
MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Appendix F: Additional Area Addendum

June 2011



Memorandum

Date:	April 1, 2011
To:	Madera Irrigation District
Cc:	
From:	Christiaan Havelaar ICF Archaeologist
Subject:	Addendum to the Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, Madera County, California

Introduction

ICF International is assisting the Madera Irrigation District (MID) with a cultural resources study for the proposed Water Supply Enhancement Project in Madera County, California. (See Attachment A, Figure 1). The project is located on Madera Ranch and directly adjacent to Madera Ranch (See Attachment A, Figure 2). An inventory and evaluation report was submitted by Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on August 11, 2009. SHPO concurrence was received on August 31, 2009 (Project # 07-SCAO-005).

Since receipt of SHPO concurrence, several more components have been added to the project APE. This memo documents the methods and results of the cultural resources study conducted for the additions. Please refer to the Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, Madera County, California (ICF Jones & Stokes 2009) for a detailed project description as well as detailed Environmental, Prehistoric, Ethnographic, and Historic settings for the project as a whole.

Definition of the Expanded Area of Potential Effects

Please refer to the ICF Jones & Stokes 2009 report for a description of the previous APE. Additions to the APE (See Attachment A, Figure 2) that are the subject of this addendum include:

- Widening of the proposed western extension of the Section 8 Canal by 5 feet to accommodate additional water;
- The addition of the southeast corner of Section 11 as a potential vernal pool creation area;
- The addition of the northern portions of Section 4 and 5 as a 50 acres vernal pool creation area;

- The addition of the Cottonwood Creek weir in Section 28; and
- The addition of the weir proposed on the Gravelly Ford and Cottonwood Creek intersection near Avenue 7 in Section 27.

Portions of the APE proposed for vernal pool creation would be subjected to micro-contour grading to emulate natural topography and facilitate the creation of vernal pools. Soils would be excavated from 1 to 15 inches with the majority ranging from 1 to 6 inches. Excess soils would be removed to MID's construction yard. The proposed Cottonwood Creek weir in Section 28 includes a hardened sill (compacted or armored material with low potential for erosion) that would be constructed on the existing Cottonwood Creek berm in the southern portion of Section 28 to protect the berm and to accommodate flow measurements. The proposed Gravelly Ford/ Cottonwood Creek improvement in Section 27 would include a new weir would be installed on the Canal approximately 1,000 feet south of Section 22 where the canal intersects and shares a channel with Cottonwood Creek. All work would be performed in the existing artificial channel and on adjacent farm roads.

Description of Identifications Efforts

Identification efforts for the present undertaking consist of a records search, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American representatives, and a pedestrian archaeological survey.

Records Search

Records searches were conducted by the staff of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC), located at California State University, Bakersfield. The initial records search, conducted for an earlier iteration of the undertaking, was conducted on April 7, 2000 (Jones & Stokes 2002:13). ICF Jones & Stokes requested an updated records search from the SSJVIC and received the update on March 18, 2005 (RS# 05-110). On March 20, 2005, an additional records search was conducted by the SSJVIC for proposed canal extensions along Avenue 10 and Road 22 ½ in the APE. Specific records consulted at the SSVIC included previously conducted surveys and previously recorded sites within the proposed project area and a 0.8-km radius. In addition, the NRHP, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, the California Register of Historical Resources, the Office of Historic Preservation's (2005) Historic Property Data File, California Historical Landmarks (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1996), and California Points of Historical Interest were also reviewed. Detailed records search results can be found in the ICF Jones & Stokes 2009 report.

Native American Consultation

On April 4, 2000 and March 3 and 7, 2005, and March 18, 2009, Jones & Stokes requested that the NAHC in Sacramento, California conduct a search of the Sacred Lands File for the presence of cultural resources in the APE. The NAHC reported that no cultural resources listed in the Sacred Lands File are present in the APE. The NAHC also provided Jones & Stokes with a list of interested Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources within or adjacent to the APE. In April, June, and July of 2000, March 7 and 23, 2005, and March 31, 2009, Jones & Stokes sent to each individual recommended by the NAHC a letter and map describing the undertaking. Jones & Stokes followed up these letters with telephone calls in July

2000, April 2005, and April 2009. A response from the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians was received on April 7, 2009. Their cultural specialist Mary Motola indicated that they have no knowledge of resources in the APE but would like to be informed of project progress. No information regarding cultural resources resulted from this correspondence.

Archaeological Survey

The additions to the APE were surveyed during field efforts in 2005 and 2011. The western section of the Section 8 Canal, the southeast corner of Section 11, and the proposed Cottonwood Creek Weir in Section 28 were all surveyed during the 2005 field effort. The 50-acre mitigation area in Section 5 and 6, the proposed Cottonwood Creek Weir in Section 27, and the Gravelly Ford/Cottonwood Creek intersection were surveyed and the proposed Cottonwood Creek Weir in Section 28 was resurveyed during the 2011 field effort.

2005 Survey

The March 2005 ICF field effort described in ICF Jones & Stokes 2009 included the 5-foot expansion of the Section 8 Canal segment that has been added to the APE. The 2005 survey effort also covered the southeast corner of Section 11 and the area proposed for the Cottonwood Creek Weir in Section 28 (See Attachment A Figure 2).

2011 Survey

On March 7th and 8th, 2011, ICF archaeologists conducted a pedestrian cultural resources survey of additions to the APE including the 50-acre Section 4 and 5 vernal pool creation area and the weir proposed on the Gravelly Ford/Cottonwood Creek intersection in Section 27. The area for the proposed Cottonwood Creek Weir in Section 28 was resurveyed to ensure that it was fully covered (See Attachment A Figure 2). The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects to best ensure adequate coverage across the various sized segments. Visibility was poor (<50%) in the majority of the APE (particularly the Section 5 mitigation area) due to low lying grasses obscuring the ground surface. No cultural resources were found to be located in the APE as a result of the survey.

Recommendations

ICF cultural resources staff conducted an archaeological inventory of the additional APE in March 2005 and March 2011. The archaeological survey found no previously unknown cultural resources to be present in the project area. Known resources within the APE recommended not eligible for listing on the NRHP in the Jones & Stokes 2009 report received SHPO concurrence on the determination of eligibility on August 31, 2009. These resources include the Gravelly Ford Canal and the Section 8 Canal. Little has changed in the area since the 2009 determinations of eligibility and subsequent SHPO concurrence. As a result, ICF cultural resources staff recommend that no further cultural resources work is necessary for this project unless a previously unknown subsurface cultural resource is discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, or the project description is altered to include areas not covered by this study.

If buried cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in

that area and within 100 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with appropriate agencies.

If human remains of Native American origin are discovered during project construction, it is necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Pub. Res. Code Sec. 5097). If any human remains are discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until:

- a. The coroner of the county has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and
- b. if the remains are of Native American origin,
 - 1. The descendants of the deceased Native Americans have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, or
 - 2. The Native American Heritage Commission was unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.

According to California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burials at one location constitute a cemetery (Section 8100) and disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Section 7052). Section 7050.5 requires that construction or excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains until the coroner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner must contact the California Native American Heritage Commission.

ICF Jones & Stokes

2005 Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, Madera County, California. On file at the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, Ca.

