

43 Middle Rincon Road

Cultural Resources Assessment

July 2020 | TTA-07

Prepared for:

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Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

Prepared by:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the findings of a Cultural Resources Assessment completed by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc (HELIX) for the approximately 1.2-acre 43 Middle Rincon Road project (proposed project) located within the City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (Figure 1). This assessment is intended to assess the potential of ground disturbances associated with this project to affect significant cultural resources. The results of this assessment, which addresses both historic-era and prehistoric resources, is based on the results of an archival records search and research, Native American coordination, and an intensive pedestrian survey of the proposed project area. Figures are provided in Appendix A.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located at the corner of Middle Rincon Road and State Route (SR-) 12 at 43 Middle Rincon Road in the City of Santa Rosa (City; Figure 2). The approximately 1.2-acre project area is composed of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 182-540-024 and 182-540-025. Project area access would be provided via driveways on Middle Rincon Road and SR-12. Surrounding land uses include single-family residences to the west, north, and northeast; vacant lots to the northwest; and commercial/retail businesses across Middle Rincon Road to the east and across SR-12 to the south (see Figure 1, Vicinity Map, and Figure 2, Aerial Map).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would demolish the existing structures that are present on the 1.2-acre project area, including a commercial building (a 7-11 convenience store), a barn containing a martial arts studio, and a small single-family home with associated structures. In their place a new, approximately 4,191-square foot convenience store, and fuel station would be constructed. This analysis also addresses future development of the dirt lot and grassland habitat located immediately north of the project area.

1.3 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of significant historical or archaeological resources. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of the project as well as by the types of cultural resources in the vicinity. For the purposes of this analysis, the direct APE is understood to be the area that would be subjected to ground disturbance during construction and operation of the proposed project. The proposed project's indirect APE is the area in which significant cultural resources may be subjected to secondary impacts such as vibration, visual impacts, vandalism, or looting (among others). The indirect APE varies in size depending on the type of secondary impact being considered.

The direct APE for the project measures approximately 1.2 acres and corresponds to the project boundary shown on Figure 2. Because site plans are preliminary the vertical extent of the APE has not yet been established.

2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Section 15064.5(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines specifies that projects that cause “...physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historic resource would be materially impaired” shall be found to have a significant impact on the environment. Pursuant to CEQA, a historical resource is a resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR (Section 2.2). In addition, resources included in a local register of historic resources, or identified as significant in a local survey conducted in accordance with state guidelines, are also considered historic resources under CEQA, unless a preponderance of the facts demonstrates otherwise. According to CEQA, the fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the CRHR, or is not included in a local register or survey, shall not preclude a Lead Agency, as defined by CEQA, from determining that the resource may be a historic resource as defined in California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1.7.

CEQA applies to archaeological resources when (1) the archaeological resource satisfies the definition of an historical resource, or (2) the archaeological resource satisfies the definition of a “unique archaeological resource.” A unique archaeological resource is an archaeological artifact, object, or site that has a high probability of meeting any of the following criteria (PRC § 21083.2(g)):

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

2.2 CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Created in 1992 and implemented in 1998, the CRHR is “an authoritative guide in California to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state’s historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (PRC § 5024.1(a)). Certain properties, including those listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Historical Landmarks (CHLs) numbered 770 and higher, are automatically included in the CRHR. Other properties recognized under the California Points of Historical Interest program, identified as significant in historic resources surveys, or designated by local landmarks programs may be nominated for inclusion in the CRHR.

A resource, either an individual property or a contributor to an historic district, may be listed in the CRHR if the State Historical Resources Commission determines that it meets one or more of the following criteria, which are modeled on NRHP criteria (PRC § 5024.1(c)):

- Criterion 1: It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.

- Criterion 2: It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- Criterion 3: It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction; represents the work of an important creative individual; or possesses high artistic values.
- Criterion 4: It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Resources nominated to the CRHR must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historic resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. It is possible that a resource whose integrity does not satisfy NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR. A resource that has lost its historic character or appearance may still have sufficient integrity for the CRHR if, under Criterion 4, it maintains the potential to yield significant scientific or historical information or specific data. Resources that have achieved significance within the past 50 years also may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, provided that enough time has lapsed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource.

2.3 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Section 5097.91 of the PRC established the NAHC, whose duties include the inventory of places of religious or social significance to Native Americans and the identification of known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands. Under Section 5097.9 of the PRC, a State policy of noninterference with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion was articulated along with a prohibition of severe or irreparable damage to Native American sanctified cemeteries, places of worship, religious or ceremonial sites, or sacred shrines located on public property. Section 5097.98 of the PRC specifies a protocol to be followed when the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner.

2.4 GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 6254(R) AND 6254.10

These sections of the California Public Records Act were enacted to protect archaeological sites from unauthorized excavation, looting, or vandalism. Section 6254(r) explicitly authorizes public agencies to withhold information from the public relating to “Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.” Section 6254.10 specifically exempts from disclosure requests for “records that relate to archaeological site information and reports, maintained by, or in the possession of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Historical Resources Commission, the State Lands Commission, the Native American Heritage Commission, another state agency, or a local agency, including the records that the agency obtains through a consultation process between a Native American tribe and a state or local agency.”

2.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTIONS 7050 AND 7052

Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5 declares that, in the event of the discovery of human remains outside of a dedicated cemetery, all ground disturbance must cease and the county coroner must be notified. Section 7052 establishes a felony penalty for mutilating, disinterring, or otherwise disturbing human remains, except by relatives.

2.6 PENAL CODE, SECTION 622.5

Section 622.5 of the Penal Code provides misdemeanor penalties for injuring or destroying objects of historic or archaeological interest located on public or private lands, but specifically excludes the landowner.

3.0 CULTURAL SETTING

Following is a brief historical summary intended to provide a context in which to understand the background and relevance of cultural resources found in the vicinity of the project area. This section is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the current research available, but instead serves as a general overview.

3.1 PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

As is the case for archaeological research in many areas of California, the various classification schemes and chronologies used by researchers when addressing the prehistory of Northern California often conflict with one another. Most recently, Milliken et al. (2007) have revised Fredrickson's (1974) period scheme for the San Francisco Bay and surrounding region by analyzing a study area that includes the current project area. The following summary of local cultural history is based on this revised chronological framework.

3.1.1 Pleistocene/Holocene Transition, ~13,500 to 9950 Years Before Present (BP)

There is no evidence of Late Pleistocene occupation in the immediate region. The best representation of the Paleoindian Period in Northern California is at the Borax Lake site near Clear Lake, where the period is marked by large, fluted, Clovis-style spear points with concave bases that often exhibiting basal thinning or grinding. The southern portion of the Central Valley also shows evidence in the form of isolated, basally thinned and fluted projectile points found on the surface of remnant Pleistocene landscape features. With few exceptions these points have been found as isolates in undatable surface contexts, and therefore have been associated with the Paleo-Indian period solely on the basis of their morphological similarity to securely dated Clovis projectile points from the Great Plains and Southwest regions (Dillon 2002:115). Potential Paleo-Indian finds from the general region include a fluted point found in the Sacramento Valley, in Tehama County near Thomas Creek (Dillon 2002). Local archaeological deposits associated with the late Pleistocene, if they exist, are likely destroyed or buried by a significant period of alluvial deposition that began about 9050 cal B.P. (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

3.1.2 Early and Middle Holocene (Lower Archaic), 9950 to 5450 BP

The Lower Archaic period in the Bay Area and Central Valley has been mainly represented by isolated finds, including heavy stemmed dart or spear points and flaked stone crescents that are often found in association with groundstone tools. The period was marked by high residential mobility, although the density of groundstone and expedient cobble-core tools at some sites suggest that they represent frequently visited camps in a settlement system structured around repetitive seasonal movement (Rosenthal et al. 2007). In contrast to the common interpretation that large game hunting was the focus of Lower Archaic economies, this seasonal round appears to have targeted grassland-savanna resources,

particularly acorns and wild cucumbers. Seeds and nuts were processed with millingslabs and handstones. Obsidian from Lower Archaic period sites has been sourced to both the North Coast Ranges and Eastern Sierra sources, suggesting that regional interaction spheres were well established by this time (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

3.1.3 Early Period (Middle Archaic), 5450 to 2450 BP

The beginning of the Middle Holocene saw a substantial shift to warmer, drier conditions, with rising sea levels pushing inland to form the wetland habitats associated with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Subsistence increasingly emphasized upland plant resources. Mortars and pestles appeared in the area as early as 4050 cal B.C., and expedient cobble tools were common. Projectile points associated with the Middle Archaic period include notched, stemmed, thick-leaf, and narrow concave base dart forms, many manufactured from obsidian from North Coast Ranges and Eastern Sierra (Rosenthal et al. 2007). Red ochre and *Olivella* and *Haliotis* shell beads recovered from burials suggest that social stratification began to develop during this period (Milliken et al. 2007).

The latter half of the Early Period represented “the end of generalized, and often highly mobile, Early Holocene lifeways and the beginning of more specialized and intensive California hunter-gatherer-fishers known from ethnographic times” (Stevens et al. 2009:1). This period is associated with the Windmill Pattern. Windmill was marked by westerly oriented, extended burials with grave offerings, extensive long-distance trade of exotic materials such as beads and obsidian, and adaptations that were less mobile and more specialized than previous cultures, probably representing the first intensive acorn economies in the state (Rosenthal et al. 2007; Stevens et al. 2009). The Windmill Pattern also represents the peak in trade in Eastern Sierra obsidian, with both earlier and later intervals characterized by increased procurement and use of local toolstone (Stevens et al. 2009).

The latter half of the Early Period is characterized by the Lower Berkeley Pattern. This period exhibited a strong milling technology represented by minimally shaped cobble mortars and pestles, although metates and manos were still used. Dart and atlatl technologies during this period were characterized by non-stemmed projectile points made primarily of obsidian. Fredrickson (1974) suggests that the Lower Berkeley Pattern marked the expansion of Miwok groups from the Bay Area. Burials were typically in flexed positions with variable cardinal orientation and included some cremations. As noted by Lillard et al. (1939), the practice of spreading ground ochre over burials was common at this time. Grave goods during this period are generally sparse and typically include only utilitarian items and a few ornamental objects. However, objects such as charmstones, quartz crystals, and bone whistles were occasionally present, which suggest differences in social status among individuals (Hughes 1994).

3.1.4 Middle Period (Upper Archaic), 2450 to 900 BP

The climate of the prehistoric Late Holocene approximated that of today, with conditions that were drier than the Early Holocene but cooler and moister than the Middle Holocene. The Late Holocene coincides with the reappearance of the Berkeley Pattern, an adaptive system that briefly appeared in the Clear Lake area during the Early Holocene. The Berkeley Pattern was marked by a decrease in residential mobility and the establishment of fixed, permanent or semi-permanent villages. Intensive milling of plant resources, and particularly acorns, is represented by minimally shaped cobble mortars and pestles, although metates and manos were still used. Dart and atlatl technologies during this period are characterized by non-stemmed projectile points made primarily of obsidian. Fredrickson (1974) suggests that the Berkeley Pattern marked the eastward expansion of Miwok groups from the San

Francisco Bay Area, and that the Berkeley Pattern reflects gradual expansion or assimilation of different populations rather than sudden population replacement and a gradual shift in economic emphasis.

3.1.5 Late Period (Emergent), 900 BP to Historic Era

The stable climate that began during the Upper Archaic continued through the Late Period. The most significant technological advancement during this period was the adoption of the bow and arrow, which replaced the atlatl and dart between about A.D. 1000 and 1300. Territorial boundaries became well established, and increased social complexity is suggested by a wider variation in burial types and furnishings. Cremation, which was reserved for high-status individuals during the beginning of the period, eventually became widespread (Rosenthal et al. 2007).

The Augustine Pattern represents a shift from the generalized subsistence patterns seen in earlier periods. Changes include the introduction of bow and arrow technology; and most importantly, acorns become the predominant food resource. Trade systems expanded to include raw resources as well as finished products. Assemblages dated to this period include baked clay artifacts and *Haliotis* ornaments. Burials remained flexed with variable orientation, but there was a reduction in the use of ochre and widespread evidence of cremation (Moratto 1984). Judging from the number and types of grave goods associated with the two types of burials, cremation seems to have been reserved for individuals of higher status, whereas other individuals were buried in flexed positions. Johnson (1976) suggests that the Augustine Pattern represents expansion of the Wintuan population from the north, which resulted in combining new traits with those established during the Berkeley Pattern.

3.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

At the time of Euro-American contact the project area was occupied by the Southern Pomo, an ethnolinguistic group that occupied a rich environment with abundant water resources teeming with wildlife. The Southern Pomo diet relied on a mixed strategy of acorn gathering and processing, fishing, waterfowl hunting, shellfish, and plant collecting, with less emphasis on large-game hunting. Other important plant resources included berries, grass seeds, roots, buckeye seed nuts, bulbs, and seasonal greens. The resource-rich environment allowed for permanent village sites, which typically were occupied throughout the year.

Items not found in the local environment were obtained through an extensive trade network between other Pomo tribes and neighboring groups. Serving as one of the most important economic mechanisms was the Pomo trade-feast tradition. This tradition was utilized when one group had an abundance of a specific type of resource, such as fish, that would typically be traded for an equivalent in beads or some other resource at the trade-feast. Thus, the trade-feast enabled a community to temporarily “bank” a surplus resource with the members of nearby villages or tribelets.

The material culture of the Southern Pomo included wood plank structures, watercraft, basketry, weapons, and tools fashioned primarily from local resources. Numerous types of materials were used to make the ceremonial, utilitarian, gift, and trade baskets for which the Pomo were known; these included roots, leaves, bark, or grasses, with feathers and beads added to make designs or for outlining certain features.

The Pomo built three basic types of structures, including dwellings for single families, temporary shelters for seasonal hunting and gathering, semi-subterranean structures that served as sweathouses for the men, and large assembly houses up to 70 feet in diameter that were used for dancing and ceremonies.

The social organization of the Pomo was based on several extended kin groups, each with a headman who served as a minor chief. The chiefs met in tribal councils and were organized into independent political units to provide guidance and advice on community affairs. Kin groups formed the most significant social units and typically consisted of five to six persons living in a multifamily dwelling for most of the year, except when the village dispersed to travel to seasonal fishing and collecting areas.

3.3 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The history of the area can be divided into several historic periods that are briefly summarized below.

3.3.1 Spanish and Mexican California

The most drastic and permanent change came to the Native Americans' way of life with the establishment of the Spanish Mission system. By the early 1800's, the mission fathers began a process of cultural change that brought the majority of the local Native Americans into the missions as neophytes. At the expense of traditional skills, the neophytes were taught the pastoral and horticultural skills of the Hispanic tradition. Spanish missionaries traveled into the California interior to recapture escaped neophytes and recruit inland Native Americans for the coastal missions. In 1834, the Mission system was officially secularized, and the majority of the system's Native American population dispersed to local ranches, villages, or nearby pueblos (Kroeber 1925). Soon after establishment of the mission system, a process of granting large parcels of land to prominent individuals began. Within a few years, ranchos occupied large tracts in the vicinity of the missions, and a pastoral economy involving the missions, the ranchos, and native inhabitants was established (Kyle et al. 1990).

With the declaration of Mexican independence in 1821, Spanish control of Alta California ended, although little change actually occurred. Political change did not take place until mission secularization in 1834 when Native Americans were released from missionary control and the mission lands were granted to private individuals. Shoup and Milliken (1999) state that mission secularization removed the social protection and support on which Native Americans had come to rely. It exposed them to further exploitation by outside interests, often forcing them into a marginal existence as laborers for large ranchos. Following mission secularization, the Mexican population grew as the native population continued to decline. European-American settlers began to arrive in Alta California during this period and often married into Mexican families, becoming Mexican citizens, which made them eligible to receive land grants. In 1846, on the eve of the U.S.-Mexican War (1846 to 1848), the estimated population of Alta California was 8,000 non-natives and 10,000 natives. However, these estimates have been debated. Cook (1976) suggests the Native American population was 100,000 in 1850; the U.S. Census of 1880 reports the Native American population as 20,385.

3.3.2 Expansion and Settlement

Jedediah Smith was the first American to explore the Central Valley in 1828, but other expeditions soon followed. In 1848, as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California became a United States territory. Also in 1848, John Marshall found gold at Sutter's Mill, which marked the start of the Gold Rush. The influx of miners and entrepreneurs increased the population of California, not including

Native Californians, from 14,000 to 224,000 in just four years. When the Gold Rush was over, many miners established farms, ranches, and lumber mills.

3.3.3 Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa

The following summary of Sonoma County's history is excerpted from Hurley's (2020) *Sonoma County Historic Overview*:

Before the European settlement, what is today Sonoma County was inhabited by the Pomo, Miwok, and Kashaya Indians. In 1812, the Russians established the short-lived Fort Ross along the coast north of the Russian River. Further east, the Sonoma Mission was established during the Mexican period in 1823. Shortly afterwards, Sonoma became the county's first town, a pueblo, under General Mariano Vallejo. During that time, sections of the county were transformed into vast land-grant ranchos, such as Vallejo's holdings that extended from today's Petaluma to the town of Sonoma. Most of the construction during the first half of the nineteenth century was adobe and wood. These construction methods drew on the Mexican tradition while incorporating some of the features and floor plans of the Anglo Americans.

After statehood, logging along the coast hills, cattle ranching, wheat and potato farming, and the early development of the wine industry supported the sparsely settled county. During this time, commercial and industrial buildings used local stone or brick, while most residences were built of wood. During the 1860s to the 1890s, Petaluma, at the head of navigation on the Petaluma Creek, enjoyed rapid economic growth that fueled the construction of their downtown with sophisticated iron front commercial buildings and elegant residences nearby.

Later the railroads facilitated the movement of goods and people leading to the establishment of processing plants and factories along the rail lines.

Around the turn of the century, the Russian River developed as a vacation resort, a destination for those in the San Francisco Bay Area. During this time, Santa Rosa also enjoyed an increase in population and importance as the center of finance and county government. Until World War II, the poultry industry, the processing of local fruit, and the production of hops sustained the economy throughout the county. In 1935, Sonoma County ranked tenth in the nation in overall agricultural production.

During the first half of the twentieth century, many of the stylish buildings were designed by local architects such as Brainerd Jones in Petaluma and William Herbert in Santa Rosa. After World War II, Clarence Caulkins and J. Clarence Felciano worked on many projects in the county. With reference to residential, commercial, and industrial architecture, many of the towns still retain excellent examples of both high style and vernacular building examples from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Today the southwestern part of the county continues to support cattle grazing and dairy farms. Toward the north many of the ranches and orchards have been replaced with acres of vineyards and thriving winery operations that rival Napa County. Over the years many of the poultry farms, fruit growers, and dairy operations have relocated to the Central Valley or sold their businesses completely. In their place, small specialty farms and ranches now operate sustainable and organic endeavors. Dotting the countryside throughout the county are modern

residences where rural homesteads used to be. The Russian River area still caters to vacationers, but on a smaller scale, and the cities along the freeway continue to expand to provide housing and services with new subdivisions, business parks, and strip-mall shopping centers.

With 467,000 residents, the county has doubled its population since 1980. Part of the challenge has been to retain its agricultural and small town character while providing for the livelihood of the expanding population. Related to this is the specific challenge of encouraging new development that complements both the physical beauty of the countryside and the county's rich heritage.

The following history of the City of Santa Rosa is excerpted from Hoover et al.'s (1990) *Historic Spots in California*:

Several tracts of land in Sonoma County were granted to relatives of Francisca Benicia Carrillo [the wife of Mexican military commander General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo]. These tracts included Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa, given to Carrillo's widowed mother in 1837; Rancho Sotoyome, to Henry Finch, brother-in-law; Rancho Los Guilicos, to John Wilson, another brother-in-law; and Rancho Llano de Santa Rosa, to Joaquin Carrillo, a brother.

Both Fitch and his mother-in-law were residents of San Diego. Fitch continued to live in the south. Señora Maria Ignacia Lopez de Carrillo moved to her Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa with her unmarried children and lived there for the remainder of her life. The City of Santa Rosa is situated on part of her grant.

Her home was located on the south side of Santa Rosa Creek. The name of Santa Rosa Creek was supposedly bestowed by Father Juan Amoros of San Rafael when he baptized an Indian girl there in honor of Saint Rose of Lima in the late 1820s. A marker along the highway on the north side of Santa Rosa Creek, roughly opposite the Carillo adobe site, commemorates this event, but the baptism is not recorded either at San Rafael or Sonoma.

In 1853, the son of Julio Carrillo filed a claim for part of his mother's property, two square leagues lying between Rancho San Miguel and Santa Rosa Creek. He built his house near a stream on a site that is now downtown Santa Rosa, on Second Street. He gave the land for the plaza where the old courthouse stood, between Third and Fourth Streets. The earthquakes of 1906 and 1989 did a great deal of damage to downtown Santa Rosa, the latter requiring the demolition and replacement of both the City Hall and the Courthouse. The county administrative center is now located north of the city, in a complex near Fountain Grove.

Santa Rosa benefited from the coming of the railroad in 1870. The first depot at Fourth and Wilson Streets was destroyed in a fire and rebuilt of local stone in 1904. It survived the 1906 quake. The Santa Rosa Bank was not so lucky, and its building at 37 Old Courthouse Square had to be pulled down and rebuilt. The Empire Building, which took its place, is a four-story building that has been identified with commerce and banking. The Sonoma County Museum is in the old post office building, now located at 425 Seventh Street, with changing and permanent displays on Sonoma County history.

4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

A cultural resources records search was conducted at the Northwestern Information Center (NWIC) at Sonoma State University on November 18, 2019. The records search addressed the entire project area plus a 0.25-mile buffer. The purpose of the record search was to (1) identify prehistoric and historic resources previously documented in the project area and within 0.25 mile of project area boundaries; (2) determine which portions of the project area may have been previously studied, when those studies took place, and how the studies were conducted; and (3) ascertain the potential for archaeological resources, historical resources, and human remains, and potential Native American areas of traditional cultural significance to be found in the project area. This search also included a review of the appropriate USGS topographic maps on which cultural resources are plotted, archaeological site records, building/structure/object records, and data from previous surveys and research reports. The California Points of Historical Interest, the California Historical Landmarks, CRHR, NRHP, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory listings were reviewed to ascertain the presence of designated, evaluated, and/or historic-era resources within the project area. Historical maps and historical aerial photographs of the area were also examined.

4.1 PREVIOUS STUDIES

The cultural resources records search identified 10 previous studies that have been conducted within a 0.25-mile radius of the proposed project area (Table 1). None of the studies addressed the project area itself.

Table 1
PREVIOUS STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN 0.25 MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

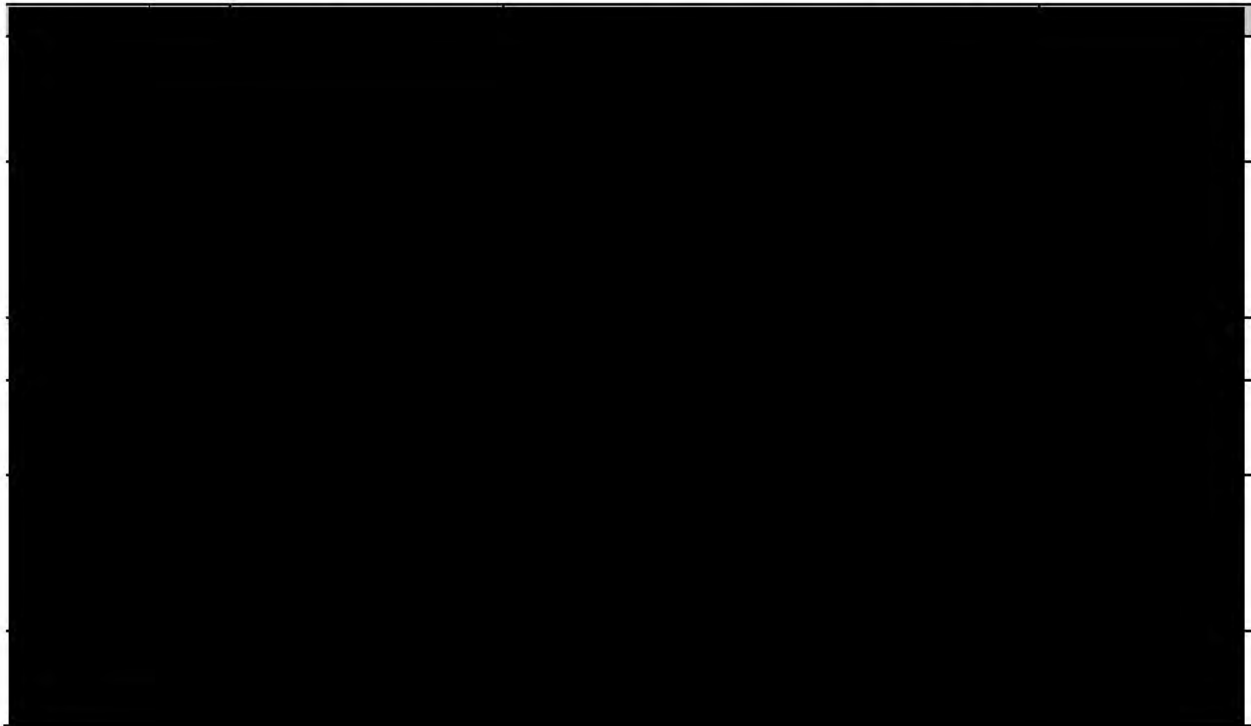


Table 1 (cont.)

4.2 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES

Table 2
PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES WITHIN 0.25 MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

| Primary P-49- | Trinomial CA-SON- | Description | Year | Recorder | Affiliation |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|------|-----------------|---|
| 002263 | 001752 | | 1988 | Whatford, J. C. | None |
| 002264 | 001753 | | 1988 | Whatford, J. C. | None |
| 002853 | None | | 2001 | None | Clark Historic Resource Consultants, Inc. |

5.0 NATIVE AMERICAN COORDINATION

On November 18, 2019, HELIX requested that the NAHC conduct a search of their Sacred Lands File for the presence of Native American sacred sites or human remains in the vicinity of the proposed project area. A written response received from the NAHC on November 21, 2019 stated that the Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in or near the project area.

On November 25, 2019, HELIX sent letters to the following nine Native American contacts that were recommended by the NAHC as potential sources of information related to cultural resources in the vicinity of the project area:

- Gene Buvelot, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Dino Franklin Jr., Chairperson, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria

- Scott Gabaldon, Chairperson, Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley
- Patricia Hermosillo, Chairperson, Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Marjorie Mejia, Chairperson, Lytton Rancheria
- Merlene Sanchez, Chairperson, Guidiville Indian Rancheria
- Greg Sarris, Chairperson, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Jose Simon III, Chairperson, Middletown Rancheria
- Chris Wright, Chairperson, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

The letters advised the tribes and specific individuals of the proposed project and requested information regarding cultural resources in the immediate area, as well as any feedback or concerns related to the proposed project. To date, three responses have been received:

- Brenda L. Tomares responded on behalf of the Lytton Rancheria on August 27, 2018. Ms. Tomares wrote, “While the Tribe has no specific information which it could provide to you for inclusion in your reports, it believes that the project land falls within traditional Pomo territory and that there is a potential for finding tribal cultural resources in the project area. The Lytton Rancheria is interested in the protection and preservation of Pomo artifacts and sites and believes that such cultural resources may be encountered during the project. The Tribe will be consulting further on the project with the appropriate lead agency and will get a copy of the survey once completed. We would ask that in your report you note all resources (flakes, isolates, etc.) even if they may not reach a level of significance under CEQA.”
- Elaini Vargas, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, responded on December 26, 2019. Ms. Vargas wrote, “The proposed road project in Santa Rosa is out of the Aboriginal Territory of the Stewarts Point Rancheria Kashia Band of Pomo Indians. We do not have any concerns or comments at this time.”
- Buffy McQuillen, THPO of the Graton Rancheria, responded on January 6, 2020. Ms. McQuillen wrote, “The Tribe would like to know who the lead agency is for the 43 Middle Rincon Project in Santa Rosa.”

Correspondence related to Native American coordination is provided in Appendix B.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

An archaeological survey of the APE and adjacent dirt lot and grassland habitat was completed on January 11, 2020, by HELIX archaeologist Clarus J. Backes, Jr., RPA. The survey involved systematic investigation of all visible ground in 10-meter transects. During the surveys, the ground surface was examined for artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, fire-affected rock, prehistoric ceramics), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a prehistoric cultural midden, soil depressions, and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations, wells, mines) or historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances such as gopher holes, burrows, cut banks, and arroyos were also visually inspected. A global positioning system (GPS) receiver was used to locate the project area boundaries and maintain survey accuracy. Photographs are provided in Appendix C.

7.0 BUILT-ENVIRONMENT SURVEY

The built-environment survey of the project area was conducted on January 11, 2020, by HELIX archaeologist Clarus J. Backes, Jr., RPA. The fieldwork included collecting photo documentation, architectural descriptions, character defining feature identification, and integrity notes related to the Craftsman house, the feed mill barn, and the existing convenience store. Subsequent analysis of these data, including preliminary research of the history of the buildings, was conducted by HELIX architectural historian Annie McCausland.

7.1 RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

The APE contains three main structures (a Craftsman house with outbuildings, a barn, and a commercial building) located at the intersection of Middle Rincon Road and Highway 12 in the City of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County (Figure 3). It appears that historically the properties were once a single property owned by the Baldi family with the address listed as 4875 Highway 12 (*Santa Rosa Republican* 1946).

The property at 4865 Highway 12 (APN 182-540-025) includes a single-family Craftsman house constructed circa 1922 (Photo 4). The property also features a detached garage, two sheds, and a chicken coop.

The property at 43 Middle Rincon Road (APN 182-540-024) includes a corrugated metal feed mill barn constructed circa 1942 (Photo 5) and a single-story commercial building, a 7-Eleven convenience store, constructed in 1967 (Photo 6).

7.2 HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

Based on preliminary research it appears that 4865 Highway 12 and 43 Middle Rincon Road were historically a single property owned by Anselmo Baldi (LeBaron 2020). Baldi acquired the property in 1921 and opened a general store called Baldi & Son's Market (*Santa Rosa Republican* 1936). Baldi had the Craftsman house at 4865 Highway 12 constructed sometime in the early 1920s as his primary residence (LeBaron 2020). Baldi & Son's Market was in operation from 1922 to 1968 and was considered the primary market in Rincon Valley (*The Press Democrat* 1949; 1985). The corner property, currently the location of a convenience store, was prominent in the community which was informally known as "Baldi-ville" (LeBaron 2020). The Feed Mill barn was constructed sometime between 1922 and 1942. The 1942 aerial shown in Photo 7 illustrates the Baldi property with the house, barn, and store extant. It appears that the property was also used to cultivate crops.

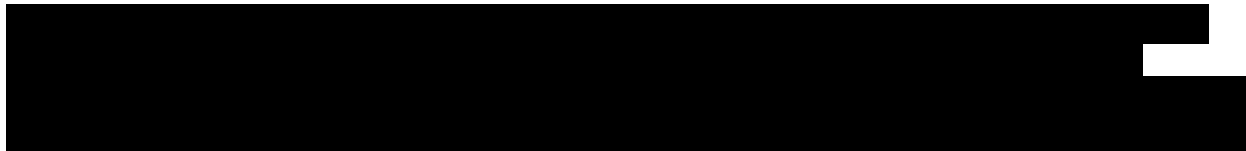
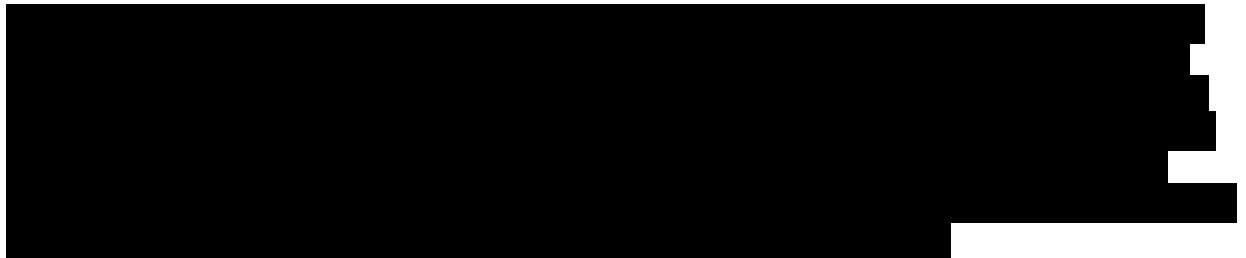
By 1948 the barn was being used to mix and sell livestock feed (Pardee 1948). The advertisement shown in Photo 8 highlights the new feed mill services. In 1958 Hobart Carter took over the operation of the feed mill which became known as Carter's Rincon Valley Feed Store. Photo 9 illustrates the many commercial businesses located along Sonoma Highway (Highway 12), including Baldi & Son's Market in 1962.

In 1967, Highway 12 was widened to four lanes. The expansion of the Highway required the demolition of Baldi & Son's Market (The Press Democrat 1967). The 7-Eleven convenience store that currently occupies the property was constructed shortly thereafter.

Based on the preliminary research it appears that Anselmo Baldi was a prominent member of the Rincon Valley community. As an Italian immigrant at the turn of the twentieth century, he got his start in the area working in the local basalt quarries. Not only did he own and operate Baldi & Son Market, but he also owned and operated three ranches in the valley producing prunes, pears, and hay. Anselmo served as a charter member of Rincon Valley Grange No. 710 and donated land for the Rincon Valley Fire Station No. 1 on Middle Rincon Road. Anselmo served as commissioner of the Rincon Valley Fire Protection District for 20 years. He passed away in 1985 (The Press Democrat 1967; 1985).

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES



8.2 INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES

In the event that cultural resources are exposed during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities (e.g., grading, grubbing, or vegetation clearing) should be halted in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards should then be retained to evaluate the find's significance under CEQA. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted and should be discussed in consultation with the City.

8.3 DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS



1. All excavation activities within 60 feet of the remains will immediately stop, and the area will be protected with flagging or by posting a monitor or construction worker to ensure that no additional disturbance occurs.
2. The project owner or their authorized representative will contact the County Coroner.
3. The coroner will have two working days to examine the remains after being notified in accordance with HSC 7050.5. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American and are not subject to the coroner's authority, the coroner will notify NAHC of the discovery within 24 hours.

NAHC will immediately notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), who will have 48 hours after being granted access to the location of the remains to inspect them and make recommendations for their treatment. Work will be suspended in the area of the find until the City approves the proposed treatment of human remains.

8.4 BUILT-ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES

The built-environment survey found that the APE contains three main structures that are over 50 years old: a Craftsman house with outbuildings, a feed mill barn, and a commercial building. It appears that historically the structures were once part of a single property owned by Anselmo Baldi, a prominent member of the Rincon Valley community. None of the structures have been evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP or CRHR.

HELIX recommends that the subject properties be formally documented and evaluated for CRHR eligibility and as a local City Landmark. The evaluations should meet CEQA and City of Santa Rosa Preservation Ordinance guidelines and standards. The scope of work necessary to complete this assessment is as follows:

- The subject buildings and structures should be recorded on California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) 523 A/B forms for submission to the NWIC;
- Archival research should be performed in order to evaluate the individual and collective significance of the subject buildings and their potential association with significant historic events, people, or architectural styles. Preliminary research has associated the properties with the Baldi family who are well-known in the Rincon Valley community. The research should include the acquisition of available building permit records from Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa;

- Further research should be conducted at the Sonoma County Assessor's and Recorder's office, as necessary, and any other repository that may contain historical maps, newspapers, city directories, and local histories relevant to the subject property such as the Sonoma County Historical Society, Santa Rosa Historical Society, and the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library; and
- All findings should be presented in a comprehensive Cultural Resources Evaluation Report.

9.0 REFERENCES

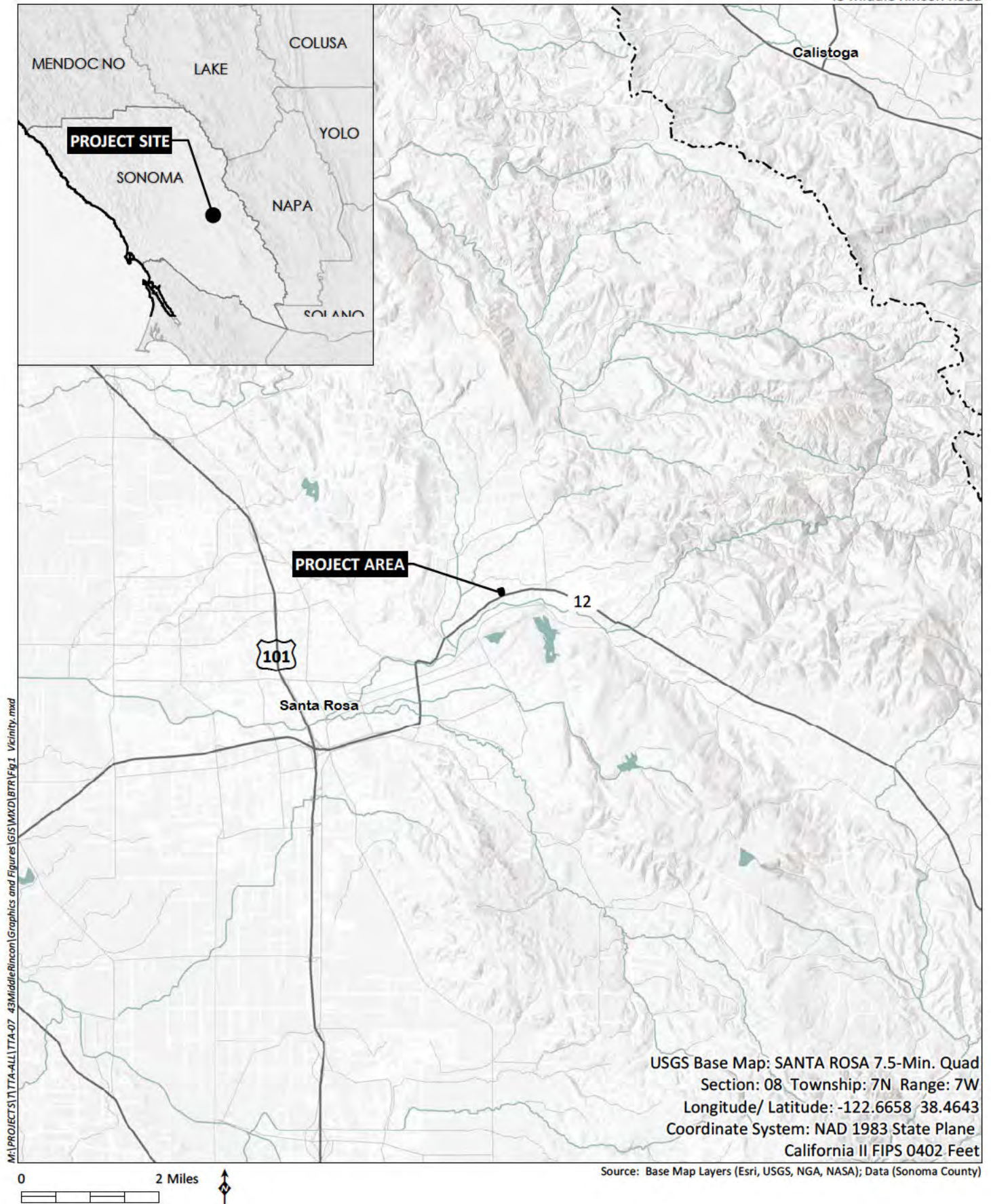
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Appendix A

Figures

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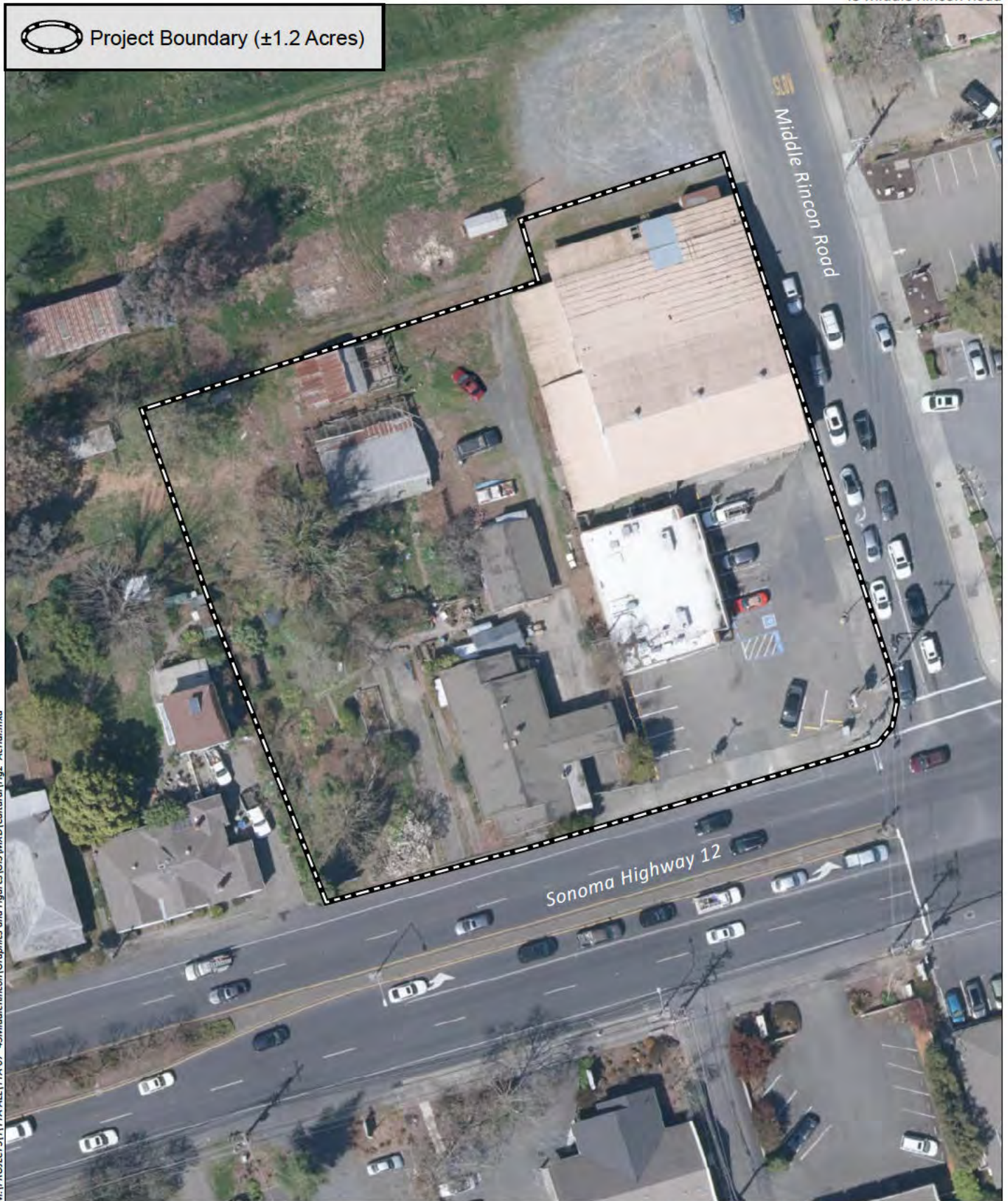


Vicinity Map

Figure 1



Project Boundary (± 1.2 Acres)



Source: Base Map Layers (Esri, USDA, USGS); Data (Sonoma County)

0 50 Feet





APE (± 1.2 Acres)

Feed Mill
Barn

Commercial
Building

4865 HWY
120

Sonoma Highway 12

Source: Base Map Layers (Esri, USDA, USGS); Data (Sonoma County)

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Appendix B

Native American Outreach

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 373-3710
Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>



November 21, 2019

Clarus Backes
HELIX Environmental Planning

VIA Email to: clarusb@helixepi.com

RE: TTA-07: 43 Middle Rincon Road Project, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Backes:

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

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

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green
Staff Services Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts List
November 21, 2019**

Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
Patricia Hermosillo, Chairperson
555 S. Cloverdale Blvd., Suite A Pomo
Cloverdale ,CA 95425
info@cloverdalerancheria.com
(707) 894-5775
(707) 894-5727

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
Dino Franklin Jr., Chairperson
1420 Guerneville Rd. Ste 1 Pomo
Santa Rosa ,CA 95403
dino@stewartspoint.org
(707) 591-0580 Office
(707) 591-0583 Fax

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
Chris Wright, Chairperson
P.O. Box 607 Pomo
Geyserville ,CA 95441
lynnl@drycreekrancheria.com
(707) 814-4150
(707) 814-4166

Lytton Rancheria
Marjorie Mejia, Chairperson
437 Aviation Blvd. Pomo
Santa Rosa ,CA 95403
margiemejia@aol.com
(707) 575-5917
(707) 575-6974 - Fax

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Gene Buvelot
6400 Redwood Drive, Ste 300 Coast Miwok
Rohnert Park ,CA 94928 Southern Pomo
gbuvelot@gratonrancheria.com
(415) 279-4844 Cell
(707) 566-2288 ext 103

Middletown Rancheria
Jose Simon III, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1035 Pomo
Middletown ,CA 95461 Lake Miwok
sshope@middletownrancheria.com
(707) 987-3670 Office
(707) 987-9091 Fax

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Greg Sarris, Chairperson
6400 Redwood Drive, Ste 300 Coast Miwok
Rohnert Park ,CA 94928 Southern Pomo
gbuvelot@gratonrancheria.com
(707) 566-2288 Office
(707) 566-2291 Fax



Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley
Scott Gabaldon, Chairperson
2275 Silk Road Wappo
Windsor ,CA 95492
scottg@mishewalwappotribe.com
(707) 494-9159

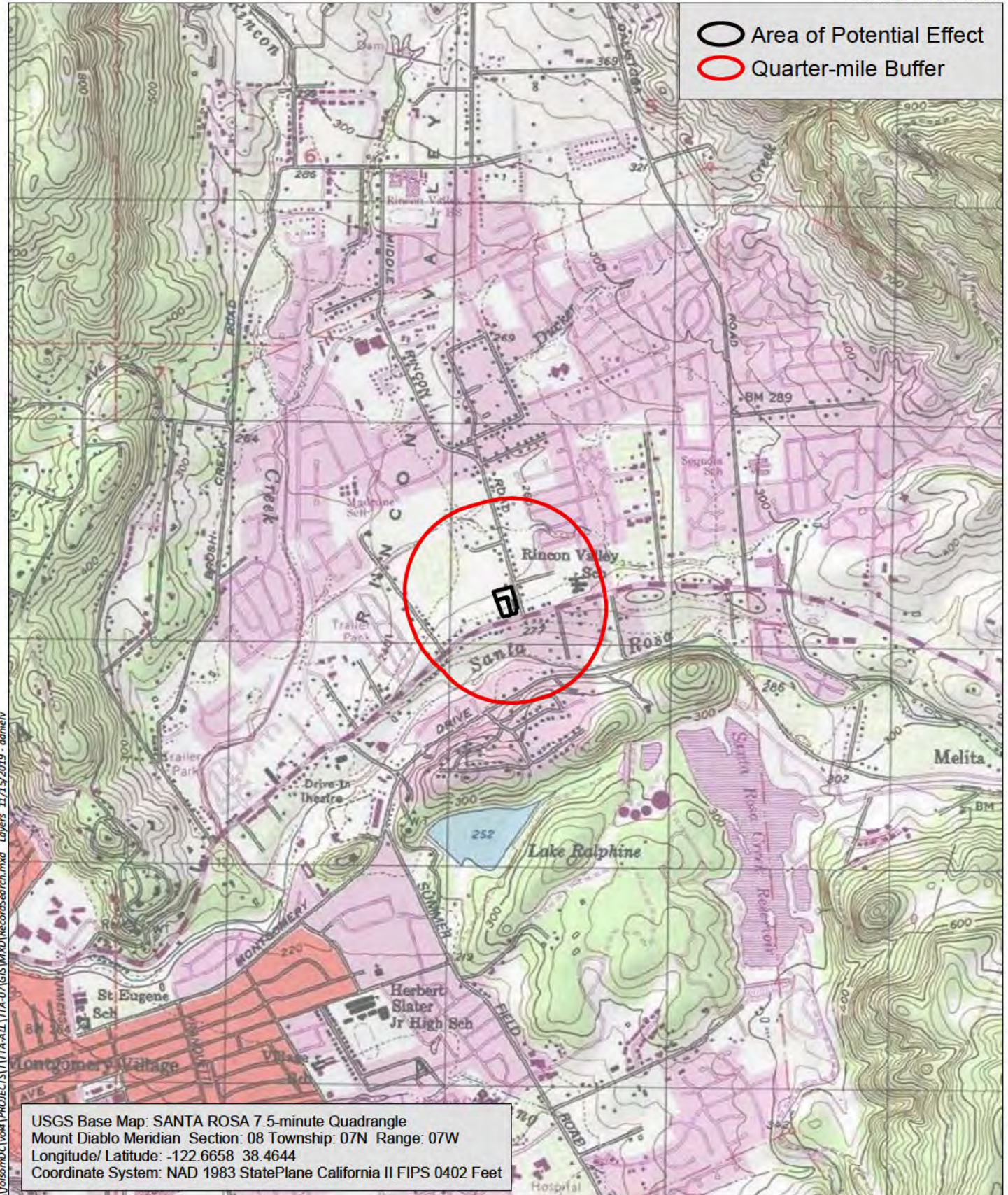
Guidiville Indian Rancheria
Merlene Sanchez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 339 Pomo
Talmage ,CA 95481
admin@guidiville.net
(707) 462-3682
(707) 462-9183 Fax

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:
TTA-07: 43 Middle Rincon Road Project, Sonoma County.**

-  Area of Potential Effect
 Quarter-mile Buffer



0 2,000 Feet

Source: USGS 2019

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HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
11 Natoma Street
Suite 155
Folsom, CA 9530
916.365.8700 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



November 25, 2019

Gene Buvelot
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
6400 Redwood Drive, Ste 300
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Mr. Buvelot,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

The project will involve the new construction of a convenience store, fuel station and car wash. The project area consists of two parcels: 182-540-024 & 182-540-025. The parcels currently contain an existing 7-11 convenience store, a martial arts studio and a single family home with small, miscellaneous structures, all of which will be demolished.

The Area of Potential Effect for the project measures approximately 2.25 acres. I have attached a topographical map depicting the project area. The legal description for the property is Township 7N, Range 7W, Section 8. The property is shown on the Santa Rosa, CA 7.5' USGS Quadrangle.

If there are sensitive resources on or near the proposed project location that could be impacted by construction activities please advise us accordingly. If you have any information, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed project, please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 365-8700 or clarusb@helixepi.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarus J. Backes Jr.".

Clarus J. Backes Jr., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
11 Natoma Street
Suite 155
Folsom, CA 9530
916.365.8700 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



November 25, 2019

Dino Franklin Jr., Chairperson
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
1420 Guerneville Rd. Ste 1
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Franklin,

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November 25, 2019

Scott Gabaldon, Chairperson
Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley
2275 Silk Road
Windsor, CA 95492

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Gabaldon,

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November 25, 2019

Patricia Hermosillo, Chairperson
Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
555 S. Cloverdale Blvd., Suite A
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Hermosillo,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



November 25, 2019

Marjorie Mejia, Chairperson
Lytton Rancheria
437 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Mejia,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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November 25, 2019

Merlene Sanchez, Chairperson
Guidiville Indian Rancheria
P.O. Box 339
Talmage, CA 95481

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Sanchez,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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If there are sensitive resources on or near the proposed project location that could be impacted by construction activities please advise us accordingly. If you have any information, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed project, please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 365-8700 or clarusb@helixepi.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarus J. Backes Jr.".

Clarus J. Backes Jr., M.A., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
11 Natoma Street
Suite 155
Folsom, CA 9530
916.365.8700 tel
619.462.0552 fax
www.helixepi.com



November 25, 2019

Greg Sarris, Chairperson
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
6400 Redwood Drive, Ste 300
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Sarris,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

The project will involve the new construction of a convenience store, fuel station and car wash. The project area consists of two parcels: 182-540-024 & 182-540-025. The parcels currently contain an existing 7-11 convenience store, a martial arts studio and a single family home with small, miscellaneous structures, all of which will be demolished.

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November 25, 2019

Jose Simon III, Chairperson
Middletown Rancheria
P.O. Box 1035
Middletown, CA 95461

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Simon,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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November 25, 2019

Chris Wright, Chairperson
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
P.O. Box 607
Geyserville, CA 95441

Subject: TTA-07 43 Middle Rincon Road Project

Dear Chairperson Wright,

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) has contracted with Tait and Associates, Inc. to provide a Phase I Cultural Resources Inventory in support of CEQA compliance for the proposed 43 Middle Rincon Road Project (project) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The Native American Heritage Commission has suggested we contact you for information regarding Native American resources in or near the project area.

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Cultural Resources Group Manager
HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

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Appendix C

Photographs

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Photo 1. Overview of the APE showing the Craftsman house, concrete driveways, and ornamental vegetation. Photo looking southeast.



Photo 2. Vacant area north of the APE, looking southeast.



Photo 3. Gravel parking area north of the barn, looking northwest.



Photo 4. Craftsman house, south and west facades, looking northeast across Highway 12 (Sonoma Hwy.).

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Photo 5. Feed mill barn, south and east facades, looking northwest across Middle Rincon Road.



Photo 6. Commercial building, south and east facades, looking northwest from the corner of Middle Rincon Road and Highway 12.



Photo 7. Aerial photograph of the subject properties taken in 1942. (U.S. War Dept. 1942, courtesy of Sonoma County Vegetation Mapping & Lidar Program).

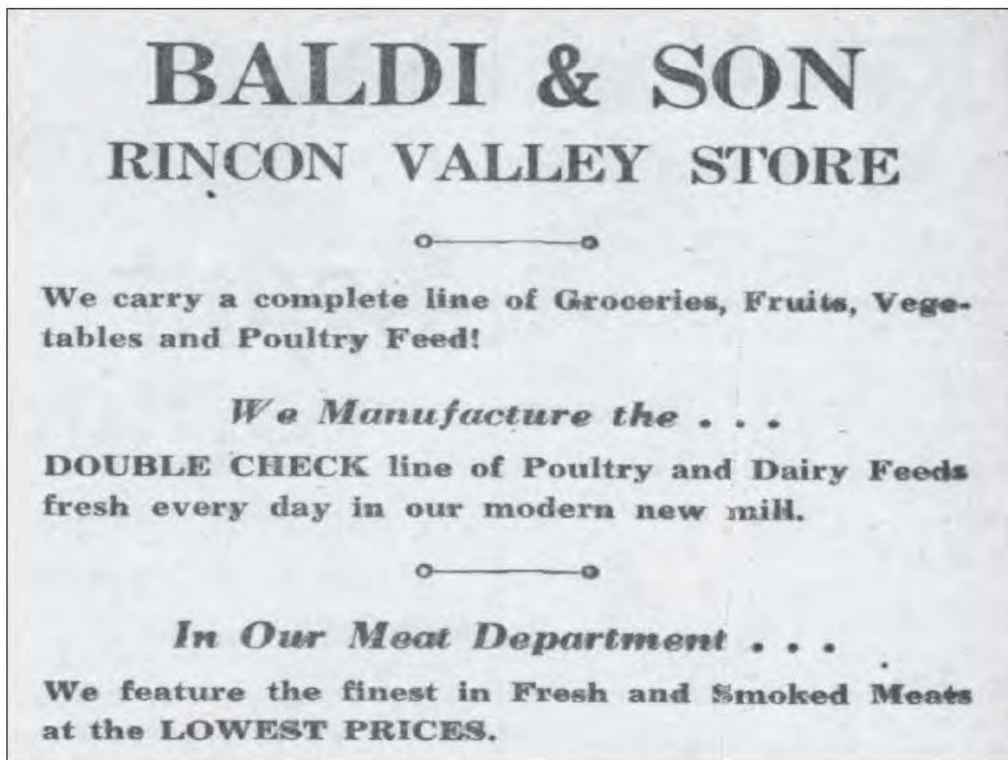


Photo 8. Baldi & Son's Market advertisement in The Press Democrat on November 4, 1948. (The Press Democrat 1948, courtesy of Newspapers.com).



Photo 9. Businesses along Sonoma Highway, 1962. Baldi's Market is located on the far left. Courtesy of the Sonoma County Library.

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