

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY SURVEY

**Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project
circa 4.5-acres
Yolo County, California.**

Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey involving bank stabilization of the Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and Reclamation District 900's (RD900) Main Drainage Canal, within the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

The proposed project is centered on the Blacker Canal (aka Morton-Blacker Canal, Blacker Ditch) west of the intersection of Blacker Road and Jefferson Boulevard and east of RD900's Main Canal. The Blacker Canal is an unlined urban drainage, and proposed project activities include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the canal, constructing gabion barriers along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the barriers to stabilize the canal banks.

Bank excavation will occur along the north and south sides of the canal to the west of Linden Road, which roughly bisects the canal, and along the south side of the canal to the east of Linden Road. Excavation depths will vary but will average approximately 4 feet from the current ground surface into the existing canal banks and channel. Gabion walls, measuring an average of 3 feet across and 3 feet high, will be stacked and secured along the canal banks to conform to the desired slope and backfilled with compacted inorganic fill. A 16-foot wide maintenance road will be graded north of the canal to the west of Linden Road, while an existing access road south of the canal that extends east and west of Linden Road will also be graded to improve maintenance access.

Existing records at the Northwest Information Center document that none of the present APE had been subjected to previous archaeological investigation, and that three (3) historic-era resources had been documented within the APE. All three (P-57-000725, -732, -737) had been formally evaluated, and determined not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, a finding that reached concurrence between a federal agency and the SHPO. As well, the present effort included an intensive-level pedestrian survey. No new resources were identified during the present survey. All three previously recorded sites were found not eligible for inclusion in the CRHR due to a lack of integrity. Consequently, no significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources were identified within the APE.

In January 2020, cultural resources consulting firm, Pacific Legacy, Inc., delivered a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of the sacred lands file and a list of Native American contacts. The NAHC responded on February 4, 2020, indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) produced positive results, along with a list of three parties. The NAHC indicated that the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) was the appropriate party to contact regarding the positive SLF findings. The contact list included:

- Charlie Wright, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc. submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020.

In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project APE, and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

On September 16, 2020, FEMA submitted an additional written correspondence to Matthew Moore, the UAIC THPO. As of November 2020, no response had been received from Mr. Moore.

On November 30, 2020, formal AB52 consultation letters were delivered to Gene Whitehouse, Chairman of the UAIC, and James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on behalf of Reclamation District 900. Both parties were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. To date, no responses have been received from the contacted parties. Since no prehistoric sites were identified within the APE, no additional consultation was undertaken.

The NAHC findings and AB52 consultation correspondences have been provided to RD900, the agency which has engaged in formal consultation in compliance with AB52 and CEQA.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources within the APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed, although the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

1. **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:** In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.
2. **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future canal bank stabilization activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., canal excavation and realignment) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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ATTACHMENTS

APE Map.

Copy of Records Search from NWIC, File No.: 19-1300, dated February 5, 2020.

Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

Response from the NAHC.

AB52 Letters to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and the United Auburn Indian Community.

Site Records for sites “P-57-00725,” “P-57-00732,” and “P-57-00737.”

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey involving bank stabilization of the Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and Reclamation District 900's (RD900) Main Drainage Canal, within the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

The proposed project is centered on the Blacker Canal (aka Morton-Blacker Canal, Blacker Ditch) west of the intersection of Blacker Road and Jefferson Boulevard and east of RD900's Main Canal. The Blacker Canal is an unlined urban drainage, and proposed project activities include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the canal, constructing gabion barriers along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the barriers to stabilize the canal banks.

Bank excavation will occur along the north and south sides of the canal to the west of Linden Road, which roughly bisects the canal, and along the south side of the canal to the east of Linden Road. Excavation depths will vary but will average approximately 4 feet from the current ground surface into the existing canal banks and channel. Gabion walls, measuring an average of 3 feet across and 3 feet high, will be stacked and secured along the canal banks to conform to the desired slope and backfilled with compacted inorganic fill. A 16-foot wide maintenance road will be graded north of the canal to the west of Linden Road, while an existing access road south of the canal that extends east and west of Linden Road will also be graded to improve maintenance access.

Since the project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with excavating and stabilizing the canal banks, it has the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the area of potential effects (APE). In this case, the APE would consist of the circa 4.5-acre land area within which the project will be undertaken. Evaluation of the project's potential to impact cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with the City of West Sacramento and Yolo County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Regulatory Context

The following section provides a summary of the applicable regulations, policies and guidelines relating to the proper management of cultural resources.

The California Register of Historical Resources

In California, the term “historical resource” includes “any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California” (Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(j)). In 1992, the California legislature established the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) “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 Section 5024.1(a)). The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR were developed to be in accordance with previously established criteria developed for listing in the NRHP. According to PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1–4), a resource is considered historically significant if it (i) retains “substantial integrity,” and (ii) meets at least one of the following criteria:

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

To understand the historic importance of a resource, sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance (see 14 CCR 4852(d)(2)). The CRHR protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources. The criteria for the CRHR are nearly identical to those for the NRHP, and properties listed or formally designated as eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, as are state landmarks and points of interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

California Environmental Quality Act

As described further, the following CEQA statutes and CEQA Guidelines are of relevance to the analysis of archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources:

- PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines “unique archaeological resource.”
- PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) define “historical resources.” In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) defines the phrase “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.” It also defines the circumstances when a project would materially impair the significance of a historical resource.
- PRC Section 21074(a) defines “tribal cultural resources.”
- PRC Section 5097.98 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) set forth standards and steps to be employed following the accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated ceremony.

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains can occur until the County Coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5b). PRC Section 5097.98 also outlines the process to be followed in the event that remains are discovered. If the County Coroner determines or has reason to believe the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact the California NAHC within 24 hours (Section 7050.5c). The NAHC will notify the Most Likely Descendant. With the permission of the landowner, the Most Likely Descendant may inspect the site of discovery. The inspection must be completed within 48 hours of notification of the Most Likely Descendant by the NAHC. The Most Likely Descendant may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and items associated with Native Americans.

PRC Sections 21083.2(b)–(c) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 provide information regarding the mitigation framework for archaeological and historic resources, including examples of preservation-in-place mitigation measures; preservation-in-place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to significant archaeological sites because it maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archaeological context, and may also help avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the archaeological site(s).

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it may cause “a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)). If a site is either listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or if it is included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a historical resources survey (meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(q)), it is a “historical resource” and is presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of CEQA (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). The lead agency is not precluded from determining that a resource is a historical resource, even if it does not fall within this presumption (PRC Section 21084.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)).

A “substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource” reflecting a significant effect under CEQA 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” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1); PRC Section 5020.1(q)). In turn, the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project does any of the following:

- (1) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register; or
- (2) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
- (3) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA [CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(2)].

Pursuant to these sections, the CEQA inquiry begins with evaluating whether a project site contains any “historical resources,” then evaluates whether that project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource such that the resource’s historical significance is materially impaired.

If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require 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 (Section 21083.2(a), (b), and (c)).

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

Impacts to non-unique archaeological resources are generally not considered a significant environmental impact (PRC Section 21083.2(a); CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)(4)). However, if a non-unique archaeological resource qualifies as tribal cultural resource (PRC 21074(c); 21083.2(h)), further consideration of significant impacts is required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 assigns special importance to human remains and specifies procedures to be used when Native American remains are discovered. As described in the following text, these procedures are detailed in PRC Section 5097.98.

Native American Historic Cultural Sites

State law (PRC Section 5097 et seq.) addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and established the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

In the event that Native American human remains or related cultural material are encountered, Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines (as incorporated from PRC Section 5097.98) and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 define the subsequent protocol. In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, excavation or other disturbances shall be suspended of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains or related material. Protocol requires that a county-approved coroner be contacted in order to determine if the remains are of Native American origin. Should the coroner determine the remains to be Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98 (14 CCR 15064.5(e)).

Scope of Work

Compliance with CEQA (and County rules and regulations) requires completion of projects in conformity with the amended (October 1998) Guidelines, including in particular Section 15064.5. Based on these rules, regulations and Guidelines, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present archaeological survey:

- Conduct a records search at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System and consult with the Native American Heritage Commission. The goals of the records search and consultation are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all significant/eligible cultural resources are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.

- Conduct a pedestrian survey of the APE in order to record and evaluate any previously unidentified cultural resources. Based on map review, a complete coverage, intensive survey was considered appropriate, given the presence of moderate archaeological sensitivity within the property. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously identified sites are re-located and evaluated in relation to the present project/undertaking. For any previously undocumented sites discovered, the field survey would include formally recording these resources on State of California DPR-523 Forms.
- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare a Final Report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for sites that might be affected by the undertaking and that are considered significant or potentially significant per CEQA, and/or eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the Final Report for this project, detailing the results of the records search, consultation and pedestrian survey and providing recommendations for treatment of significant/eligible archaeological and historic sites. All field survey work followed guidelines provided by the Office of Historic Preservation (Sacramento) and conforms to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

Location

The project area consists of approximately 4.5-acres of land located along the Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and Reclamation District 900's (RD900) Main Drainage Canal, within the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California. Lands affected are located within a portion of Township 8 North, Range 4 East, as shown on the USGS Sacramento West, California, 7.5' Series quadrangle (see attached *APE Map*).

Environment

Geologically, the APE is situated in the Sacramento Valley, a large, northwest-southeast trending trough filled with substantial deposits of both marine and non-marine sediments (Hackel 1966). Bound by the Coast Range to the west, the Klamath and Cascade Ranges to the north, the Sierra Nevada to the east, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the south, the Sacramento Valley is underlaid by a variety of geological formations established over the past several million years (Graymer et al. 2002).

The majority of the APE is located on an outcrop of the Pliocene (5.3 to 2.6 million years ago) Tehama Formation of the Vacaville Assemblage (Graymer et al. 2002). Overlaying this formation, in many areas, are Holocene (present to 10,000 years ago) basin deposits composed of fine-grained sediments.

The project area is in a region of Mediterranean climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The area receives on average between 20 and 25 inches of precipitation with most precipitation, in the form of rain, coming in winter and peaking in

January. Summers in the region area are generally clear, hot, and dry, with an average 24-hour temperature of 75°F in July, with high temperatures typically above 90 °F. Winters are generally mild and wet with highs averaging in the mid-40s to low-50s. Agricultural and ruderal communities predominantly characterize vegetation in this area.

Agricultural lands and the wildlife they support include aerial insectivores such as barn and cliff swallows, raptors, including the Swainson's hawk, which forage for mice and voles in alfalfa and irrigated pasture, and California ground squirrels. Burrowing owls use old ground squirrel burrows for shelter and as nesting sites and large raptors such as red-tailed hawks feed on the squirrels themselves. Additional vertebrates and invertebrates are common to the region as well, including turtles, lizards, snakes, rabbits, deer, raccoon, coyote, ducks, turkey vulture and various song birds.

Based on previous cultural resources studies undertaken within the general vicinity of the APE, coupled with the absence of prehistoric cultural materials being documented within these previous investigation areas, the APE appeared to be situated within lands of low to moderate archaeological sensitivity with respect to prehistoric sites. The APE appeared to represent moderate sensitivity with respect to historic-period sites. While historic-period sites had been identified in the general area, the postulate of moderate sensitivity was based on the considerable disturbance to both the surface and subsurface setting, resulting from decades of historic agricultural, contemporary road construction, and contemporary placement of buried utilities.

Prehistory

The earliest residents in the Great Central Valley are represented by the Fluted Point and Western Pluvial Lakes Traditions, which date from about 11,500 to 7,500 years ago (Moratto 2004). Within portions of the Central Valley of California, fluted projectile points have been found at Tracy Lake (Heizer 1938) and around the margins of Buena Vista Lake in Kern County. Similar materials have been found to the north, at Samwel Cave near Shasta Lake and near McCloud and Big Springs in Siskiyou County. These early peoples are thought to have subsisted using a combination of generalized hunting and lacustrine exploitation (Moratto 2004).

These early cultural assemblages were followed by an increase in Native population density after about 7,500 years ago. One of the most securely dated of these assemblages in north-central California is from the Squaw Creek Site located north of Redding. Here, a charcoal-based C-14 date suggests extensive Native American presence around 6,500 years ago, or 4,500 B.C. Most of the artifactual material dating to this time period has counterparts further south, around Borax (Clear) Lake to the west, and the Farmington Area in a Valley setting east of Stockton. Important artifact types from this time period include large wide-stemmed projectile points and manos and metates.

In the Northern Sacramento Valley in the general vicinity of the project area, aboriginal populations continued to expand between 6,500 and 4,500 years ago. Early Penutian-speaking arrivals in this area may be represented by the archaeological complex known in the literature as the "Windmill" or "Early Horizon." These sites date to about 4,000-5,000 years ago, with the connection to Penutian-speaking peoples suggested on the basis of

extended burials, large leaf-shaped and stemmed projectile points similar to points of the Stemmed Point Tradition in the Plateau and portions of the Great Basin, large villages established along major waterways, and elaborate material culture with a wide range of ornamental and other non-utilitarian artifact types being present (Ragir 1972). The continuation of this pattern through the “Middle Horizon”, or from about 1,000 B.C. to A.D. 300, has also been documented at riverine sites within the Sacramento Valley, including several sites along the Sacramento River, within the general project vicinity.

Sometime around AD 200-300, the Valley may have experienced another wave of Penutian immigration. Arriving ultimately from southern Oregon and the Columbia and Modoc Plateau region and proceeding down the major drainage systems (including the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers and of course the Sacramento River), these Penutian-speaking arrivals may have displaced the earlier populations, including remnant Hokan-speaking peoples still resident within the Valley. Presumably introduced by these last Penutian-speaking peoples to arrive were more extensive use of bulbs and other plant foods, animal and fishing products more intensively processed with mortars and pestles, and perhaps the bow and arrow and associated small stemmed- and corner-notched projectile points.

Ethnography

The project area is located within territory which, at the time of initial contact with European/American culture (*circa* AD 1830's), was occupied by the Patwin (Johnson 1978: Figure 1). The Patwin spoke a language belonging to the Penutian language family, along with the nearby Nisenan and Maidu, as well as Miwok, Costanoan, Yokuts, and other Valley and Bay groups. The boundary separating the Patwin and the Nisenan to the east of the Sacramento River was fluid and likely shifted over time, but the project area, located immediately west of the Sacramento River and south of its confluence with the Feather River, appears to have been located within lands claimed and utilized by the Patwin.

The basic social unit for the Patwin was the family, although the village may also have functioned as a social, political and economic unit. Villages were usually located near water sources, with major villages inhabited mainly in the winter as it was necessary for at least some of the population to relocate into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall). Villages typically consisted of a variable number of bark houses, numbering from four or five to several dozen in larger villages such as the large villages once situated at Knights Landing and Sacramento, with each house containing a single family of from three to seven people.

As with all northern California Indian groups, economic life for the Patwin revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. Deer was an important meat source and the animals were hunted by individuals by stalking or snaring, or by groups in community drives. Salmon runs, and other food resources available along the Sacramento River and its major tributaries, also contributed significantly to local economies. While much of the fish protein was consumed immediately, a significant percentage, particularly during the fall salmon run, was prepared for storage and consumed during winter months. Acorns represented one of the most important vegetal foods and were particularly abundant within the Oak Park Woodland which once dominated lands located east of the study area along

both the Sacramento River and the American River, and in association with higher ground and natural levees adjacent to these fresh water sources.

Relations between Euro-Americans and Native Americans in the Sacramento Valley followed the course of interaction documented in most other parts of North America, but with particularly devastating consequences for the Sacramento Valley Indians. John Work's fur trapping expedition through the region in 1832-33 resulted in the introduction of several communicable diseases, the results of which were devastating to Native culture and society (Work 1945; Cook 1976).

Historic Context

Historic evidence exists to document that some of the Spanish and Mexican expeditions may have come through and made brief stays within northern California. Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga led the first documented explorers into the region in 1808 (Les 1986). Nearly two decades later, in 1827, Jedediah Smith led a small group of hunters and trappers into the region (Gregory 1913). John Work's fur trapping expedition through central California in 1832-33, the best documented of the early forays into Valley, introduced several communicable diseases to the Native inhabitants which turned out to be devastating to Patwin culture and society (Maloney 1943; Cook 1955).

These early expeditions paved the way for more explorers and settlers, and Yolo County's first land grant, Rancho Rio de los Potos, was established along Putah Creek (surrounding present day Winters) in 1842. Granted by then Governor Juan B. Alvarado to William Wolfskill, portions of the land grant were utilized for agriculture (Hoover et al. 1990).

In 1853, Joseph B. Chiles acquired 4,200 acres of the disputed land grant Rancho Laguna de Santos Calle, at present-day Davis (Les 1986).

Additional major incursion by European American populations followed John Sutter's petition for and award of the New Helvetia Land Grant colony in 1839, with the Grant defining much of present-day Sacramento. Operating initially from Sutter's Fort, the Swiss emigrant planted wheat and raised cattle and horses, and employed many local Nisenan people on his Hock Farm on the west side of the Feather River.

Discovery of gold in 1848 at Coloma resulted in the influx of thousands of fortune seekers into California and the Sacramento area, ultimately destroying Sutter's hopes for a northern agrarian empire. The embarcadero became a trading center instead, with supplies from San Francisco sold to miners departing for the foothills east of Sacramento and elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada.

Yolo County was one of the original 27 counties when California became a State in 1850. Initially, the County's territory was nearly twice as large as it is now and included a large portion of present-day Colusa County. By 1923, the boundaries were redrawn to their current configuration. It is thought that the name "Yolo" is derived from the word *yoloy*, the Native American word signifying "a place filled with rushes."

By 1849, Sutter's son had assumed title to New Helvetia, and began a systematic survey of the extensive land grant, resulting eventually in a network of straight 80-foot wide streets and 20-foot wide alleys within Sacramento. Proximity to the American and Sacramento Rivers prompted levee construction as early as 1850, but in 1852 a massive flood breached the levee and inundated the entire city. By 1862, a burgeoning local population coupled with another major flood (1861-1862) accompanied by cholera outbreaks, resulted in the formation of the City Board of Health and shortly thereafter to the development of the City's sewer system that eventually came to involve lands on both the east and west sides (i.e., West Sacramento) of the Sacramento River.

A comprehensive city-wide drainage system was established in 1864, and over the next fifteen years construction was conducted on an as-needed basis. Additional plans to control flooding in the City, affecting lands on the west side of the River (within the general vicinity of the present project area), were undertaken by Sacramento City Engineer George Randle in 1911 and 1912. A comprehensive plan eventually emerged in conjunction with the new State Reclamation Board, which in turn was granted jurisdiction over all of the reclamation districts and levee plans. In 1911, with approval from the state, the Sacramento Flood Control plan was implemented, calling for construction of new levees, raising existing levees, construction of what was eventually to become known as the Yolo Bypass and other new reclamation districts, such as Yolo County's Reclamation Districts 900 and 1000.

Land drained as a result of these early 20th Century actions include what is known as East Yolo. For centuries the area had been characterized by an extensive tule marsh and was subject to frequent flooding. The few early settlements that existed in the area were located on high ground, typically adjacent to the Sacramento River and thus fairly close to the present project area. Once R.D. 900 was established in 1911, however, the swamp land was drained and cleared of tules, and the door was open for development. The Sacramento Land Company purchased a large portion of land in the District (north of what is now the Barge Canal), and in 1911 the company laid out the community of Riverbank (later Bryte). Shortly thereafter plans were initiated for West Sacramento. Engineer Charles Cheney and architect Lewis Hobart designed the city as a "model community" to include a modern water and sewer system, radial boulevards, and roads leading to a central plaza (Corbett 1993). Currently, R.D. 900 manages, operates, and maintains 13.6 miles of levees and 38 miles of canals and ditches in West Sacramento (Reclamation District 900 2020).

One of the majority owners of the Sacramento Land Company was the Northern Electric Railroad. The Northern Electric was comprised of several electric, interurban lines. Established in 1905 when railroad engineer Henry Butters purchased the Chico Electric Railway Company and incorporated the Northern Electric, the first line opened in 1906, linking Chico to Oroville; service was eventually extended to Sacramento (Hilton and Due 1960). In 1908, the company re-incorporated as the Northern Electric Railway Company (NERC). In 1911, NERC created a subsidiary called the Sacramento and Woodland Railroad, which resulted in the addition of two branch lines, one of which was a line linking Sacramento with Woodland (McGowan 1961). By 1914, however, financial difficulties at NERC resulted in a takeover by the Sacramento Northern Railway Company, a move that included acquisition of all electric lines in the Sacramento Valley. Finally, in 1921, the Western Pacific Railway Company acquired the Sacramento Northern Railway. Following economic difficulties accompanying the Great Depression and additional economic, political

and other changes following World War II, the State Railroad Commission declared electric railways illegal for safety reasons, and in 1945 Western Pacific was forced to adopt diesel locomotives and remove the third (electrified) rail from the earlier interurban electric lines. The heavier diesels required more substantial rails and modified ballast and ties, and over time virtually all of the original rail system was pulled up and replaced or, in some areas, was paved over.

Following World War II, the United States federal government passed the River and Harbor Act of 1946 which authorized construction of the Sacramento Deep Water Shipping Canal. In 1949, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated construction of the channel, which was completed in 1960 (Shore 1986). Construction of the Port of Sacramento terminal began in 1962, and services were opened for commercial activity in 1963 (USACE 2011:3). Extending approximately 43-miles in length, the channel has been excavated to a depth of approximately 30 feet, and a width of 200 feet. Ultimately, the channel connects the Port of West Sacramento to the Sacramento River, near the community of Isleton, south of present-day Sacramento.

The Sacramento Valley, in general, and the Sacramento region in particular, underwent massive economic and population growth following WWII, and it was during these various phases of urban and suburban expansion that various components of the built environment, including the present project area's Blacker Canal, were subjected to modification in order to accommodate the rapid growth demand.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several types of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting the pedestrian survey includes data maintained by the Northwest Information Center, and available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

Northwest Information Center Records

The official Yolo County archaeological records were examined on February 5, 2020 (NWIC File No. 19-1300). This search documented the following existing conditions for a 0.5-mile radius centered on the APE:

- According to the Information Center, none of the present APE has been subjected to previous cultural resources survey. Five (5) investigations have been documented within the 0.5-mile search radius, including:

NWIC #	Date	Author(s)
S-002944	1976	Wiant
S-005699	1982	Putman
S-021130	1993	Gerry and Peak
S-030660	2004	Jensen
S-043915	2011	Loftus

While the NWIC records did not formally document cultural resources investigations within the present APE, the Gerry and Peak (1993) investigation included several appended technical reports, including documentation and evaluation of three resources (see below).

- According to the Information Center's records, three (3) resources have been documented within the APE. Nine (9) additional resources have been documented outside of the APE, but within the 0.5-mile search radius.

The three (3) resources documented within the present project APE include: the Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725), which encompasses a large area that overlaps the eastern portion of the APE; the Morton-Blacker Canal (P-57-000732), which overlaps the eastern third of the present APE; and the Main Canal (P-57-000737), which is mapped by the NWIC as within the APE but is actually adjacent to and outside of the APE.

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining the archaeological site and survey records of Yolo County maintained at the Northwest Information Center, the following sources were also included in the search conducted at the Information Center, or were evaluated separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1986, Supplements).
- The California Register of Historical Resources.
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Data File (OHP 2012).
- 1872 GLO Plat Map, T8N, R4E.
- 1907 (reprinted 1913) USGS Davisville 15' Quadrangle.
- 1926 A. G. Proctor, Official Map of Yolo County, California.
- 1948 USGS Sacramento West 7.5' Quadrangle.
- 1954 USGS Davis 15' Quadrangle.
- NETR Aerials (1947, 1957, 1964, 1966, 1993, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016).
- USGS topographic maps (1907, 1913, 1916, 1949, 1956, 1958, 1965, 1968, 1977, 1980, 1997, 2012, 2015, 2018).
- Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources, reviewed below, provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area.

One cultural resources inventory investigation was conducted by Pacific Legacy, Inc. in October 2020 on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project. This report was reviewed, along with the aforementioned sources, and contributed to the present inventory effort.

4. CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Strategy and Field Work

All of the APE was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey by means of walking parallel and/or zig-zag-patterned transects spaced at 5-meter intervals.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor considered the results of background research and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Fieldwork was undertaken on July 31, 2020 by Principal Investigator, Sean Michael Jensen, M.A. Mr. Jensen is a professional archaeologist, historian and architectural historian, with more than 34 years of experience in archaeology, architectural history and history, who meets the professional requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190), as demonstrated in his listing on the California Historical Resources Information System list of qualified archaeologists, architectural historians and historians. No special problems were encountered and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

General Field Observations

Fieldwork identified the following general conditions within the project area. All of the present APE has been impacted directly by canal excavation and ongoing maintenance over the past century. Further, subsequent canal replacement and realignment, construction of roads and adjacent residences, as well as placement of utilities have all resulted in substantial disturbance to the APE and its immediate surroundings.

Examination of the NETR Aerials (1947, 1957, 1964, 1966, 1993, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016), and NETR USGS topographic maps (1907, 1913, 1916, 1949, 1956, 1958, 1965, 1968, 1977, 1980, 1997, 2012, 2015, 2018) provided a visual aid in historic through contemporary activities within and adjacent to the present APE.

The 1947, 1957, 1964 and 1966 aerial photographs, as well as the 1968, 1977, 1980 topographic maps depict the original alignment of the Blacker Canal and its due east-west trajectory between Jefferson Boulevard and the Main Canal (located immediately west of the present APE). The 1997 through 2018 topographic maps and the 1993 through 2016 aerial photographs depict dense residential development of lands immediately adjacent to the Blacker Canal.

All of these various activities have contributed to substantial disturbance of both the surface and subsurface soils within the APE, and consequently, reduce the probability of discovering intact subsurface cultural materials which may have once been present within the APE.

Prehistoric Resources

No evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation was observed during the present pedestrian survey. The absence of such resources may best be explained by more suitable habitation settings situated near permanent sources of surface water.

Historic Resources

As previously noted, three (3) historic-era resources (P-57-000725, -732, -737) have been documented, by the NWIC, as being located within the present APE. One of these, P-57-000737), the Main Canal, is actually located adjacent to, but outside of the present APE. Nevertheless, all three are discussed in further detail, here.

P-57-000725: Originally recorded by Corbett in 1993, the Jefferson Subdivision Plan consists of a historic-era subdivision adjacent to the west side of the Sacramento Northern Railroad, the north side of Davis Road, and the southeast side of the City Farms Subdivision. The eastern extent of the APE overlaps the site boundary. In 1911, prior to initiation of the subdivision, a series of ditches, canals, and levees were constructed in order to drain the tule marshes along the Sacramento River. The West Sacramento Company filed a plan for the Jefferson Subdivision in 1913, which consisted of 444 parcels, each approximately one acre in size, which were intended to support small agricultural enterprises. Irrigation canals were added to the subdivision in the 1920s and 1930s to transport water to the fields. Corbett (1993a) noted that, based on historic maps, by 1944, only 17 buildings were present among the 444 parcels. Following the end of WWII, construction in the subdivision intensified, and by 1949, 55 buildings were evident. With increased urbanization, the agricultural nature of the subdivision was never fully realized, and the land was further divided to accommodate commuter homes, which dominate the region today.

P-57-000732: Originally recorded by Corbett in 1993, the Morton-Blacker Canal is a dredged, earthen drainage canal reinforced with broken concrete and rubble that was constructed in 1911 in order to drain the local tule marshes. The canal served as a primary drainage for the Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725), which itself is partially bisected by the canal. After 1975, the western portion of the Morton-Blacker Canal was realigned to accommodate new residential development. Between a point roughly 200 feet east of Linden Road west to the Main Canal, the former canal alignment was filled and replaced with a new canal alignment. Consequently, approximately two-thirds of the Morton-Blacker Canal within the project APE coincides with the 1975+ rerouting of the canal.

P-57-000737: Originally recorded by Corbett in 1993, the Main Canal is located immediately adjacent to the western terminus of the Morton-Blacker Canal, but outside of the present APE. The RD 900 Main Canal is a dredged, earthen drainage canal beginning near the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Arlington Road, north of the present project APE. The canal trends west and south for approximately 4 miles to a pumping station where water is pumped over the levee into the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel. The Main Canal was constructed in 1911 as part of an effort to drain the tule marshes associated with the Sacramento River. The original canal was compromised when it was bisected during construction of the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel during the late 1950s.

5. ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Sites identified within the project area were to be evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed. Therefore, before developing mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must be determined in relation to criteria presented in PRC 15064.5, which defines a historically significant resource (one eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, per PRC SS5024.1) as an archaeological site which possess one or more of the following attributes or qualities:

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

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource as described above (for the purpose of determining effects), and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the current body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

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

In the present case, three (3) resources have been identified as being within, or immediately adjacent to the present APE. All three have been subjected to previous recordation and evaluation for significance and eligibility, and all three were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to a lack of integrity.

Corbett (1993b) recommended site **P-57-000725**, the Jefferson Subdivision Plan, not eligible for listing in the NRHP because the original plan for the subdivision was never realized and the area today consists largely of suburban commuter homes rather than small-scale agricultural enterprises. The 2012 Historic Property Data File for Yolo County lists the Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725) as not eligible for listing in the NRHP by consensus through the Section 106 process.

Corbett (1993b) recommended site **P-57-000732**, the Morton-Blacker Canal, not eligible for listing in the NRHP. The 2012 Historic Property Data File for Yolo County lists the Morton-Blacker Canal (P-57-000732) as not eligible for listing in the NRHP by consensus through the Section 106 process.

Finally, Corbett (1993b) evaluated site **P-57-000737**, the Main Canal, and recommended it not eligible for listing in the NRHP due to a lack of integrity. The 2012 Historic Property Data File for Yolo County lists the Main Canal (P-57-000737) as not eligible for listing in the NRHP by consensus through the Section 106 process.

Consequently, since integrity is a fundamental necessity in order for a resource to convey its historical significance, and based upon Corbett's findings of a lack of integrity for all three sites, none of these resources are eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

6. PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the historic resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair a cultural resource or historic property are actions that would alter or diminish those attributes of a site that qualify the site for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

Based on the specific findings detailed above under *Cultural Resources Survey and Cultural Inventory*, no significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources are present within the project area and no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

7. NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

In January 2020, cultural resources consulting firm, Pacific Legacy, Inc., delivered a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of the sacred lands file and a list of Native American contacts. The NAHC responded on February 4, 2020, indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) produced positive results, along with a list of three parties. The NAHC indicated that the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) was the appropriate party to contact regarding the positive SLF findings. The contact list included:

- Charlie Wright, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.
- Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc. submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020.

In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project APE, and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

On September 16, 2020, FEMA submitted an additional written correspondence to Matthew Moore, the UAIC THPO. As of November 2020, no response had been received from Mr. Moore.

On November 30, 2020, formal AB52 consultation letters were delivered to Gene Whitehouse, Chairman of the UAIC, and James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on behalf of Reclamation District 900. Both parties were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. To date, no responses have been received from the contacted parties. Since no prehistoric sites were identified within the APE, no additional consultation was undertaken.

The NAHC findings and AB52 consultation correspondences have been provided to RD900, the agency which has engaged in formal consultation in compliance with AB52 and CEQA.

8. PROJECT SUMMARY

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey involving bank stabilization of the Blacker Canal between Jefferson Boulevard and Reclamation District 900's (RD900) Main Drainage Canal, within the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

The proposed project is centered on the Blacker Canal (aka Morton-Blacker Canal, Blacker Ditch) west of the intersection of Blacker Road and Jefferson Boulevard and east of RD900's Main Canal. The Blacker Canal is an unlined urban drainage, and proposed project activities include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the canal, constructing gabion barriers along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the barriers to stabilize the canal banks.

Bank excavation will occur along the north and south sides of the canal to the west of Linden Road, which roughly bisects the canal, and along the south side of the canal to the east of Linden Road. Excavation depths will vary but will average approximately 4 feet from the current ground surface into the existing canal banks and channel. Gabion walls, measuring an average of 3 feet across and 3 feet high, will be stacked and secured along the canal banks to conform to the desired slope and backfilled with compacted inorganic fill. A 16-foot wide maintenance road will be graded north of the canal to the west of Linden Road, while an existing access road south of the canal that extends east and west of Linden Road will also be graded to improve maintenance access.

Existing records at the Northwest Information Center document that none of the present APE had been subjected to previous archaeological investigation, and that three (3) historic-era

resources had been documented within the APE. All three (P-57-000725, -732, -737) had been formally evaluated, and determined not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, a finding that reached concurrence between a federal agency and the SHPO. As well, the present effort included an intensive-level pedestrian survey. No new resources were identified during the present survey. All three previously recorded sites were found not eligible for inclusion in the CRHR due to a lack of integrity. Consequently, no significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources were identified within the APE.

In January 2020, cultural resources consulting firm, Pacific Legacy, Inc., delivered a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of the sacred lands file and a list of Native American contacts. The NAHC responded on February 4, 2020, indicating that a search of the Sacred Lands Files (SLF) produced positive results, along with a list of three parties. The NAHC indicated that the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) was the appropriate party to contact regarding the positive SLF findings. The contact list included:

- Charlie Wright, Cortina Rancheria-Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.
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On February 7, 2020, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pacific Legacy, Inc. submitted formal consultation letters to the listed parties. Pacific Legacy, Inc. followed up with phone calls and emails on February 14, and March 4, 2020. In a letter dated February 21, 2020, James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation indicated that the Tribe was unaware of any cultural resources within the project APE, and did not advocate for Tribal monitors. None of the other contacted parties expressed any concerns regarding the project.

On September 16, 2020, FEMA submitted an additional written correspondence to Matthew Moore, the UAIC THPO. As of November 2020, no response had been received from Mr. Moore.

On November 30, 2020, formal AB52 consultation letters were delivered to Gene Whitehouse, Chairman of the UAIC, and James Kinter, THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on behalf of Reclamation District 900. Both parties were requested to supply any information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within, adjacent or near the project area. To date, no responses have been received from the contacted parties. Since no prehistoric sites were identified within the APE, no additional consultation was undertaken.

The NAHC findings and AB52 consultation correspondences have been provided to RD900, the agency which has engaged in formal consultation in compliance with AB52 and CEQA.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources or unique archaeological resources within the APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed, although the following general provisions are considered appropriate:

1. **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:** In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.
2. **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future canal bank stabilization activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., canal excavation and realignment) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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- Work, John
1945 "Fur Brigade to the Bonaventura: John Work's California Expedition, 1832-1833, for the Hudson's Bay Company", In, *The Journal of John Work*, Alice B. Maloney, Editor. California Historical Society, San Francisco.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY SURVEY

**Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project
circa 4.5-acres
Yolo County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- APE Map
- Records Search from Northwest Information Center
- Consultation letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Response from the NAHC
- AB52 Letters to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and the United Auburn Indian Community
- Site Records for sites “P-57-00725,” “P-57-00732,” and “P-57-00737”

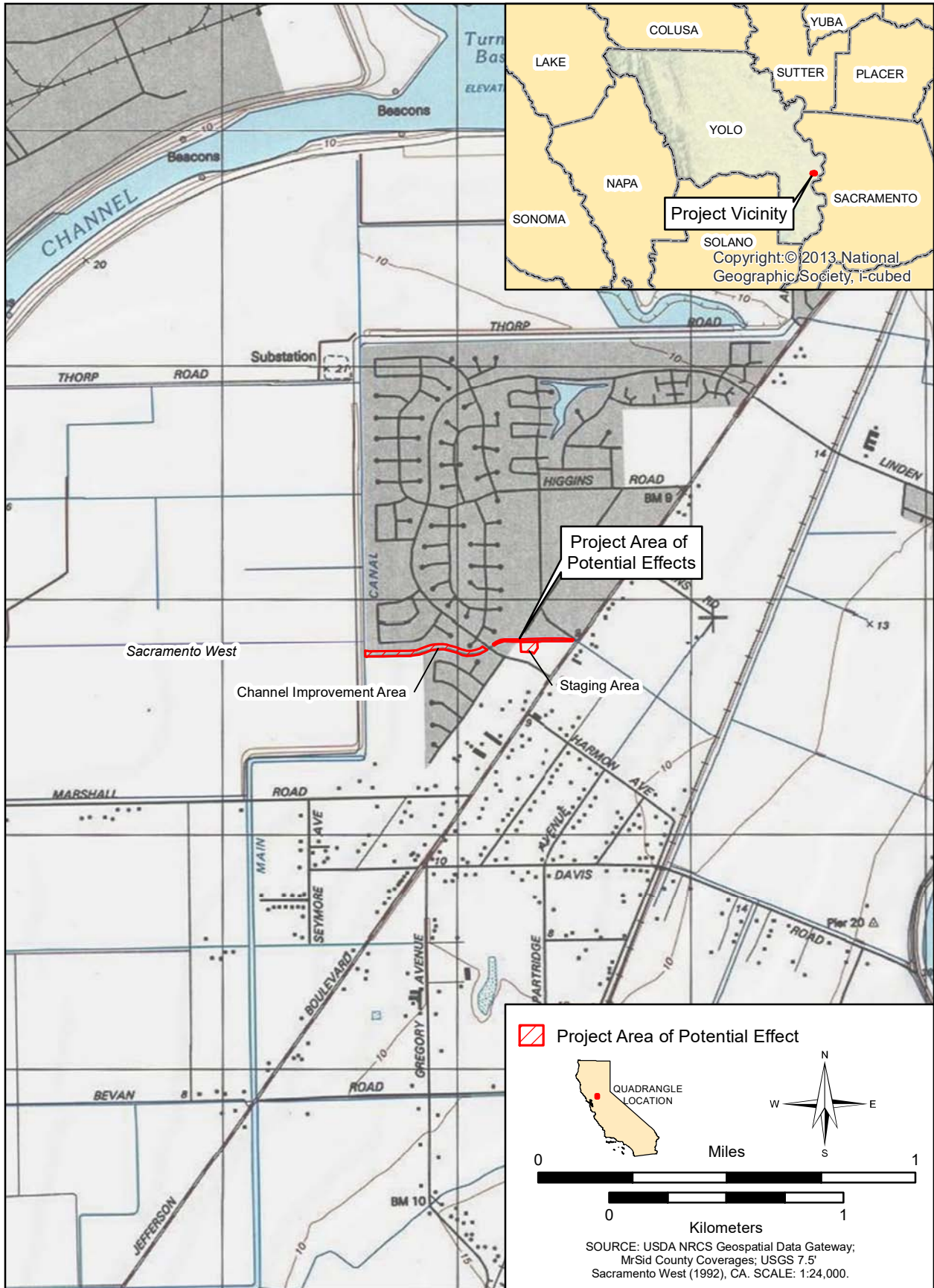


Figure 1. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Location and Vicinity Map.

CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES
INFORMATION
SYSTEM



ALAMEDA
COLUSA
CONTRA COSTA
DEL NORTE

HUMBOLDT
LAKE
MARIN
MENDOCINO
MONTEREY
NAPA
SAN BENITO

SAN FRANCISCO
SAN MATEO
SANTA CLARA
SANTA CRUZ
SOLANO
SONOMA
YOLO

Northwest Information Center
Sonoma State University
150 Professional Center Drive, Suite E
Rohnert Park, California 94928-3609
Tel: 707.588.8455
nwic@sonoma.edu
http://www.sonoma.edu/nwic

2/5/2020

NWIC File No.: 19-1300

Lisa Holm
Pacific Legacy, Inc.
900 Modoc Street
Berkeley, CA 94707

re: 4344-609-135 Reclamation District 900 Blacker Canal (3446-01 Ph2, Task 22)

The Northwest Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Sacramento West USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a 0.5 mile radius:

Resources within project area:	P-57-000725, 000732, & 000737.
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-57-000733, 000729, 000730, 000731, 000741, 000728, 000726, 000727, & 000529.
Reports within project area:	None
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	S-43915, 21130, 2944, 30660, & 5699.

- Resource Database Printout (list):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Database Printout (details):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Digital Database Records:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (list):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (details):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Digital Database Records:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Record Copies:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Copies:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- OHP Built Environment Resources Directory:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Caltrans Bridge Survey:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Ethnographic Information:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Historical Literature:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Historical Maps:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Local Inventories:** enclosed not requested nothing listed

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:

enclosed not requested nothing listed

Shipwreck Inventory:

enclosed not requested nothing listed

*Notes:

** Current versions of these resources are available on-line:

Caltrans Bridge Survey: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Soil Survey: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/surveylist/soils/survey/state/?stateId=CA>

Shipwreck Inventory: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Shipwrecks.html>

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Sincerely,

Lisa C. Hagel
Researcher

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

February 4, 2020

Lisa Holm, Senior Archaeologist
Pacific Legacy

Via Email to: holm@pacificlegacy.com
Cc: bguth@auburnrancheria.com

Re: 4344-609-135 Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Stabilization Project (3446-01, PH II Task 20) Project, Yolo County

Dear Ms. Firestone:

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 positive. Please contact the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria on the attached list for more information. 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: Sarah.Fonseca@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Sarah Fonseca
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Merri Lopez-Keifer
Luiseño

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Russell Attebery
Karuk

COMMISSIONER
Marshall McKay
Wintun

COMMISSIONER
William Mungary
Paiute/White Mountain
Apache

COMMISSIONER
Joseph Myers
Pomo

COMMISSIONER
Julie Tumamait-
Stenslie
Chumash

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Christina Snider
Pomo

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
February 4, 2020**

Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians
Charlie Wright, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1630 Wintun / Patwin
Williams CA 95987
(530) 473-3274 Office
(530) 473-3301 Fax

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson
10720 Indian Hill Road Maidu
Auburn CA 95603 Miwok
bguth@auburnrancheria.com
(530) 883-2390 Office
(530) 883-2380 Fax

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18 Wintun (Patwin)
Brooks CA 95606
aroberts@yochadehe-nsn.gov
(530) 796-3400
(530) 796-2143 Fax

This list is current as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

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 Resources Code, or Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans Tribes for the proposed:
4344-609-135 Reclamation District 900 - Blacker Canal Stabilization Project (3446-01, PH II Task 20), Yolo County.**



November 30, 2020

Gene Whitehouse, Chairman
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Invitation to begin Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2014) Consultation on RD900's Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

Dear Gene Whitehouse, Chairman, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria:

In response to your request for Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2014) Public Resources Code: 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 5097.94. (AB 52) notification of projects, Reclamation District 900 (RD900) is providing you 30-day notice to request consultation on the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

The project is located west of Jefferson Boulevard, and east of the Main Drainage Canal, south of Lake Washington and Thorp Road, within the City of West Sacramento. Please see the attached area of potential effects (APE) map that depict the Project Location.

RD900 has made a decision to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Mitigated Negative Declaration has yet to be completed. You are a traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribal representative that has requested notice of projects where AB 52 applies within the RD900 District boundaries. We are requesting any information that you may have regarding tribal cultural resources (as defined by, Public Resources Code 21074) within the Project Area so that this information can be incorporated into the planning phase of the Project. RD900, as the lead agency, pursuant to AB 52, is requesting input from Gene Whitehouse, Chairman, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Your comments and concerns are important to us and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or comments regarding the project, I can be contacted via email TMallen@rd900.org or by phone 916-371-1483.

Sincerely,

Tim Mallen
General Manager
Reclamation District 900

Signed, on behalf of Tim Mallen, by: Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen

Attachments:
APE Map



November 30, 2020

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
James Kinter
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

Subject: Invitation to begin Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2014) Consultation on RD900's Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

Dear James Kinter, Tribal Secretary, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Yocha Dehe Wintum Nation:

In response to your request for Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto 2014) Public Resources Code: 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 5097.94. (AB 52) notification of projects, Reclamation District 900 (RD900) is providing you 30-day notice to request consultation on the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, California.

The project is located west of Jefferson Boulevard, and east of the Main Drainage Canal, south of Lake Washington and Thorp Road, within the City of West Sacramento. Please see the attached area of potential effects (APE) map that depict the Project Location.

RD900 has made a decision to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Mitigated Negative Declaration has yet to be completed. You are a traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribal representative that has requested notice of projects where AB 52 applies within the RD900 District boundaries. We are requesting any information that you may have regarding tribal cultural resources (as defined by, Public Resources Code 21074) within the Project Area so that this information can be incorporated into the planning phase of the Project. RD900, as the lead agency, pursuant to AB 52, is requesting input from James Kinter, Tribal Secretary, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Yocha Dehe Wintum Nation within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Your comments and concerns are important to us and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or comments regarding the project, I can be contacted via email TMallen@rd900.org or by phone 916-371-1483.

Sincerely,

Tim Mallen
General Manager
Reclamation District 900

Signed, on behalf of Tim Mallen, by: Sean Michael Jensen

Sean Michael Jensen

Attachments:
APE Map

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY/EVALUATION FORM**

MAP REFERENCE NO. 6

County-Route-Postmile:
YOLO-84-

LISTED
 APPEARS ELIGIBLE

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE
 APPEARS INELIGIBLE

IDENTIFICATION

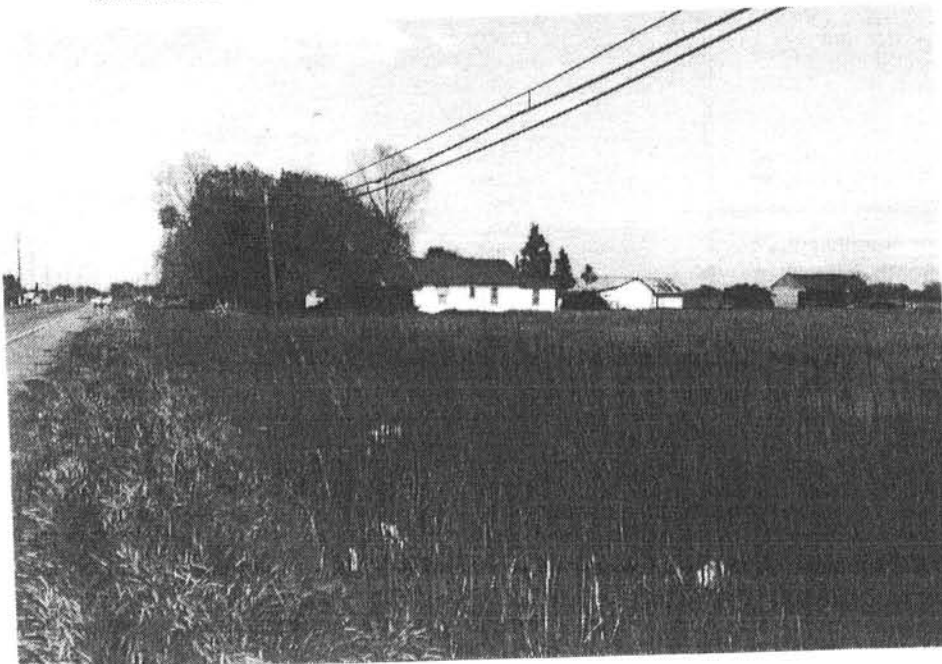
- 1. **Common Name:** Jefferson Subdivision Plan
- 2. **Historic Name:** Jefferson Subdivision Plan
- 3. **Street or rural address:** Both sides of Jefferson Boulevard from Davis to Higgins Road
 City: West Sacramento Zip Code: 95691 County: Yolo
- 4. **Parcel Number:** Present Owner: Multiple
 Address: City: Zip Code:
- 5. **Ownership is:** Public Private
- 6. **Present Use:** Subdivision Original Use: Subdivision

DESCRIPTION

7a. **Architectural Style:** N/A

7b. **Briefly describe the present PHYSICAL APPEARANCE of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original appearance:** The Jefferson Subdivision Plan is a generally four-sided area bound by the Sacramento Northern Railroad on the east, Davis Road on the south, the City Farms Subdivision on the northwest, and a line about 396 feet (the width of 3 parcels) north of Higgins Road on the northeast. As designed, it consisted of 444 roughly one-acre parcels in a grid plan oriented to the diagonal of Jefferson Boulevard. Southeast of Jefferson Boulevard were rectangular blocks of about 20 lots each. Northwest of Jefferson Boulevard, blocks were larger and broken by diagonals which linked the Jefferson Subdivision to the north-south grid of the City Farms Subdivision. Northeast-southwest streets were called avenues, and northwest-southeast streets were called streets. The entire subdivision was overlain by a network of drainage ditches and irrigation canals associated with Reclamation District 900.

Today, the subdivision has about half of its originally planned streets. Few of the one-acre lots survive as "city farms." Most of the surviving early farms exist on multiples of the one-acre lots. In recent years suburban houses for commuters have been built on many of the one-acre lots, and sometimes on two or three lots.



- 8. **Construction date:** 1913
 Estimated Factual
- 9. **Architect:** Haviland, Dozier, & T betts, Civil Engineers
- 10. **Builder:** Unknown
- 11. **Approx. property size:** (in feet)
 Frontage: 2,000 Depth: 1,000
- 12. **Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):** March 24, 1990

Photographer: Michael Corbett

View: North

13. **Condition:** Excellent () Good () Fair (X) Deteriorated ()

14. **Alterations:** Incompletely realized, new directions in recent construction

15. **Surroundings:** (Check more than one if necessary) Open land (X) Scattered buildings (X) Densely built up ()
Residential () Industrial () Commercial () Other: Agricultural

16. **Threats to site:** None known () Private development () Zoning () Vandalism () Public Works project (X)

Other:

17. **Is the structure:** On its original site? (X) Moved? () Unknown? () appears moved to the site ca. 1959-60.

18. **Related features:** Street plan, parcelization

IMPORTANCE

19. **Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events and persons associated with the site):**

The Jefferson Subdivision Plan was filed by the West Sacramento Company in July 1913. It was the second of four subdivisions filed that year for the new town of West Sacramento, whose overall plan was created by Lewis Hobart and Charles H. Cheney. Jefferson Subdivision itself was designed by Haviland, Dozier, & Tibbetts, Civil Engineers, on land that had just been drained and cleared of tules. This was one of three subdivisions of "city farms," for individuals who would operate small agricultural enterprises (as opposed to those in the urban subdivision of West Sacramento City Unit One, who would work in industries along the railroad). In the 1920s and 1930s, small irrigation canals were built which brought water into the fields from excess water in the drainage system.

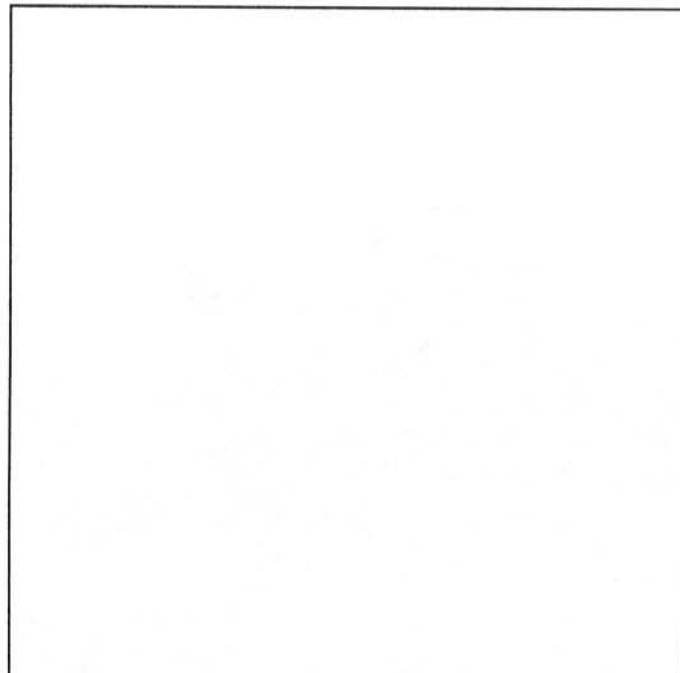
The subdivision was slow to develop. A 1944 map showed only 17 buildings on the 444 parcels. Development picked up after World War II, and by 1949, 54 buildings had been erected on a partially realized street plan. By 1954, two more streets were added. In the period after the opening of the port and rerouting of the state highway to its present route along Jefferson Boulevard, building boomed, mostly with new houses for suburban commuters rather than farmers.

See continuation sheet.

20. **Main theme of the historic resource:** (if more than one is checked, number in order of importance)

- Architecture () Arts & Leisure ()
- Economic/Industrial () Exploration/Settlement ()
- Government () Military () Religion ()
- Social/Education ()

Location sketch map (draw & label site and surrounding streets, roads and prominent landmarks)



21. **Sources:** (list books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates)

Haviland, Dozier, & Tibbetts. "Jefferson Subdivision." West Sacramento Co., July 1913. Subdivision plan map at Yolo County Recorder's Office.

See continuation sheet

Date form Prepared: April 15, 1993

By: Michael R. Corbett

Organization: Dames & Moore, Inc.

Address: 2054 University Avenue, #505
Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone: (510) 548-4123

19. Significance, continued:

The Jefferson Subdivision Plan represents a widespread effort to provide agricultural settings and livelihoods to people in urban areas. Potentially, it possesses significance in the context of the entire plan for West Sacramento. However, in the incomplete realization of the original plan, and in predominant development since World War II as a commuter suburb, it has lost integrity and does not appear eligible for the National Register.

21. Sources, continued:

Thomas Brothers. *Map of Yolo County*. Harry Freese, 1944.

United States Geological Survey. *Sacramento West Quadrangle* (scale 1:24,000). 1949.

United States Geological Survey. *Davis, California Quadrangle* (scale 1:62,500). 1954.

United States Geological Survey. *Sacramento West Quadrangle* (scale 1:24,000). 1967.

Hobart, Lewis P., and Charles H. Cheney. "West Sacramento. Bird's Eye View from Dome of the State Capitol as Projected," 1913. Original painting hanging in the A.F. Turner Branch of the Yolo County Library, West Sacramento. Published in *The Architect and Engineer*, Vol. 42:1 (July 1915), p. 88.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY/EVALUATION FORM**

MAP REFERENCE NO. 13

County-Route-Postmile:
YOLO-84-

LISTED
 APPEARS ELIGIBLE

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE
 APPEARS INELIGIBLE

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. **Common Name:** Morton-Blacker Canal
- 2. **Historic Name:** Morton-Blacker Canal
- 3. **Street or rural address:** crosses Jefferson Boulevard just south of Blacker Road
 City: West Sacramento **Zip Code:** 95691 **County:** Yolo
- 4. **Parcel Number:** **Present Owner:** Reclamation District 900 easement
Address: **City:** **Zip Code:**
- 5. **Ownership is:** Public Private
- 6. **Present Use:** Drainage canal **Original Use:** Drainage canal

DESCRIPTION

7a. **Architectural Style:** N/A

7b. **Briefly describe the present PHYSICAL APPEARANCE of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original appearance:** This segment of the Morton-Blacker canal is an original primary drainage canal of Reclamation District 900, draining much of Jefferson Subdivision into the main drainage canal to the west. It runs parallel to and just south of the line of Blacker Road on the east side of Jefferson Boulevard and along the line of what had originally been proposed as Morton Road (but never built) on the west side of Jefferson Boulevard.

It is a dredged, earthen canal, reinforced with broken pieces of reinforced concrete and rubble, and 20 feet wide. As part of its maintenance program, it has been regularly redredged. The western part of the Morton-Blacker Canal, from about Linden Road, was realigned after 1975 to accommodate a new housing development.



- 8. **Construction date:** 1911
 Estimated Factual
- 9. **Architect:** Haviland & Tibbets, C
 Engineers
- 10. **Builder:** Unknown
- 11. **Approx. property size:** (in feet)
Frontage: **Depth:**
 1.453 acres
- 12. **Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):** January 26, 1995

Photographer: Michael Corbett

View: East

13. Condition: Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Deteriorated ()

14. Alterations: Maintenance, concrete rubble added to banks, culverts

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land (X) Scattered buildings (X) Densely built up () Residential () Industrial () Commercial () Other:

16. Threats to site: None known () Private development () Zoning () Vandalism () Public Works project (X) Other:

17. Is the structure: On its original site? (X) Moved? () Unknown? ()

18. Related features: Canals, pumping plants, levees

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events and persons associated with the site):

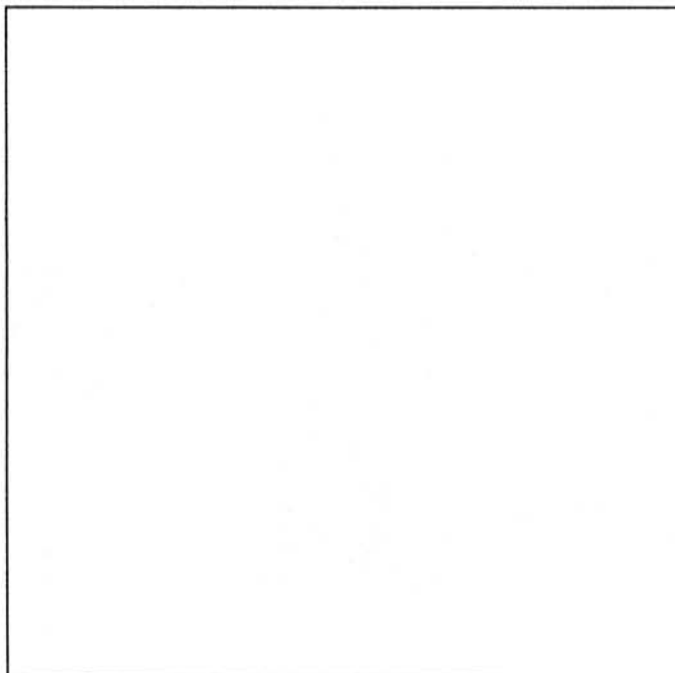
As an original primary drainage canal of Reclamation District 900, the Morton-Blacker Canal is part of an extensive system of levees, canals, ditches, and a pumping plant that was designed by Haviland & Tibbetts, Civil Engineers, in 1911. This system was essential to the drainage of the land and clearance of tules before the new town of West Sacramento with its urban and agricultural subdivisions could be established. By means of this system, a large tule swamp was transformed into urban and agricultural land. In 1959-1961, the northern half of the system was completely rebuilt in association with the construction of the Sacramento-Yolo Port through the middle of the Reclamation District. Since about that time, many of the smaller ditches associated with the system have been filled in or covered because of a change from farmland to suburban residential developments.

While the whole system was at one time an important example of a type of system that transformed the Central Valley of California in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this has undergone major changes, has lost integrity and appears ineligible for the National Register. The Morton-Blacker Canal has also lost integrity. By itself, neither the Morton-Blacker Canal nor most of the other elements of the system possess significance and thus do not appear eligible for the National Register. An exception may be the main pump house which lies about four miles along the main canal from the APE for this project.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (if more than one is checked, number in order of importance)

- Architecture () Arts & Leisure ()
- Economic/Industrial () Exploration/Settlement ()
- Government () Military () Religion ()
- Social/Education ()

Location sketch map (draw & label site and surrounding streets, roads and prominent landmarks)



21. Sources: (list books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates)

Reclamation District 900. *Policy Book*. December 1980.

Reclamation District 900. Photographs and maps on file at District Office.

See continuation sheet

Date form Prepared: April 15, 1993

By: Michael R. Corbett

Organization: Dames & Moore, Inc.

Address: 2054 University Avenue, #505
Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone: (510) 548-4123

21. Sources, continued:

Rusich, Ken (Manager at Reclamation District 900). Interview with Michael Corbett, March 5, 1993.

Grossman, Bob. Interview with Michael Corbett, March 12, 1993.

Russell, William O., editor. *History of Yolo County California*. Woodland, 1940.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY/EVALUATION FORM

P-57-000737

MAP REFERENCE NO. 18

County-Route-Postmile:
YOLO-84-

() LISTED
() APPEARS ELIGIBLE

() DETERMINED ELIGIBLE
(X) APPEARS INELIGIBLE

IDENTIFICATION

1. **Common Name:** Main Canal, Reclamation District 900
2. **Historic Name:** Main Canal, Reclamation District 900
3. **Street or rural address:** West of Intersection of Arlington Road and Jefferson Boulevard
- City: West Sacramento **Zip Code:** 95691 **County:** Yolo
4. **Parcel Number:** N/A **Present Owner:** Reclamation District 900
- Address:** **City:** **Zip Code:**
5. **Ownership is:** (X) Public () Private
6. **Present Use:** Drainage Canal **Original Use:** Drainage Canal

DESCRIPTION

7a. **Architectural Style:** N/A

7b. **Briefly describe the present PHYSICAL APPEARANCE of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original appearance:** This segment of the main canal of Reclamation District 900 is part of a four-mile drainage canal that runs from near the intersection of Arlington Road and Jefferson Boulevard to a large pumping plant southwest of here where water is pumped over the levee into the Yolo By-Pass. Until construction of the Sacramento-Yolo Port in 1959-1961, the canal continued north of this point several miles. From this point to the pumping plant, it follows its original zigzag course except in one roughly 500-foot segment. The canal appears today much as when it was built, a dredged, earthen trench through very flat land. As part of its maintenance program it has been regularly re-dredged. An earthen levee along the north side in this segment has been added, perhaps at the time of the construction of the port.



8. **Construction date:** 1911
Estimated () Factual (X)
9. **Architect:** Haviland & Tibbetts, Civil Engineers
10. **Builder:** Unknown
11. **Approx. property size:** (in feet)
Frontage: **Depth:**
4 miles long
100-foot-wide easement
12. **Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):** January 22, 1993
- Photographer: Michael Corbett
- View: West

13. Condition: Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Deteriorated ()

14. Alterations: Maintenance of this section, reconstruction of other sections

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land (X) Scattered buildings (X) Densely built up (X)

Residential () Industrial () Commercial () Other:

16. Threats to site: None known () Private development () Zoning () Vandalism () Public Works project (X)

Other:

17. Is the structure: On its original site? (X) Moved? () Unknown? ()

18. Related features: Lateral ditches, pumping plant, levees

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events and persons associated with the site):

The main canal of Reclamation District 900 is part of an extensive system of levees, canals, ditches, and a pumping plant that was designed by Haviland & Tibbetts, Civil Engineers, in 1911. This system was essential to the drainage of the land and clearance of tules before the new town of West Sacramento with its urban and agricultural subdivisions could be established. By means of this system, a large tule swamp was transformed into urban and agricultural land. In 1959-1961, the northern half of the system was completely rebuilt in association with the construction of the Sacramento-Yolo Port through the middle of the Reclamation District. Since about that time, many of the smaller ditches associated with the system have been filled in or covered because of a change from farmland to suburban residential developments.

While the whole system was at one time an important example of a type of system that transformed the central valley of California in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this has undergone major changes, has lost integrity and appears ineligible for the National Register. The main canal has also lost integrity. By itself, neither the main canal nor most of the other elements of the system possess significance and thus do not appear eligible for the National Register. An exception may be the main pump house which lies about four miles along the main canal from the APE for this project.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (if more than one is checked, number in order of importance)

Location sketch map (draw & label site and surrounding streets, roads and prominent landmarks)

- Architecture () Arts & Leisure ()
- Economic/Industrial () Exploration/Settlement ()
- Government () Military () Religion ()
- Social/Education ()

21. Sources: (list books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates)

Reclamation District 900. Policy Book. December 1980.

Reclamation District 900. Photographs and maps on file at District Office.

See continuation sheet

Date form Prepared: April 15, 1993

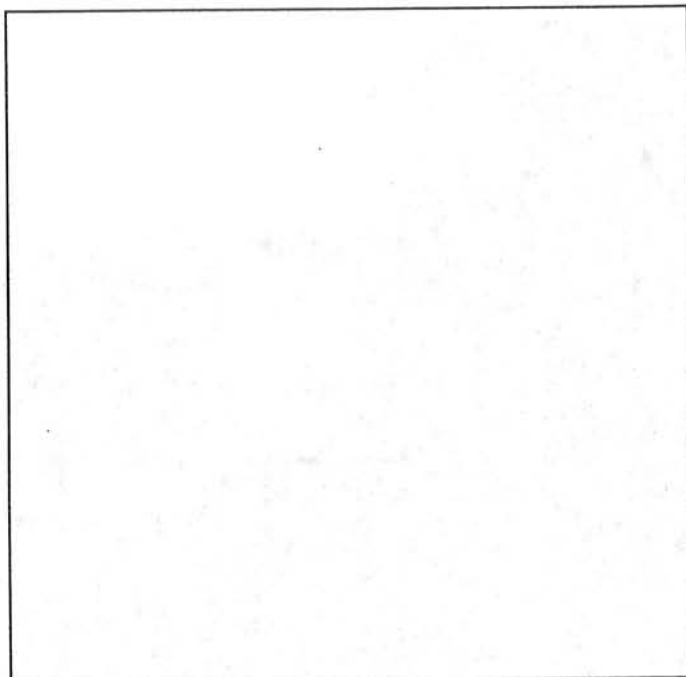
By: Michael R. Corbett

Organization: Dames & Moore, Inc.

Address: 2054 University Avenue, #505

Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone: (510) 548-4123



21. Sources, continued:

Rusich, Ken (Manager at Reclamation District 900). Interview with Michael Corbett, March 5, 1993.

Grossman, Bob. Interview with Michael Corbett, March 12, 1993.

Russell, William O., editor. *History of Yolo County California*. Woodland, 1940.

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION * * * Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for YOLO County.			Page 13	04-05-12								
PROPERTY-NUMBER	PRIMARY-#	STREET-ADDRESS.....	NAMES.....	CITY.NAME.....	OWN	YR-C	OHP-PROG..	PRG-REFERENCE-NUMBER	STAT-DAT	NRS	CRIT	
046518		CR 41	RUMSEY BRIDGE, BRIDGE #22C-3	RUMSEY	C	1930	HIST.RES.	DOE-57-86-0001-0000	10/19/86	2S2	C	
							PROJ.REVW.	FHWA860919Z	10/19/86	2S2	C	
							HIST.SURV.	5679-0006-0000		2S		
046516		MADRONE ST	OCCIDENTAL SCHOOL, RUMSEY SCHOOL	RUMSEY	P	1876	HIST.SURV.	5679-0004-0000		3S		
090409		3570 O'LEARY LANE		RUMSEY	P	1886	PROJ.REVW.	HUD940622W	08/02/94	6Y		
046513		SR 16	RUMSEY TOWN HALL	RUMSEY	P	1906	HIST.RES.	NPS-72000265-0000	06/19/72	1S		
							HIST.SURV.	5679-0001-0000		1S		
046515		SR 16	ALMOND GROWERS EXCHANGE SHED	RUMSEY	P	1915	HIST.SURV.	5679-0003-0000		7N		
046517		SR 16	JAMES MACKLIN MORRIN HOUSE	RUMSEY	P	1892	HIST.SURV.	5679-0005-0000		5S2		
046514		SR 16	RUSSELL HASWELL RANCH	(VIC) RUMSEY	P	1925	HIST.SURV.	5679-0002-0000		3S		
093375	57-000721		BOULEVARD SUBDIVISION PLAN	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093380	57-000725		JEFFERSON SUBDIVISION PLAN	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093387	57-000732		MORTOR-BLACKER CANAL	WEST SACRAMENTO	U	1911	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093392	57-000737		MAIN CANAL / RECLAMATION DISTRICT	WEST SACRAMENTO		1911	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093393	57-000738		ARLINGTON ROAD / STATE HIGHWAY 99	WEST SACRAMENTO	U	1911	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093394	57-000739		WEST SACRAMENTO CITY SUBDIVISION P	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
093397	57-000743		PICTURESQUE OAKS	WEST SACRAMENTO	U	1913	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
046760			FIRST PACIFIC COAST SALMON CANNERY	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1864	HIST.RES.	66000938	07/14/04	6W		
							HIST.RES.	SHL-1040-0000	02/06/04	1CL		
							ST.HS.LDMK	57-0013	11/04/03	3S		
							HIST.SURV.	5691-0028-0000	01/01/74	1S		
							HIST.RES.	NPS-66000938-0000	10/15/66	1S		
174309			RECLAMATION DISTRICT 900 PUMP STAT	WEST SACRAMENTO	D	1913	PROJ.REVW.	COE081209E	12/18/08	6Y		
176052			SOUTH REACH LEVEE SEGMENT	WEST SACRAMENTO		1915	PROJ.REVW.	COE090211A	03/05/09	6Y		
093395	57-000195		SACRAMENTO NORTHERN RAILROAD TRACK	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	PROJ.REVW.	COE110201B	02/24/11	6Y		
							PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
184387		1225 1225 DREW ST		WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1955	PROJ.REVW.	HUD100816D	08/25/10	6Y		
093539	57-000748	15TH ST	PICTURESQUE OAKS	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	PROJ.REVW.	FHWA940711A	08/02/94	6Y		
046739		231 2ND ST	WASHINGTON WATER CO. WATER TOWER,	WEST SACRAMENTO	D	1916	HIST.SURV.	5691-0006-0000		3S		
046738		405 2ND ST	HANSON HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1890	HIST.SURV.	5691-0005-0000		3S		
046789	57-001370	610 2ND ST	JOHN WHITE HOUSE SITE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1868	HIST.SURV.	5691-0033-0000		7R		
046774		3RD ST	500 BLOCK OF THIRD STREET	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1890	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-9999		5D2		
128236	57-000982	317 3RD ST	WASHINGTON FIREHOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	M	1939	HIST.RES.	CR	08/03/01	1CS		
							CAL.REG.	57-0010	07/31/01	1CS		
046741		322 3RD ST	BRIDGE VIEW MARKET	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1930	HIST.SURV.	5691-0008-0000		7N		
046763		500 3RD ST	MABEL SMITH HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0001		7N		
046764		504 3RD ST	MILDRED C. SPEICHER HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0002		7N		
046765		508 3RD ST	TREVINO AND SOSTENES HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0003		5D2		
046766		511 3RD ST	ROBBEN	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1890	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0004		5D2		
046767		516 3RD ST	RONALD J. MARTIN HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0005		7N		
046768		517 3RD ST	ROBBEN HOUSE #2	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1890	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0006		5D2		
046769		519 3RD ST	WILLIAM J. BELTRAMI HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1895	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0007		7N		
046770		520 3RD ST	TONY-MARIEL NEGRETE HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1910	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0008		5D2		
046771		521 3RD ST	WILLIAM J. BELTRAMI HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1895	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0009		5D2		
046772		524 3RD ST	ETHEL M. REYNOLDS HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0010		5D2		
046773		528 3RD ST	ETHEL M. REYNOLDS HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1903	HIST.SURV.	5691-0031-0011		5D2		
046788		4TH ST	400 BLOCK OF FOURTH STREET	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1890	HIST.SURV.	5691-0032-9999		7R		
046740		315 4TH ST	WEST SACRAMENTO CHURCH OF CHRIST	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1915	HIST.SURV.	5691-0007-0000		3S		
046742		329 4TH ST	ERNEST KLEFMAN HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1910	HIST.SURV.	5691-0009-0000		3S		
046775		411 4TH ST	DOROTHY M. PLACE HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1895	HIST.SURV.	5691-0032-0001		3D		
046776		412 4TH ST	SETH G. AND OLIVE B. BARRY	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1898	HIST.SURV.	5691-0032-0002		3D		
046777		415 4TH ST	LIRIA GARCIA HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1913	HIST.SURV.	5691-0032-0003		3D		
046778		417 4TH ST	DOMINGO MONTOYA HOUSE	WEST SACRAMENTO	P	1900	HIST.SURV.	5691-0032-0004		3S		



FEMA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
MIN-HMGP-4344-609-135

October 16, 2020

Ms. Juliane Polanco
California State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

ATTN: Mark Beason, 30-Day Review

Re: **Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project**
FEMA-HMGP-DR-4344-609-135
No Historic Properties Affected
Yolo County, City of West Sacramento
Subrecipient: Reclamation District 900

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to Reclamation District 900 (District or Subapplicant) through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES or Applicant) for a canal stabilization project in the City of West Sacramento in eastern Yolo County. The project would be funded under FEMA's HMGP. The District is proposing to excavate along the banks and channel of the Morton-Blacker Canal, construct supporting gabion walls along the banks, backfill behind the walls, and grade maintenance roads to prevent the continued erosion of the canal and restore maintenance access (Undertaking).

FEMA has reviewed the proposed Undertaking in accordance with the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services* (Programmatic Agreement), executed on October 29, 2019, and requests your review of FEMA's finding of **No Historic Properties Affected**.

Undertaking

The proposed Undertaking is centered on the Morton-Blacker Canal west of the intersection of Blacker Road and Jefferson Boulevard and east of the District's Main Canal. The Morton-Blacker Canal, variously referred to as the Blacker Canal or Blacker Ditch, consists of an unlined urban drainage that has witnessed significant bankline erosion and high-velocity scouring. To counter these effects, project activities will include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the Morton-Blacker Canal, constructing gabion walls (rock-filled wire baskets stacked on top of each

other) along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the walls to stabilize the canal banks. Bank excavation will occur along the north and south sides of the canal to the west of Linden Road, which roughly bisects the canal, and along the south side of the canal to the east of Linden Road to establish a 1:1 slope. Excavation depths will vary but will average approximately 4 feet from the current ground surface into the existing canal banks and the channel of the canal. Gabion walls, measuring an average of 3 feet across and 3 feet high, will be stacked and secured along the canal banks to conform to the desired slope and backfilled with compacted inorganic fill. A 16-foot wide maintenance road, already partially extant, will be graded north of the canal to the west of Linden Road. An existing access road south of the canal that extends east and west of Linden Road also will be graded to improve maintenance access. In select, limited locations, culverts and riprap will be installed in the canal or its banks. These measures and the installation of the gabion walls will prevent further erosion and sloughing of the earthen canal banks while restoring adjacent roads by reestablishing sufficient width for heavy equipment to access and maintain the canal.

Area of Potential Effect

The project area of potential effect (APE) extends from Jefferson Boulevard on the east to the Main Canal on the west in West Sacramento, Yolo County, California. It will span approximately 1,700 feet in length and 73 feet in width west of Linden Road along the north and south sides of the canal. To the east of Linden Road, the APE will span approximately 1,200 feet in length and 30 feet in width along the south side of the canal. A 0.7-acre graded area south of the canal and west of Jefferson Boulevard will be used for equipment and materials staging. The total horizontal APE spans 4.5 acres. The vertical APE will vary but will average approximately 4 feet for canal bank excavations. A project location map, APE map, and a schematic of the gabion walls in profile are included in **Attachment 1**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify potential historic properties that may be affected by the Undertaking, FEMA's qualified contractor Pacific Legacy, Inc. (Pacific Legacy) conducted an archival and records search through the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), requested a search of the Sacred Lands File maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), contacted tribal representatives identified by the NAHC and through federal agency databases, and carried out a pedestrian archaeological survey of the APE.

Literature and Records Search. An archival and records search was conducted through the Northwest Information Center of the CHRIS for the project APE and a surrounding 0.5-mile buffer. Three previously recorded cultural resources overlap or are immediately adjacent to the project APE, and nine additional resources are within a surrounding 0.5-mile radius. One resource that overlaps the APE is the historic period alignment of the Morton-Blacker Canal (P-57-000732), a primary drainage canal for the Jefferson Subdivision that runs southeast from east of Jefferson Boulevard and west along a proposed road that was never built from west of Jefferson Boulevard. The west two-thirds of the Morton-Blacker Canal in the APE was realigned after 1975 west of the Jefferson Subdivision to accommodate new residential development. Thus, approximately two-thirds of the APE is dominated by this realigned canal segment. Like the modern canal alignment, the historic

period alignment of the Morton-Blacker Canal consists of a dredged, earthen canal reinforced with broken concrete and rubble.

At the west end and immediately adjacent to the Morton-Blacker Canal is the Main Canal (P-57-000737), a 4-mile earthen canal segment that runs from near the intersection of Arlington Road and Jefferson Boulevard to a large pumping plant near the Yolo Bypass. Until the construction of the Sacramento-Yolo port in 1959-1961, the Main Canal continued north for several more miles.

The third previously recorded resource that overlaps the project APE is the Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725), a roughly four sided, large area bound by the Sacramento Northern Railroad to the east, Davis Road to the south, the City Farms Subdivision to the northwest, and a line roughly 396 feet north of Higgins Road to the northeast. As designed in 1913, it consisted of 444 1-acre parcels in a grid plan oriented diagonal to Jefferson Boulevard. The subdivision was overlain by a series of drainage ditches and irrigation canals associated with Reclamation District 900. Although intended to foster small agricultural enterprises, today the subdivision has about half of its originally planned streets and is dominated by newer suburban commuter homes.

Michael Corbett of Dames & Moore recorded the Morton-Blacker Canal (P-57-000732), Main Canal (P-57-000737), and Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725) in 1993 and recommended all three resources Not Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to a lack of integrity. According to the 2012 *Historic Property Data File for Yolo County*, each was determined Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP (code 6Y) in 1994. The remaining nine resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the project APE include seven historic period buildings, one earthen ditch, and one historic period debris deposit noted in dredging spoils. Apart from the historic period debris deposit, each of these resources has been evaluated and determined Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Records Analysis/Evaluation. FEMA evaluates the portion of the Morton-Blacker Canal (P-57-000732) within the APE for the current Undertaking as Not Eligible for NRHP listing. The previous evaluation of the portion of the canal to the east noted that the west portion of the canal, which occupies the west two-thirds of the APE, is a recent re-alignment dating to post-1975. To confirm this, FEMA reviewed aerial photographs and topographic maps from circa 1963 to the present, as well as considered the age of adjacent residential development, which dates from the 1990s to the present. This convinced FEMA that the portion of the Morton -Blacker Canal within the APE for the current Undertaking is Not Eligible for NRHP listing. See photos of the Morton-Blacker Canal within the APE in Attachment D of the archaeological technical report (**Attachment 2**).

The Main Canal (P-57-000737) is adjacent to the west and outside of the APE for the current Undertaking; FEMA has not re-evaluated this property for NRHP eligibility.

FEMA notes that a portion of the historic Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725) overlaps the east end of the APE for the current Undertaking. Only about the east third of the Morton -Blacker Canal in the APE would have been constructed as part of the Jefferson Subdivision Plan, however, and most of the canal within the APE is a recent post-1975 re-routing. Additionally, there has been substantial recent development including residential subdivisions and a commercial strip mall

surrounding the APE. The Jefferson Subdivision Plan (P-57-000725) was determined Not Eligible for the NRHP for a CalTrans project by consensus of the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and agency. Accordingly, while the historic Jefferson Subdivision Plan may overlap the east end of the APE for the current Undertaking, there are not sufficient remains of the Subdivision Plan related to its significance to merit re-evaluation of its previous NRHP eligibility evaluation.

Tribal Consultation. Pacific Legacy personnel contacted the NAHC to request a review of the Sacred Lands File for the APE. The review indicated that at least one known Native American resource is within the project area and suggested that FEMA contact the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria for more information. The NAHC also provided a list of tribal representatives with potential interest in and knowledge of the project vicinity. A search of federal agency databases available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs yielded contact information for additional tribal representatives.

Consistent with 36 CFR 800.2(c), FEMA sent letters describing the Undertaking to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and Chairman of the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) and to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, as well as to the Chairmen of the Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and the Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians. The THPO of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation responded in a letter dated February 21, 2020, noting that while the project area is within the tribe's aboriginal territory they were unaware of any Native American resources within the APE and did not advocate tribal monitoring during project construction. Although the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, and Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians acknowledged FEMA's request for contact, they did not express concerns regarding the project.

Archaeological Survey. Pacific Legacy personnel conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the APE and assessed the potential for archaeological resources to be identified during project activities. All accessible areas within the APE, including an area identified for staging, were examined using 3 to 5-meter transect intervals. The intensive pedestrian survey revealed no prehistoric or historic period archaeological resources, and the potential to encounter buried cultural deposits within the APE was judged to be minimal given the level of prior disturbance within the APE.

Archival research and analysis, consultation with Native American tribal representatives, and an archaeological survey conducted by a qualified archaeologist from Pacific Legacy did not identify any archaeological properties. A technical report summarizing the archaeological investigation for the project is included as **Attachment 2**.

Given the level of prior disturbance within the APE, both from construction and maintenance of the canal and from ongoing erosion, it is unlikely that previously undetected cultural resources will be encountered during project construction. FEMA grants contain a requirement, however, that the

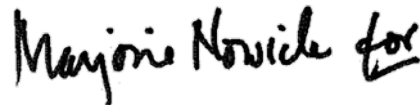
Subapplicant will cease ground-disturbing activities and contact FEMA should cultural materials or potential human remains be identified. FEMA will notify appropriate parties should any cultural materials or human remains be inadvertently discovered and will comply with Stipulation III.B of the Agreement.

Determination of Effect

Based on the above information, FEMA concludes that there are no historic properties in the APE. Therefore, FEMA has made a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** per Stipulation II.C.4.a of the Agreement. Per Stipulation I.E. of the Agreement, the California SHPO has 30 days to review FEMA's determination. If the SHPO does not object to the determination within 30 days of receipt of this letter and documentation, FEMA may proceed to fund the project.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact Marjorie Nowick at (510) 627-7178, marjorie.nowick@fema.dhs.gov, or the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region IX

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Figures

Figure 1. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Location and Vicinity Map.

Figure 2. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Area of Potential Effect Map.

Figure 3. Figure 3. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Schematic of Gabion Wall Profiles (from MHM Engineers & Surveyors).

Attachment 2: Archaeological Investigation for the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, Yolo County, California (FEMA-HMGP-DR-4344-609-135)

ATTACHMENT 1: FIGURES

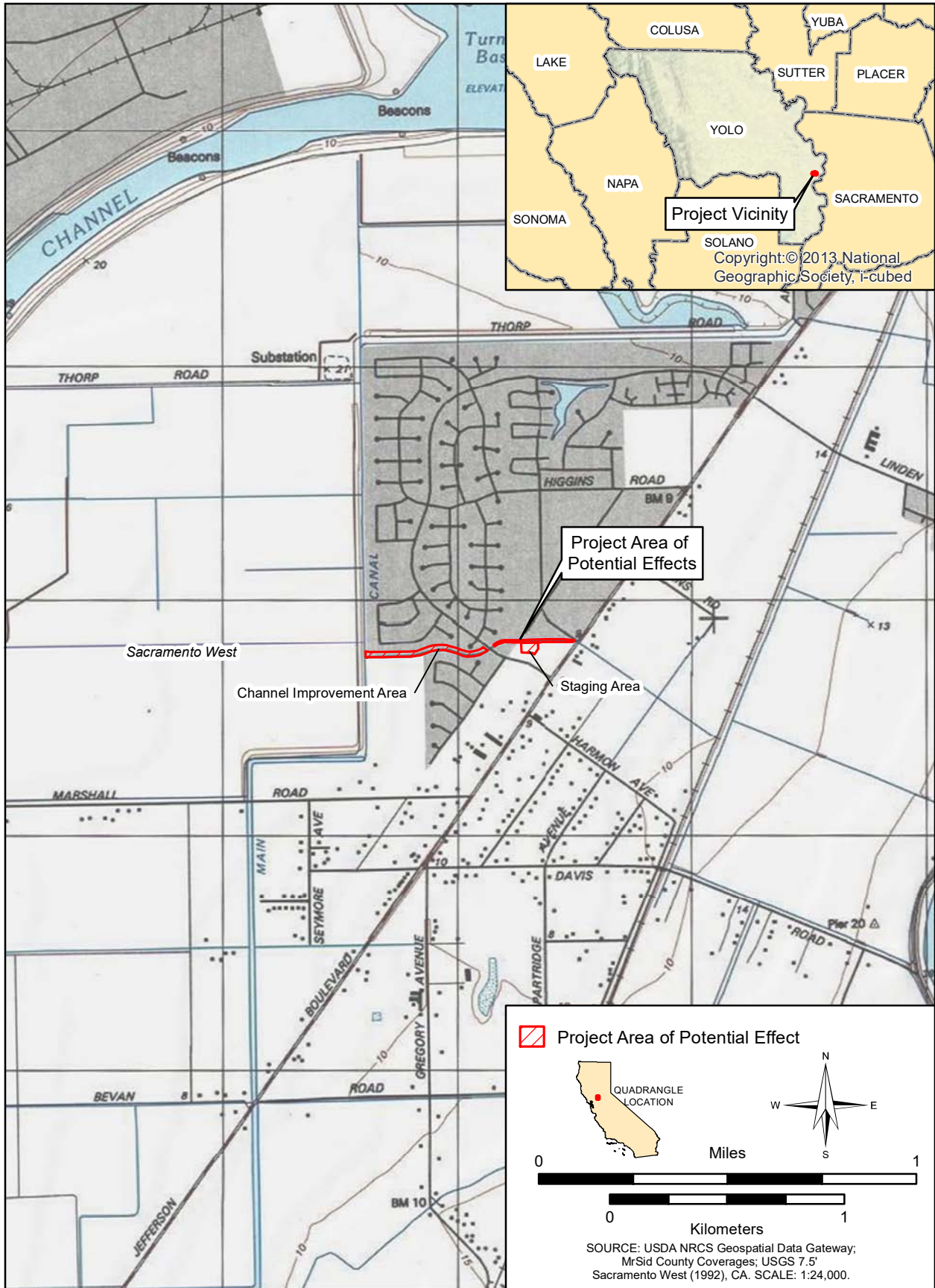


Figure 1. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Location and Vicinity Map.

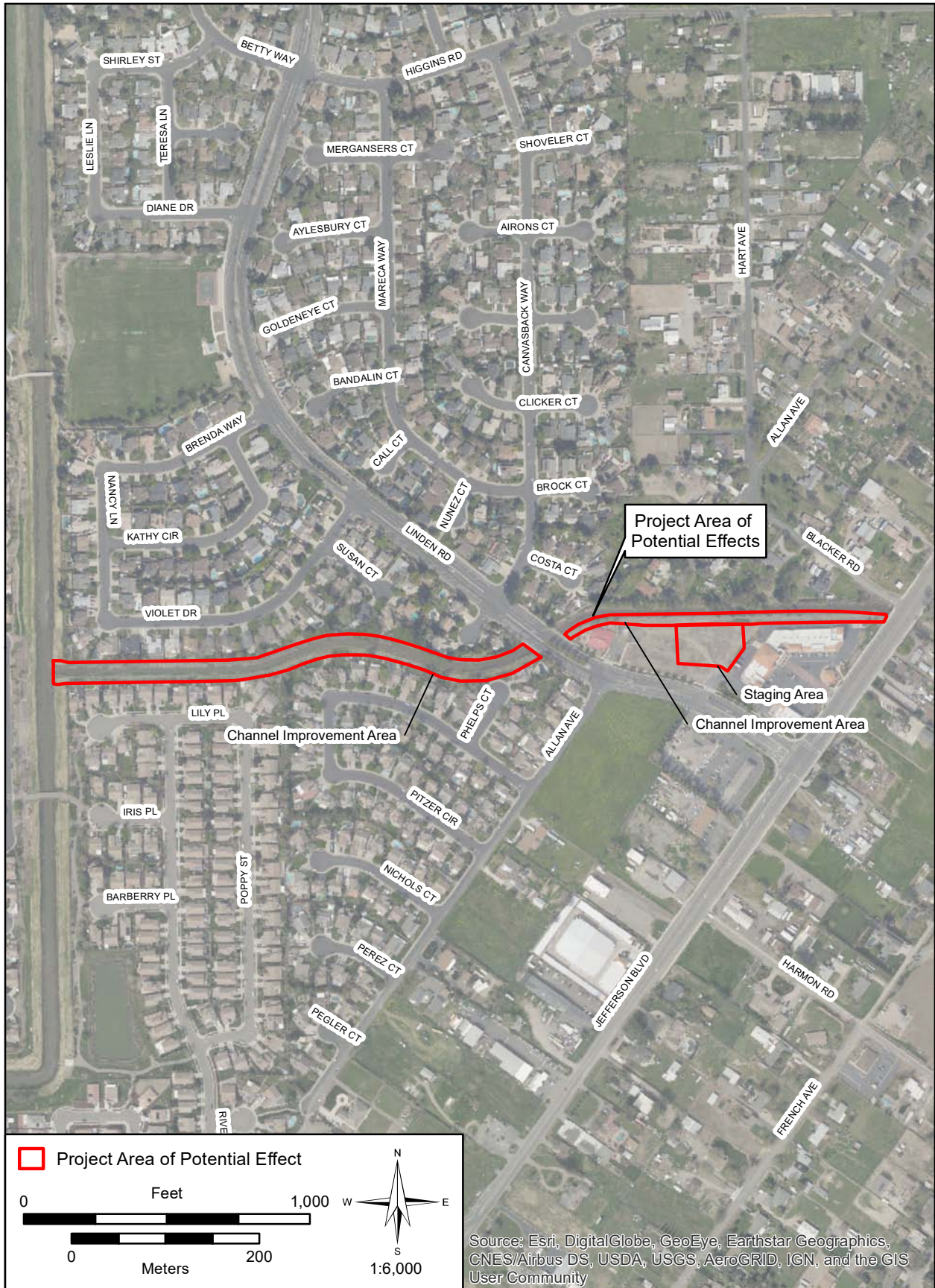


Figure 2. Reclamation District 900 – Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization (4344-609-135) Project Area of Potential Effect Map.



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Armando Quintero, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

November 17, 2020

VIA EMAIL

In reply, refer to: FEMA_2020_1019_001

Mr. Alessandro Amaglio
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Subject: Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, City West Sacramento, MIN-HMGP-4344-609-135

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the October 8, 2020, letter from FEMA initiating consultation regarding an undertaking in the City of West Sacramento in Yolo County. FEMA is consulting with the SHPO to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 and the 2019 Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and California Office of Emergency Services. Along with the letter, FEMA submitted project maps, project schematic of gabion wall profiles, and a report entitled Archaeological Investigation for the Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization Project, Yolo County, California (FEMA-HMGP-DR-4344-609-135), prepared by Pacific Legacy, Inc., and dated October 2020.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves FEMA providing funding for a canal stabilization project in the City of West Sacramento. Reclamation District 900 proposes to excavate along the banks and channel of the Morton-Blacker Canal, construct supporting gabion walls along the banks, backfill behind the walls, and grade maintenance roads to prevent the continued erosion of the canal and restore maintenance access.

FEMA identified an Area of Potential Effects (APE) totaling 4.5 acres encompassing the project and staging areas and access routes. The vertical APE extends approximately four feet deep.

An Information Center records search revealed previous surveys in and near the APE and three resources identified: a segment of the Morton-Blacker Canal; a segment of the Main Canal; and the Jefferson Subdivision Plan. All three of these resources were determined ineligible for listing in the National Register in previous surveys. FEMA reached the same conclusions with the current consultation.

FEMA conducted a pedestrian archaeological survey of the APE that revealed no prehistoric or historic period archaeological resources.

A search of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File revealed the presence of at least one known property in the APE. FEMA conducted Tribal consultation with the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, and Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians. None of these Tribes expressed concerns about the undertaking.

Based upon the lack of historic properties within the APE, FEMA proposes a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected. After reviewing the information submitted, the SHPO offers the following comments.

- This action qualifies as an undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties.
- The APE appears to be sufficient to take direct and indirect effects into account.
- Identification efforts are sufficient.
- The SHPO has no objection to the proposed Finding of No Historic Properties Affected.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800 and/or the 2019 FEMA PA.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments, please contact Mark Beason, State Historian, at (916) 445-4047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer