

**Cultural Resources Report**  
**for the**  
**Oak Vista Residential Subdivision Project**  
**Rocklin, Placer County, California**



***Prepared for:***

Westech Company  
P.O.Box 2299  
Cottonwood, California 96022  
**Contact: Dr. G. Bradford Shea**  
(360) 565-1333  
Email: brad@westechcompany.com

***Prepared by:***

Golden Hills Consulting  
3807 West Branch Lane  
Oroville, California 95965  
**Contact: Mary Bailey**  
(530) 520-8813  
E-mail: goldenhills@aol.com

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## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

An intensive cultural resource survey was performed on property proposed for a residential subdivision (Project) in Rocklin, Placer County, California. The property is approximately 13.4 acres in size. During surveys, three boulder milling stations were located. No historic cultural resources were found. An extended Phase 1 investigation was undertaken adjacent to the three milling stations, with a total of seven shovel test pits being done. A fist-sized milling cobble (mano) was recovered near one of the milling stations; no other cultural resources were found. Two Phase 2 excavation units were done at the boulder where the mano had been found. No additional subsurface cultural resources were discovered.

A records search through the North Central California Information Center (NCIC) at California State University, Sacramento, revealed that there are eight recorded historic sites and nine recorded prehistoric isolates or sites within a quarter-mile radius of the Project. The Native American Heritage Commission has no record of any Sacred Lands within or adjacent to the Project.

The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) consulted on this Project, requesting the extended Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations. During meetings with the UAIC, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed for treatment of the boulder milling stations and to provide tribal monitoring of ground disturbance up to a 100-foot radius around the boulder where the mano had been located.

The boulders with milling features are not considered eligible for either the California or National Register of Historic Places/Resources; however they should be handled with consideration of them as a cultural resource. With mitigation efforts, the potential impact to cultural resources will be reduced to a less-than-significant level. The following four mitigations are recommended.

### **Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: Worker Awareness for Cultural Resources**

During any excavation or other substantial subsurface disturbance activities, individuals conducting the work will be advised to watch for cultural resource materials. If workers observe any evidence of prehistoric cultural resources (freshwater shells, beads, bone tool remnants or an assortment of bones, soil changes including subsurface ash lens or soil darker in color than surrounding soil, lithic materials such as flakes, tools or grinding rocks, etc.), or historic cultural resources (adobe foundations or walls, structures and remains with square nails, refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often associated with wells or old privies), all work must immediately cease, and a qualified archaeologist must be consulted to assess the significance of the cultural materials.

## **Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: Tribal Monitors before and during Boulder Re-location**

The UAIC should participate in selecting a suitable place for boulder re-location. A tribal monitor from the UAIC must be present during any re-location activities for the milling feature boulders. Should subsurface cultural resources be encountered, all work must stop, and a qualified archaeologist be contacted who will then re-evaluate significance.

## **Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: Tribal Monitors during Ground Disturbance Near BRMS #2**

A tribal monitor from the UAIC must be present during ground disturbance within a 100-foot radius (or to the property line, whichever is less), to a depth of up to 3 feet. Should subsurface cultural resources be encountered, all work must stop, and a qualified archaeologist be contacted who will then re-evaluate significance.

## **Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: Procedures for Discovery of Human Remains**

If human remains are discovered, all work must immediately cease, and the local coroner must be contacted. Procedures for the discovery of human remains will be followed in accordance with provisions of the State Health and Safety Code, Sections 7052 and 7050.5 and the State Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9 to 5097.99. If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, the Coroner shall contact the NAHC and subsequent procedures shall be followed, according to State Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9 to 5097.99, regarding notification of the Native American Most Likely Descendant.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

NCIC	North Central California Information Center, Sacramento
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
GLO	General Land Office
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Rocklin 60 Residential Development Project
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

## **INTRODUCTION**

Westech Company retained Golden Hills Consulting to perform a pedestrian cultural resources survey on property located in Rocklin, Placer County, California. The work summarized in this report was conducted by archaeologist Mary Bailey of Golden Hills Consulting. Ms. Bailey has been involved in northern California archaeology since 1988. Ms. Bailey has a Master of Arts degree in Archaeology.

### **Project Location and Description**

The Proposed Action (Project) would create 60 lots which would be designated for single-family residential development and would include roads and installation of utilities. The Project is 13.4 acres in size.

The Project consists of 5 parcels, APN #s, 045-043-000, 045-043-032-000, 045-043-031-000, 045-043-030-000, and 045-043-009-000.

The Project is located in the City of Rocklin, Placer County, south of Makabe Lane and west of Dias Lane. The City of Loomis is approximately one-mile to the north. Interstate 80 is approximately 0.15 miles to the southeast, and Sierra College Boulevard is approximately 0.4 miles to the east. The Project is located on the Rocklin U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map (revised 1981) within the southwest ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 16, Township 11 North, Range 7 East, of the Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The approximate geographic coordinates at the center of the Project are longitude 121° 11' 52.00" West and latitude 38° 48' 18.30" North (Figures 1 - 3). The survey area is shown on Figure 4.

### **Regulatory Framework**

In order to satisfy state cultural resource preservation laws and regulations, an archaeological survey of areas which may be impacted by a project is required. These laws and regulations include, but are not limited to:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 36 CFR Part 800.14(a);
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106, as amended, 36 CFR Part 60 and 63, and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800;
- California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), § PRC Section 2100 et seq, CEQA Guidelines 14CCR 15000 et seq and amendments per Assembly Bill 52 (2014).

In general, a cultural resource survey and inventory must include:

- A record search completed by the regional cultural records center. For the project site, the North Central California Information Center of the California Resources Information System, at California State University, Sacramento, is the relevant center. This record search will include a check of the records of Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, any previous archaeological investigations, and a literature search;
- A field survey accomplished by walking and observing features of the project's area as dictated by the Record Search and the project's sensitivity for cultural resources;
- Preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the record search and field survey.

The lead agency for this project is the City of Rocklin.

### ***Undertaking***

Since the project would affect waters of the United States, the project proponent must meet requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and therefore, is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District.



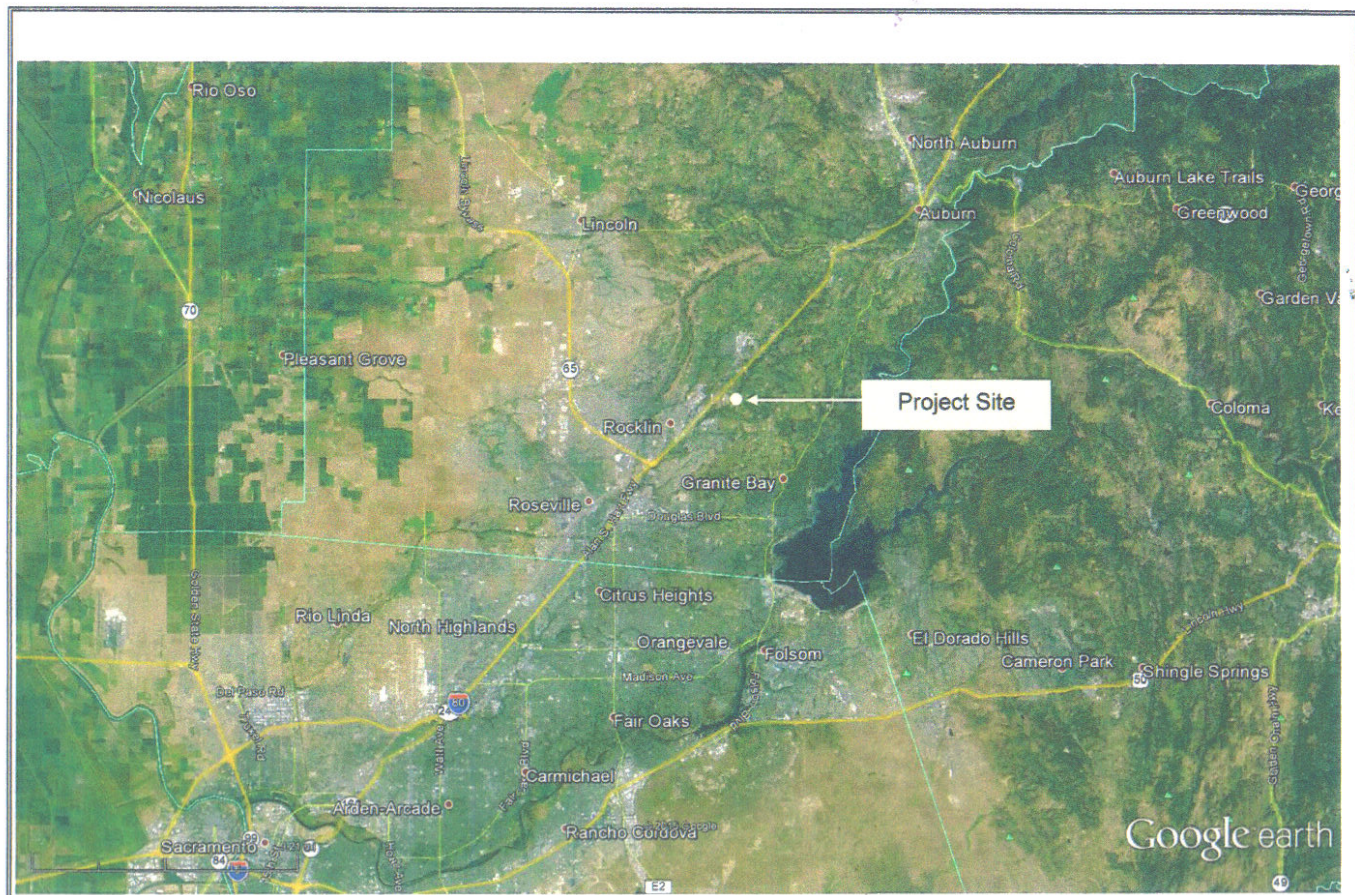


Figure 1. Location Map

Westech Company 2015  
Source: Google Earth 2015





Figure 2. Vicinity Map

Westech Company 2015  
Source: Google Earth 2015



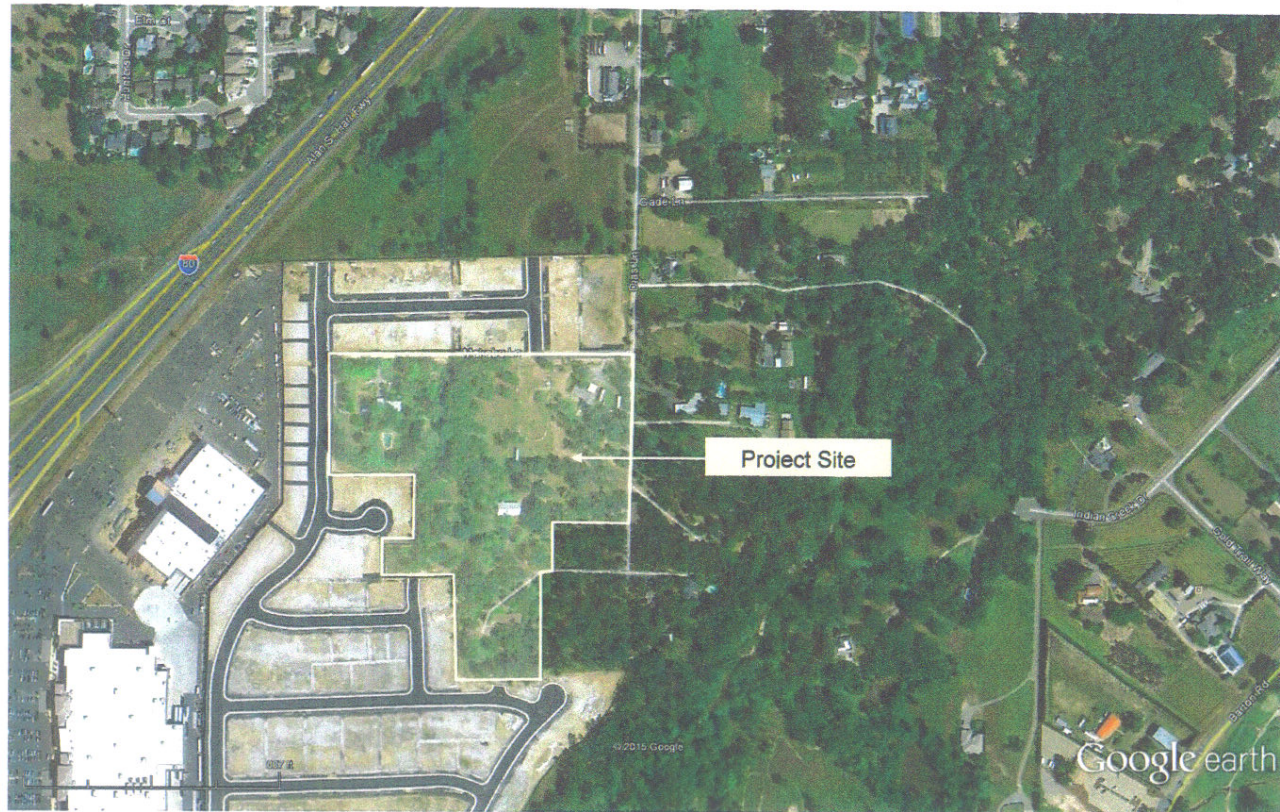


Figure 3. Aerial Parcel Map

Westech Company 2014  
Source: Google Earth 2015

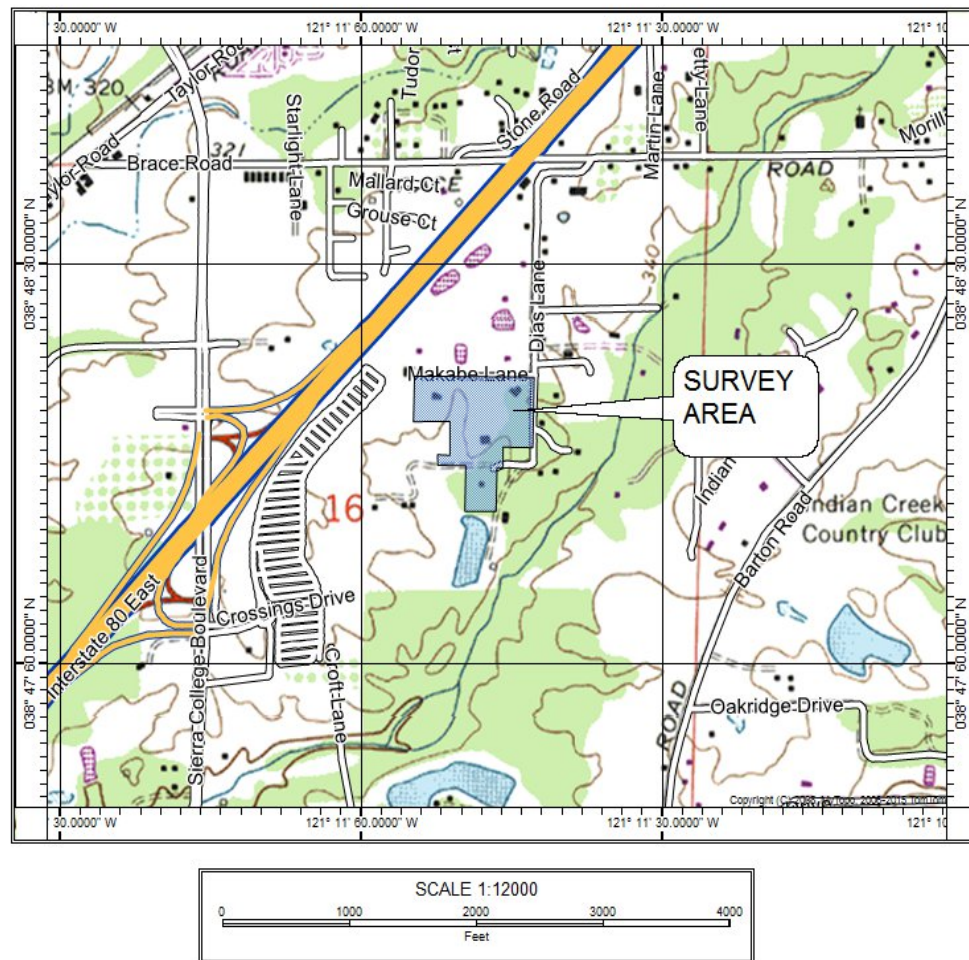


Figure 3 Survey Area (T11N, R7E, Section 16, Rocklin U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle, as revised 1981)



## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### Natural Environment

The Project site is located in a mixed oak woodland (*Quercus wislizeni* var *wislizeni*, *Q. lobata*, and *Q. douglasii*) with variable canopy cover. Some areas are fairly open, other areas approach 100% cover. An unnamed seasonal drainage runs in a generally north-south direction, culminating in a small fresh emergent wetland dominated by cattails (*Typha angustifolia*). A narrow upland riparian corridor hugs the drainage. Four existing single-family residences and their related outbuildings are located onsite.

Adjacent to the north and southwest, several single-family residential developments are currently being constructed. West of Interstate 80, several commercial complexes have been recently developed, these including a Walmart Supercenter and a Target department store. North of Interstate 80 and the Project, there are a number of recently constructed housing developments. The Project appears to be at the eastern edge of recent development. To the east, northeast and southeast, there are large-lot single-family residences and areas of undeveloped mixed oak woodland.

Secret Ravine is approximately 800 feet east of the Project. Elevation throughout the Project is 321 feet above sea level.



Oak woodland



Current drainage  
basin area

Dense vegetation  
along seasonal  
drainage







Mowed, open area, northern portion of Project, adjacent to mixed oak woodland

Riparian area adjacent to seasonal drainage



## Cultural Environment

### *Prehistory*

Habitation of the Central Valley and Sacramento County areas possibly arose about 12,000 years before present. Evidence of this early habitation is sparse at best, as over



the years, alluvial sediment has deeply covered much of this evidence. Paleo-Indians during this time period probably relied heavily upon the mega-fauna such as mastodon and mammoth, as well as upon plant and other faunal resources available. Organization was in small, mobile groups of individuals. As the glaciers receded from the Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley, the climate became warmer and drier, with grasslands and oak forests replacing the pine and riparian forests. Population increased to where eventually, the Native American population density of the Central Valley exceeded many other areas of North America (Moratto et al 1978: Moratto 1984).

### *Ethnography* (excerpted from Wilson and Towne 1978 and Kroeber 1925)

The entire project area lies within the area once occupied by the Penutian speaking Southern Maidu (Nisenan). These people were probably not the earliest inhabitants of this area. They are believed to have entered California from the north, sometime around 1500 BP. Prior to that time, the area may have been occupied by Hokan speaking peoples.

Nisenan sites include villages, seasonal camps, ceremonial grounds, fishing stations and river crossings. A village could range in size from 15 to 20 individuals up to larger groups of 500. A village site might contain from 3 to 50 houses. The typical house was a round, domed structure which was covered with earth and grass or tules, measuring ten to fifteen feet in diameter. Villages were often located on a low hill near some major source of water such as a lake or stream.

The Nisenan Maidu practiced hunting and gathering. A staple food was the acorn. Processing and grinding stations in exposed bedrock consisting of mortar holes may date back to 2000 BP.

In summary, the examination of ethnographic and archaeological information in the project area indicates the possibility of encountering one or more of the following types of prehistoric cultural resources:

- Occupation sites, potentially with housepits. Firepits and middens may also be present;
- Surface finds of basalt, chert or obsidian in the form of flakes or artifacts;
- Food processing stations, which would include bedrock mortars and single cups in boulders, or mobile grinding stones.

### ***Historical Period, ca. 1850 to the present***

By the late 1700's, Spanish explorers seeking potential inland mission sites had entered the Central Valley. At this time, the Sacramento River was known as the Jesus Maria, and the Feather River was known as the Sacramento River. Gabriel Moraga traveled as

far inland as the American, Mokelumne and Cosumnes Rivers during several expeditions from 1806 to 1817. For the next two decades, trappers from the Hudson Bay Company and the American Fur Company were trapping in the area. This incursion by fur traders established new transportation routes and assisted in making the interior accessible to European settlement.

In the 1800's, ranching and agriculture flourished. Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa issued the first land grant in the Sacramento area in 1833 to John Rogers Cooper (an English-born sea captain who married into a prominent California family). The two largest land grants in the Sacramento Valley belonged to John Sutter who founded New Helvetia – a trading and part-time military post. New Helvetia was the only settlement in this part of California and became the area's social, commercial, and political center.

After the discovery of gold in 1848, the influx of people into California changed the subsequent history of the region. The decades following the Gold Rush are marked by Indian removal, gold mining, agriculture, and commerce. Rail lines were established to transport people and goods more efficiently.

In 1860, cattle outnumbered people in California, and 40% of the cattle could be found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. A potent stimulus to widespread cattle ranching was the population explosion in the foothills due to the Gold Rush.

In 1851, Placer County was created from parts of Sutter and Yuba Counties. Placer, an old Spanish word with obscure origins, was used to describe the type of surface gold mining in the area (Hoover et al 1990:257).

Extensive gold mining activity occurred in the 1850s and 1860s around Secret Ravine, although the Rocklin area served more as a support community and area for mining along the American River (Clark 1979:113, Rukhala 1975). Farming and ranching soon proved to be more lucrative and stable endeavors, with ranches and farmhouses dotting the countryside by towns originally established by miners. (Thompson and West 1882:395).

The town of Rocklin was formally designated in 1864 when the Central Pacific Railroad was building a railroad through the area, and granite from quarries in Rocklin was used for railroad culverts and track ballast (Hebuck 1971). Granite proved to be an important economic activity in the Rocklin area which is rich in a high quality granite. There are some quarry holes that are up to 150 feet in depth, with no reduction in the quality (or apparent quantity) of the material (Rukhala 1974). The name "Rocklin" is possibly a corruption of the name Rockland, given to the town because of all the local rock outcrops. Or the name may have arisen from the Finnish people who began arriving in the area in the 1870s, and who called the town "Rocklin" (Rukhala 1974). The Rocklin Cemetery is said to have gotten its first resident in the 1850s when an inebriated railroad worker from the nearby community of Secret Ravine expired and was buried where he fell (Rocklin Today 2014).

## **Site Sensitivity**

The Project area and vicinity are considered to have a moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric cultural resources. In summary, the examination of ethnographic, archaeological and historical information in the Project area indicates the possibility of encountering one or more of the following types of prehistoric cultural resources:

- Occupation sites, potentially with housepits. Firepits and middens may also be present;
- Surface finds of basalt, chert or obsidian in the form of flakes or artifacts;
- Food processing stations, which would include bedrock mortars and single cups in boulders, or mobile grinding stones;
- Historic resources related to homesteads, mining or agriculture.

## **METHODS**

Mary Bailey, qualified archaeologist with Golden Hills Consulting, undertook the cultural resources survey. The survey consisted of four components: 1) office and archival research, 2) a records search, 3) written contact with Native American groups and related agencies, and 4) a pedestrian field survey. Methods for each component are described below.

### **Office and Archival Methods**

Topographic and aerial maps of the property and vicinity were reviewed to discover landforms and nearby natural water sources. The aerial map of the property was examined to determine the presence or absence of surface anomalies. Online resources were searched for regional and local history.

### **Record Search**

Golden Hills Consulting requested information from the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System database located at California State University, Sacramento. The purpose of this review is to determine whether any portion of the project area has been surveyed for cultural resources and whether there are known archaeological or historic-era resources within a ¼ -mile radius of the Project. The NCIC provided the results of a record search dated October 12, 2015.

The literature search conducted by the NCIC includes:

- OHP Historic Properties Directory & Determinations of Eligibility (April 2012);
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility;

- California Register of Historic Places;
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976);
- historic maps: General Land Office map for T11N R7E 1856 and a portion of the 1954 USGS Rocklin 7.5' quadrangle.
- local inventories (requested, but none listed);
- previous reports of surveys within the quarter-mile search radius.

State and federal inventories have no list of any historic properties eligible for either the State or Federal Registers of Historic Places within or adjacent to the Project.

The NCIC search revealed that seven surveys/reports were recorded within the quarter-mile search radius. No surveys or reports were located by the NCIC that included any portion of the Project.

The NCIC reported that there are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Project. There are 8 historic and 9 prehistoric resources located within a ¼ -mile radius. These include:

- P-31-000179 (CA-PLA-53). A bedrock milling station consisting of 20 bedrock mortar holes. Recorded in 1957;
- P-31-001006. This is a multi-component historic gold mining area near Secret Ravine. Recorded originally in 1991, with update in 1999;
- P-31-001007. This site was originally recorded in 1999 and contained multiple bedrock mortars. A re-survey of the area in 2004 failed to re-locate this site. It may be overgrown with vegetation, became obscured due to stream deposits, or the recorded location was in error;
- P-31-001009 (CA-PLA-833H). A multi-component historic mining area recorded in 1998;
- P-31-001010 (CA-PLA-844H). Two mining related ditches, recorded 1998;
- P-31-001520. Two isolated quarried granite posts, recorded 1988;
- P-31-001521. Four quarried granite fence posts, recorded 1988;
- P-31-001533 (CA-PLA-1191). Three bedrock milling stations with five mortar cups, recorded 1990;
- P-31-001554 (CA-PLA-1212). Single bedrock mortar on granite boulder originally recorded in 1988. Updated with three shovel test pits done in 2005;
- P-31-001555 (CA-PLA-1213). Two bedrock milling with 8 milling features. Originally recorded in 1988. Updated in 2005, which included three shovel test pits;
- P-31-001556 (CA-PLA-1214). Group of 8 bedrock milling features. Originally recorded in 1988, updated in 2005. Two shovel test pits done;
- P-31-001557 (CA-PLA-1215). Three bedrock outcrops with milling features. Originally recorded in 1988. 2005 update included six shovel test pits, plus one 1 x 1 meter excavation unit;
- P-31-001560 (CA-PLA-1218H). Historic trash deposit and circular rock formation, possibly building foundation. Originally recorded 1988 and updated in 2005. Update included two backhoe trenches;

- P-31-001561 (CA-PLA-1219). Single bedrock mortar in granite outcrop. Some historic trash scatter. Originally recorded in 1998; updated in 2005 when two shovel test pits were done;
- P-31-002614. Historic petroglyph, “F HULL 99” (may be “94”). Inscribed on bedrock. Recorded 2003;
- P-31-002615. Lithic isolate, a fine-grained basalt biface. Recorded 2003; and
- P-31-003877. Location of Takuma Farm. Recorded 2001.

A review of the historic maps does not show any homesteads or other historic built environments on or adjacent to the Project site.

In a review of the reports from surveys performed within 1/4 –mile radius of the Project, it was noted that one survey discovered a village site approximately a half mile south of the Project.

## **Contacts**

Golden Hills contacted the Native American Heritage Commission, Sacramento, and they reported that no Sacred Land is located within or adjacent to the Project. The NAHC also provided a list of local Native American contacts. Golden Hills’ archaeologist Mary Bailey sent consultation invitation letters to Native American contacts for Placer County, requesting information about the presence of cultural resources within the Project area.

Marcos Guerrero of the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) replied via email on 22 September 2015, requesting consultation and a site visit. On 27 October 2015, archaeologist M. Bailey met with Mr. Guerrero who was accompanied by Jason Camp and Skip Rey, also from the UAIC. An additional parcel had been added to the Project since the original pedestrian survey, and was examined during the visit with the UAIC representatives. This resulted in the discovery of three bedrock/boulder milling stations. Mr. Guerrero advised that two or three shovel test pits should be done at each milling station location.

The Shingle Springs Rancheria replied in a letter dated 1 October 2015 that they were not aware of any cultural resources within the Project. They did request copies of any environmental documents produced for the Project. They requested that if human remains were encountered, that they should be contacted. A contact person was listed on the letter, giving both telephone and email contact information.

The UAIC replied via a letter dated 22 October 2015, stating that they would like to initiate consultation and set up an onsite meeting. As this letter preceded the onsite meeting with Mr. Guerrero et al, the UAIC’s request has been satisfied in regards to initial consultation and an onsite meeting. The UAIC also requested copies of future environmental documents so they would be able to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources.

On March 2, 2016, an additional site visit was done with Mr. Guerrero of the UAIC, Brad Shea of Westech Company, Jared Brown of Guide Engineering, Ryan Bradford of Equity Smart Investments, and Mary Bailey, project archaeologist. At that time, Mr. Guerrero requested that two or three excavation units be done adjacent to BRMS #2, the location where a small mano had been located during the Extended Phase 1 investigation (shovel test pits). He also requested a site visit by tribal Elders. During follow-up communication with Mr. Guerrero, he stated that an Elder visit was no longer needed (see Communication Log in Appendix B). He did request that the milling stations be evaluated under Criteria A through D.

## **Field Procedures**

Per guidelines set by the Secretary of the Interior, survey activities should be designed to gather information required to achieve preservation goals. Survey methods should be compatible with the past and present environmental characteristics of an area, and with respect to those cultural resources which may reasonably be present.

The Project site was visited on 27 August 2015. The property was surveyed by Mary Bailey, of Golden Hills Consulting, Oroville, California. Ms. Bailey has been involved in northern California archaeology since 1988. Ms. Bailey has a Master of Arts degree in Archaeology.

The pedestrian survey design varied according to circumstances encountered. A small portion of the Project east of the seasonal drainage was fairly open with limited vegetative ground cover. This area was surveyed using 10-15 meter transects. Vegetation along and immediately adjacent to the seasonal drainage was relatively dense and with blackberry vines, hindering a thorough survey. Wooded portions of the Project support an understory of annual grasses and forbs; the dried remains of these plus tree detritus (leaves, etc.) limited ground visualization. This area was covered in wandering transects, with close examination of any exposed dirt, such as gopher holes with kickback. Three residences are within the confines of the Project boundary; the residence at the western end of Makabe Lane has considerable landscaping in place as well as an aggressive dog, and was briefly surveyed. The two other residences were vacant during the August 2015 survey and had little landscaping, although with the usual habitation disturbance in their vicinity. These areas were surveyed in a similar manner to the wooded areas, focusing on areas with exposed ground surface.

An additional parcel was added to the overall Project boundary during October 2015. This parcel contained approximately three+ acres located at the intersection of Makabe and Dias Lanes. During the onsite meeting with UAIC representatives on 27 October, several attempts were made to enter this parcel for surveying. However the residents were not home, and as there were barking dogs in the fenced yard, no entry onto the property was attempted. It was possible to look over boundary fences.

On 14 November 2015, Ms. Bailey returned to the Project in order to perform an extended Phase 1 investigation consisting of shovel test pits (STPs) adjacent to three granite boulders with bedrock milling features, per request by the UAIC. At that time,



the resident of the northeast parcel was at home, and was notified that project related work would be conducted in his back yard that day. Approximately half of this parcel is under intensive use, with the residence, several related structures and camper trailers, plus various livestock pens and sheds. These areas were briefly investigated. The remaining area was mixed oak woodland, with limited ground visualization. Several wandering transects were conducted through this area, with focus on examining areas with reduced ground cover or gopher holes and kickback.

## **RESULTS**

Three bedrock milling stations (BRMS) were located on granite boulders within the Project. No surface prehistoric artifacts were seen. No historic artifacts or features were discovered.

### **Boulder Milling Stations**

#### **BRMS-1**

BRMS-1 is on a flattish, almost rectangular boulder. The surface does not appear well-worn, or may have been used for softening hides as suggested by the Native American representatives from the UAIC. This boulder may have been moved to this location as part of a landscaping scheme.

#### **BRMS-2**

BRMS-2 is on a flattish granite boulder amongst a small cluster of other boulders. It is a truncated oval in overall shape. The milling feature is a single roughish slick. This slick is similar to BRMS-1, and may have been used for a similar purpose.

#### **BRMS-3**

BRMS-3 is also on a granite boulder which is roughly oval in shape. There are 3 milling features on this boulder. Two of the features are saucer mortars (shallow roundish grinding surfaces) and the other is composed of two saucer mortars connected by a slick.

### **Extended Phase 1 Investigation: Shovel Test Pits (STPs)**

On November 14, 2015, subsurface investigation was undertaken which involved doing shovel test pits adjacent to each of the BRMS. Two STPs were done at BRMS 1 and 3; three STPs were done at BRMS-2, where the underlying granite outcrop was encountered

at a depth of approximately 30 cm (12 inches). The width of each test pit varied according to ease in digging to a depth of up to 40 cm (16 inches). Soil levels were taken at 0-20 cm and 20-40 cm. Each level was screened through ¼ - inch hardware mesh over a tarp which enabled replacement of removed soils into each test pit. Recovered materials which required further analysis were placed into plastic bags identified as to BRMS # and level. Soil color at each level was determined using a Munsell color chart. Labeled yellow pin flags were left marking each STP. The following table shows the results of the STPs at each BRMS.

**Table : Results of Shovel Test Pits**

BRMS	STP #	Pit Level	Munsell soil color	Recovered items	Comments
1	1-A	0-20 cm	5YR 2.5/2, sandy loam; 5YR 3/2, sandy loam	Small rusted metal ornament, triangular piece of thick glass probably from an aquarium, small triangular piece of glazed ceramic	The top 10 cm (4 inches) of soil was darker in color, probably due to decomposed organic material (tree leaves, etc.). Occasional small pieces of quartz encountered.
		20-40 cm	5YR 3/2, sandy loam	None	
	1-B	0-20 cm	5YR 3/2, sandy loam	Small piece of demineralized coral	Possible that the area was dumping ground for broken freshwater aquarium (see level 0-20 cm).
		20-40 cm	Same as first level	Fist-sized milling cobble (mano)	
2	2-A	0-20 cm	7.5YR 2.5/2, sandy loam	None	Soil darker than surrounding area, but not greasy in feel. Darker color probably due to decomposed organic material (leaves, etc.)
		20-40 cm	5 YR 3/3, sandy loam	None	
	2-B	0-25 cm	5YR 3/3, sandy loam	None	Unable to dig below 25 cm due to numerous tree roots, even with extending radius of pit to 18-24 inches.
	2-C	0-20 cm	7.5YR 3/2, sandy loam	None	
		20-30 cm	Same as above	None	Encountered granite outcrop at 30 cm.
3	3-A and 3-B	0-10 cm	10YR 2/1, sandy loam	None	Heavy organic layer with decomposing leaves, twigs and roots.
		10-20 cm	5YR 3/2 loam	None	
		20-40 cm	Same as above	None	

The milling cobble (mano) at BRMS-1 was the only cultural resource located during the STPs. Other materials recovered adjacent to BRMS-1 represent recent trash deposits. No cultural materials were located in STPs at the other two BRMS. The mano from BRMS-1 appears to be yellow chert, with a worn area at the edge of a relatively flat surface.

## **Phase 2 Investigation: Excavation Units**

On May 19 and 20, 2016, two square-meter excavation units were undertaken adjacent to the northeast and southeast of BRMS #2. Soils were removed by 10 centimeter (4 inches) levels and screened through 1/4 –inch mesh screen. Screened soils were collected on a tarpaulin to facilitate replacement into excavated units once the unit was completed.

Allan Wallace, tribal monitor for the UAIC, was present during Phase 2 excavations.

### Unit 1 (northeast side of BRMS #2):

Bedrock was encountered at a depth of 30.5 centimeters (12 inches) at the southwest corner, and approximately 51 centimeters (20 inches) in the remainder of the unit. Soils were consistent in color and texture to those encountered during the shovel test pits. No subsurface cultural materials were recovered. Two small basalt pebbles were discovered within the first 10 centimeters (4 inches). These were examined by the project archaeologist and the tribal monitor, but were determined not to display any evidence of human use or modification. It was noted that basalt is not typically found in the general area. Due to their near-surface location, the pebbles may have been deposited there recently, and were not considered culturally significant.

### Unit 2 (south side of BRMS #2):

Bedrock was encountered at depths varying throughout the unit from 20 centimeters (8 inches) to 35 centimeters (14 inches) depth. Soils were consistent in color and texture to those encountered during the shovel test pits. No subsurface cultural materials were recovered.

Mr. Guerrero had requested at least 2 excavation units, with a third unit a possibility at BRMS #2. Mr. Wallace, tribal monitor, was given the choice to pursue another unit, but he did not see the need for a third unit; the project archaeologist concurred.

## **Determination of Eligibility**

In considering the significance of an historic property, its eligibility for inclusion into either the California State Register of Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Places must be considered. These eligibility criteria are developed from the Code of

Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 36, Part 60 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

### **Criteria for Evaluation**

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### **Criteria Considerations**

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- (b) a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- (c) a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- (d) a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

(e) a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

(f) a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

(g) a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Using the above criteria, the potentially significant cultural resources located on the property were evaluated.

## **Discussion**

Bedrock and/or boulder milling features are ubiquitous throughout California. None of the bedrock milling stations on the Project represent an unusual or distinctive style or suggest a novel milling technique, or can be associated with events or specific persons significant in our past (referring to Criteria A, B and C). There are a number of such bedrock or boulder milling stations located along Secret Ravine, many with more variation and complexity, rendering the stations on the Project part of a pattern of resource processing along Secret Ravine, rather than unique examples of a particular resource. The significance of prehistoric cultural resources generally falls under Criteria for Evaluation (D), in that a resource may be significant if there is the possibility of yielding information into history or prehistory by further study. At this time, there is no possibility of the three milling station boulders yielding further information.

During the onsite visit with members of the UAIC, Mr. Guerrero stated that the bedrock milling station slick areas may have been used in softening hides as the slicks still retained some roughness. He stated that the area within and near the Project would have been a likely resource processing location for several villages nearby, and although it was possible, it was unlikely that there are significant subsurface cultural materials. Shovel test pits were recommended by Mr. Guerrero due to the appearance of darker surface soils.

Mr. Guerrero suggested that the milling feature at Site 3 may represent rock art cupules. However, during the onsite visit with UAIC representatives, entry to the property was not available, and the boulder could only been seen from a short distance. When property entry was available for STPs, the depressions on that boulder could be more closely examined. Bednarik (2008:70) described several characteristics of rock art cupules. He states "It must have been made by numerous blows of percussion. Where its surface is not too much altered by weathering, grains or crystals of the rock should show signs of percussion, i.e., fractured or crushed particles, recognizable microscopically by conchoidal fractures with impact points, internal cracking of crystals and signs of surface



bruising.” The suspected cupules at Site 3 boulder were very smooth internally, particularly in comparison with the remainder of the boulder’s surface. This smoothness appears to have been achieved through grinding rather than percussion, and therefore most likely represents a milling feature rather than rock art. Additionally, the main mortar has an adjoining small metate area, similar to that described by True (1993:7) who suggests this combination represented a hulling (metate) and initial grinding complex for acorns. McCarthy et al (2003:315) in her milling feature study involving Native American informants, measured “starter mortars,” and the depressions on the boulder at Site 3 conform to those results. It is determined therefore, that the depressions on the boulder at Site 3 most likely represent milling features rather than rock art.

The UAIC suggested that the slick areas at Sites 2 and 3 are unique, and satisfy Criterion C. These slicks (smoothed areas) are not well defined or well-worn suggesting a specialized or infrequent use. Schroth (1996, 56-71) has found that “slabs” (slicks, metates, e.g.) have been located throughout California. These were often areas for smoothing items, such as hide processing or shaping bows and other wood objects. Per the informants from Southeastern California queried by McCarthy et al (2003:317), this type of slick/metate was used for crushing dried manzanita berries, often on granite, using only a light pressure with a loaf-shaped cobble. The informants stated that this type of usage would create little alteration of the stone’s surface, and this is seen at Sites 2 and 3. Although slicks are not as frequently encountered as mortars, they are not unique and therefore, do not satisfy Criterion C.

None of the bedrock milling stations within the Project appear to be eligible for listing on either the California or National Registers. Other investigators within a quarter-mile radius of the Project have found eight bedrock/boulder milling feature sites. These various researchers determined that only one of these sites satisfied any of the Criteria (D), as there was an associated lithic scatter and occupational debris (probable midden).

Although a discarded mano was discovered adjacent to the boulder at Site 2, no other cultural materials were recovered during extended Phase 1 or Phase 2 investigations, soil testing did not reveal any significant difference between samples to suggest possible middens, no surface lithic scatters were discovered anywhere within the Project, and it may be assumed that the investigation to date indicates no additional significant cultural resources are present. However, the possibility of subsurface cultural resources can not be eliminated.

None of the milling station boulders appear eligible for either the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historic Resources.

## **IMPACTS**

Although shovel test pits recovered only a subsurface discarded mano, and the excavation units at BRMS #2 did not reveal any subsurface cultural resources, the general area of

Secret Ravine is moderately high in sensitivity for the presence of subsurface prehistoric cultural resources.

During the second onsite meeting held March 2, 2016, all concerned parties (the UAIC, the project proponent, a City of Rocklin planner, the primary consultant, and project archaeologist) agreed upon treatment measures for the milling features. The UAIC and Project archaeologist agree that none of the boulders with milling features are eligible for either the National or State Registers (per 36 CFR 60.4 and CCR, Title 14, 15064[a]). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed which describes the agreed upon measures that have either been completed or are included in the recommended mitigations.

## **MOU Recommended Treatment Measures**

### **Boulder Milling Stations**

BRM-1: This boulder may have been moved to this location at some time during recent times to serve within a landscaped area with other boulders. The slick is poorly defined, and possibly represents minimal usage. The UAIC agrees that recordation is sufficient treatment for this feature.

BRM-2: The UAIC recommended that two or three excavation units (each 1 square-meter) be done adjacent to this feature. The rationale is that because a mano was discovered subsurface, additional prehistoric resources may be present. The Project archaeologist is in concurrence with this recommendation. Should additional prehistoric resources be discovered during the excavations, the feature and immediate area would be re-evaluated for significance. If no additional resources are discovered, or prove to not meet the Criteria for Listing, the UAIC agrees that this boulder may be moved to a location nearby within City of Rocklin-owned property.

On May 19 and 20, 2016, two one-meter square excavation units were done with UAIC tribal monitor Alan Wallace present, who assisted in the selection of the excavation areas. No cultural resources were discovered. Mr. Wallace was queried if an additional excavation unit was advised, and he did not request an additional unit.

BRM-3: The UAIC agrees that this boulder also may be moved to a City of Rocklin-owned nearby property.

## **Tribal Monitoring**

A tribal monitor from the UAIC will be made available onsite during three activities and one off-site activity. These are:

- During selection of the boulder re-location sites;
- During the two or three meter-square excavations adjacent to BRM-2 to a depth of 40 centimeters, or until bedrock is encountered;

- While the boulders are re-located, the UAIC tribal monitor will oversee and advise;
- During grading in the area with a potentially high sensitivity, this being around BMS-2. This area is 100-feet from the boulder in all directions, or to the Project boundary.

### **City of Rocklin**

The City of Rocklin agrees to allow the boulders be moved to City-owned property near the project. The City proposes to purchase a parcel roughly adjacent to the project and will notify the project proponent when this parcel is available, or if another parcel nearby will be used instead. The project proponent will not be required to fund City acquisition for this parcel.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

The boulders with milling features are not considered significant or eligible for either the California or National Register of Historic Places; however they should be handled with consideration of them as a cultural resource. With mitigation efforts, the potential impact to cultural resources may be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

### **Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: Worker Awareness for Cultural Resources**

During any excavation or other substantial subsurface disturbance activities, individuals conducting the work will be advised to watch for cultural resource materials. If workers observe any evidence of prehistoric cultural resources (freshwater shells, beads, bone tool remnants or an assortment of bones, soil changes including subsurface ash lens or soil darker in color than surrounding soil, lithic materials such as flakes, tools or grinding rocks, etc.), or historic cultural resources (adobe foundations or walls, structures and remains with square nails, refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often associated with wells or old privies), all work must immediately cease, and a qualified archaeologist must be consulted to assess the significance of the cultural materials.

### **Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: Tribal Monitors during Boulder Re-location**

The UAIC should participate in selecting a suitable place for boulder re-location. A tribal monitor from the UAIC must be present during any re-location activities for the milling feature boulders. Should subsurface cultural resources be encountered, all work must stop, and a qualified archaeologist be contacted who will then re-evaluate significance.

### **Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: Tribal Monitors during Ground Disturbance Near BRMS #2**

A tribal monitor from the UAIC must be present during ground disturbance within a 100-foot radius (or to the property line, whichever is less), to a depth of up to 3 feet. Should subsurface cultural resources be encountered, all work must stop, and a qualified archaeologist be contacted who will then re-evaluate significance.

### **Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: Procedures for Discovery of Human Remains**

If human remains are discovered, all work must immediately cease, and the local coroner must be contacted. Procedures for the discovery of human remains will be followed in accordance with provisions of the State Health and Safety Code, Sections 7052 and 7050.5 and the State Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9 to 5097.99. If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, the Coroner shall contact the NAHC and subsequent procedures shall be followed, according to State Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9 to 5097.99, regarding notification of the Native American Most Likely Descendant.

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## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

This version of the cultural resources report includes Appendices A and B, which contain confidential cultural resource location information; report distribution should be restricted to those with a need to know. Cultural resources are nonrenewable, and their scientific, cultural, and aesthetic value can be significantly impaired by disturbance. To prevent vandalism, artifact hunting, and other activities which can damage cultural resources, and to protect the landowner from trespass, the locations of cultural resources should be kept confidential. California Government Code 6254.1 exempts archaeological site information from the California Public Records Act.

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## **Appendix A: North Central Information Center Record Search Results**

