

Appendix C
Archaeological Literature Search



holman & ASSOCIATES

Archaeological Consultants

"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

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Michael Cady
UPC/Benchmark Communities
99 Almaden Blvd. Suite 400
San Jose, CA 95113

September 18, 2013

Dear Mr. Cady:

RE: CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY FOR THE NEW HOPE PROPERTY, APN 808-20-008, GILROY, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

At your request I have completed an archaeological literature review and field study of the above referenced project area located near Riverview Circle in Gilroy. No evidence of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological resources was discovered. This report contains a summary of information gained to date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project area consists of an acre parcel of vacant land located south of Uvas Creek on the edge of Riverview Circle in Gilroy. Located on the Chittenden U.S.G.S map, the borders of the property are the edge of Riverview Drive, riparian zone and housing on the east, additional housing and a school on the south, wooded hillside on the west and a wooded terrace bordering Uvas Creek on the north. At the time of my field inspection the property was uncultivated: a portion of the lowest terrace (northern) and the central open portion of the property had been disced for fire protection. The property is comprised of a north sloping hillside dropping from the south into a central gently incline which has been disced to a lower (northern) creek terrace. With the exception of the small area at the southern (upper) end of the property and the central and northern terraces, the property is ringed with stands of mature oak trees and coyote brush. The northwestern edge of the property also contains at least one additional specie of native tree.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Prior to the field inspection, this author conducted an archaeological literature review in person at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC file no. 13-0439) on September 16, 2013. There are no archaeological sites recorded inside the project area, but there are several recorded within a quarter mile of it: Scl-85 and 86 are recorded within 100 feet of the northeast corner in

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or near Thomas Road. Three additional prehistoric sites, Scl-243,244 and 639 are found on the edge of Santa Teresa Road in the vicinity of Babbs Canyon.

The property has been the subject of at least one formal archaeological survey, and was referenced in two additional reports covering a wider area. In 1977 Stephen Dietz of ACRS completed an archaeological study of the 550 acre Felice Ranch. A total of two isolated stone artifacts were discovered. In a follow-up letter dated 1980 Mr. Dietz made additional recommendations for mitigation of impacts to the two discovery areas, neither of which were located inside the New Hope property. In 1991 Caltrans completed a transportation study for the Route 152 corridor, with no reference to archaeological resources inside the New Hope property.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD INSPECTION

A visual inspection of the project area was conducted by this author on September 17, 2013 by walking 20 foot transects over the disced areas of the property and by inspecting portions of the soils found under the mature oak trees which border the property on three sides. Soils throughout the project area consist of a light brown to grey clay containing abundant amounts of angular cracked rock and lesser amounts of water worn small cobbles, primarily of basalt.

As stated above the property slopes towards the creek beginning at its southern edge adjacent to an elementary school. The wide central terrace was disced at the time of the survey; this area is bordered by trees which give way to a lower terrace (partially disced) which forms the upper edge of the creek riparian zone; the creek itself is located approximately 30 feet below (to the north) of this in a deeply cut drainage.

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, no evidence of historic and/or prehistoric resources was discovered inside the project area. There is no evidence of historic land alteration of the open areas, other than the recent discing and the ad hoc development of pedestrian paths which access the southern ridge line and continue down slope to the creek's edge.

It is the opinion of this author that future development of the parcel will have no effect on historic and/or prehistoric archaeological deposits. This report does not recommend mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing and does not recommend archaeological monitoring of construction related earthmoving. Construction crews should be alerted that there is a possibility that buried prehistoric deposits could exist on the northern edge of the parcel, the nearest point to the creek itself. Should any of the materials described below be discovered, it is recommended that work be halted within 50 feet of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist has been

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retained to inspect the discovery. If it is determined that materials discovered are potentially eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), a plan for the evaluation and mitigation of impacts to the resources should be submitted to the City of Gilroy Planning Department before any additional earthmoving can be resumed inside the zone of archaeological sensitivity established by the project archaeologist.

Archaeological site indicators include but are not limited to the following: darker than surrounding soils of a friable nature, concentrations of stone, bone, fresh water shellfish and artifacts of these materials, evidence of fires (ash, charcoal, fire affected rock and earth) and burials, either human or animal.

Evaluation normally takes the form of limited hand excavation to retrieve materials and information which demonstrate CRHR eligibility. When demonstrated, mitigation can take the form of archaeological monitoring inside the zone of archaeological sensitivity, coupled with limited data retrieval through hand excavation to recover materials and information for a final report of findings.

Sincerely,



Miley Paul Holman
Holman & Associates

REFERENCES

- Dietz, Stephen
1977 Letter report regarding a cultural resources study of the 550 acre Felice Ranch property, Gilroy. On file, NWIC S-4274
- 1980 Additional recommendations for mitigation of the AMD EIR project (Felice Ranch), Gilroy. On file, NWIC S-8686
- Terhorst, Brian
1991 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE SURVEY REPORT For the Proposed Route 152 Corridor Relocation within the City Limits of Gilroy, Santa Clara County and Unincorporated Rural Areas of San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. On file, NWIC s-16192

**NEW HOPE PROPERTY
GILROY, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

CHITTENDEN U.S.G.S. MAP

