002:244–245, 252). Other plant resources included hazel nuts, cattail seeds, grass, and soaproot bulbs; the latter were roasted in earth ovens.

UPPER MIDDLE PERIOD/LATE UPPER ARCHAIC (1520–900 BP)

The Upper Middle period/Late Upper Archaic is marked by the collapse of the *Olivella* saucer bead trade network at circa A.D. 430 in the Bay Region (Milliken et al. 2007:116). The period is also marked by shifts and changes in subsistence practices, foraging, and land use patterns that begin to reflect patterns known from historic-period Native American groups in the area. A substantial increase in the intensity of subsistence exploitation, including fishing, hunting, and gathering (particularly the acorn), evidenced in the archaeological record, correlates directly with population growth (Moratto 1984:211–214). Bow and arrow technology, the use of harpoons, and tubular tobacco pipes appear during this period. However, a greater emphasis is placed on the procurement and processing of vegetal foods, especially acorns, as evidenced in the increase of milling tools, especially the mortar and pestle. Both coiled and twined basketry were used as domestic and ceremonial items. Population size and the number of settlements increased during this period, although the large shell mound villages of the Lower Middle period were apparently no longer favored residential places (Lightfoot and Luby 2002:264, 277). There appears to be an increase in grave goods, particularly during the Upper Middle period, compared with fewer grave goods identified during the Lower Middle period components in Bay Area sites.

During the Upper Middle period, the climate fluctuated between cooler, wetter periods and warmer, drier periods. During cooler, wetter periods, alluvial deposition increased, with comparatively little deposition occurring in the drier intervals. Extended periods of relatively little rainfall, referred to as the Medieval Climatic Anomaly (MCA), produced droughts across the West between about 1300 and 1100 BP and again in the Late period between about 800 and 700 BP. The dry conditions during the MCA may be related to the abandonment of shell mound villages as primary residential locations, which began around 1250 BP (Lightfoot and Luby 2002:277, 279). Settlement strategies were apparently reorganized and focused on a more dispersed pattern, with the establishment of both coastal and interior habitation areas, coinciding with the exploitation of seasonally available resources.

INITIAL LATE PERIOD/LOWER EMERGENT (900–400 BP)

The Late period ushers in a time of status differentiation and the rise of secret societies and cults and associated traits. Exchange networks, with the use of clamshell disk beads as a form of currency, expanded during this period. Exchange items included magnesite, steatite, *Olivella* beads, and obsidian. Compared with the Middle period, the use and occurrence of shell beads with burials blossomed (Milliken and Bennyhoff 1993). Abalone banjo pendants may represent the introduction and spread of the Kuksu cult, which began during the transition from the Middle to Late period in the Bay Area (Hylkema 2002:260). The magnitude of non-dietary *Olivella* shells in coastal sites during the Late period, coupled with a concomitant increase of the shells in mortuary contexts throughout central California during this period, attests to the rise of both exchange networks and status differentiation, with coastal peoples

supplying the shells to interior groups. Partial cremation appears or reappears during this time and also marks an increase in social stratification along with an increased diversity of grave goods in the wealthiest of graves (Milliken et al. 2007:217).

During the Late period along the peninsula coast, site assemblages indicate there is an increase in hunting of birds and marine mammals, especially sea otters. At the same time, there is a decrease in terrestrial fauna in the archaeological record (Hylkema 2002:254–255).

TERMINAL LATE PERIOD/PROTOHISTORIC AMBIGUITIES (400 BP–CONTACT)

The Terminal Late period is marked by the abrupt disappearance of the *Olivella* sequin and cup beads ca. 450 to 400 BP (Milliken et al. 2007:117). During this period and before the Spanish arrived in full force, a cultural shift was occurring. The North Bay began to take a more dominant role in the production of new technology and trade items, including clamshell disk beads, the toggle harpoon, hopper mortar, corner-notched projectile points, and magnesite tube beads. The precise reason for this cultural shift is unknown but could have been driven by conflict between groups or the spread of European diseases northward from Mexico prior to Contact (Milliken et al. 2007:117–118).

Ethnography

CHOCHENYO OHLONE REGION

The area immediately surrounding the project area was traditionally known as the Chochenyo linguistic group of the Ohlone, which compose a branch of the Penutian language family (Kroeber 1925; Levy 1978). Within this regional group were several tribelets inhabiting the East Bay from the Carquinez Strait to the southeastern border with the Tamayen-speaking groups of the South Bay region and along the western side of the East Bay hills in the northern Diablo range bordering the Bay Miwok territory. The Chochenyo Ohlone people were not affiliated as a single political entity at the time of European contact, but rather consisted of 14 or more separate and politically independent tribelets, making the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone the largest group of the Bay Area region (Milliken et al. 2009).

In the northern region of the East Bay along the San Pablo Bay in the Vallejo/Benicia area were the Huchiun-Aguasto, whose borders met with the Coast Miwok to the west and the Patwin to the north. Across the Carquinez Strait to the south resided the Carquin, who bordered territories of the Bay Miwok to the east and the Patwin to the north. To the west of the Carquin resided the Hutchian groups, who managed the territory from the Berkeley Hills to the bay shore encompassing the modern cities of El Cerrito, Emeryville, Berkeley, Alameda, and most of Oakland. To the south of the Hutchian resided the Jalquin-Irgin, who inhabited the modern Hayward region and San Leandro Creek watershed. With borders of the territory abutting the Bay Miwok, the Jalquin-Irgin were said to have been a bilingual speaking group. The Tuibun inhabited the Coyote Creek area and the mouth of Alameda Creek; the Causen territory encompassed the Sunol Valley, the Tuanan resided in the mountain areas of Alameda Creek and the Arroyo del Valle, and the Luecha groups of the southern East Bay ranged the area southeast of Livermore and bordered the Tamyen-speaking Ohlone and the western edge of the Delta Yokuts to the east. North of the Tamyen border tribelets and within the interior of the East Bay were the Causen of the Sunol area, Pelen of the Pleasanton region, Yulien who inhabited the Livermore area, Seunen of the San Ramon/Dublin region, Ssouyen who managed the Blackhawk/Tassajara area, and Ssaoam who ranged from the southern region of Mt. Diablo to the Byron area, bordering with the Delta Yokuts (Hodge 1910; Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History 2022).

Spanish mission records, diaries, and journals have provided most of the information for use in studying the Chochenyo Ohlone people, as little ethnographical research has been conducted in the twentieth

century (Kroeber 1925; Levy 1978:495). The most thorough study, by Milliken (1995), used mission records, and Margolin's book (1978) reconstructs Native American life in the Bay Area.

Each tribelet's territory contained a main village and smaller satellite villages. Usually these were situated along a river or stream for easy access to water. Coastal people did not build right on the shoreline, but usually on an overlooking bluff. Dwellings were domed structures consisting of a tule- or grass-covered framework of poles, with a rectangular doorway and central hearth (Levy 1978:492). The Chochenyo Ohlone people both buried and cremated the deceased, sometimes depending on the availability of sufficient firewood; though based on ethnographic inquiries, cremation appears to have been most prevalent (Kroeber 1925). This was conducted on the day of the death, along with burning the property of the deceased. There is no mention of cemeteries associated with the villages (Levy 1978:490–491).

The rich resources of the ocean, bays, valleys, and mountains provided the Ohlone people with food and all their material needs (Levy 1978:491–492). The primary food staple was the acorn, supplemented by a great variety of animal and plant resources. Four species of oak were utilized, depending on availability and the desirability of the species: coast live, valley, tanbark, and black. Buckeye, laurel, pine nuts, and hazelnuts were eaten. The seeds of dock, chia and other salvias, tarweed, and holly-leaf cherry were collected and ground into meal. The plant diet also consisted of several berry-producing plants, wild onions, carrots, tule roots, and greens of clover and other annuals. There were also large and small game, consisting of deer, elk, antelope, bear, and mountain lion. Seals and stranded whales onshore were taken, and smaller game included raccoon, ground squirrels, woodrat, mouse, mole, dog, rabbit, and jackrabbit. Migrating waterfowl were the most important bird resource, which included geese, ducks, and coots; local birds taken were pigeon, quail, and hawks, but not eagle, owls, ravens, or vultures. Freshwater fish included steelhead, salmon, and sturgeon, while the ocean provided shark, sardine, and lampreys. All varieties of reptiles were eaten (but not amphibians), as well as a selection of insects. Marine resources were also relied on heavily, as much of Chochenyo Ohlone territory borders the East Bay region. The reliance on shellfish, particularly mussels, and other marine resources (i.e., fish, sea lions, and beached whales) is evidenced by the extensive shell mounds that line the San Francisco Bay and adjacent areas, which are said to be the richest in any part of the state (Kroeber 1925:466–467).

A wide array of tools, implements, and enclosures were used by the Chochenyo Ohlone people for hunting and gathering natural resources. Among those used for hunting land mammals and birds were the bow and arrow, traps and snares, deer's-head disguises, bolas, nets and net sinkers, and enclosures/blinds. Communal hunting drives were employed for rabbits. Nets and poisons were used to harvest fish. Tule watercrafts were used for transportation and hunting fish and waterfowl on the enclosed bays and marshes. Many plants were collected using wooden tools: long poles for dislodging acorns and pinecones, fire-hardened digging sticks for roots, and beaters for dislodging seeds. Once collected, seeds, roots, and nuts were placed in burden baskets and transported for processing or storage (Levy 1978:491).

The Chochenyo Ohlone people used a variety of tools to process food resources. These included portable stone mortars and pestles, bedrock mortars, hopper mortars, anvils, woven strainers, winnowers, leaching and boiling baskets, woven drying trays, and knives. Various foods were baked in earthen ovens. Wooden paddles were carved for stirring food in the boiling baskets. There were shell spoons, basket dippers, and mush bowls for serving the food, and woven water jugs and storage containers for keeping it afterwards. The presence of exotic items such as obsidian, steatite, and shell indicates that the Chochenyo Ohlone people traded with adjacent coastal groups and mountain tribes (Levy 1978:493).

Not all resources were gathered at home. There was trading with the Plains Miwok, Sierra Miwok, and Yokuts. The Chochenyo Ohlone people provided mussels, abalone shells, dried abalone, and salt to the Yokuts and *Olivella* shells to the Miwok. They received pine nuts from the Yokuts, but any other goods the Chochenyo Ohlone people received are unrecorded.

Historic Overview

Post-contact history for the state of California is generally divided into three periods: the Spanish period (1769–1822), the Mexican period (1822–1848), and the American period (1848–present). Although there were brief visits by Spanish, Russian, and British explorers from 1529 to 1769, the beginning of Spanish settlement in California occurred in 1769 with a settlement at San Diego and the first (Mission San Diego de Alcalá) of 21 missions established from 1769 to 1823.

European exploration along the coastal region of California began as early as 1542 when Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sailed the coastline of California. The region was not extensively explored until the Portolá and Anza expedition in 1762, with permanent settlement by individuals of European descent occurring in the early part of the nineteenth century (California State Lands Commission 2014; Gudde 1949). Word of Mexican victory, after a decade of revolt against the Spanish crown, reached California in 1822, marking the beginning of the Mexican period. This period was characterized by an extensive era of land grant awards. As a result of the California Land Act of 1851, there were 813 claims of Spanish and Mexican land grants, many of which were patented by this time. These land grants were presented to the Surveyor General’s Office and to the Land Commission, thus making them legally owned properties and suggesting the area was truly settled (California State Lands Commission 2014).

With the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, ending the Mexican American War, California became a territory of the United States (National Archives 2022). The discovery of gold in 1848 at Sutter’s Mill near Sacramento and the resulting Gold Rush influenced the history of the state and the nation (CDOC 2022). The rush of tens of thousands of people to the gold fields had a devastating impact on the lives of indigenous Californians, with the introduction and concentration of diseases, the loss of land and territory (including traditional hunting and gathering locales), violence, malnutrition, and starvation. Thousands of settlers and immigrants continued to pour into the state, particularly after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 (CDOC 2022).

The land encompassing the project area was first colonized by Spanish Franciscan missionaries with the establishment of Mission San José on June 11, 1797, by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen at the Ohlone village of Oroysom. Within the first 3 years of its founding, several hundred Ohlone were living and working at the Mission alongside the Spanish Franciscan missionaries, a few soldiers, and several artisans and their families (Mission San Jose 2024). The Mission developed into a self-sustaining village through cultivation of wheat and other crops, namely corn, barley, peas, beans, and fruit and management of thousands of range cattle.

Despite Spanish law affirming that Mission lands and resources were to be granted to the Native Americans once they had learned to manage themselves “in the Spanish way” (Mission San Jose 2024), following Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, very few of the Ohlone were given their land, and many died of disease and starvation. That the Mission lands were not deeded to Native Americans resulted, in part, from the Mexican Secularization Act of 1833, which resulted in Mission lands being divided into ranchos that were transferred to prominent local Mexican families (Mission San Jose 2024). The Ohlone that remained became vaqueros, managing the expanding cattle herds (Historical Marker Database 2024) or working as manual laborers or house servants on ranchos. José de Jesús Vallejo was appointed civil administrator of Mission San José in 1836 (Baker and Shoup 1992; Mission San Jose 2024), serving until 1840. He then served as military commander of the secular Pueblo de San José from 1841 to 1842 (Baker and Shoup 1992). Vallejo managed some 17,000 acres, which became the Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda.

In 1841 Vallejo constructed a grist mill on a flat north of Alameda Creek and within the project area. Water was diverted from Alameda Creek and channeled to the mill through a dam and canal system. The mill, dam, canal system, and five other adobe buildings were constructed by Native Americans from a nearby village. Vallejo's mill flourished as the first years of the Gold Rush drove up agricultural prices, and the demand for cattle, horses, and other livestock increased. As a result, Vallejo expanded his operations by building a warehouse out of local redwood in 1853, and he planned construction of a new mill. The second mill was constructed in 1856 to meet the demand resulting from the Gold Rush (Baker and Shoup 1992).

During the 1850s, an agricultural community arose around the area, which came to be known as Vallejo Mill (Baker and Shoup 1992; Gudde 1949:261). Many of the disillusioned Euroamerican prospectors who were unsuccessful at locating gold during the first California gold rush emigrated to Vallejo Mill to try their hands at farming. With a burgeoning community came several stores, a hotel, and a restaurant during Vallejo's tenure. Unfortunately, Vallejo was forced to sell off portions of his original land grant due to money problems, and by the mid-1860s, the majority of the rancho land was sold.

In 1865 the Western Pacific Railroad Company began construction of an 11.6-mile-long segment of the first transcontinental railroad through Niles Canyon. The effort employed thousands of Chinese laborers, and its completion was considered a modern marvel during the nineteenth century (NPS 2024). This rail line also served to connect San Francisco to the rest of the United States. Four years later, Western Pacific was acquired by the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR). The railroad bypassed Vallejo Mill, which soon declined. At the same time, the area around Niles Canyon continued to develop, supplanting Vallejo Mill. This new community was named Niles for Judge Addison C. Niles, who was elected to the California State Supreme Court in 1871 (Gudde 1949:261).

In 1880 the Niles Canyon rail line became secondary to a new main line that was constructed through the towns of Benicia and Martinez along the Carquinez Strait (NPS 2024). The grist mill continued to operate until December 1884, when it permanently shuttered by its then owner, the Spring Valley Water Company operating out of San Francisco. The mill building and associated structures were demolished in 1910 (Baker and Shoup 1992). The mill foundation remained, and it is currently owned by the City of Fremont (City) and managed as Vallejo Mill Historical Park. During the 1910s, the area became famous for Essanay Studios, a motion picture studio that filmed silent movies around Niles. In 1956 under the leadership of former City councilmember Wally Pond, the towns of Niles, Mission San José, Centerville, Irvington, and Warm Springs were incorporated into the City of Fremont (Gudde 1949:261; Niles Main Street Association 2024). Since that time, Fremont boomed, particularly during the 1980s through the late 1990s, as high-tech employment spread throughout Silicon Valley and beyond (City of Fremont 2024).

METHODS

Records Search

On April 31, 2024, SWCA archaeologist B. Foster conducted an in-person records search at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California, to identify known cultural resources and previous cultural resource studies within 0.25 mile of the project area (NWIC File No. 23-1535).

Prior Studies within 0.25 Mile of the Project Area

The CHRIS search identified 19 previously conducted cultural resource studies within 0.25 mile of the project area, including multiple studies that produced several different reports. Portions of five of these studies intersect the project area. Of those, three reports (S-013554, S-025508, and S-048490) included archaeological field studies with an excavation component, one report (S-052670) included a field study with an evaluation, and one report (S-039604) has been voided. The results of the CHRIS records search for previous studies conducted within the 0.25-mile radius of the project area are listed in Table 1 but have not been carried over in further discussion.

Table 1. Previous Studies within 0.25 Mile of the Project Area

NWIC Report Number	Title of Study	Type of Study	Author	Year	Relationship to APE
S-013554	<i>Vallejo Mills Historic Park, Archaeological Testing Program</i>	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study	Allen G. Pastron, Steven G. Botkin, and Margaret Brown; Archaeo-Tec	1986	Intersects APE
S-025508	<i>Vallejo Mills (CA-ALA-548/H), Historic Study and Extended Survey Report</i>	Archaeological, Excavation, Other research	Vance Bente and Suzanne Baker; Woodward-Clyde Consultants; Archaeological/Historical Consultants	1994	Intersects APE
S-039604	VOIDED S#: see additional citation 'a' of S-36481				Intersects APE
S-048490	<i>Proposed Negative Declaration and Draft Initial Study Route 238 (Mission Boulevard) Improvement Project in Hayward, Union City and Fremont, Alameda County, 4-ALA-238 3.1/9.5 4185-233020</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Evaluation, Excavation, Field study	Dottie Odell; California Department of Transportation	1994	Intersects APE
S-052670	<i>Cultural Resources Study of the Niles & 1st Street Project, Cingular Wireless Site No. SNFCCA1731B, 37296 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, Alameda County, California 94536</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study	Dana E. Supernowicz; Historic Resource Associates	2005	Intersects APE
S-000622	<i>Historical, Archaeological and Architectural Survey of the Mission Boulevard Widening project, 04-ALA-238 0.0/6.6 04204-325321</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study	Richard B. Hastings; Caltrans	1975	Outside APE
S-000727	<i>An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Two New Proposed Waste Water Pipeline Routes, Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency, Alameda County, California</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Miley Holman and David Chavez; Holman and Chavez Consulting Archaeologists	1977	Outside APE
S-000898	<i>An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Pipeline Routes and Reservoir Locations, Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency, Alameda County, California</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Edward M. Love, Miley Paul Holman, and David Chavez; Holman and Chavez Consulting Archaeologists	1976	Outside APE
S-002607	<i>Alameda County Water District's Groundwater Recharge Facilities Plan (letter report)</i>	Archaeological, Field study	David Chavez	1981	Outside APE

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project, Fremont, Alameda County, California

NWIC Report Number	Title of Study	Type of Study	Author	Year	Relationship to APE
S-008739	<i>Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Proposed Pacific Locomotive Association Railroad Museum in the Niles Canyon Transportation Corridor, County of Alameda</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Archeological Resource Management	1986	Outside APE
S-010194	<i>Cultural Resource Evaluation of a Parcel on Mayhews Road in the City of Fremont, County of Alameda</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Archeological Resource Management	1988	Outside APE
S-014067	<i>Archaeological Survey Report, Widening of Mission Boulevard in Hayward, Union City, and Fremont, Alameda County</i>	Archaeological, Evaluation, Field study	Suzanne Baker; Archeological/Historical Consultants	1992	Outside APE
S-022820	<i>Cultural Resources Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project, Segment WS07: Oakland to San Jose</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study	Wendy J. Nelson, Tammara Norton, Larry Chiea, and Eugenia Mitsanis; Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	2000	Outside APE
S-024041	<i>Historic Property Survey Report, Archaeological Survey Report, Bridge Evaluation, and Attachments, Old Canyon Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project, Bridge 33C-17</i>	Archaeological, Field study, Other research	Brian Hatoff, Alex Wesson, and Stephen D. Mikesell; URS; JRP Historical Consulting Services	2000	Outside APE
S-033061	<i>Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project, State of California</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study, Monitoring	Nancy Sikes, Cindy Arrington, Bryon Bass, Chris Corey, Kevin Hunt, Steve O'Neil, Catherine Pruet, Tony Sawyer, Michael Tuma, Leslie Wagner, and Alex Wesson; SWCA Environmental Consultants	2006	Outside APE
S-033061 a	<i>Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project, State of California</i>	Archaeological, Monitoring	SWCA Environmental Consultants	2006	Outside APE
S-033061 b	<i>Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the Qwest Network Construction Project (letter report)</i>	Archaeological, Monitoring	Nancy E. Sikes; SWCA Environmental Consultants	2007	Outside APE
S-035457	<i>An Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Study for the Henkel Property Demolition Project EIR, 37899 Niles Boulevard, Fremont, Alameda County, California</i>	Archaeological, Field study	E. Timothy Jones; LSA Associates, Inc.	2008	Outside APE

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Vallejo Mill Historical Park Pickleball Courts and Dog Park Project, Fremont, Alameda County, California

NWIC Report Number	Title of Study	Type of Study	Author	Year	Relationship to APE
S-036481	<i>Archaeological Survey Report for the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project, San Mateo and Alameda Counties, California</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Adrian Whitaker, Phil Kaijankowski, Jack Meyer, and Brian Byrd; Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	2009	Outside APE
S-036481 a	<i>Archaeological Survey Report for the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project, San Mateo and Alameda Counties, California</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Adrian R. Whitaker, Philip Kaijankowski, Jack Meyer, Brian F. Byrd, and Sharon A. Waechter; Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.	2012	Outside APE
S-050893	<i>Supplemental Historic Property Survey Report for the Alameda State Route 84 Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.8-18, Project 0414000039 (EA 2A332)</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Management/planning	Douglas Bright and Kristina Montgomery; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2015	Outside APE
S-050893 a	<i>First Supplemental Archaeological Survey Report for the Niles Canyon Safety Project of State Route 84, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.80/13.60, 17.28 EA 2A3320/EFIS 0414000039</i>	Archaeological, Field study	Kristina Montgomery; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2014	Outside APE
S-050893 b	<i>Extended Phase I / Archaeological Evaluation Reports for CA-ALA-677/H, Medium Term Safety Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 17.28 EA 2A3320/EFIS 0414000039</i>	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study	Kristina Montgomery and Jennifer Blake; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2015	Outside APE
S-050893 c	<i>Finding of Adverse Effect for the Alameda State Route 84 Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.8-18, Project 0414000039 (EA 2A332)</i>	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Management/planning	Douglas Bright and Kristina Montgomery; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2017	Outside APE
S-050893 d	<i>Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) Action Plan for the Alameda State Route 84 Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.8-18, Project 0414000039 (EA 2A332)</i>	Archaeological, Management/planning	Douglas Bright; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2017	Outside APE
S-050893 e	<i>Supplemental Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) Action Plan for the Alameda State Route 84 Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.8-18, Project 0414000039 (EA 2A332)</i>	Archaeological, Management/planning	Douglas Bright; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2017	Outside APE

NWIC Report Number	Title of Study	Type of Study	Author	Year	Relationship to APE
S-050893 f	<i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties Action Plan for the Alameda State Route 84 Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 10.8-18, Project 0414000039 (EA 2A332)</i>	Archaeological, Evaluation, Management/planning	Douglas Bright; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2017	Outside APE
S-050893 g	<i>Historic Property Treatment Plan for CA-ALA-677H for the Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California, 04-ALA-84 PM 17.28, EA 2A3320, EFIS 0414000039</i>	Archaeological, Management/planning	Kristina Montgomery; California Department of Transportation, District 4	2017	Outside APE
S-050893 h	<i>FHWA041116A, Memorandum of Agreement for the Niles Canyon Medium Term Safety Improvements Project, Alameda County, California</i>	OHP Correspondence	Alex Bevk Neeb and Julianne Polanco; California Department of Transportation; Office of Historic Preservation	2017	Outside APE
S-050893 j	<i>Archaeological Data Recovery at 'Ayttakiš 'Éete Hiramwiš Trépan-tak (CA-ALA-677/H) for the Niles Canyon Safety Improvement Project, Alameda County, California, 4-ALA-84, Post Mile 17.28, E-FIS 0414000039, EA 2A3321</i>	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study	Brian F. Byrd, Laurel Engbring, Michael Darcangelo, and Eric Wohlgemuth; Far Western Anthropological Research Group	2022	Outside APE
S-053063	<i>CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Kaiser Pond Improvement Project, Alameda County, California (Excerpt)</i>	Archaeological, Field study	LSA Associates	2018	Outside APE
S-053063	<i>COE_2019_0403_002, Section 106 Consultation for the proposed Kaiser Pond Diversion Pipe Improvement Project in Fremont, Alameda County, California (Corps File Number 2017-00014S).</i>	OHP Correspondence	Julianne Polanco, Frances Pond Malamud-Roam, and Gayle Totton; Office of Historic Preservation; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Native American Heritage Commission	2019	Outside APE

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within 0.25 Mile of the Project Area

The CHRIS records search resulted in identifying five previously recorded resources within the 0.25-mile radius of the project area, of which two (P-01-000227, P-01-003280) are within the project area. The other three resources are located outside the project area but within the records search buffer (see Table 2). P-01-000227 is a multicomponent site that is characterized by precontact burials, lithic debris, foundations, historic plaques and signs, a stone aqueduct, and a trash deposit. P-01-003280 is a historic complex characterized by a series of structures from the Niles town site, including single-family homes, a hotel, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, a community center, and government buildings. The

results of the CHRIS records search for previous resources within the 0.5-mile radius of the APE are listed in Table 2 but have not been carried over in further discussion.

Table 2. Cultural Resources within the APE

P-Designation	Resource Name	Resource Type	Description	NHRP Evaluation	Relationship to APE
P-01-000227	Vallejo Flour Mill	Precontact, Historic	Burials; Habitation debris; Other; Historic Structures	Unknown	Intersects APE
P-01-003280	Niles, Niles Old Town Complex	Historic	Historic structures and Buildings	Unknown	Intersects APE
P-01-011827	Alameda Creek at Decoto Road	Historic	Historic home, Water conveyance	Unknown	Outside APE
P-01-012288	SBC-009 38073 Vallejo Street	Historic	Historic home	Unknown	Outside APE
P-01-012289	SBC-010 38085 Vallejo Street	Historic	Historic home	Unknown	Outside APE

Historic Research

Research methodology focused on review of a variety of primary and secondary source materials relating to the history and development of the project area. Sources included, but were not limited to, historic maps, aerial photographs, and written histories of the area.

In their history of Vallejo Mill, Baker and Shoup (1992:4) indicate that, in addition to Vallejo’s first grist mill (1841), several other adobe buildings were located nearby. These include an adobe that housed brickyard workers at a brickyard located in a ravine north–northwest of the mill, an adobe located northwest of the mill to house Vallejo’s vaqueros (still standing at the California Nursery Historic Park), an adobe located southwest of the mill at 667 Vallejo Street to house Vallejo’s ranch foreman (Francisco Paleums), an adobe located east of the mill that housed the mill operators, and an adobe across Alameda Creek and up Niles Canyon to house rock quarry workers.

Following completion of Vallejo’s second grist mill in 1856, the surrounding area became a minor urban center named Vallejo’s Mills or “Gophertown” by the locals. By 1860 the community included 19 adults and 17 children belonging to the married couples (Baker and Shoup 1992:10). As construction of the first transcontinental railroad began along Niles Canyon in 1867, land was purchased around the tracks and subdivided into lots (Figure 5). A community, known as Niles, developed around the new railroad train station located approximately 0.25 mile west of Vallejo Mill. Owing to its access to the railroad, Niles would flourish while Vallejo Mill was slowly abandoned.

After Vallejo’s second mill closed in 1884, the buildings at the site began to decay. The mill building was demolished in 1910, and Baker and Shoup (1992:20) suggest that the other buildings at the site were removed around 1923. However, a USGS topographic map of the area dating to 1928 (NETR Online 2024c) continues to depict these structures. The subsequent 1941 USGS topographic map, however, does not depict any buildings in the project area (NETR Online 2024a). No new buildings appear to have been constructed in the project area since that time.

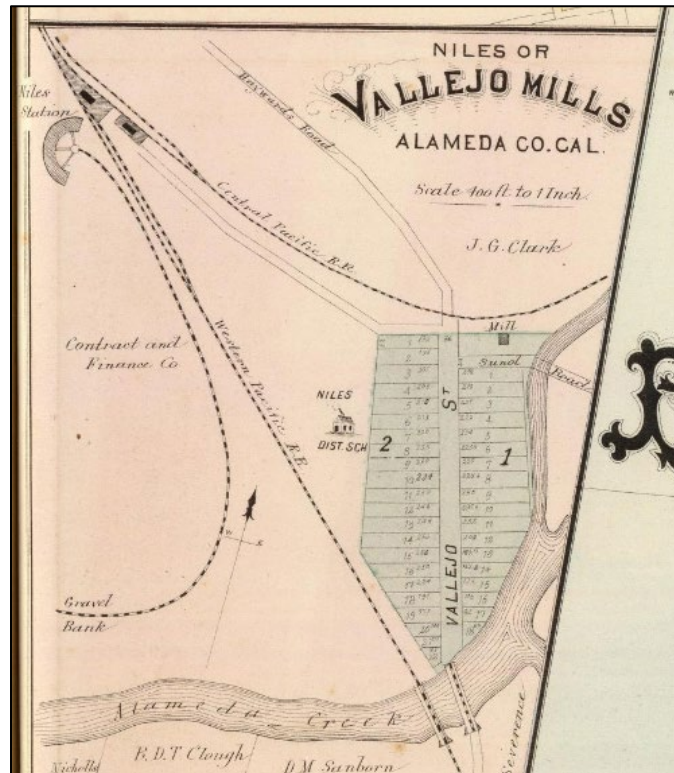


Figure 5. Thompson and West 1878 map of Niles/Vallejo Mill.

P-01-000227/CA-ALA-548/H

P-01-000227/CA-ALA-548/H is a multicomponent site that represents the remains of José de Jesús Vallejo's first (1841) and second (1856; Feature 1) flour mills, an accompanying wheel well foundation (1856; Feature 2), a faint water conveyance ditch (Feature 3), and a historic artifact scatter identified in 1990 (Baker and Smith 1990). The 1856 flour mill foundation was first documented on a DPR Historic Resources Inventory form in May 1974 by E. L. Ryan of Washington Township Historical Resources Inventory Committee (Ryan 1974).

In 1986 an archaeological testing program was undertaken by Archeo-Tec and sponsored by the City as part of an effort to develop the Vallejo Mill Historical Park (Pastron et al. 1986). The primary intent of the testing effort was to locate and document remnants of the 1841 mill with a secondary goal of identifying remnants of other historic structures located in the vicinity of Vallejo Mill. The testing effort consisted of 11 manually excavated trenches, eight hand-dug test excavation units, and 78 mechanically excavated auger bores. Using photographs and other archival materials to inform the effort, 11 trenches were excavated around the 1856 mill foundation to locate remnants of the 1841 mill. Test excavation units 3, 4, 6, and 7 were also excavated to locate the 1841 mill. As a result, the 1841 mill was successfully identified. Units 1, 2, and 5 were excavated to identify and characterize historic refuse concentrations associated with the mills; only units 2 and 5 had positive test results. Historic refuse was discovered in unit 2, and both historic refuse and 12 precontact artifacts (six obsidian flakes, five Franciscan chert flakes, and a basalt pestle or hammerstone) were identified at unit 5. No other precontact items were found in the trenches, test excavation units, or auger bores. Pastron et al. (1986) gave no indication that any of the auger bores yielded positive results.

An updated archaeological site record for the site was prepared in May 1990 by Suzanne Baker and Michael Smith of Archaeological/Historical Consultants. At that time, Baker and Smith (1990) identified a faint ditch (Feature 3) and an extensive surface scatter of historic refuse, both located northeast of the 1856 mill foundation. The site record was last updated in 2017 by Ryan Gross of LSA Associates. At that time, precontact human remains consisting of a right humerus fragment were found on the site surface. These were collected by Alameda County Sherrif M. Meldrum, who also notified the NAHC of the discovery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SWCA archaeologist B. Foster conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area on May 8, 2024 (Figure 6). The survey was conducted using pedestrian transects spaced 5 meters apart. Periodic boot scrapes were employed to expose soils when vegetation obscured the ground surface. The entirety of the project area was subject to intensive pedestrian survey.

Archaeological Survey Results

The entirety of the project area was surveyed at 5-meter intervals. Ground visibility was poor over approximately 85 to 90 percent of the project area due to grasses, weeds, and leaf litter. Taller grasses and weeds were located at the northeastern portion of the project area (Figure 6 and Figure 7) and the perimeter of the park where temporary chain link fences have been installed to close the park to day-use. The southwestern portion of the park was dominated by grasses (Figure 8). Various patches of soil were exposed, however, throughout the park, and these were scrutinized more intensively along with rodent burrowing activity. Boot scrapes were employed in these areas in an effort to expose artifacts. While no new archaeological sites or isolates were identified during this survey, one previously recorded archaeological site was updated—P-01-000227 (CA-ALA-548/H; Vallejo Flour Mill).



Figure 6. Project area overview from northeastern boundary, facing southwest.



Figure 7. Campfire ring and modern refuse in project area, facing northeast.



Figure 8. Overview of the southern portion of the project area, facing southwest.

P-01-000227/CA-ALA-548/H (Vallejo Flour Mill)

P-01-000227/CA-ALA-548/H is a multicomponent site that represents the remains of José de Jesús Vallejo’s first (1841) and second (1856; Feature 1) flour mills, an accompanying wheel well foundation (1856; Feature 2), a faint water conveyance ditch (Feature 3), and a historic artifact scatter identified in 1990 (Baker and Smith 1990). Additionally, a 1986 testing program (Pastron et al. 1986) identified a buried lithic scatter and a basalt pestle or mortar, and in 2017, an archaeologist with LSA Associates identified a Native American right humerus fragment on the site surface (Gross 2017). While the historical remains associated with the Mills appear to be relatively intact, these studies do not indicate whether or not the prehistoric archaeological remains seem to be intact, or whether they may have been redeposited within the formerly active channel of Alameda Creek as marked by the riverwash soils.

The 1841 mill foundation was identified during the 1986 testing program but remains buried. Feature 1, the 1856 flour mill foundation (Figure 9), is now supported by a wooden frame constructed on the interior side of the structure. The frame has been bolted to the structure, and four concrete bases have been installed for the frame’s diagonal supports. A chain-link fence has been installed along the northern and eastern walls to abate wall collapse; however, it seems that a small portion of the top eastern wall has already fallen. Graffiti adorns the interior and exterior of Feature 1. A modern campfire ring is located in the center of the interior floor. Feature 2 (Figure 10) remains in good condition with the only recent impacts being modern refuse and vegetation growth. Neither the stone lining nor the redwood fragment identified at Feature 3 during the 1990 recording effort were seen during the 2024 revisit. The large artifact concentration recorded during the 1990 recording effort was also not present during the 2024 revisit. These may have been removed or destroyed as a result of park maintenance activities.



Figure 9. Interior view of the southwest corner of Feature 1, facing southwest.



Figure 10. Feature 2 overview, facing northwest.

A new historic artifact concentration was identified approximately 30 meters northeast of the existing site boundary. Artifacts included approximately 10 pieces (including two rim sherds) of a white porcelain bowl with an indeterminate design printed on both sides (Figure 11), an amber patent medicine bottle body fragment with the letters “SIC” embossed, several oyster shell fragments, a hand-blown amber mouth fragment, and a red brick fragment. These newly identified artifacts were found in a highly disturbed context approximately 15 meters northwest of the park entrance. Some of the ceramic fragments were found in the tire tread imprints from a heavy equipment vehicle. Other impacts included recent mowing activity, rodent activity, and camping/day use nearby.



Figure 11. Porcelain bowl fragments identified at northeastern site boundary.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This inventory of cultural resources included a CHRIS NWIC records search, a review of historic aerials and relevant literature, and an intensive pedestrian survey. During the pedestrian survey of the project area on May 8, 2024, one previously recorded archaeological site, P-01-000227, was revisited and updated. A new artifact concentration was identified northeast of the existing site boundary, which was expanded to include this concentration. Further archaeological fieldwork would be required to determine whether or not the prehistoric archaeological materials at the site are intact or redeposited.

SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(3): Archaeological Monitoring requires that new development projects with the potential to impact subsurface archaeological or cultural resources through grading, demolition, and/or new construction, shall implement archaeological monitoring prior to any grubbing, grading, or ground disturbing activities until the archaeologist determines that there is a low potential for encountering intact subsurface archaeological, cultural, or tribal cultural resources.

Based on previous testing in 1986 Archeo-Tec, a total of 11 trenches, eight hand-dug excavation units, and 78 auger bores were completed within the Park boundary (Pastron et al. 1986). These excavations encountered both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The assemblage of prehistoric material was extremely small and contained no diagnostic material. Each of these artifacts came from the area surrounding the eastern foundation wall of the adobe mill, well outside of any area of ground disturbance for the current project. No other precontact items were found in the trenches, test excavation units, or auger bores. Historic material was concentrated near the 1841 mill structure as well, and more recently discovered trash scatters and ditches also are present outside of the current project area. The previous testing results coupled with the fact that the project area lies in a formerly active channel of Alameda Creek (riverwash

soils), indicates that there is low potential for buried historic or prehistoric deposits. As such, SWCA does not recommend monitoring of the current project area.

With implementation of ESA fencing (see below for implementing condition) and compliance with regulatory compliance measures listed in SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(2): Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources, SWCA finds that the proposed project will have a less-than-significant impact on archaeological resources. The possibility of encountering cultural resources outside the existing boundaries of P-01-000227 during excavation remains. If cultural materials are uncovered during project work, the Inadvertent Discovery procedures noted below should be followed.

Recommendations

Inadvertent Discoveries and Discovery of Human Remains

The following requirements shall be met to address the potential for accidental discovery of cultural resources during ground disturbing excavation pursuant to SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(2): Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources:

SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(2): Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. The following requirements shall be met to address the potential for accidental discovery of cultural resources during ground disturbing excavation:

- A) The project proponent shall include a note on any plans that require ground disturbing excavation that there is a potential for exposing buried cultural resources.
- B) The project proponent shall retain a professional archaeologist to provide a preconstruction briefing to supervisory personnel of any excavation contractor to alert them to the possibility of exposing buried cultural resources, including significant prehistoric archaeological resources. The briefing shall discuss any cultural resources, including archaeological objects, that could be exposed, the need to stop excavation at the discovery, and the procedures to follow regarding discovery protection and notification of the project proponent and archaeological team.
- C) In the event that any human remains or historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during ground disturbing excavation, the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5(e) and (f), and of subsection (c)(2)(D) of this section, requiring cessation of work, notification, and immediate evaluation shall be followed.
- D) If resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities that may be classified as historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources, ground disturbing activities shall cease immediately, and the planning manager shall be notified. The resources will be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and, in the planning manager's discretion, a tribal cultural monitor. If the resources are determined to be historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources, then a plan for avoiding the resources shall be prepared. If avoidance is infeasible, then all significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary and at the discretion of the consulting archaeologist, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and documentation according to current professional standards. Any plan for avoidance or mitigation shall be subject to the approval of the planning manager.

- E) As used herein, “historical resource” means a historical resource as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a); “unique archaeological resource” means unique archaeological resource as defined by Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(g); and “tribal cultural resource” means tribal cultural resource as defined by Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21074. Collectively, these terms describe “significant cultural materials.”

While avoidance of work within the recorded archaeological site P-01-000227 is already incorporated into the project description, the following project-specific implementing condition would help prevent accidental disturbance of this area during construction activities and thereby reduce the chance of accidental discoveries.

Project-specific implementing condition for SDR FMC 18.218.050(d)(2) Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Fencing. Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the portion of the boundary of P-01-000227 nearest project-related activities shall be marked as an Environmentally Sensitive Area. This area shall not be marked as an archaeological resource but shall be designated as an “exclusion zone” on the project plans and the protective fencing in order to discourage unauthorized disturbance of the area. A qualified archaeologist shall accompany the construction crew on the day of installation to assist with the placement of the fence and ensure that the site is protected. The qualified archaeologist, or his/her designee, shall periodically inspect this area for the duration of project activities in the vicinity to ensure that protective fencing remains intact and no incursions into the exclusion zone have occurred. Upon completion of all project-related activities in the vicinity, all protective fencing and signage shall be removed.

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