

Appendix D:
Cultural Resources Supporting Information

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Chico CA Walmart Expansion

Cultural Resources Assessment

Chico, Butte County, California

Section 31 , T. 22N, R. 2E MDM
Chico, Calif. 7.5' USGS Quadrangle
Approximately 27 Acres

Prepared By

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Management Summary

The proposed 27-acre Walmart expansion is located on the west side of Forest Avenue between Wittmeir Drive and Baney Lane in the south portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California. The existing Walmart store was previously approved and opened for business in 1994. The expansion will extend onto vacant land immediately south of the present Walmart store. The project will require a tentative parcel map and other agency approvals.

Database and records searches were negative. A search of the University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology's database did not identify any unique geological or unique paleontological finds in the project vicinity. Staff at the Northeast Center, California Historical Resources Information System searched the information center's records and found no previously recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources in a one-half mile radius around the project site. A sacred lands file search by the Native American Heritage Commission failed to identify any Native American cultural resources in the immediate project vicinity. Contacts with Native Americans listed by the commission also failed to identify any tribal cultural resources or traditional cultural properties in the project vicinity. Creeks that would otherwise be attractive for prehistoric or historic settlement lie at least one-half mile distant from the proposed project.

Field inspection by an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric and historical was also negative-no archaeological resources were identified within the project area.

It is the opinion of the sub-consultant (Ric Windmiller, Consulting Archaeologist) that the proposed Walmart expansion project will have no effect on unique geological or paleontological resources, historical resources, unique archaeological resources, or tribal cultural resources.

Introduction

The proposed 27-acre Walmart expansion is located on the west side of Forest Avenue between Wittmeier Drive and Baney Lane in the south portion of the City of Chico, Butte County, California (see Figure 1, below). The existing Walmart store was previously approved and opened for business in 1994. The expansion will extend onto vacant land immediately south of the present Walmart store. The project will require a tentative parcel map and other agency approvals.

The purpose of the present study is to identify any cultural resources listed on or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources and archaeological resources that potentially meet criteria as “unique archaeological resources” under CEQA statutes and guidelines. Appendix G of CEQA’s guidelines also includes unique paleontological resources as “cultural resources.”

Project Description

The existing Walmart store was previously approved and opened for business in 1994. The parking lot is located in front of the existing store and contains 630 parking spaces. Landscaping has been installed in planter areas along the site perimeter on the western property line behind the store, along the frontages of Business Lane, Baney Lane and Forest Avenue, and throughout the parking lot in parking lot island and peninsula planters. A Class I bicycle path is located on the western and southern boundaries of the Walmart store and parking lot. The store is accessed from Baney Lane via three driveways, from Forest Avenue via one driveway, and from Business Lane via one driveway.

The expansion will add an additional 64,386 square feet to the existing Walmart store, most of which will be added on the south side of the store with some new construction also on the west and east elevations (see Figure 2). The proposed addition will be similar in design and massing to the existing building. The expansion will extend onto vacant land immediately south of the present Walmart store. The project will require a reconfiguration of the lot lines of the existing parcels and two smaller parcels. The existing Walmart and the planned expansion will be located entirely on Parcel 1, along with the fueling station. Parcels 2 and 3 may be developed with other uses in the future. Two additional driveways on Wittmeier Drive would be constructed for the expansion. Access will be along existing streets.

However, customers exiting the site via Baney Lane would be restricted to right turn movements only and would proceed to Forest Avenue. Primary access to Walmart would continue to be the two main driveways on Baney Lane, which would provide the majority of traffic circulation. Concrete traffic islands are proposed to preclude left turns from Walmart for the purpose of minimizing the amount of traffic proceeding northbound on Business Lane. The existing traffic signal located at the intersection of Forest Avenue and Baney Lane would be modified and a new traffic signal is proposed at the intersection of Wittmeier Drive and Forest Avenue. One secondary access to Walmart exists along the central portion of the project site and receives right-in/right-out traffic from Forest Avenue.

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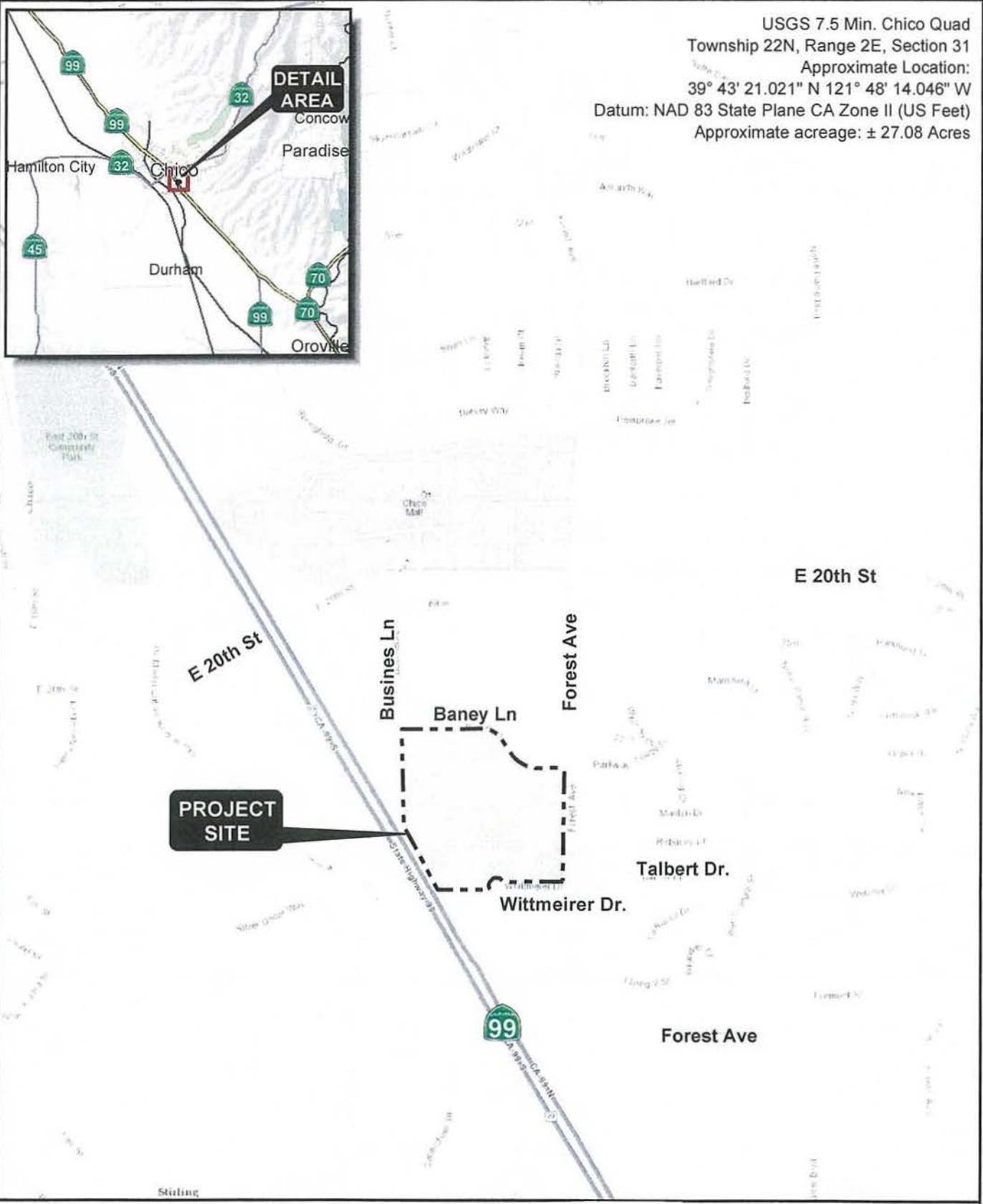


Figure 1. Project vicinity /location map.

 <p>FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE © 2015</p>		<p>0 0.095 0.19 Miles 1 in = 0.2 miles</p>	<p>Drawn By: MUB Date: 08/28/2015</p>	<p>FIGURE 1</p>
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Two new secondary access driveways would be constructed at Wittmeier Drive to provide ingress/egress for the expanded Walmart store and for future development of Parcels 2 and 3.

The existing Class I bicycle path and easement would be moved farther south along the west boundary of the newly created Parcel 1 and along the south boundary of Parcels 2 and 3 and along the south and east boundaries of the fuel station. The existing Class II bicycle path east of the existing store, fronting Forest Avenue, would remain.

The existing parking lot would be expanded to the south of Parcel 1 with an addition of 134 parking spaces. The parking and service areas would be developed with paving and striping, landscaping, lighting and signage.

The existing sanitary sewer located south of the existing store would be abandoned and a new 20 foot sewer easement would traverse the south-central portion of Parcel 1. The existing storm drain would be abandoned and a new drain installed farther south around the expanded area of the store, then proceed east to Forest Avenue. The PG&E easement would be relocated to the south boundary of Parcel 1, then continue along the west and north boundaries of Parcel 2.

Setting

The visual setting is largely commercial in character. The adjacent buildings appear to be less than 50 years old; the 1975 USGS Chico Quadrangle digital version shows no buildings or structures in the project vicinity. State Route 99 lies adjacent to the west side of the proposed expansion project. Modern development such as the Chico Crossroads Center and Costco are on the west side of the freeway. Office buildings, behind which is a residential area, lie east of Forest Avenue. Immediately north of the Direct APE is a Shell service station, vacant commercial land and the Oxford Suites motel. Restaurants occupy the end of Business Lane along the west boundary of the Direct APE. Chico Mall, The Village Center and other commercial enterprises are located along East 20th Street. The Wittmeier Auto Center, recently completed Butte Community College extension and Lowe's are situated on Forest Avenue, south of the Direct APE (for photographs of the vicinity, see Attachment A).

Literature Review

The literature review included a historic context statement and records search results from the Northeast Center, California Historical Resources Information System. Background material is based in part on previous studies found in the gray literature housed by the information center, as well as published secondary sources, land acquisition records housed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and historic maps.

Historic Context

Identification, evaluation and treatment of historical resources are most reliable when there is an understanding of the relationship between those resources and other similar cultural

resources. Standard I of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines defines the concept of "historic context" as information on aspects of history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture that are collected and organized to define those relationships (National Park Service 1983:44717).

Historic contexts are based on cultural themes, their geographic extent and time period. Any particular historic context describes the "significant broad patterns of development in an area that may be represented by historic properties." Prehistory, Maidu ethnohistory, historic transportation and agriculture are the dominant themes for the locality.

Geology/Paleontology

Most, if not all of the Walmart project site is surfaced with Holocene basin deposits illustrated as "Qb" on the geologic map compiled by Saucedo and Wagner (1992). The northwest corner of the Direct APE may extend slightly into the late Pleistocene Modesto Formation (Qm). Both Modesto Formation and the late Pleistocene Riverbank Formation (Qrb) units lie beneath the Holocene deposits that likely thicken southward within the Direct APE.

Holocene basin deposits are too young to be considered potentially fossiliferous. Both Modesto and Riverbank formations consist of potentially fossiliferous alluvium and correlate with the Rancholabrean Land Mammal Stage.

Prehistory

While the earliest human occupation of Central California is still debated, it can be argued that the close of prehistory coincided with the first evidence of European trade goods appearing in coastal Marin shell middens *circa* 1595 or earlier. However, it was not until two centuries later that Native Americans at the eastern edge of the Sacramento Valley experienced their first direct contact with Europeans, which signaled the end of isolation for these interior non-literate societies.

Prior to the 1950s, the Sacramento Valley north of the Delta was the object of only a few scientific excavations. University of California, Berkeley sponsored a few reconnaissance level surveys including that of Nels Nelson (Nelson 1907 quoted in Moratto 1984). During the 1930s, archaeologists conducted excavations at prehistoric sites to test the geographic extent and variability of the archaeological "horizons" formulated for the Delta region by Lillard and others (Lillard *et al.* 1939).

Despite this early work, the prehistory of the northern Sacramento Valley remained largely unknown until the major water projects of the 1950s and 1960s. In the early 1950s, Adan Treganza from San Francisco State College directed surveys at Oroville and other proposed reservoirs (Treganza 1953). Based on these and other research, Clement Meighan proposed the "Shasta Complex," which seemed to characterize the northern Sacramento Valley and uplands after A.D. 1600 (Meighan 1955:32-33).

Excavations at Oroville sites during the 1960s helped to shape understanding of the regional culture sequence. Excavations at CA-BUT-84, -98 and -157 helped to define the

Mesilla Complex, which seemed to reflect a sporadic or seasonal occupation of the foothills between 1000 B.C and A.D. 1 by a people who used the *atlatl* and dart, as opposed to the bow and arrow. Other components of Mesilla were bowl mortars, millingstones, *Haliotis* and *Olivella* shell beads, charmstones, bone pins and spatulae—all of which show some relationship with Sacramento Valley peoples of the time, while projectile points of basalt, slate and chert suggest influences if not a “genetic” relationship with the trans-Sierra Martis Complex (Olsen and Riddell 1963; Ritter 1970).

Permanent villages characterized the Bidwell Complex (A.D. 1 to A.D. 800). Still later in time, the Sweetwater Complex, A.D. 800-1500, characterized by an industry in making cups, platters and bowls from steatite, and small projectile points of Gunther Barbed, Eastgate and Rose Spring styles indicated introduction of the bow and arrow (Olsen and Riddell 1963).

The following Oroville Complex appeared to reflect the proto-historic Maidu from A.D. 1500 to the epidemic of 1833. The Oroville culture sequence ended with the historic period and abandonment of traditional Maidu settlements. In the region from Auburn to Oroville, the results of archaeological research reflected influences from the Sierra, Great Basin and across the Sacramento Valley.

A recent updated synthesis notes little new information in the region due to few new excavations and the inadequacy of older collections in meeting the needs of current research objectives. However, researchers have taken the generally recognized cultural periods and updated the time span of each period based on new radiocarbon determinations adjusted with modern calibration curves (Rosenthal *et al.* 2007:147):

Paleo-Indian (11,550-8550 cal B.C.)
 Lower Archaic (8550-5550 cal B.C.)
 Middle Archaic (5550-550 cal B.C.)
 Upper Archaic (550 cal B.C.-cal A.D. 1100)
 Emergent (cal A.D. 1100-Historic)

Ethnography/Ethnohistory

The Konkow (Northwestern Maidu) lived in villages along the Feather River, and along the Sacramento River north of and including some land occupied by the Patwin after A.D. 1700, according to Francis Riddell. The southernmost Konkow villages on the Sacramento were *Kobatasdayim* (*Kotasi?*) and *Kowkowki yakim*. Konkow territory could be described as a large inverted “V” shape north of the Marysville Buttes, with the interior of the “V” remaining vacant land that may have been used for hunting and gathering. Chico lies near the top of the inverted “V.” The Walmart project site lies about seven miles east of the Sacramento River in the general vicinity of west-flowing creeks including Comanche Creek, one-half mile south of the Walmart project site and Little Chico Creek, one mile north of the Walmart project site. The nearest village with a roundhouse (dance house) was *micupda* south of Chico. At least five other village sites are noted by Riddell in the general area of Chico (Riddell 1978:370).

Anthropologist Alfred Kroeber indicated the likelihood that a Maidu individual probably had only the vaguest recognition of any Pomo-speaking people farther to the west, and even

of the intervening Wintuan-speakers (River Patwin) who occupied, in his words, “a comparatively narrow and open strip of land” along the Sacramento River. In Kroeber’s experience and in the experience of Kroeber’s students interviewing native people, no northern Californian would go far from his home. This situation changed, of course, after European contact when native militarism was on the rise (Kroeber 1925:395).

In the Sacramento Valley, Maidu-speaking people used the same term, *K’umi*, to describe their semi-subterranean, earth-covered dance house, their small sweat house and their individual dwellings. These three types of structures differed mainly in relative size. Villages of importance had a dance house. Small villages did not have a dance house, although ceremonials may have been conducted there nonetheless. Dwellings ranged in size and so any one village may have had both large and small houses (Kroeber 1925:407).

Among the stone tools used by Maidu-speaking people, Kroeber notes that in the California coast region, metates were not known from San Francisco Bay, north. At the same latitude in the interior of California, Maidu people used the metate, which was nothing more than a slab tilted at a slight angle. The metate was used to grind dry seeds, such as grass, sage and *Compositae*, as opposed to the mortar, which was used to pulverize acorns and for other purposes. Other stone artifacts included grooved pieces of sandstone used to smooth arrow shafts, chipped stone skin dressing tools, chipped stone and ground stone axes, chipped stone knives and arrowheads of traded obsidian and local flint-like and basalt-like rocks. A sacred flint mine was located at Table Mountain near Oroville (Kroeber 1925:411-419).

Maidu-speaking people were hunters-fishers-gatherers. Salmon and eels were taken seasonally. Elk and deer were hunted by individual hunters. Kroeber reported that deer were also taken by companies of men in communal drives, although this custom appears to have applied mainly to the mountain Maidu. Rabbits and some birds were taken by nets. Salmon were harpooned or taken with nets. Hooks were also used to catch fish. Deer and salmon vertebrae were crushed by the natives in mortars and served as a delicacy. Acorns were a staple. In addition to the dwelling, sweat house and dance house structures, acorn granaries were a common sight in villages (Kroeber 1925:409-411).

History

Spain’s concern for Alta California was pressed by rumors of Russian interests in hunting for furs in the Aleutians and Alaska and British interest in the North Pacific. These rumors prompted the Spanish Court to order the Viceroy of New Spain to investigate the Russian danger. The Viceroy then ordered an investigator with the power to observe, investigate and act. The man was Jose de Galvez, Visitador (Caughey 1953:100).

The ensuing expeditions to occupy Alta California culminated in the discovery of San Francisco Bay by Portola’s hunters who had climbed the hills to the east of Half Moon Bay (Caughey 1953:109).

From these incursions in the 1700s, California became a “buffer colony” protecting New Spain’s other colonies from Russian and British incursions. Juan Bautista Anza selected Fort Point for the presidio and Arroyo de los Dolores for the mission at San Francisco. Moraga, Palou and Cambon led settlers to the sites thus founding the presidio in September

and the mission in October, 1776 (Caughey 1953:131-132).

Over the next several decades, the Spanish collected natives for labor at the missions and distributed land to settlers to diminish expenses to the royal treasury. Felipe de Neve took direct charge of Alta California in 1777. Neve's accomplishment was to revise the basic laws of the colony; his revisions stood as law until the end of the Spanish period in California. Neve's emphasis on secular authority included the founding of pueblos, which was a step away from the mission system of control over the growing local population.

In the War of Independence from Spain, California was largely neutral. American, British and Russian ships provided some relief from the severed lines of commerce from Spain and mainland Mexico. In early 1822, Californians were told of the victory of the Mexican revolutionaries. Secularization of the missions was approved by the Mexican administration, which was in keeping with the new Mexican republicanism of divesting missions of their large tracts of land and enslavement of the native people (Caughey 1953:162).

With the fall of the mission system came the rise of the *ranchos*. In 1844, Governor Manuel Micheltorena granted 22,194 acres to Edward A. Farwell. The grant, *Rancho de Farwell*, encompassed part of present-day Chico. During the relatively brief period of ranchos, livestock roamed the hills. Hides and tallow were shipped out of California in large scale. California attracted English and American traders, Russian fur hunters and American settlers, all of whom presaged the end of Mexican control.

In 1845, Farwell sold the north half of his grant to James and John S. Williams. In that same year, Farwell died. However, it was not until 1863 that the United States Land Commission and the District Court confirmed the grant to Williams and Edward Farwell's heirs.

Like many counties in the Central Valley in the late 1850s through the 1870s, Butte County was a center of wheat production. In the 1860s the county became one of the largest grain growing regions in the state with approximately 240,000 acres under cultivation. By 1877 it had become the largest wheat producer in California (Mansfield 1918:239, 295).

This growth was substantially aided by the development of railroads. The California Northern Railroad linking Sacramento and Marysville was the first railroad in the county. In 1870, a Central Pacific Railroad line to Chico was completed. The development of the railroads in turn promoted town building to provide terminals for wheat shipping (Mansfield 1918:245).

Wheat cultivation was a dry-farming activity dependent on rainfall and large land holdings. A severe winter in 1889-1890 followed by two subsequent years of bad weather took an economic toll on the county's wheat farmers, driving some out of business. At the same time two decades of wheat growing had depleted the soil with the consequence that yields successively declined (McGie 1986:133).

While these conditions were important in the decline of grain production in the county, the introduction of orchard crops, such as oranges, olives, peaches, figs and grapes, played a crucial role in shifting the county's agricultural economy toward orchard and vineyard cultivation dependent on irrigation. In 1887 the first olive groves were planted and by 1889

the first olive pickling factory was established in Oroville, followed in the 1890s by the opening of several olive oil production facilities (Mansfield 1918:323).

In 1900, the entire section (Section 31) in which the Walmart expansion project is located was granted to the Central Pacific Railroad (81 CACAAA 000073, dated 9-25-1900).

UCMP Database Search Results

On October 25, 2015, Kenneth L. Finger, Ph.D. conducted a search of the University of California, Berkeley's Museum of Paleontology database. The search identified six vertebrate localities in Butte County. However, only one of the localities reflected Quaternary paleontological resources, and that locality is represented by bird eggshell collected from an unidentified late Pleistocene unit not in the vicinity of the Walmart project site (see Attachment B: UCMP Database Search Results).

NEIC Records Search Results

On October 19, 2015, the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System completed a cultural resources records search for the CA-Chico Walmart Expansion project. Information center staff reviewed records and maps and found no previously recorded prehistoric resources located within the project area or with a one-half mile radius of the proposed project. Also, according to information center, no records were found of historic resources located within the project area or within a one-half mile radius.

Information center staff noted that the USGS Chico 7.5' and Chico (1949) 15' quadrangles show that the project site is located within the City of Chico. The maps also illustrate roads fairgrounds, Stirling Junction, Fair Street, Morrow Lane, Comanche Creek, Highway 99, Chapmantown, Chapman School, Bruce Road, Little Chico Creek and other landmarks.

Staff also noted that the *Arroyo Chico* land to the northwest was granted to William Dickey in 1844, the same year in which Edward Farwell was granted *Rancho de Farwell*. The Town of Chico was founded in 1860 on *Rancho Arroyo*.

Information center staff reviewed the official records and maps for archaeological sites and surveys in Butte County. Staff also reviewed the National Register of Historic Places-Listed Properties and Determined Eligible Properties (2012); California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976); Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Butte County (2012); Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California (1978).

One previous archaeological survey is located partly on the south portion of the Walmart project site: the 1978 Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Pierce Property, Butte County, California by James P. Manning. The letter report indicated that the survey covered approximately 100 acres of land characterized as a relatively flat, open field. The archaeologist traversed the field in 30 meter transects (Manning 1978) (for the records search report, see Attachment C: Confidential NEIC Records Search Results).

Native American Coordination

On October 22, 2015, the Native American Heritage Commission completed a search of its sacred lands file for the Chico CA Walmart Expansion project. In the commission's letter report, staff indicated that the file search failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project vicinity. Staff enclosed a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the area.

- Mr. Wallace Clark-Wiulson, Chairperson, KonKow Valley Band of Maidu;
- Mr. Gary Archuleta, Chairperson, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians;
- Mr. Bill Cornelius, Tribal Administrator, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians.

The above individuals were contacted by US mail in a letter dated October 28, 2015, or by email with the attached letter. The letter indicated that the Native American Heritage Commission recommended contacting each individual for information he or she may have regarding specific knowledge of cultural resources. The letter included a brief description of the proposed project and included a location map. No response was received as a result of the letters.

On November 5, 2015, we attempted to contact each by telephone. No responses have been received at the time of this writing (Attachment D: Native American Coordination).

Field Methods

On September 17, 2015, the Direct APE was inspected by Ric Windmiller, M.A., Registered Professional Archaeologist. Windmiller has more than 38 years experience directing archaeological surveys and excavations. He meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric and historical archaeology.

The archaeologist conducted a pedestrian survey of the south portion of the project area along transects approximately 15 meters apart. This is the vacant land onto which Walmart plans to expand. The land appeared ridged by heavy equipment around its perimeter at some time in the past. Grasses and annuals were dense across the vacant land. The archaeologist examined the backdirt of burrowing animals, as well as digging surface scrapes to expose the ground. On the built portion of the project area, the archaeologist examined exposed soil and sediments in planted islands and peninsulas along transects varying between two and five meters apart. In this manner, exposed soils and sediments across the entire project area were examined for changes in color, texture, presence of historic and prehistoric artifacts and features, among other indicators of past use or occupation.

Findings

As a result of the above efforts, no unique geological, paleontological, historic or prehistoric archaeological resources, or tribal cultural resources were identified within the project area. Though possible, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources would be uncovered during any grading or excavation. The land immediately surrounding the project area is a largely modern, built environment. Information center staff did not convey

any knowledge of finds within a one-half mile radius of the proposed expansion project. The Native American Heritage Commission did not identify any Native American cultural resources in the immediate project vicinity, nor did the Native American contacts listed by the commission identify any Native American cultural resources that may be impacted by the project.

The northwest corner of the project area may extend onto the Modesto Formation, which is a potentially fossiliferous unit that may be impacted by project-related excavations. However, this portion of the project area is built with the existing Walmart store and infrastructure. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that any significant paleontological resources would be encountered.

Assessment of Effect

Under CEQA regulations, “A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment [Public Resources Code §15064.5(b)]. The significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a resource that convey its historical significance, unless the evidence demonstrates that the resource is not historically or culturally significant [Public Resources Code §15064.5(b)(2)(A-C)].

It is the sub-consultant's opinion that the proposed Walmart expansion project will have no effect on unique geological or paleontological resources, historical resources, unique archaeological resources, or tribal cultural resources.

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Attachment A: Photographs

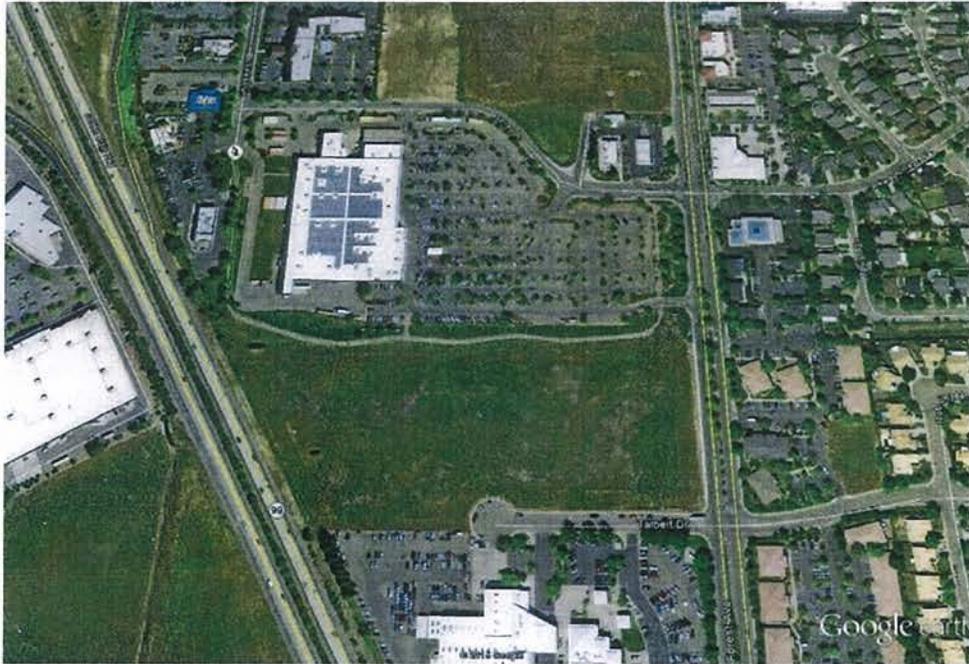


Figure 3. Satellite view of the project area looking north.



Figure 4. Looking northeast across vacant south portion of the project area towards Forest Avenue.



Figure 5. Looking northwest across vacant south portion of the project area towards the existing Walmart store (Highway 99 on left).



Figure 6. Looking southwest across vacant south portion of the project area from existing bicycle trail towards the auto dealership and Highway 99.

Attachment B: UCMP Database Search Results

Paleontological Records Search for Chico Walmart Project, Butte County

Kenneth L. Finger, PhD, Consulting Paleontologist
October 25, 2015

Geologic Units

The project site is in an area represented by the geological map compiled by Saucedo and Wagner (1992). The part of the map shown encompasses the site and includes the latest Pleistocene Modesto Formation (Qm), the late Pleistocene Riverbank Formation (Qrb), and Holocene basin deposits (Qb). Most, if not all, of the project site is surfaced with Holocene basin deposits; the site's NW corner may extend just slightly into the Modesto Formation. Both Pleistocene units lie beneath the Holocene deposits that likely thicken southward within the project site. From Google Earth imagery, it appears that the south-adjacent expansion area is sparsely vegetated and has had little disturbance.



Holocene basin deposits are too young to be considered potentially fossiliferous. Both the Modesto Formation and Riverbank formations consist of potentially fossiliferous alluvium and correlate with the Rancholabrean Land Mammal Stage.

UCMP Database Records Search

The UCMP database lists six vertebrate localities in Butte County, but only one of them is in the Quaternary. That locality, which is not in the vicinity of the project site, is represented by bird eggshell collected from an unidentified late Pleistocene unit.

Summary and Recommendations

In conclusion, the northwest corner of the project site may extend just onto the Modesto Formation, which is a potentially fossiliferous unit that may be impacted by project-related excavations of previously undisturbed sediments. Regardless, Google Earth imagery shows that part of the site as part of the existing commercial development. That imagery also reveals that the expansion area to the south may be relatively undisturbed, but it is surfaced by Holocene basin deposits, which are too young to yield fossils. Thus, a preconstruction paleontological walkover of the area would not be justified. In addition, paleontological monitoring of earth-disturbing construction activities is not recommended because it appears highly unlikely that any significant paleontological resources will be encountered, as any excavating of previously undisturbed deposits will probably not be deep enough to reach the Pleistocene horizon. However, in the unlikely event that the excavations impact either Pleistocene unit subsurface and uncover vertebrate remains (e.g., bones, teeth) all work in the immediate vicinity of the find is to cease or be diverted until

a paleontologist evaluates the find and, if it is deemed significant, completes its salvage. Any fossils collected from the project site should then be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution (e.g., UCMP) where they will be properly curated and preserved for the benefit of current and future generations.

Reference cited

Saucedo, G.J., and Wagner, 1992, Geologic map of the Chico quadrangle, California, 1:250,000: California Division of Mines and Geology, Regional Geologic Map 7A.

Attachment C: Confidential NEIC Records Search Results

This attachment contains information on the specific locations of archaeological resources. This information is not for publication or release to the general public. It is for planning, management and research purposes only. Information on the locations of prehistoric and historic sites are exempted from the California Freedom of Information Act, as specified in Government Code §6254.10.

Northeast Center of the
California Historical Resources
Information System

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TEHAMA
TRINITY

123 West 6th Street, Suite 100
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 898-6256
neinfocntr@csuchico.edu

October 19, 2015

Ric Windmiller
2280 Grass Valley Hwy., #205
Auburn, CA 95603

I.C. File # D15-145
Priority Records
Search

RE: Chico CA Walmart Expansion
T22N, R2E, Section 31
USGS Chico 7.5' and Chico (1949) 15' quads
Approximately 27 acres, determined from project map (Butte County)

Dear Mr. Windmiller,

In response to your request, a priority records search for the project cited above was conducted by examining the official maps and records for archaeological sites and surveys in Butte County.

RESULTS:

Prehistoric Resources: According to our records, no sites of this type have been recorded in the project area or within ½-mile of the proposed project. The project is located in a region utilized by the *Mechoopda* subgroup of the Konkow Maidu populations. Unrecorded prehistoric cultural resources may be located within the project area.

Historic Resources: According to our records, no sites of this type have been recorded in the project area or within ½-mile of the project area. Unrecorded historic cultural resources may be located in the project area.

The USGS Chico 7.5' and Chico (1949) 15' quad maps indicate that the project area is located within the City of Chico; roads are located in the project area; Fairgrounds, Stirling Junction, Fair Street, Morrow Lane, Comanche Creek, Highway 99, Chapmantown, Chapman School, Bruce Road, Little Chico Creek, Highway 32, Park Avenue, a Drive-In Theater, an Old Railroad Grade, the Skyway, Butte Creek, roads, and structures are located in the project vicinity. A copy of the November 1893 edition of the Chico Sheet quadrangle map is enclosed.

The Arroyo Chico land grant was first given to William Dickey in 1844, the same year that Edward A. Farwell obtained Rancho Farwell. By the late 1840s, General John Bidwell had purchased both of these grants from the original grantees, forming Rancho Chico, a major land holding in the area. The town of Chico was founded in the year 1860 on the Rancho Arroyo land grant. Bidwell later donated land for public schools, setting aside a plot of ground for each church organization, and designating a large section for the Northern Branch State Normal School, started in 1887. The Normal School would later become California State University at Chico.

Previous Archaeological Investigations: According to our records, a portion of the project area has been previously surveyed by a professional archaeologist. The study location is plotted on the enclosed NEIC-generated map. The reports within 1/2-mile of the project area are listed below and report detail records are enclosed.

Bass, Henry O. (Anthropology Department, CSU Chico)

1974 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of Selected Land Parcels South of Humboldt Road, Chico, California.*

NEIC Report 000152

Resources:

P-04-000446 (CA-BUT-000446)

P-04-000562 (CA-BUT-000562)

P-04-000563 (CA-BUT-000563)

P-04-000564 (CA-BUT-000564)

P-04-000565 (CA-BUT-000565)

Billat, Lorna (EarthTouch, Inc.)

2005 *Historic Consultation for Metro PCS Personal Communication Project Little Chico Creek/ SAC-226B, in Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 007940

Dalu, Chris (ENPLAN)

2004 *Cultural Resources Inventory Survey for a Proposed Commercial Retail Development, City of Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 006178

Fernandez, Trish

2007 *Historic Property Survey Report for the State Route 99/ Skyway Interchange Project, City of Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 007938

Harrington, Lori (Cultural Research Associates)

2006 *An Archaeological Evaluation of the Meriam Park Project, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 006887

Resources:

P-04-000829 (CA-BUT-000829)

P-04-001071 (CA-BUT-001071H)

P-04-001072 (CA-BUT-001072H)

Harrington, Lori (Cultural Research Associates)

2007 *An Unexpected Discovery Evaluation of the Meriam Park Project Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 006887

Resources:

P-04-000829 (CA-BUT-000829)

P-04-001071 (CA-BUT-001071H)

P-04-001072 (CA-BUT-001072H)

Henton, Gregory (Society for California Archaeology, District 2 Clearinghouse)

1977 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Skyway Improvement Project.*

NEIC Report 000167

Resources:

P-04-000583 (CA-BUT-000583H)

Jensen, Peter M. (Jensen and Associates)

1997 *Archaeological Inventory Survey, c. 17-Acre McAmis Development Project, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 001545

Jensen, Peter M. (Jensen & Associates)

1997 *Archaeological Inventory Survey, 40-Acre Ashby Park Subdivision Project, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 001546

Jensen, Peter M. (Jensen & Associates)

1997 *Archaeological Inventory Survey: Heather Glen Subdivision and Development Project Area, c. 40 acres adjacent to Little Chico Creek near the Chico Mall, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 001547

Resources:

P-04-000446 (CA-BUT-000446)

Jensen, Peter M. (Jensen and Associates)

2005 *Archaeological Inventory Survey, Costco Expansion Project, c. 6 Acres Adjacent to Whitman Avenue, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 006790

Jensen, Peter M. (Jensen and Associates)

1994 *Historic Property Survey Report for the Proposed Skyway Interchange Project, the Skyway at Route 99, Caltrans District 3, Chico, Butte County, California, 03-BUT-99, R30.4-30.9.*

NEIC Report 007240

Johnson, Keith L. (Society for California Archaeology, District 2 Clearinghouse)

1976 *The Archaeological Significance of Two Sites near Little Chico Creek, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 000152

Resources:

P-04-000446 (CA-BUT-000446)

P-04-000562 (CA-BUT-000562)

P-04-000563 (CA-BUT-000563)

P-04-000564 (CA-BUT-000564)

P-04-000565 (CA-BUT-000565)

Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. (Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.)

1996 *Cultural Resource Inventory Report State Highway 99 and Skyway Interchange, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 007241

Kowta, Makoto (CSU Chico)

1988 *The Archaeology and Prehistory of Plumas and Butte Counties, California: In Introduction and Interpretive Model.*

NEIC Report 000839

Manning, James P.

1978 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Pearce Property, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 007233

Markley, Richard E. (Archaeological Research Program, CSU Chico)

1977 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of 80 Acres of Land within the City of Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 008111

Swillinger, Lisa and Frank Bayham (Archaeological Research Program, CSU, Chico)

1988 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Enloe Hospital 20th Street Property, Chico, Butte County, California.*

NEIC Report 007236

Resources:

P-04-001071 (CA-BUT-001071H)

P-04-001072 (CA-BUT-001072H)

Westwood, Lisa and Russell Bevill (URS Corporation)

2000 *Archaeological Survey Report for the Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Plan Environmental Impact Report Project, Chico, California.*

NEIC Report 007491

Literature Search: The official records and maps for archaeological sites and surveys in Butte County were reviewed. Also reviewed: **National Register of Historic Places - Listed properties and Determined Eligible Properties** (2012); **California Inventory of Historic Resources** (1976); **Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Butte County** (2012); **Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California** (1978).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

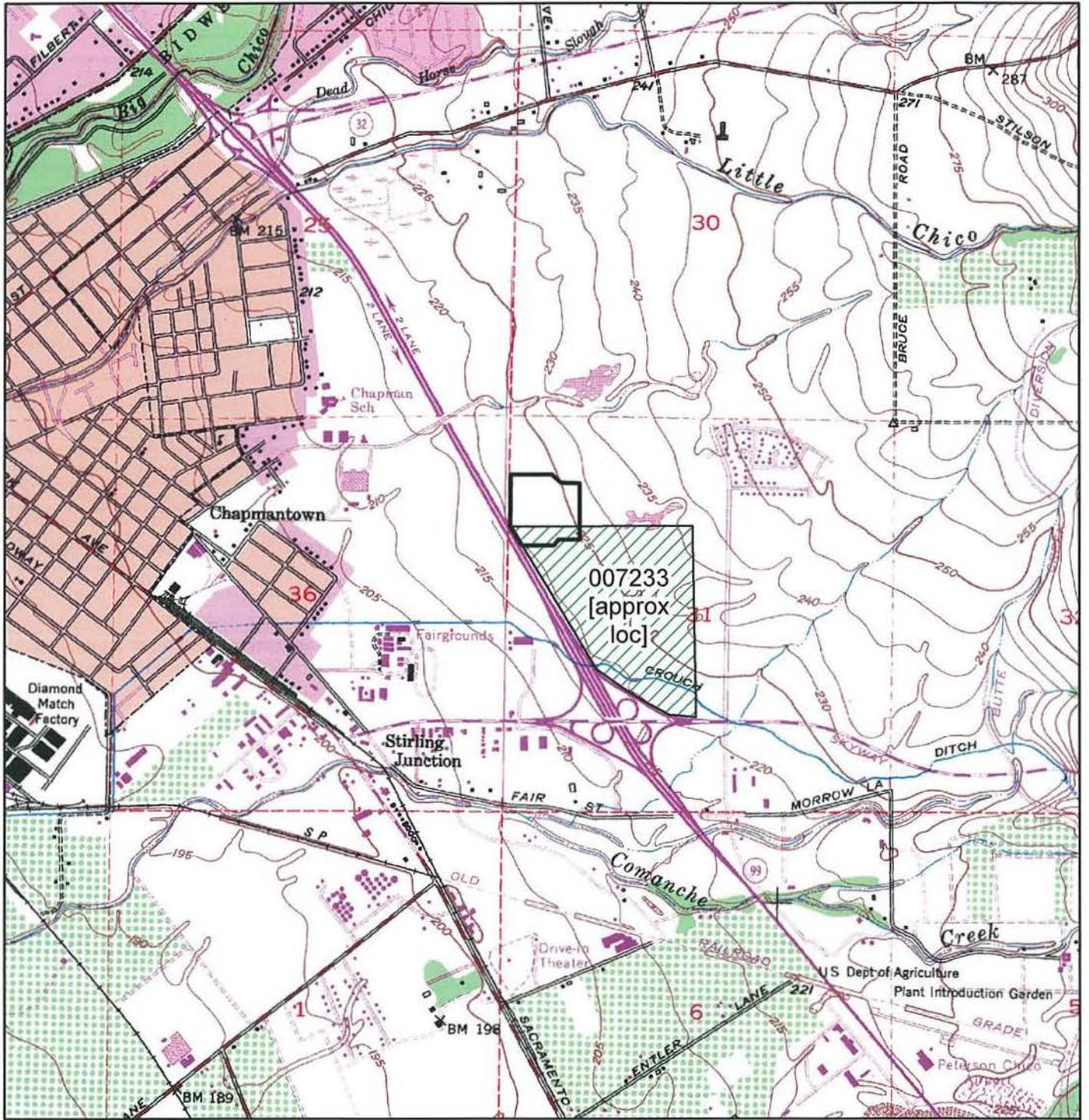
We recommend that you contact the appropriate local Native American representatives for information regarding traditional cultural properties that may be located within project boundaries for which we have no records.

The fee for this records search is \$380.18 (please refer to the following page for more information). An invoice will follow from CSU, Chico Research Foundation for billing purposes. Thank you for your dedication to preserving Butte County's and California's irreplaceable cultural heritages, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need further information or assistance.

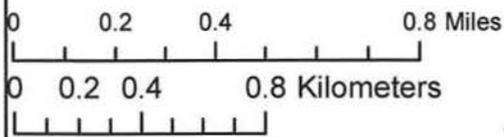
Sincerely,



Adrienne Springsteen, B.A.
Research Assistant

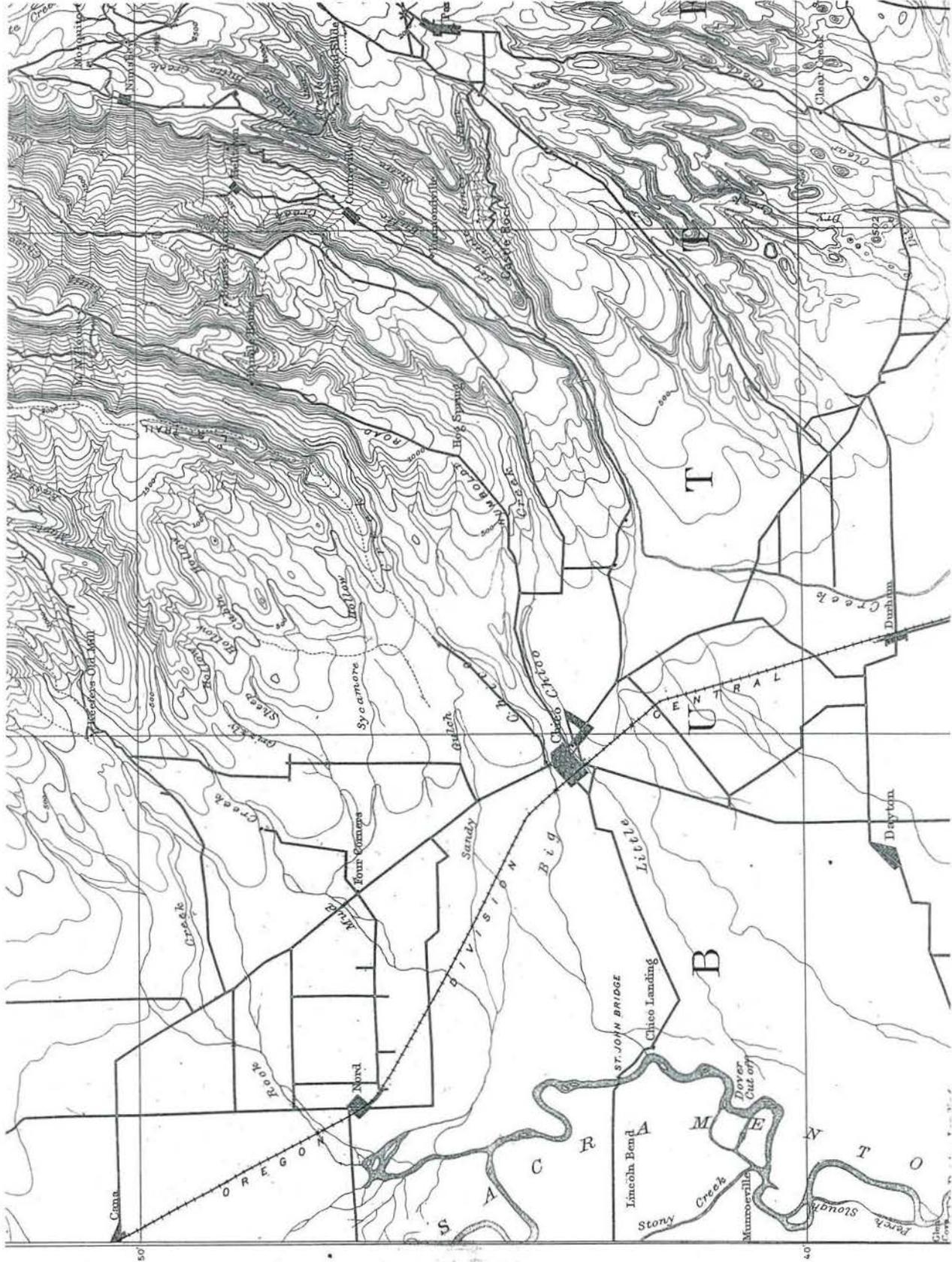


May depict confidential cultural resource locations.
Do not distribute.

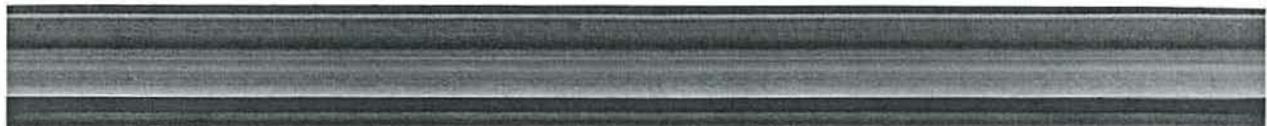


**Northeast Information Center
Records Search Results
Chico CA Walmart Expansion
IC File # D15-145
Report Locations**

 007233



HILL
SHEET
NW 1893



Adjacent village
Mall

7233

August 14, 1978

c/o Department of Anthropology
California State University
Chico, CA 95929

Ringel & Associates
331 Wall St.
Chico, CA 95926

WAS B-L-24

Dear Sir,

At your request I conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of the Pearce Property - AP#46-36-45 which is scheduled to be a subdivision. The property is approximately 100 acres in size and is located west of Highway 99, west of Notre Dame Blvd., and north of the Skyway, being a portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31 and a portion of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, T. 22 N., R. 2 E., Chico Quad., 7.5' series.

The property is characterized as a relatively flat, open field with a dense covering of annual grasses. A portion of Crouch Ditch runs east-west across the southern section of the property.

Prior to my reconnaissance I consulted the archaeological site record files maintained at California State University, Chico to determine if any known archaeological sites were located within the area of the property. No sites had been previously recorded.

My reconnaissance of the property was complete in that all areas that could reasonably be expected to contain materials of archaeological or historical value were inspected. This was accomplished by walking north-south transects spaced approximately 30 meters apart over the entire property. No archaeological or historical sites were observed during my inspection of the property and it is recommended that archaeological clearance be given to the property.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Manning
District Archaeologist

7233

was B-L-24

August 14, 1978

INVOICE

To: Ringel & Associates
331 Wall St.
Chico, CA 95926

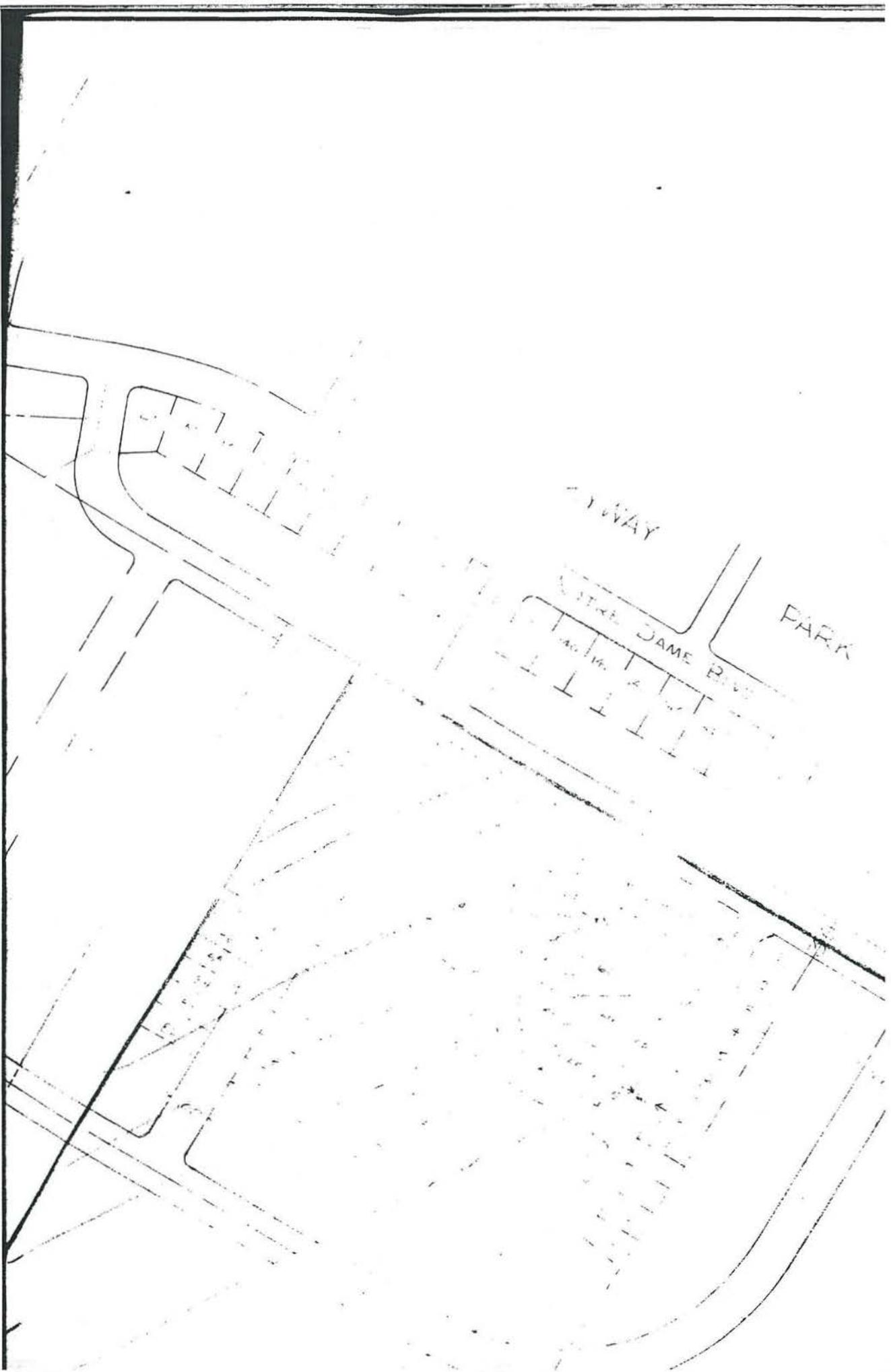
For: Archaeological Consultant (4 hours) \$30.00

Make check payable to: James P. Manning
c/o Department of Anthropology
C.S.U., Chico
Chico, CA 95926

A B C D E



This is all open field if the roads shown on this map are not in yet, in the project area. If you need more info call Russ at Ringel & Associates 313-5841.



Attachment D: Native American Coordination

Contact Log

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691

October 16, 2015

Faxed letter request for Sacred Lands file search and list of Native American contacts.

October 22, 2015

Commission responded with the results of the file search (negative) and list of contacts.

Mr. Wallace Clark-Wilson
Chairperson
KonKow Valley Band of Maidu
P.O. Box 5850
Oroville, CA 95850

October 28, 2015

Sub-consultant wrote a letter to the contact describing the project, enclosing a map and requesting information on any known or suspected sacred, ceremonial or other sites of Native American importance that may be impacted by the proposed project. No response to the letter was received.

November 5, 2015

Sub-consultant attempted to contact Mr. Clark-Wilson by telephone. Mr. Clark-Wilson was not available. Sub-consultant left a detailed voice mail message. No response has been received to date.

Mr. Gary Archuleta
Chairperson
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95968

October 28, 2015

Sub-consultant wrote a letter to the contact describing the project, enclosing a map and requesting information on any known or suspected sacred, ceremonial or other sites of Native American importance that may be impacted by the proposed project. No response to the letter was received.

November 5, 2015

Sub-consultant attempted to contact Mr. Archuleta by telephone. Mr. Archuleta was on vacation. Sub-consultant left a detailed message. No response has been received to date.

Mr. Bill Cornelius
Tribal Administrator
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95968

October 28, 2015

Sub-consultant wrote a letter to the contact describing the project, enclosing a map and requesting information on any known or suspected sacred, ceremonial or other sites of Native American importance that may be impacted by the proposed project. No response to the letter was received.

November 5, 2015

Sub-consultant attempted to contact Mr. Cornelius by telephone. Mr. Cornelius was not available. Sub-consultant left a detailed message. No response has been received to date.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
(916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471



October 22, 2015

Ric Windmiller
Consulting Archaeologist
2280 Grass Valley Highway #205
Auburn, CA 95603

Sent Via Fax: 530-878-0915

Number of Pages: 2

RE: The Proposed Chico CA Walmart Expansion, Butte County

Dear Mr. Windmiller:

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file 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.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. 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 or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katy Sanchez".

Katy Sanchez
Associated Government Program Analyst

**Native American Contact List
Butte County
October 22, 2015**

KonKow Valley Band of Maidu
Wallace Clark-Wilson, Chairperson
PO Box 5850 KonKow / Concow
Oroville , CA 95966 Maidu
(530) 533-1504

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Gary Archuleta, Chairperson
#1 Alverda Drive Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966 KonKow / Concow
frontdesk@mooretown.org
(530) 533-3625

(530) 533-3680 Fax

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Bill Cornelius, Tribal Administrator
#1 Alverda Drive Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966 KonKow/Concow
(530) 533-3625

(530) 533-3680 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Chico CA Walmart Expansion, Butte County.

Ric Windmiller
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST

2280 GRASS VALLEY HIGHWAY #205
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603

530/878-0979
FAX 530/878-0915

EXAMPLE OF LETTER

October 28, 2015

Mr. Gary Achuleta
Chairperson
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95966

Re: Chico CA Walmart Expansion

Dear Mr. Achuleta:

The proposed 27-acre Walmart expansion is located on the on the west side of Forest Avenue between Wittmeir Drive and Baney Lane in the south portion of Chico, Butte County, California. The existing Walmart store was previously approved and opened for business in 1994. The expansion will extend onto vacant land immediately south of the present Walmart store. The project will require a tentative parcel map and other agency approvals. It is anticipated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be the lead federal agency regarding federal permit approvals (see attached map).

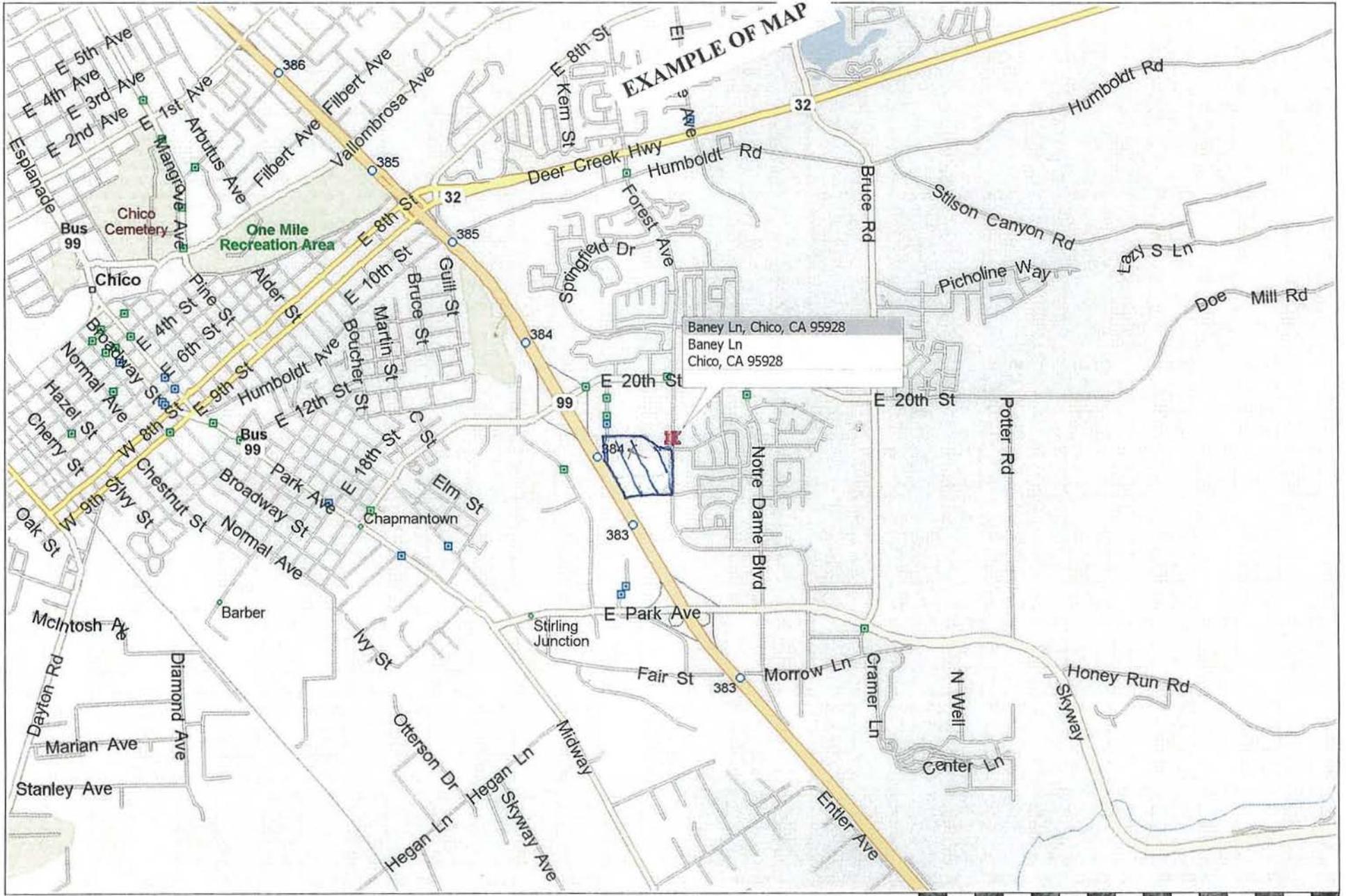
We are conducting research on archaeological resources for federal review and local CEQA review. The Native American Heritage Commission has listed your name as one who may have knowledge of tribal cultural resources or traditional cultural properties. At this early stage, we are gathering information on the nature and location of such sites. We are not conducting a government to government consultation. However, If you have any information regarding tribal cultural resources or Native American traditional cultural properties that may be impacted by the proposed project and wish to share that information with us, please contact Cathryn Chatterton at the above address. You may also respond by telephone (530-878-0979), fax (530-878-0915) or email: windmiller-consult@sbcglobal.net. We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience, if you wish to comment at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Ric Windmiller
Registered Professional Archaeologist

California, United States, North ^merica





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

411 Main Street - 2nd Floor (530) 879-6800
P.O. Box 3420 Fax (530) 895-4726
Chico, CA 95927 <http://www.ci.chico.ca.us>

September 24, 2015

Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
Attn: Michael DeSpain, Director of OEPP
125 Mission Ranch Blvd.
Chico, CA 95926

Dear Mr. DeSpain:

RE: Notification Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 of Complete Development Project Applications
for the Walmart Expansion Project in Chico, California

In response to Assembly Bill 52, as codified under Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21080.3.1, the City of Chico is offering the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria the opportunity to consult regarding potential Tribal Cultural Resources at a certain project site located in the Chico area. The purpose of the consultation is to allow an opportunity for participation in land use decisions to protect or mitigate impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources.

Project Location: 2044 Forest Avenue; APNs 002-370-055, 002-370-057, and 002-170-004

Brief Description: The applicant proposes to subdivide a 27-acre site into three parcels: one parcel of approximately 22 acres for the expanded Walmart store, parking area and gas station; and two smaller parcels, each approximately 2.6 acres in size, for future development consistent with the existing zoning (see enclosed plans). The site is bounded by Forest Avenue, Baney Lane, State Route 99 and Wittmeier Drive. The site is zoned RC (Regional Commercial) and designated Regional Commercial by the General Plan. The site is classified Medium Sensitivity on the Prehistoric Archaeological Sensitivity Areas map in the General Plan. Additional project details are available upon request.

The City of Chico would appreciate notification of whether your Tribe desires to consult regarding this project, or declines the opportunity to consult, at your earliest convenience. PRC 21080.3.1(d) sets forth a time frame of 30 days to respond and initiate consultation. Please contact me at 879-6812 or via email at mike.sawley@chicoca.gov regarding your Tribe's interest in this matter. I would also be happy to provide any further information the Tribe may need regarding this project or the City's authority in this particular matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Sawley
Associate Planner

Enclosure: Site Plans, Parcel Map

cc: files PM 15-02, UP 15-10, UP 15-12, PDP 15-01, and AR 15-16
Bob Summerville, Senior Planner

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