Appendix H
Cultural Resources

Appendix H1

Cultural Resources Record Search
(Submitted Separately Under the Rules of Confidentiality)

Appendix H2
Native American Consultation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

March 11, 2008

Mr. Josh McNutt, M.A., RPA, Senior Archaeologist
URS CORPORATION
8181 E. Tufts Avenue
Denver, CO 80237

Sent by FAX to: 303-930-6070
Number of Pages: 2

Re: Request for a Sacred Lands File records search for the proposed **Kern County Hydrogen Project**; located in the Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California

Dear Mr. McNutt:

The Native American Heritage Commission was able to perform a record search of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project area. The SLF 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 guarantee the absence of cultural resources in any project area. This project site is in close proximity to previously discovered prehistoric burial sites and is believed to hold numerous cultural resources.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed is the name of the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. A list of Native American contacts is attached to assist you. It is advisable to contact the persons listed; if they cannot supply you with specific information about the impact on cultural resources, they may be able to refer you to another tribe or person knowledgeable of the cultural resources in or near the affected project area.

Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 15064.5(f) and Section 15097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton, Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts
Kern County
March 11, 2008

Santa Rosa Rancheria
Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore , CA 93245
(559) 924-1278
(559) 924-3583 Fax

Tache
Tachi
Yokut

Kenneth Woodrow
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas , CA 93906
831-443-9702

Foothill Yokuts
Mono

Ron Wermuth
P.O. Box 168
Kernville , CA 93238
warmoose@earthlink.net
(760) 376-4240 - Home
(916) 717-1176 - Cell

Tubatulabal
Kawaiisu
Koso
Yokuts

Robert L. Gomez, Jr.
2619 Driller Ave.
Bakersfield , CA 93306
(661) 871-4760

Paiute
Yokuts
Tubatulabal

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez
931 N. Virginia
Covina , CA 91722
(626) 339-6785

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
James R. Leon, Chairperson
P.O. Box 902
Bakersfield , CA 93302
chumashtribe@sbcgloba.net
(661) 836-0486
(661) 836-0487

Chumash

Tejon Indian Tribe
Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
2234 4th Street
Wasco , CA 93280

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

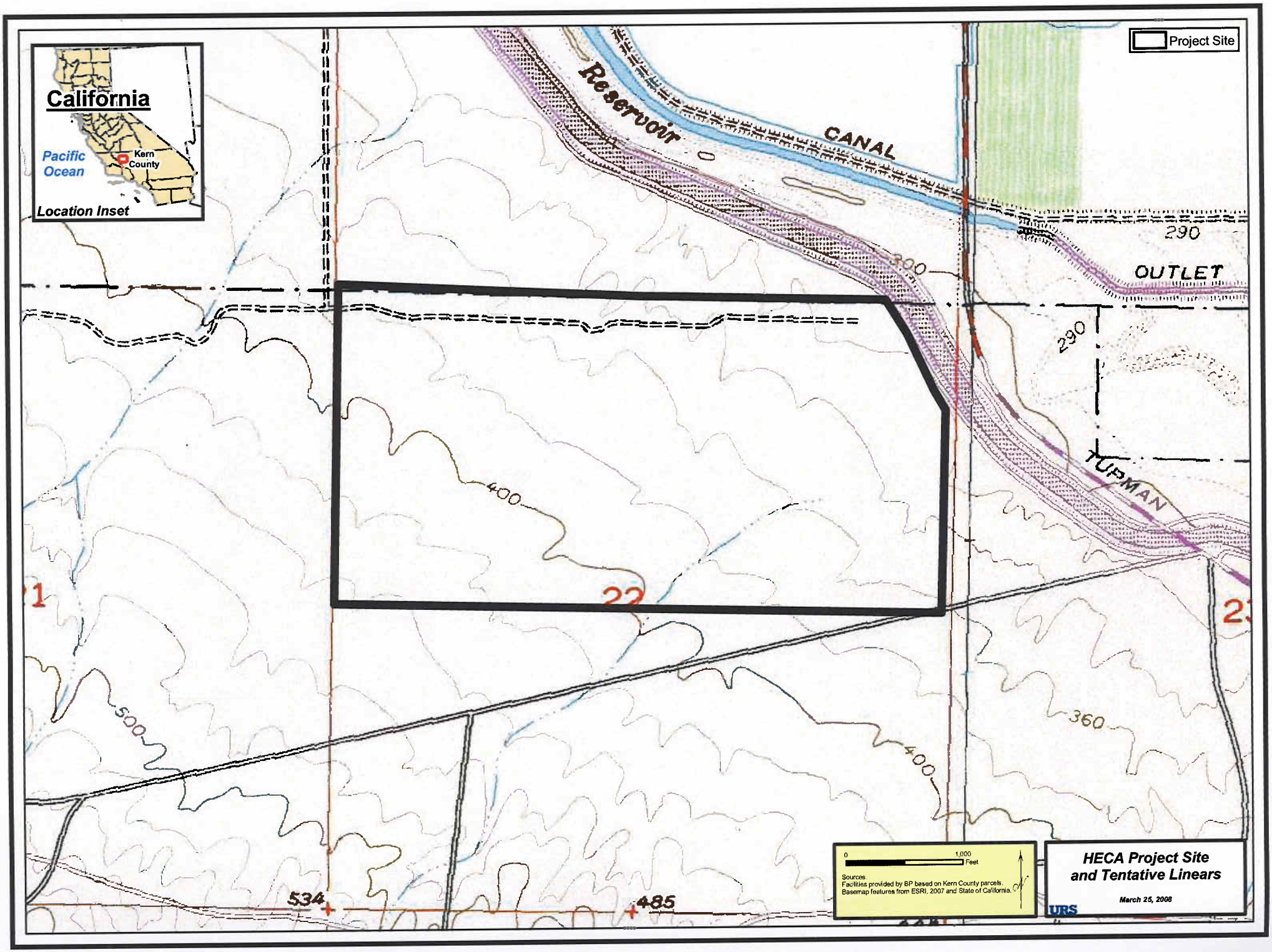
Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Donna Begay, Tribal Chairwoman
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella , CA 93240
(760) 379-4590
(760) 379-4592 FAX

Tubatulabal

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

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Kern County Hydrogen Project located in the Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.


California
Pacific Ocean
Kern County
Location Inset
Project Site
Reservoir
CANAL
OUTLET
TUPMAN
290
300
400
500
360
534
485
0
1,000
Feet
Sources
Facilities provided by BP based on Kern County parcels.
Basemap features from ESRI, 2007 and State of California.
HECA Project Site and Tentative Linears
March 25, 2008
URS

URS

24 March 2008

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Mr. James R. Leon, Chairperson
P.O. Box 902
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Leon,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Mr. Robert L. Gomez, Jr.
2619 Driller Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Gomez,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Mr. Kenneth Woodrow
1179 Rock Haven Court
Salinas, CA 93906

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Woodrow,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Tejon Indian Tribe
Ms. Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
2234 4th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Ms. Morgan,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Ms. Delia Dominguez
931 N. Virginia
Corniva, CA 91722

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Ms. Dominguez,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Santa Rosa Rancheria
Mr. Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Atwell,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Mr. Ron Wermuth
P.O. Box 168
Kernville, CA 93238

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Wermuth,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 March 2008

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Ms. Donna Begay, Tribal Chairwoman
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Ms. Begay,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email-josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

Tejon Indian Tribe

Cultural Resource Management Team

April 23, 2008

Josh McNutt
Senior Archaeologist
URS Corporation
8181 E. Tufts Ave.
Denver, Co. 80237
Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc – HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, Ca

Dear Mr. McNutt:

Thank you for your recent letter, dated March 24, 2008. This letter is to inform you the Tejon Indian Tribe is very much interested in the information you have sent us.

At this time, we do not have any knowledge nor do we have any recorded information pertaining to this site. However, due to the fact that we do claim this area as part of our historical territory, I am hereby requesting that we be kept informed on your progress, as we are very interested in how your progress proceeds. Please keep us in mind if you develop anything that relates to Native Americans in this area or if we can be of assistance to you in any other way.

Sincerely,

Ken Morgan
Assistant Project Manager
Tejon Indian Tribe CRMT

cc: Tribal Council Officers
Tribal Committee for CRMT

2234 4th Street Wasco, California 93280 (661) 758-2303 Fax: (661) 758-9385
e-mail: kmorgan@bak.rr.com

URS **Facsimile**

Date: 5/9/08 Page 1 of: 4

To: Adele Baldwin From: Josh McNutt

Firm: Southern San Joaquin Info Center cc:

Facsimile: (661) 654-2415

Subject: File search request Project # 22239758.30010 for URS Denver CO

Message: Hello,

Here is a small file search request for the above listed project. All of our info should still be on file.

Thanks,

Josh McNutt

URS Corporation
8181 E. Tufts Ave.
Denver, CO 80237
Tel: 303.694.2770
Fax: 303.694.3946
www.urscorp.com

Adele Baldwin
Assistant Coordinator
Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield

RE: Continuation of project #: 22239758.30010 (URS)

Dear Adele,

I have included with this letter a table of several project reports that we will need as part of our on going research. There are two lists on the attached tables, the first asking for only the title and abstract of the report and the second list for the full text of the report. All of the reports are from Kern County. This is a continuation of the project we have been working on the last two times we visited the Info center, so the billing and project information are all still active.

I hope you guys are well and not baking there in Bakersfield.

Thanks in advance for your help,

Sincerely,

Josh McNutt
URS Senior Staff Archaeologist
8181 East Tufts Ave.
Denver, CO. 80237

Needing Title and Abstract
112
142
147
189
318
320
320
358
419
657
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924
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3178

Needing Title and Abstract Cont.
3252
3253
3334
3503
3508
3509
3562

Needing Full Text

2350
2747
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2162
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857
1998
922

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

June 20, 2008

Mr. Josh McNutt, M.A., RPA
URS CORPORATION
8181 E. Tufts Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80237

Sent by FAX to: (303) 930-6070
No. of Pages: 2

Re: Request for a Sacred Lands File records search for the proposed Cultural Survey of Lands in Western Kern County): Kern County, California

Dear Mr. McNutt:

The Native American Heritage Commission was able to perform a record search of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project area. The SLF 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 guarantee the absence of cultural resources in any project area. This project site is in close proximity to previously discovered prehistoric burial sites and is believed to hold numerous cultural resources.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed is the name of the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. A list of Native American contacts is attached to assist you. It is advisable to contact the persons listed; if they cannot supply you with specific information about the impact on cultural resources, they may be able to refer you to another tribe or person knowledgeable of the cultural resources in or near the affected project area.

Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 15064.5(f) and Section 15097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton, Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Mr. Dave Singleton
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent: June 20, 2008

Sent By Fax: 916-657-5390

RE: HECA Project Kern County

Dear Mr. Singleton,

I am writing to request a record search of the Sacred Lands File, and list of appropriate Native American contacts for a proposed project within the county of Kern, California at the following locations:

T 28S R 22E. Sec: 34.

T 29S R 22E, NE ¼ Sec 2; and N ½ and E ½ Sec 12.

T 29 S R 23E, SW ¼ Sec 7; NE ¼ Sec 18; SW ¼ 17; NE ¼ 20; SW ¼ Sec 21; NE ¼ Sec 28, SW ¼ Sec 27; NE ¼ Sec 34; N ½ Sec 35; SW ¼ Sec 36; and W ½ 13.

T 29S R 24E, Sec 32; Sec 29; Sec 30; NE ¼ 19; and S ½ 18.

T 30S R 23 E, NE ¼ Sec 1.

T 30S R 24 E, Sec 6; Sec 5; Sec 15; Sec 21; Sec 23; Sec 28; NE Sec 1/4 8;S ½ Sec 9; SW ¼ 10; W ½ 16; SW ¼ 24; and NE ¼ 25.

T 30S R 25E, SW ¼ 30; NE ¼ 31; SW ¼ 32; and S ½ 33.

T 31S 25E, N ½ Sec 4; and NE ¼ Sec 5.

These sections are located on the Buttonwillow, East Elk Hills, Lokern, and Tupman, USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. Please see the attached maps for further detail on the location of the project area. If you have any comments or questions about the project please contact myself (303) 815-2362; email josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com; or Reid Farmer at (303) 968-7005; e-mail reid_farmer@urscorp.com.

RE: HECA Project Kern County (page 2)

I am requesting the following information:

- Identification by the NAHC of any sacred lands in the area that are listed within the Sacred Lands File.
- A list of individuals or organizations to be contacted for further information regarding cultural properties within the project area.

Thank you in advance for your help with this request.

Sincerely,

Josh McNutt, M.A RPA
Senior Staff Archaeologist
URS
8181 E Tufts Ave
Denver Colorado 80237
(cell) 303-815-2362
(fax) 303-930-6070

URS

24 June 2008

Mr. Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
Santa Rosa Rancheria
P. O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Atwell,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location and general project area.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email- josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

24 June 2008

Mr. Neil Peyron, Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Peyron,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location and general project area.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 June 2008

Mr. Ron Wermuth
P. O. Box 168
Kernville, CA 93238

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Wermuth,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

24 June 2008

Ms. Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
Tejon Indian Tribe
2234 4th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

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Dear Ms. Morgan,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location and general project area.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email- josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map
cc: Mr. Ken Morgan, Assistant Project Manager CRMT

URS

24 June 2008

Mr. Kenneth Woodrow
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Mr. Woodrow,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location and general project area.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email- josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map

URS

24 June 2008

Ms. Donna Begay, Tribal Chairwoman
Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
P. O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Re: Hydrogen Energy Inc - HECA Power Plant Project Kern County, CA

Dear Ms. Begay,

This letter is to inform you that Hydrogen Energy Inc. is proposing the HECA hydrogen energy project in Kern County. Please refer to the enclosed map for the project location.

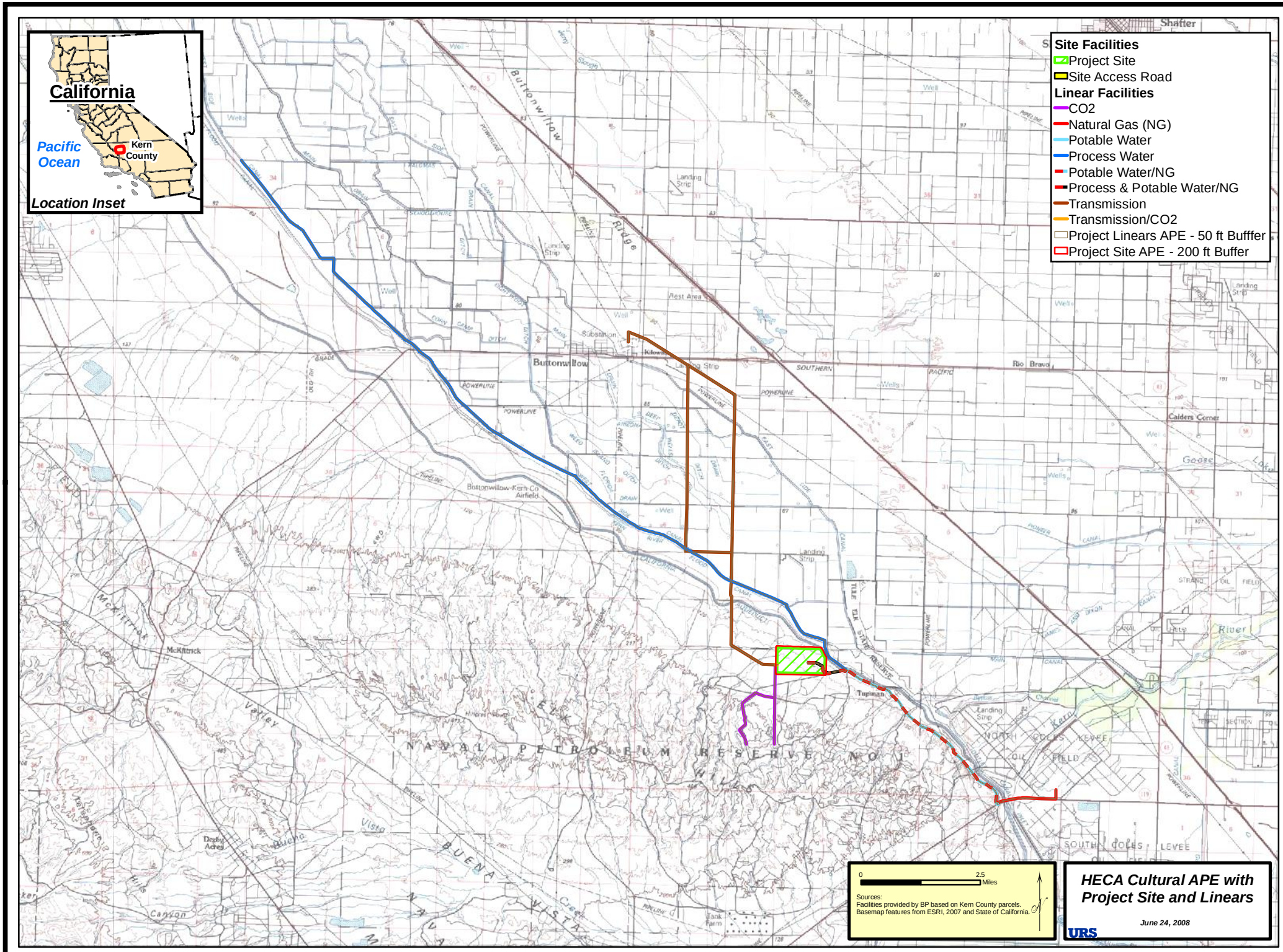
The general project area, as well as the specific project location, has been the subject of an archival records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield. Past surveys have detected a large number of prehistoric sites within and surrounding the current project area and boundaries. A search of the Native American Heritage Commission sacred lands files was negative for the project location and general project area.

Your name was has been obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission. If you have any specific knowledge of cultural resources that might be potentially impacted by this project, or if you have any comments or questions concerning the project, please contact Mr. Joshua McNutt or Mr. Reid Farmer at URS Corporation by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail at your earliest convenience (8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver, CO, 80237; tel: 303-694-2770; email- josh_mcnutt@urscorp.com or reid_farmer@urscorp.com). If URS does not hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we shall assume you have no comments regarding this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,
URS Corporation

Josh McNutt
Senior Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure: Project location map


California
Pacific Ocean
Kern County
Location Inset
Site Facilities
Project Site
Site Access Road
Linear Facilities
CO2
Natural Gas (NG)
Potable Water
Process Water
Potable Water/NG
Process & Potable Water/NG
Transmission
Transmission/CO2
Project Linears APE - 50 ft Bufffer
Project Site APE - 200 ft Buffer
Buttonwillow
Rio Bravo
Tupman
McKittrick
Buttonwillow-Kern Co Airfield
NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVE NO. 1
0
2.5
Miles
Sources:
Facilities provided by BP based on Kern County parcels.
Basemap features from ESRI, 2007 and State of California.
HECA Cultural APE with Project Site and Linears
June 24, 2008
URS

URS

Debbie Pilas-Treadway
Associate Program Analyst
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 5 , 2008

Dear Ms. Pilas-Treadway,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification (AFC) document.

Among the tasks to be completed for the initial screening phase of the project are consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Native American groups and individuals. As such, I am requesting any information the NAHC may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area that may be of concern to local Native Americans.

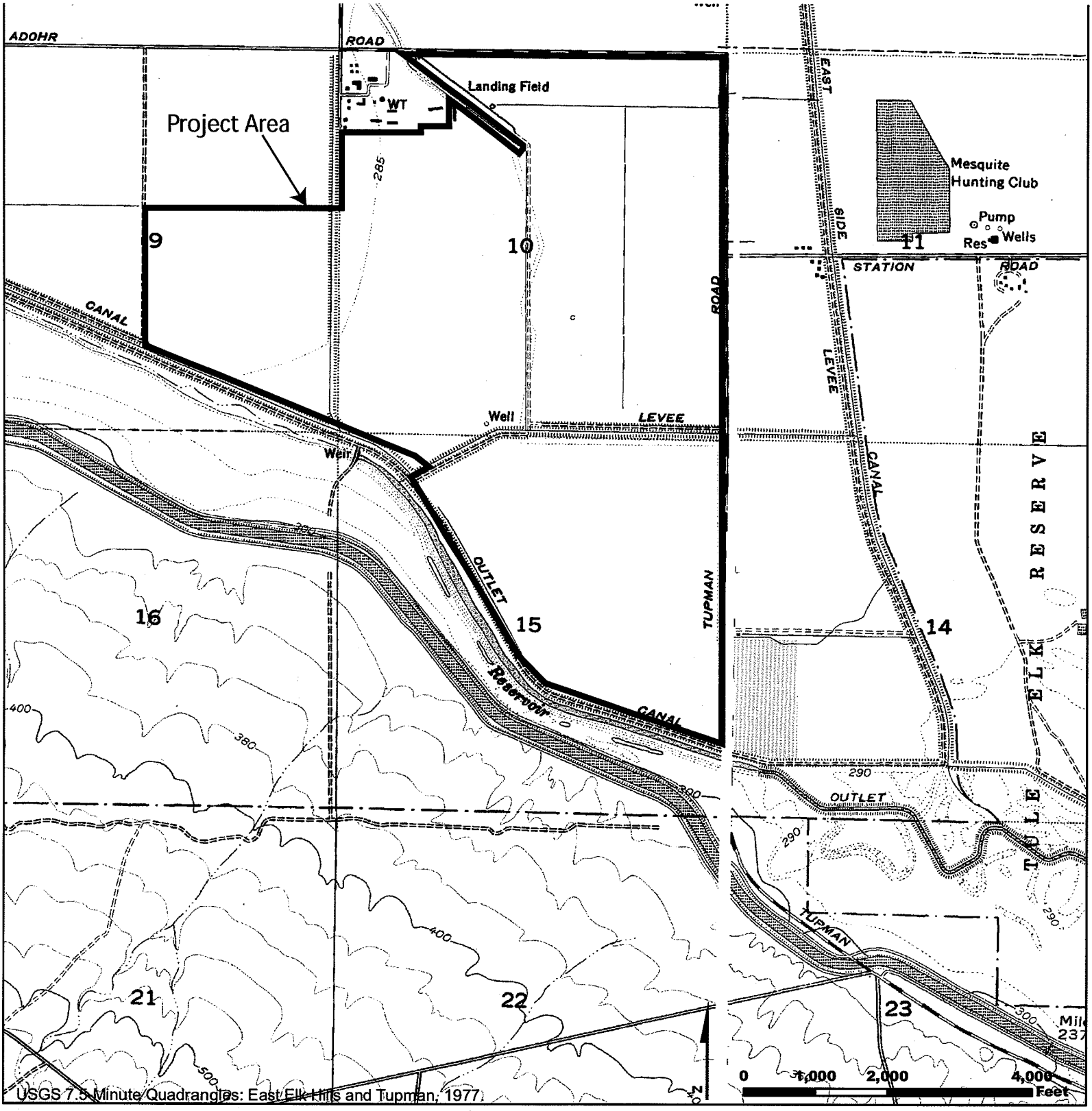
Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills and the Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917



USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles: East Elk Hills and Tupman, 1977

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

January 15, 2008

Mr. Leroy Laurie, Staff Archaeologist
URS CORPORATION
221 Main Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105-1917

Re: Request for a Sacred Lands File records search and Native American Contacts list for proposed Power Generating Facility located in the Elk Hills Region west of Bakersfield in Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Laurie:

The Native American Heritage Commission was able to perform a record search of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project areas (APE). The SLF search failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the project areas (APEs or 'areas of potential effect). There are however, sacred sites in close proximity to the APEs; therefore, we urge caution and Native American monitoring.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed are the names of the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. We recommend that you contact persons on the attached list of Native American contacts. A Native American tribe or individual may be the only source of information about a cultural resource. They may have specific knowledge as to whether or not the known cultural resources identified may be at-risk by the proposed project

Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts
Kern County
January 15, 2009

Santa Rosa Rancheria
Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore , CA 93245
(559) 924-1278
(559) 924-3583 Fax

Tache
Tachi
Yokut

Tejon Indian Tribe
Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
2234 4th Street
Wasco , CA 93280

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville , CA 93258
chairman@tulerivertribe-nsn.
(559) 781-4271
(559) 781-4610 FAX

Yokuts

Esohm Valley Band of Indians
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas , CA 93906
831-443-9702

Foothill Yokuts
Mono

Ron Wermuth
P.O. Box 168
Kernville , CA 93238
warmoose@earthlink.net
(760) 376-4240 - Home
(916) 717-1176 - Cell

Tubatulabal
Kawaiisu
Koso
Yokuts

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Donna Begay, Tribal Chairwoman
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella , CA 93240
(760) 379-4590
(760) 379-4592 FAX

Tubatulabal

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez
981 N. Virginia
Covina , CA 91722
(626) 339-6785

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

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

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code 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 New Power Generating Facility ; locaqted in the Elk Hills region of western Kern County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.

URS

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 11, 2009

Dear Dave Singleton,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of approximately 48.2 miles of potential linear facilities located west of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted to the California Energy Commission (CEC) as part of an Application for Certification (AFC) for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information the Commission may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to local Native Americans. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area and a table listing the relevant township, range, and section data. The map is comprised of portions of the Buttonwillow, East Elk Hills, Lokern, and Tupman, USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corporation
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

Township and Range List

T28.0-R22.0-S34	T30.0-R23.0-S01
T29.0-R22.0-S01	T30.0-R24.0-S04
T29.0-R22.0-S02	T30.0-R24.0-S05
T29.0-R22.0-S12	T30.0-R24.0-S06
T29.0-R23.0-S07	T30.0-R24.0-S08
T29.0-R23.0-S13	T30.0-R24.0-S09
T29.0-R23.0-S17	T30.0-R24.0-S10
T29.0-R23.0-S18	T30.0-R24.0-S14
T29.0-R23.0-S20	T30.0-R24.0-S15
T29.0-R23.0-S21	T30.0-R24.0-S16
T29.0-R23.0-S27	T30.0-R24.0-S21
T29.0-R23.0-S28	T30.0-R24.0-S23
T29.0-R23.0-S34	T30.0-R24.0-S24
T29.0-R23.0-S35	T30.0-R24.0-S25
T29.0-R23.0-S36	T30.0-R24.0-S28
T29.0-R24.0-S18	T30.0-R24.0-S33
T29.0-R24.0-S19	T30.0-R25.0-S30
T29.0-R24.0-S20	T30.0-R25.0-S31
T29.0-R24.0-S21	T30.0-R25.0-S32
T29.0-R24.0-S28	T30.0-R25.0-S33
T29.0-R24.0-S29	T31.0-R25.0-S04
T29.0-R24.0-S32	T31.0-R25.0-S05

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

February 13, 2009

Mr. Leroy Laurie, Staff Archaeologist
URS CORPORATION
221 Main Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105-1917

Re: Request for a Sacred Lands File records search and Native American Contacts list for the **"Potential Power Generating Facility and 48.2 miles of a possible Transmission Corridor Project"** Located in Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Laurie:

The Native American Heritage Commission was able to performed record searches of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project areas (APE). The SLF search did indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in some of the project areas (APE or 'areas of potential effect) submitted in the search request.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed are the names of the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. We recommend that you contact persons on the attached list of Native American contacts. A Native American tribe or individual may be the only source of information about a cultural resource. They may have specific knowledge as to whether or not the known cultural resources identified may be at-risk by the proposed project. Also, we recommend that you contact the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS) Information Center at the Cal State Bakersfield (661-654-2289) for additional information from their data base.

Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts
Kern County
February 13, 2009

Santa Rosa Rancheria
Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore , CA 93245
(559) 924-1278
(559) 924-3583 Fax

Tache
Tachi
Yokut

Tejon Indian Tribe
Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
2234 4th Street
Wasco , CA 93280

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville , CA 93258
chairman@tulerivertribe-nsn.
(559) 781-4271
(559) 781-4610 FAX

Yokuts

Esohm Valley Band of Indians
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas , CA 93906
831-443-9702

Foothill Yokuts
Mono

Ron Wermuth
P.O. Box 168
Kernville , CA 93238
warmoose@earthlink.net
(760) 376-4240 - Home
(916) 717-1176 - Cell

Tubatulabal
Kawaiisu
Koso
Yokuts

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Arianne Garcia, Chairperson
P.O. Box 902
Bakersfield , CA 93302
chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net
(661) 836-0486
(661) 836-0487

Chumash

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez
981 N. Virginia
Covina , CA 91722
(626) 339-6785

Yowlumne
Kitanemuk

Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
Donna Begay, Tribal Chairwoman
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella , CA 93240
(760) 379-4590
(760) 379-4592 FAX

Tubatulabal

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

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code 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 Possible Power Generating FAcility and 48.2 miles Trsnmission Corridor to be located in eastern Kern County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.

April 1, 2009

Clarence Atwell
Chairperson
Santa Rosa Rancheria
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, Ca 93245

Dear Mr. Clarence Atwell,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Neil Peyron
Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, Ca 93258

Dear Mr. Neil Peyron,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Ron Wermuth
P.O. Box 168
Kernville, Ca 93238

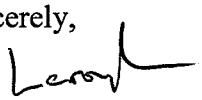
Dear Mr. Ron Wermuth,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Delia Dominguez
Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
981 N. Virginia
Covina, Ca 91722

Dear Ms. Delia Dominguez,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Kathy Morgan
Chairperson
Tejon Indian Tribe
2234 4th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Dear Ms. Kathy Morgan,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Kenneth Woodrow
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, Ca 93906

Dear Mr. Kenneth Woodrow,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Donna Begay
Tribal Chairwoman
Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Dear Ms. Donna Begay,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917

April 1, 2009

Arianne Garcia
Chairperson
Chumash Council of Bakersfield
P.O. Box 902
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Dear Ms. Arianne Garcia,

Hydrogen Energy International LLC has retained URS Corporation to complete a cultural resources investigation of the Cauzza Property, which consists of approximately 1200-acres, and 48.2 miles of potential associated linear facilities within the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, California. URS is to conduct a pedestrian survey of the study area and to produce a technical document, which will be submitted as part of an Application for Certification for the development of a new power generating facility.

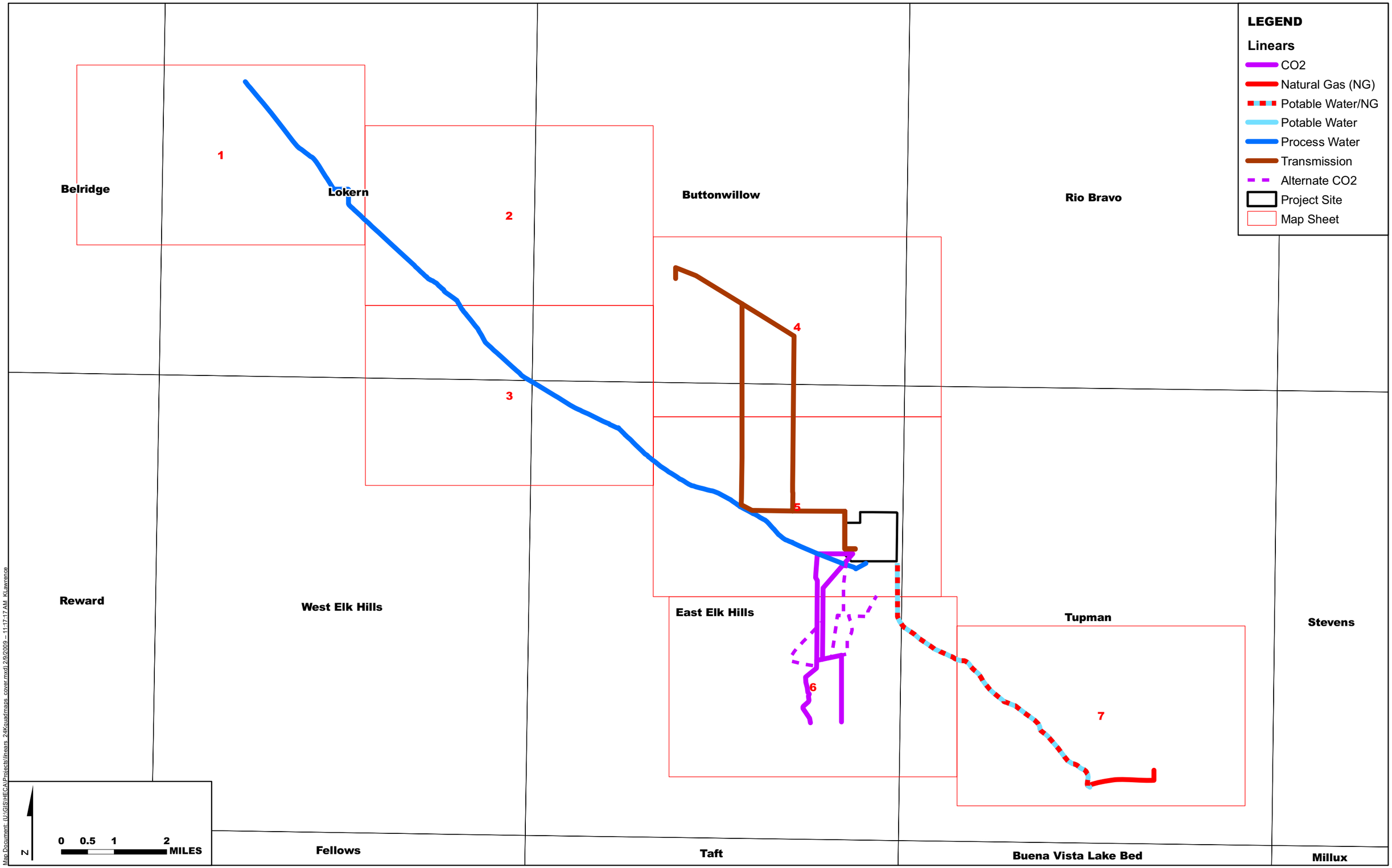
As part of the pre-field research, I am requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the study area or general vicinity that may be of concern to the local Native American community. Attached to this request is a map delineating the study area boundaries. It includes portions of the East Elk Hills, Buttonwillow, Lokern, and Tupman USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Any comments you may have regarding this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (805) 440-8712, or email at Leroy_Laurie@urscorp.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main St. Suite 600
San Francisco CA 94105-1917


LEGEND
Linears
CO2
Natural Gas (NG)
Potable Water/NG
Potable Water
Process Water
Transmission
Alternate CO2
Project Site
Map Sheet
Belridge
Lokern
Buttonwillow
Rio Bravo
Reward
West Elk Hills
East Elk Hills
Tupman
Stevens
Fellows
Taft
Buena Vista Lake Bed
Millux
1
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MILES
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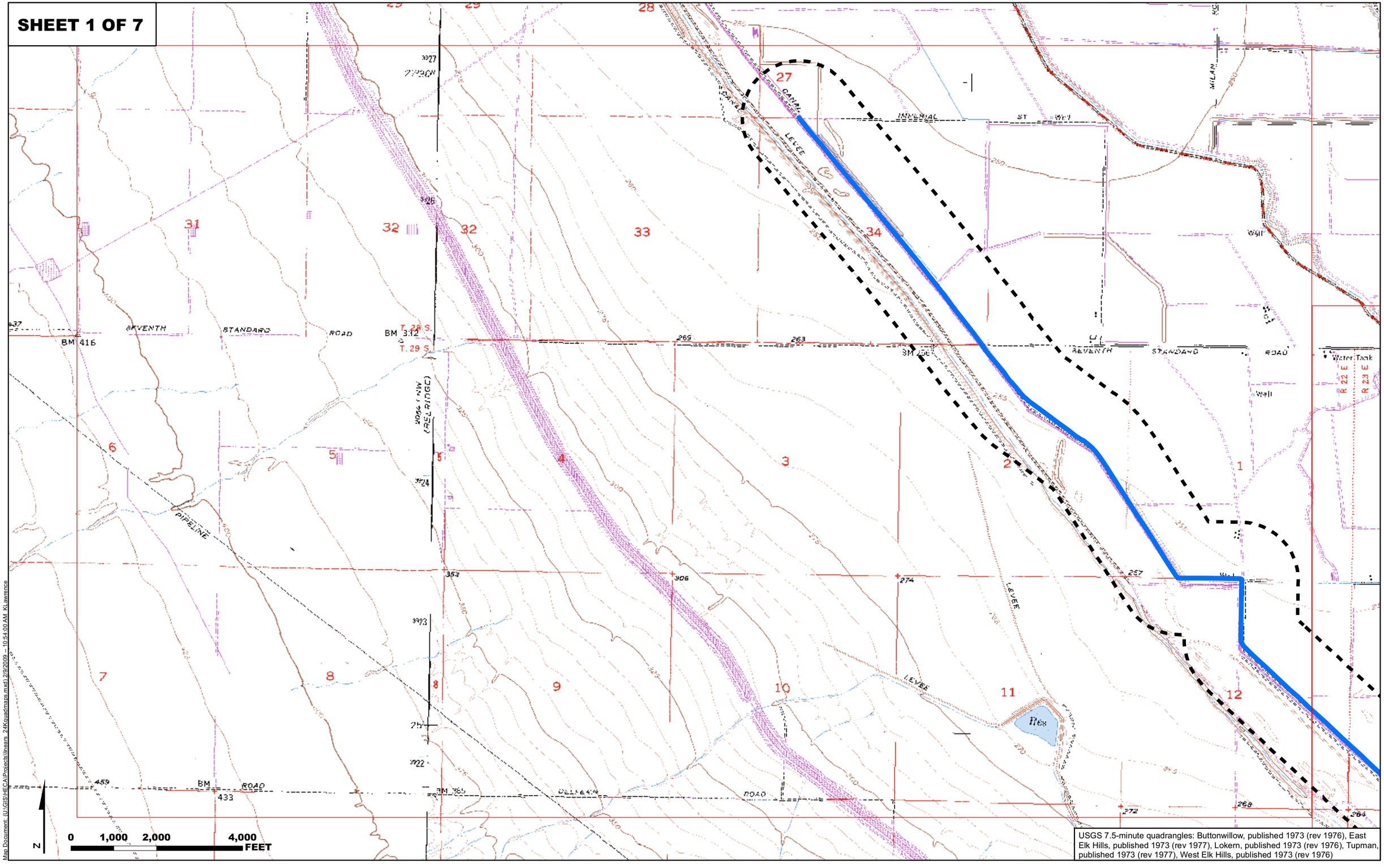

USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: Buttonwillow, published 1973 (rev 1976), East Elk Hills, published 1973 (rev 1977), Lokern, published 1973 (rev 1976), Tupman, published 1973 (rev 1977), West Elk Hills, published 1973 (rev 1976)

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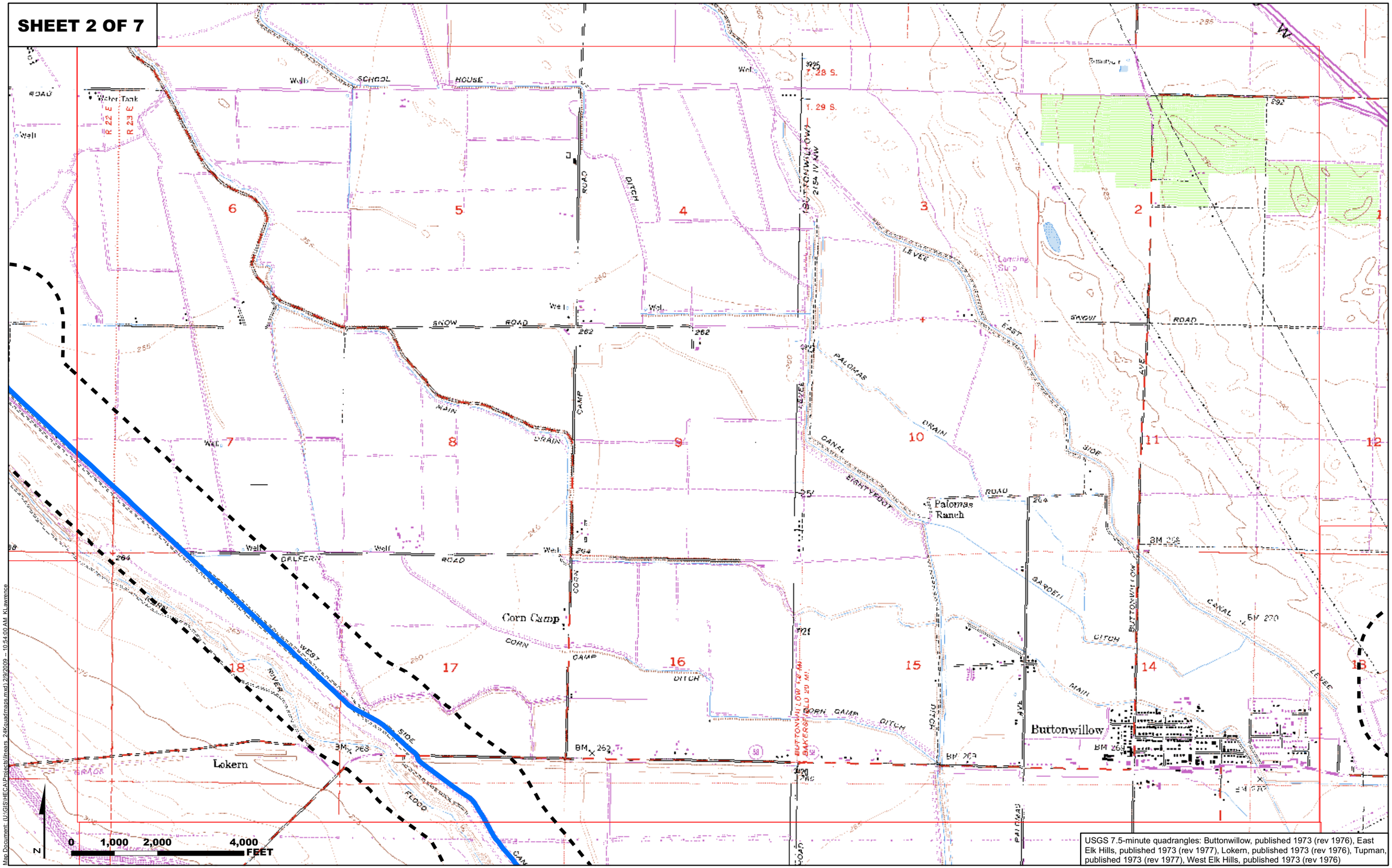

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SHEET 3 OF 7

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty ——— Light duty ———

Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - -

Interstate Route ◯ State Route

LOKERN, CALIF.

N3622.5—W11930/7.5

1954

PHOTOREVISED 1973

AMS 2054 I NE—SERIES V895

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CALIF.

5 FEET

DATUM OF 1925

RADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

YMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 FEET

N

USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: Buttonwillow, published 1973 (rev 1976), East Elk Hills, published 1973 (rev 1977), Lokern, published 1973 (rev 1976), Tupman, published 1973 (rev 1977), West Elk Hills, published 1973 (rev 1976)

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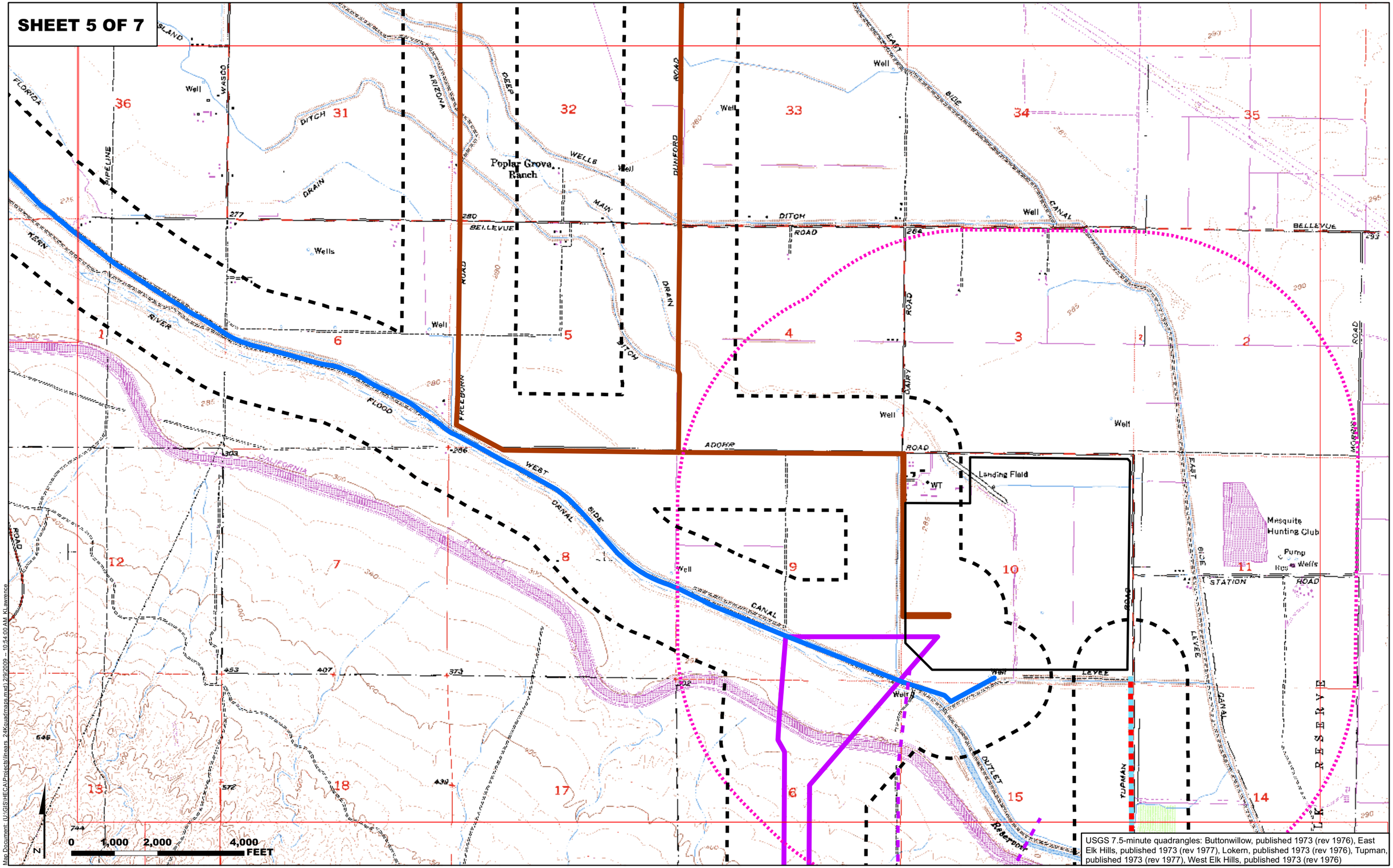

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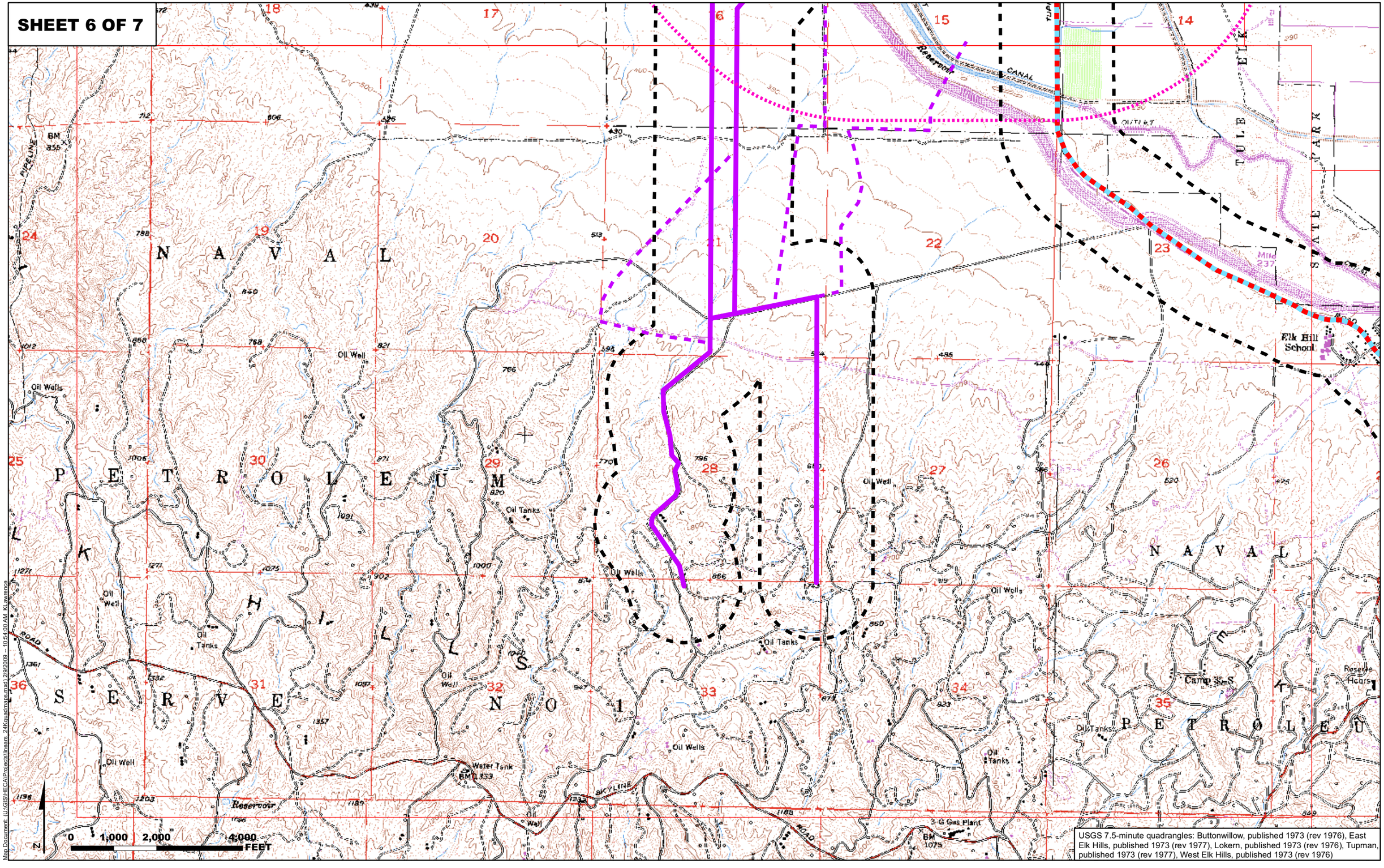

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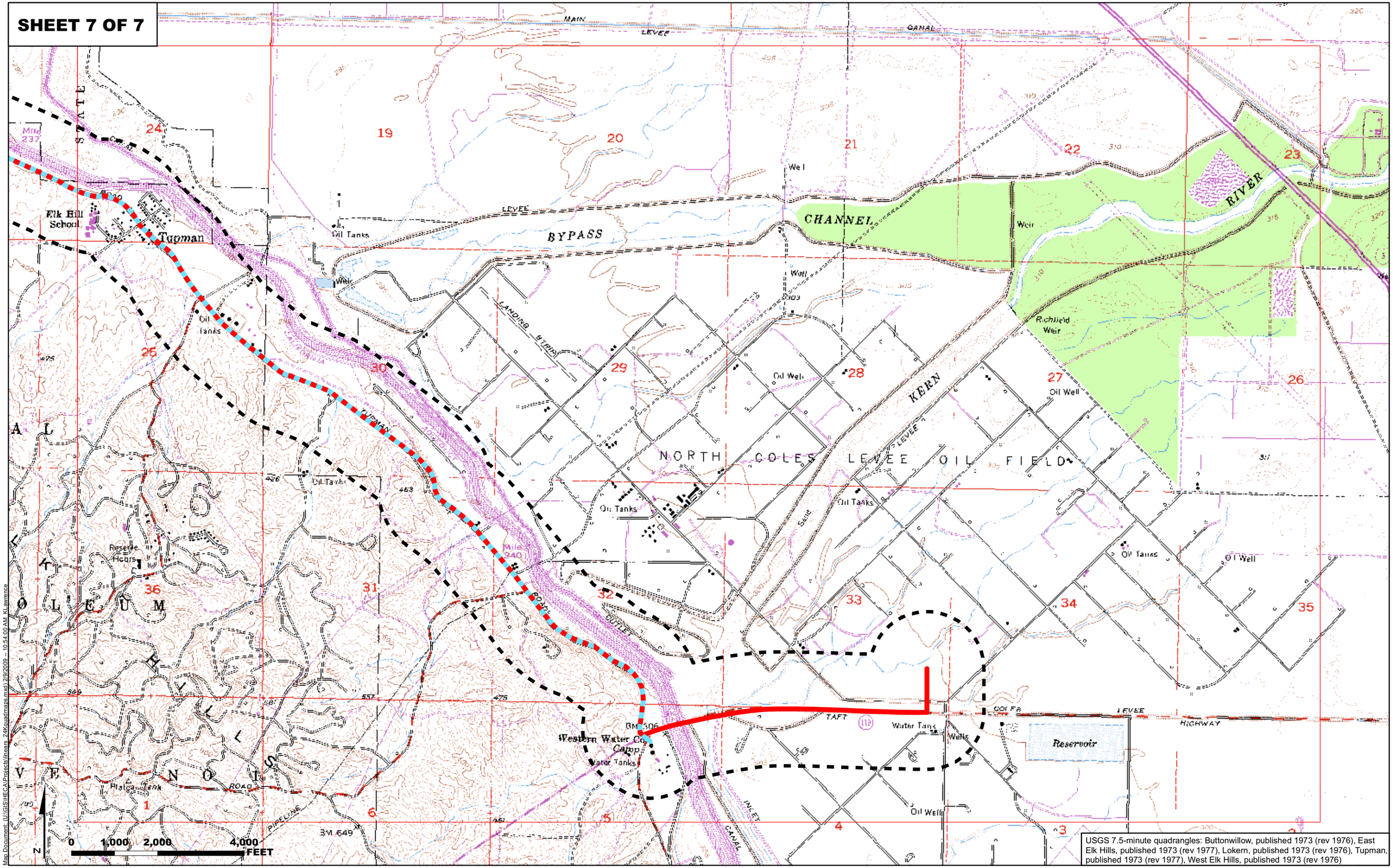
SHEET 7 OF 7



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TEJON INDIAN TRIBE
2234 4TH STREET
WASCO, CALIFORNIA 93280

April 19, 2009

Leroy Laurie
Staff Archaeologist
URS Corp
221 Main Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, Ca. 94105-1917

Re: Hydrogen Energy International, LLC

Dear Mr. Laurie:

Thank you for the letter dated April 1, 2009. We appreciate your project and hope we can help.
Although this is an area our ancestors used, at this time we have no information on this area. If any cultural artifacts are located, please contact us.

Gloria Morgan
Cultural Resources Manager
Tejon Indian Tribe
201 Warren St.
Taft, Ca. 93268
661-619-4504
Gmorgan2@earthlink.net

Sincerely,
Ken Morgan
Tejon Indian Tribe

Appendix H3

Archaeological Reconnaissance, Project Study Area
(Submitted Separately Under the Rules of Confidentiality)

Appendix H4

Historic Architecture Technical Report: Inventory and Evaluation

JRP HISTORICAL CONSULTING, LLC

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE TECHNICAL REPORT: INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

HYDROGEN ENERGY CALIFORNIA PROJECT

URS Corporation
221 Main Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

April 2009

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

URS Corporation contracted with JRP Historical Consulting LLC (JRP) to prepare the Historic Resources Inventory and Evaluation for historic buildings, structures, and objects located within the architectural study area for this project. Hydrogen Energy International, LLC (HEI or Applicant) is proposing to build an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power generating facility called Hydrogen Energy California (HECA or Project) in Kern County, California. The Project will produce low-carbon baseload electricity by capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) and transporting it for CO_2 enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and sequestration (storage). The Project Site is located approximately 7 miles west of the outermost edge of the city of Bakersfield and 1.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Tupman in western Kern County, California.

The purpose of this document is to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as it pertains to historical resources, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended and to assess whether the architectural resources located within the project study area should be considered historical resources for the purposes of CEQA; that is, whether they are listed in, determined eligible for, or appear eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This study was conducted in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code and with 36 CFR 800 relating to implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The project and associated above-ground transmission lines are located in an agricultural area that is northwest of Tupman and southeast of the unincorporated community of Buttonwillow. The study area includes the Project Site and a 0.5-mile buffer zone from the Project Site and 0.5 mile from the two proposed electrical transmission alignments. The study area encompasses approximately 13 square miles and includes canals, farmsteads, and agricultural production buildings. Henry Miller and Charles Lux (referred to hereafter as “Miller & Lux”) acquired the area as swamp land in the 1870s. They constructed an extensive drainage and irrigation system through the area beginning with the Kern Valley Water Company Canal, the West Side Canal and the East Side Canal in the 1870s and 1880s, and overhauled the canal system in the early twentieth century, constructing the Main Drain between 1916 and 1918. At the same time major alterations were made to the West Side canal. The company and farmers constructed the shifting lateral system to provide water to the alfalfa and feed crops grown south of Buttonwillow. These canals still provide needed irrigation to the surrounding fields and have been subject to continuing improvements and maintenance. Intensive settlement of the area did not occur until sale of Miller & Lux holdings in the 1930s. Some of the same families still live in the area. As a result, several farmsteads have successive residential buildings dating from the 1930s to the current decade. Independent farmers introduced new crops to the area, including labor intensive

cotton. Migrant laborers were accommodated in small cottages on farms or larger agricultural work camps in the area. Mechanization of harvesting and handling reduced the amount of labor necessary for cotton production. The introduction of new crops resulted in the necessity for agricultural processing facilities including cotton gins, and later rice dryers.

This report concludes that of the 28 buildings, complexes of buildings, structures, or objects, two are eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and thus are resources for the purpose of CEQA: Old Headquarters Weir, map reference #24, and the California Aqueduct, (See map #3). This report further concludes that these resources will not be directly impacted by the project, and indirect impacts do not rise to the level of significant.

Appendix A includes maps showing the project vicinity and location (**Map 1**). Map 2 includes map reference numbers for the individual resources located within the study area, and map 3 indicates the canals included within the study area. The DPR 523 forms for the evaluated properties are in **Appendix B**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ATTACHMENTS

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hydrogen Energy International LLC (HEI or Applicant) is jointly owned by BP Alternative Energy North America Inc. and Rio Tinto Hydrogen Energy LLC. HEI is proposing to build an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle power generating facility called Hydrogen Energy California (HECA or Project) in Kern County, California. The Project will produce low-carbon baseload electricity by capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) and transporting it for CO_2 enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and sequestration (storage)[1].

The 473-acre Project Site is located approximately 7 miles west of the outermost edge of the city of Bakersfield and 1.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Tupman in western Kern County, California, as shown in Figure 2-1, Project Vicinity. The Project Site is near an oil producing area known as the Elk Hills Field. The Project Site is currently used primarily for agricultural purposes. Existing surface elevations vary from about 282 feet to 291 feet above mean sea level.

The Project will gasify petroleum coke (petcoke) (or blends of petcoke and coal, as needed) to produce hydrogen to fuel a combustion turbine operating in combined cycle mode. The Gasification Block feeds a 390-gross-megawatt (MW) combined cycle plant. The net electrical generation output from the Project will provide California with approximately 250 MW of low-carbon baseload power to the grid. The Gasification Block will also capture approximately 90 percent of the carbon from the raw syngas at steady-state operation, which will be transported to the Elk Hills Field for CO_2 EOR and Sequestration. In addition, approximately 100 MW of natural gas generated peaking power will be available from the Project.

The Project Site and linear facilities comprise the affected study area and are entirely located in Kern County, California. These Project components are described below.

Major on-site Project components will include, as shown on Figure 2-5, Preliminary Plot Plan:

- **Solids Handling, Gasification, and Gas Treatment**
  - Feedstock delivery, handling and storage
  - Gasification
  - Sour shift/gas cooling
  - Mercury removal
  - Acid gas removal

[1] This carbon dioxide will be compressed and transported via pipeline to the custody transfer point at the adjacent Elk Hills Field, where it will be injected. The CO_2 EOR process involves the injection and reinjection of carbon dioxide to reduce the viscosity and enhance other properties of the trapped oil, thus allowing it to flow through the reservoir and improve extraction. During the process, the injected carbon dioxide becomes sequestered in a secure geologic formation. This process is referred to herein as CO_2 EOR and Sequestration.

- **Power Generation**
  - Combined-cycle power generation
  - Auxiliary combustion turbine generator
  - Electrical switching facilities

- **Supporting Process Systems**
  - Natural gas fuel systems
  - Air separation unit (ASU)
  - Sulfur recovery unit/Tail Gas Treating Unit
  - Zero liquid discharge (ZLD) units for process and plant waste water streams
  - Carbon dioxide compression
  - Raw water treatment plant
  - Other plant systems

The Project also includes the following offsite facilities, as shown on Figure 2-7, Project Location Map:

- **Electrical Transmission Line** – An electrical transmission line will interconnect the Project to Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Midway Substation. Two alternative transmission line routes are proposed; each alternative is approximately 8 miles in length.

- **Natural Gas Supply** – A natural gas interconnection will be made with PG&E or So Cal Gas natural gas pipelines, each of which are located southeast of the Project Site**.** The natural gas pipeline will be approximately 8 miles in length.

- **Water Supply Pipelines** – The Project will utilize brackish groundwater supplied from the Buena Vista Water Storage District (BVWSD) located to the northwest**.** The raw water supply pipeline will be approximately 15 miles in length. Potable water for drinking and sanitary use will be supplied by West Kern Water District to the southeast. The potable water supply pipeline will be approximately 7 miles in length.

- **Carbon Dioxide Pipeline** – The carbon dioxide pipeline will transfer the carbon dioxide captured during gasification from the Project Site southwest to the custody transfer point**.** Two alternative carbon dioxide pipeline routes are proposed; each alternative will be approximately 4 miles in length.

The Project components described above are shown on Figure 2-8, Project Location Details, which depicts the region, the vicinity, the Project Site and its immediate.

All temporary construction equipment laydown and parking, including construction parking, offices, and construction laydown areas, will be located on the Project Site.

2. RESEARCH AND FIELD METHODS

JRP examined standard sources of information that list and identify known and potential historical resources to determine whether any buildings, structures, objects, districts, or sites had been previously recorded or evaluated in or near the project study area, an area defined in California Energy Commission guidelines for architectural history/cultural resources studies, and the boundaries of which were agreed upon by commission staff. JRP reviewed the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), CRHR, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.[2] These lists did not include any historical resources within or near the project study area. None of the farmsteads, or processing facilities within the study area have been previously identified as potential historic resources, nor do they appear to have been previously evaluated for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. The California Aqueduct has been previously evaluated and found eligible for the CRHR. None of the other canals in the study area have been evaluated. URS completed a records search at California State University at Bakersfield Information Center which also found no previously evaluated properties within the study area.

JRP conducted fieldwork in the study area on February 2, 2009 and March 9 through 12, 2009 and recorded the properties on the DPR 523 forms (Appendix B). JRP conducted research at a variety of libraries and repositories including: California State Library, Sacramento; Shields Library, University of California, Davis; Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley; Water Resources Center Archives, University of California, Berkeley; Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield; and the Kern County Museum, Bakersfield.

JRP then prepared a historic context to address pertinent themes of Kern County irrigation history and agricultural history, and evaluated properties under CRHR and HRHP criteria on DPR 523 forms. Historic themes are discussed in Section 3. The description and historical evaluation of the property is summarized in Sections 4 and 5. The impacts of the project on identified cultural resources are located in Section 6. Refer to Section 7 for JRP staff professional qualifications, and to references listed in Section 8 for a complete listing of materials consulted.

[2] National Park Service, National Register Information System, online database: <http://www.nr.nps.gov/> (accessed January 2006); Office of Historic Preservation, *California Historical Landmarks*, (Sacramento: California State Parks, 1996); and Office of Historic Preservation, *California Points of Historical Interest*, (Sacramento: California State Parks, May 1992).

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Miller & Lux controlled the area north and south of Buttonwillow from the 1870s to the 1930s. They constructed an extensive system of drainage and irrigation canals and ditches. The area south of Buttonwillow remained company farms for the production of cattle feed until the 1930s when the deterioration of the company precipitated the sale to individual farmers. Crop diversification has been continuous from that point. Cotton, alfalfa and other grains were the major crops through most of the twentieth century. Cotton required large amounts of seasonal labor which were accommodated in small cottages on farms or larger agricultural work camps in the area. Rice was raised in the 1950s through the 1980s. Farmers are now introducing orchard crops to the area.

3.1. Early Exploration

Spanish-led explorations penetrated the great Central Valley of California as early as 1771, but these expeditions did not result in any permanent settlement in the area. The Mexicans, like the Spanish before them, did not establish any permanent settlements in the study area, conducting only brief and limited excursions into the valley. The closest Mexican rancho was at Tejon Pass, approximately 25 miles to the south, and it did not support additional settlements.[3]

American and British-Canadian trapping in the San Joaquin Valley began in 1827 when Jedediah Smith led a band into the region via the Tehachapi Pass, followed soon thereafter by Hudson's Bay Company trappers and other parties. In 1834 Joseph Walker entered the valley through the pass to the east that received his name. Later, in early 1844 and again in late 1845, John C. Fremont led explorations through the south end of the valley, documenting its geology, botany, and fauna. Exploration and study continued into the period of American conquest and statehood (1846-1850). In 1850 Lt. George Derby made a reconnaissance near the study area that noted the valley's vast lakes and tule swamps.[4] Nevertheless, well into the 1850s the study area remained a remote and sparsely settled region portion of California.

3.2. The Miller & Lux Era

In 1851 the federal government removed San Joaquin Valley tribes from the region opening it to settlement under federal land law. These laws fundamentally shaped the early history of Kern County. The study area, located along the Buena Vista Slough and the marshy area connecting Buena Vista Lake and Tulare Lake, was granted to the State of California under the Arkansas Act of September 28, 1850, whereby Congress ceded to certain states the swamp and overflowed lands on the public domain within their borders. The state was to use the proceeds from the sale

[3] William Wilcox Robinson, *The Story of Kern County* (Bakersfield, California: Title Insurance and Trust Company, 1961), 1-12; Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase, *Historical Atlas of California* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974).

[4] Robinson, *The Story of Kern County*, 1961, 7-12.

of such lands to reclaim them, thereby making them useful to the new landowners. The land act was subject to abuse and fraud. The seasonable nature of swamp land in California led to disagreements between state and federal surveyors regarding the boundaries of swamp land. In some instances parcels sold as "dry" by the federal government were also sold by the state as swamp and overflowed. In the end the state made its own surveys in the area and on December 5, 1871, the Secretary of the Interior accepted the state's proposed boundaries.

The state also struggled to find a means of reclaiming the swamp lands. Rules on transfer of swamp and overflowed lands changed over the years, and by 1868 basically required payment of $1.00 per acre, which was refundable if the land was reclaimed.[5] Under these provisions, Henry Miller, Charles Lux, John Redington, Horatio Stebbins, F.A. Tracy, H.L. Bonestell, and Horatio Livermore amassed their acreage on the lower Kern River west of Bakersfield. They acquired swampland certificates of purchase from would-be settlers or from local agents like Julius Chester, Duncan Beaumont, Richard Stretch and Thomas Baker, whose earliest claims in the area dated to January 28, 1870.[6] In this manner, Miller & Lux secured their "Southern Division" surrounding Buttonwillow in Kern and Kings Counties.

The partnership between Henry Miller and Charles Lux, both German immigrants, began in San Francisco, where both worked as butchers in the early 1850s. They established their partnership in 1858, when they joined forces to purchase a herd of Texas cattle. From that point forward they sought to purchase land for ranching operations and their increasing herds.[7] After acquiring their Southern Division, they organized it into ranches, the largest being Buttonwillow Ranch, which served as headquarters of that division. Originally, the headquarters complex known as "Old Headquarters" lay to the south, at the base of Tupman Road. The headquarters moved to Buttonwillow in 1885. Buttonwillow Ranch consisted of 52,440 acres, and the study area lies entirely within its former limits. It operated under this single ownership from the 1870s until 1927, when Miller & Lux Incorporated subdivided and started selling the land.[8]

[5] The Arkansas Act's early history and administration in California is summarized in John Thompson, "The Settlement Geography of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta, California." Ph D Diss., Stanford University, 1958. Chapter 8, 185-207. The Green Act of 1855 also removed limits on acreage allowing the assembly of large tracts. After 1868 the counties boards of supervisors served as reclamation commissioners. The purchase price ($1.00 per acre) was paid into the county's swampland fund, but the county swampland commissioners could waive payment if independent commissioners attested that the land had been reclaimed and cultivated for three years. Upon the selection of a parcel, a settler received a certificate denoting their claim; a certificate of purchase upon partial payment; and a state patent for the lands followed upon completion of payments and reclamation.

[6] Margaret Aseman, Cooper [Zonlight], Land, Water and Settlement in Kern County, California, 1850-1890 (New York: Arno Press), 1979.

[7] David Igler, *Industrial Cowboys: Miller & Lux and the Transformation of the Far West, 1850 – 1920,* (University of California Press: Berkeley), 2001, Introduction.

[8] Thomas H. Means, "Report on Farming Lands Miller & Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California, October 1919, 8.

The system of drainage, irrigation, and flood control canals built by Miller & Lux left an enduring legacy in the area. While some of their southern lands could immediately accommodate their herds of cattle, other areas required an output of time, money and effort, primarily in the form of water control features. Construction of drainage and irrigation canals was critical to the reclamation efforts of their newly acquired swampland along the Buena Vista Slough. If the waters of the Kern River could be diverted away from the slough, the swamp could be dried and then irrigated. Buena Vista Slough was to be reclaimed as a part of the purchase agreement for state swampland. The landowners formed Swampland District 121 in May 1871, including swamplands along Buena Vista Slough. Miller and Lux, along with a few others who had pastured their cattle in the slough, organized the Kern Valley Water Company in 1876. The Kern Valley Water Company acted as agents for the district. The principal works of the company were to be a canal for irrigation and for reclamation, known as the Kern Valley Water Company Canal (KVWCC).[9] The following year, canal construction began along the west side of the slough. Fifty-horse teams pulling one-ton Fresno Scrapers excavated the bed of what became known as the Kern Valley Water Company's Canal. When finished, it extended 26 miles northwesterly up the slough from Old Headquarters, had a top width of 250 feet, and bottom width of 125 feet. It was a massive project that required a significant labor force. Fortunately for the Kern Valley Water Company, recently laid off Southern Pacific laborers were available to do the job.[10]

Miller & Lux' attempts to control the Buena Vista Slough through construction of the KVWCC played a role in the events that led to the landmark water rights case, *Lux v. Haggin.* Canal construction was completed in 1878, and Miller & Lux found themselves with a massive canal bed that had no water and 10,000 head of cattle facing death by thirst and starvation. Although 1876-77 had been a drought season, they quickly accused upstream diversions from the Kern River as the cause of their water scarcity. In the years just prior to the arrival of the railroad, irrigationists diverting water from the Kern River had a number of canals either planned or under construction to water their lands in western Kern County. Among these were the Kern Island Canal (ca. 1870), James Canal (1871), Gates Canal (1872-73), Stine Canal, Pioneer Canal, Beardsley Canal (1873), and Calloway Canal (1874-75).[11]

In particular, the Calloway Canal and the Kern Island Canal, both controlled by their rivals in the Kern Land Company by the end of the 1870s, became the focus of Miller & Lux' ire. They

[9] This feature is now known as the Kern River Flood Control Channel.

[10] Assembly Bill 54, "An Act to provide for the Reclamation and Segregation of Swamp and Overflowed, and Salt March and Tide Lands, donated to the State of California by Act of Congress" was passed on May 31, 1861 and crated a Board of Swamp Land Commissioners who in turn authorized the creation of Swampland Districts. The districts, geographically similar areas, then had the ability to levy taxes and fees to fund reclamation projects. Robert Kelley, *Battling the Inland* Sea (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1989) 42-48; Miller, Mary Catherine, *Law and Entrepreneurship in California: Miller & Lux and California Water Law, 1879-1928, 39;* United States Geological Survey, *Water Supply and Irrigation Papers, No. 17*, 1898, 61-63;

[11] C.E. Grunsky, USGS, *Irrigation Near Bakersfield, California*, WSP 17, 48-58.

formed the Riparian Suits Association as their legal arm and began filing actions against Haggin, Carr, and other upstream diverters to stop their consumption of the river's flows before it reached lands Miller & Lux et al. claimed to be riparian lands.[12] The case at first was a far-reaching conflict that included, as either plaintiff or defendant, what appeared to be the bulk of the principal landowners and water users in the region. Ultimately, control of Kern River water was hammered out in an 1888 compromise that became known as the Miller-Haggin agreement. Numerous amendments have been made to the agreement over the years, but it still controls division of water in the area.[13]

The system of canals created during the Miller & Lux period consisted of canals dug and maintained by Miller & Lux, and a system of laterals dug and maintained by individual tenant farmers. After constructing a main flood control canal along the west side of the swamp, Miller & Lux also constructed East Side and West Side canals for distribution, sometime prior to the early 1890s. As their names indicate, these canals bordered the east and west sides of Buttonwillow Ranch, with West Side Canal running closely parallel to the KVWCC. Much smaller than the flood canal, the West Side was only 30 feet wide and two feet deep, and the East Side was 25 feet wide and three to five feet deep. Miller & Lux also constructed a drainage canal, called Main Drain, from the southern end near the old headquarters northerly through the center of the ranch, generally along the line of the original Buena Vista Slough, between 1916 and 1918.[14] Farmers used the water from Main Drain, collected primarily by seepage, for irrigation. The remainder of the canals and laterals in the area, like Deep Wells Ditch, Weed Island Ditch, and Arizona Canal (formerly, Poplar Grove Ditch) were primarily works of

[12] Igler, *Industrial Cowboys*, 101.

[13] Norris Hundley, *The Great Thirst: Californians and Water, 1770s-1990s* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992), 94. Hundley cites two sources for his comment: Edward F. Treadwell, *The Cattle King*. rev. ed. (Boston: Christopher Publishing House, 1950), 362; and *Bakersfield Californian*, April 23, 1881. The Treadwell book does not mention such a proposal; its discussion of *Lux v. Haggin* can be found (in the 1931 edition) in Chapter IX, "The Swamp of the Kern," 78-94; Construction of the KVWCC played a role in the litigation that led to the seminal *Lux v. Haggin* decision. The canal represented a significant investment of capital by Miller & Lux and the Kern Valley Water Company. When it failed to save 10,000 head of cattle grazing along the slough from death by starvation, Miller & Lux began to litigate. Their capital investment in the canal, combined with a failed expectation that it would save their grazing cattle, was arguably the final straw in provoking Miller & Lux to turn litigious. While this canal may represent a "final straw" it does not, however, stand alone as the only canal significant to this case. The upstream canals diverting water before it reached Miller & Lux' property also had a crucial role in setting the scene of the conflict. One particular canal or water diversion alone could not have been entirely responsible for *Lux v. Haggin*. Numerous conditions converged in Kern County to produce this fierce litigation over water. The shifting course of the Kern River, the construction of numerous canals and ditches diverting water from the river, and the competing interests of two large-scale landholders combined produced lengthy litigation.

[14] Harry Barnes, "Data on Irrigation of Buttonwillow Ranch and adjacent lands," 1920, 9.

individual farmers and Miller & Lux farm divisions in the area, who connected to the main canal system for irrigation of their crops.[15]

Miller & Lux erected an important water control feature in the study area. Near Old Headquarters, a weir separated the KVWCC from the Outlet Canal which fed water directly from the Kern River. The weir allowed Kern River water to be diverted into the East and West Side canals for distribution. Originally the first in a succession of timber weirs that controlled the flow of water up the canal, decades of troublesome wash-outs and flood damage induced Miller & Lux to invest in a more permanent structure at the point where the main canals met, near Old Headquarters. In 1911 they hired engineer, John B. Leonard and W.P. Day to design a reinforced concrete structure to serve as both weir and bridge over the massive flood control canal.[16] This early example of a reinforced concrete weir is inventoried and evaluated on form #24.

The canal system allowed Miller & Lux to support settlement in the area. By 1919 Miller & Lux farmed the entire area south of Buttonwillow between East Side and West Side Canals south to Old Headquarters. Individual company ranches, made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller & Lux employees, operated independently of one another. Each had its own set of buildings and water supply system. Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa raised by the company at Buttonwillow. North of the railroad spur line through Buttonwillow, the company rented their land to tenant farmers. Generally, farmers grew crops Miller & Lux agreed to buy in their entirety, often corn and grain to serve as hog and winter cattle feed. Milo, maize and sorghum were also planted and then grazed by herds brought in the fall.[17]

The town of Buttonwillow got its start when Miller & Lux established a ranch headquarters near a single landmark buttonwillow tree near the slough in 1885.[18] The Old Headquarters was not abandoned entirely; in 1919 an abattoir functioned at the site supplying the company's ranches, Bakersfield, and the oil regions with a fresh supply of beef, pork, and mutton.[19] A company store provided necessary supplies to the ranch hands at the new headquarters in Buttonwillow. In 1893 Miller & Lux sold 71 acres to the Pacific Improvement Company to establish a station and

[15] Miller, *Law and Entrepreneurship in California*, 1982, 39*;* USGS, *Water Supply and Irrigation Papers, No. 17*, 1898, 61-63; *Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Fresno, Tulare and Kern, California* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co, 1892).

[16] Jno. B. Leonard and W. P. Day, "The Concrete Bridge: A book on why the Concrete Bridge is replacing other forms of Bridge Construction," (Leonard & Day: San Francisco), 1913; J. B. Lippincott and Thos. H. Means, "Report on the Miller & Lux Ranch Southern Division on Kern River, Calif, 1919,"

[17] Harry Barnes, 17-18; Thomas H. Means, "Report on Farming Lands Miller & Lux…" 1919, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, *Map of 1918, Kern County, California.*

[18] Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire*, California (Beverly Hills, California: Autograph Press 1977) 85.

[19] Thomas H. Means, photograph #36 and caption.

town at Buttonwillow. In 1895 they advertised in San Francisco promoting an Italian colony in the Buttonwillow region to grow wheat. A few families attracted by the offer established farms in the area on land leased from Miller & Lux.[20] Angelo Torigiani was one of the Italians attracted from San Francisco to the Buttonwillow area. In 1899 he joined a brother already employed at Buttonwillow Ranch. In a 1950 interview he recalled that 23 families lived in the area when he arrived, only three of which were not of Italian heritage. He also stated that his was the only one of those 23 families remaining in the Buttonwillow area.[21] A post office established in 1895 indicated a stable population, but the majority of the townsite remained unsold and reverted to Miller & Lux. Charles Lux died in 1887, only eleven months after the Haggin v Lux decision. Henry Miller continued the business until his death in 1916. By this time the company was in decline, unable or unwilling to meet the changing business environment. The heirs to the company fought over the estate, and the property was sold off following World War I, ushering in a new era for the Buena Vista Slough region. In 1927 Miller & Lux Incorporated, under the direction of land agent C. E. Houchin, platted another incarnation of the town. Eventually this area became the focus of a large scale international marketing campaign that brought families from Europe and the eastern U.S. to start farms and vineyards.[22]

3.3. Life After Miller & Lux

Miller & Lux, Incorporated entered a period of decline following the death of the two principals. Settlement of their estates and increasing competition resulted in a period of legal reorganization that had an impact on the area south of Buttonwillow.

Miller & Lux, Incorporated had accumulated valuable land and water rights. However, neither was profitable without the other. In order to sell the land, a means of attaching water rights to the land was necessary. In 1920 the California State Engineer released a report on the water resources of the Kern River and recommended that a large district, including the Haggin and Miller & Lux water rights, be formed to manage water distribution. Despite the effective implementation of the Miller-Haggin agreement, the two parties chose to protect their interests by forming separate districts.[23] Miller & Lux's holdings became the nucleus for the Buena Vista Water Storage District. The district submitted a petition for formation to the State Engineer in 1922 and received approval in 1924.[24] As a part of the district formation, Miller & Lux allocated water rights to the land within the district, making future sales possible. The district exchanged

[20] *Buttonwillow Times*, "The Price Tag was 25 Cents an Acre!" 3 Mar. 1960.

[21] *Shafter Press*, Aug. 3, 1950.

[22] Igler, *Industrial Cowboys*, 180; Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire*, 85; Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" Ph.D. Thesis, University of California Los Angeles, 1976, 328.

[23] S.T. Harding, "Report on Bond Issue of the Buena Vista Water Storage District," April 1935, 5, 7.

[24] Harmon S. Bonte, *Financial and General Data Pertaining to Irrigation, Reclamation and other Public Districts in California, (*Sacramento: Department of Water Resources, Bulletin No. 27, 1930), 243.

bonds with Miller & Lux for the existing canals and sold additional bonds for construction of new canals. The district, however, postponed construction until 1926 to see if it could work with other Kern River users to construct a mountain storage reservoir. Without progress, the district left the location of water storage flexible and continued operations using Buena Vista Lake. The first major construction project was to lessen water loss at the end of the Kern River through construction of a direct connection to the canal system and a direct canal to Buena Vista Lake. Additional construction would focus on the northern portion of the district, as the southern end around Buttonwillow had been well developed by Miller & Lux.[25]

The district acquired all the canals in the study area, including flood water canals, irrigation canals, drainage canals, and associated water control features. The Kern Valley Water Company Canal (Miller & Lux owned 86% of the company) was the largest canal the district acquired in the area, and stretched northwesterly from Old Headquarters Weir in the southern part of the study area. Constructed for flood control, the canal continued to perform that occasional function. The canal was described as "expensive of maintenance" in the years when floods caused its levees to require significant repairs, it was also acknowledged that it accrued benefits to all of the lands below Wasco. The drainage system included Main Drain bisecting the area between the East Side and West Side Canals, and various shallow ditches that collected water from sloughs or other low places where water accumulated and delivered it back to Main Drain or other irrigation canals.[26]

3.4. Continuing Evolution

With water rights allocated to the land and an operating water storage district, the area became suitable for sale and a process of slow and continual evolution in the area began. As previously mentioned, Buttonwillow was first platted by the Pacific Improvement Company in 1893 in conjunction with Miller & Lux. The town was replatted in 1927. Miller & Lux land agent C.E. Houchin organized and promoted the sale. Miller & Lux previously leased land north of Buttonwillow and encouraged Italian immigrants to come to the Buttonwillow area. Former tenants, new immigrants and a few large scale investors purchased land in the area and established new cropping patterns.

Two factors influenced the development of new crop patterns: the development of groundwater supplies, and the end of the economic influence of Miller & Lux. Groundwater had not been considered a part of the water supply for Buena Vista Water Storage District when it was first formed. Early attempts during the Miller & Lux period to drive wells were thwarted by sandy sub-soils which collapsed into the wells. However, by 1928 new techniques were developed including a "gravel envelope" which protected wells from collapse. A series of dry years

[25] Harding, "Report on Bond Issue of the Buena Vista Water Storage District," 5-8.

[26] W. C. Hammett, "Report on Revaluation of Physical Properties to be acquired by Buena Vista Water Storage District," Sept. 4, 1926, San Francisco, 16-17.

encouraged farmers to develop wells and between 1928 and 1937 nearly 130 were drilled around Buttonwillow.[27] Groundwater supplemented water supplies and allowed for light irrigation in the off season for new crops like cotton.

Second, under the control of Miller & Lux the types of crops were limited, and supported the cattle and ranching operations of the company. In 1920 the area south of Wasco highway produced alfalfa, grain, and volunteer pasturage (hay). The exact percentages of these crops depended upon the amount of water available from the Kern River runoff and the grazing needs of the company. Miller & Lux provided the sole market and used the crops in their stock operations. However, the decline of their stock business allowed farmers to diversify. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops, notably cotton and fruit.[28]

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and its cultivation slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm, boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[29] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[30]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season, and fall months were spent hand picking cotton. Prior to the Great Depression of the 1930s, the necessary labor was typically provided by single men. Haggin and Carr had experimented with bringing African Americans to Bakersfield to work in their cotton fields. While many left to find better paying jobs in Bakersfield, some remained as seasonal labor. Mexicans and Filipinos also provided a necessary labor force.[31] By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The 1930 census lists five camps: Cottonwillow, Palomas, Negro Camp, Maddux camp and Negro Camp 2 in the vicinity of the study area. More camps were located in the nearby "Wildwood" district. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and Combs

[27] S.T. Harding, *Report on Bond Issue of the Buena Vista Water Storage District*, April 1935, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archive, Berkeley, California, 24; Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, 45.

[28] Harry Barnes, Data on Irrigation of Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands, 16-17; Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California* 26; Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller & Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, n.p.

[29] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, 27.

[30] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, *26* Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County, California* (Beverly Hills, California: Autograph Press, 1977) 81-82.

[31] William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962, 8; Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County, California* (Beverly Hills, California: Autograph Press, 1977) 81-82.

ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches, providing both work and housing. The Combs Ranches supported 46 laborers and the H.H. Curtis Ranch supported eleven in the off season. Additional seasonal workers would fill the camps during harvest.[32]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. As noted, Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and jobs were readily available, but housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937, with 75% of the cotton laborers coming from outside the county.[33] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Farm camps often had inadequate sanitary and plumbing facilities for families and inadequate means of supervising and educating children. The federal government established migratory labor camps, including one near Buttonwillow (outside the study area) to help mitigate the conditions. Even so, cotton laborers struck in 1938 to protest a 25% decrease in their wages. Conditions improved through the decade as new, more adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[34]

The increase in cotton production also required new processing facilities. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin, both founded in 1937. The Farmer's Cooperative formed during the depression under the leadership of W.L. Smith. Falling cotton prices forced cost saving measures and Smith organized farmers in the area to cut out the middleman. Cooperatives for purchasing and providing services grew out of the Grange movement at the end of the nineteenth century. In the 1920s and 1930s they were given additional legal support as legislation exempting them from anti-trust laws were passed. The first of the Farmer's Cooperative gins was built in 1937, within the study area, and allowed farmers to retain the fees normally charged by the gin. Farmers also retained their seed for processing into oil and reaped those profits as well. Despite the continuing decline in cotton prices the farmers were able to pay off loans for constructing the gin the following year. The gin flourished and produced high quality cotton that brought good prices. By 1948 as cotton boomed in the war economy the gin expanded building a second gin just southwest of the first. Post war prosperity continued the growth and a third gin was built in 1951. Two more gins northwest on Seventh Standard Road were purchased in 1958.[35]

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[32] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization,* 9.

[33] Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization,* 8, 10.

[34] Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938), 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[35] Catherine Merlo, *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin* (Buttonwillow: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987) 5-6, 9.

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. The reduced available work force caused by World War II prompted development of tractors with specialized plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously required. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[36] The Farmer's Cooperative Gin also increased its mechanization. Two new 'super gins' were built in 1974 and 1977. These gins were able to handle more cotton than the previous gins which were converted to other processes.[37]

The second major crop south of Buttonwillow remained alfalfa and other feed grains. Adohr Stock Farms, one of the largest and most successful enterprises in the study area after the Miller & Lux period, is an example of the continuing important role of alfalfa. Adohr Stock Farms was a southern California dairy company owned by Rhoda Rindge Adamson and her husband Merritt Adamson. Rhoda Rindge was the daughter of Frederick H. Rindge, a very wealthy, influential East-Coast transplant to California.[38] Rhoda attended one year of college at Wellesley before returning to finish her education in California. After marrying Merritt Adamson, an attorney and sheep rancher's son, she used her family inheritance to start Adohr (her given name spelled backward) Farms with her husband.[39] Mr. Adamson left the law behind to focus on ranching and dairying. Their first farm in the San Fernando Valley opened in 1916 and by the late 1920s they began to vertically integrate their business, seeking to not only maintain a herd of productive dairy cows, but to rear "replacement" calves, and grow alfalfa for their herds.[40]

In 1929, the Adamson's had an area northwest of Tupman, owned by Miller & Lux, analyzed to determine if the soil and conditions would support an alfalfa farm and a herd of cattle.[41] They learned that the land had rich soil, lay on top of an artesian belt, and had already been successfully planted with corn and wheat. Satisfied that it met their requirements, they purchased 1,500 acres from Miller & Lux in July of 1930 for $250,000, and set aside $50,000 for immediate improvements. By the fall of the same year, the company had planted a field, sunk ten new wells, and built a headquarters building, dormitory, and dining hall on the southeast corner of what became Adohr Road and Dairy Road.[42]

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[36] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981) 56, 69-75.

[37] Merlo, *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin*, 12-13.

[38] Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972, prologue.

[39] *Los Angeles Times*, 31 Aug. 1930, L14; *Van Nuys News*, 10 Jan. 1949.

[40] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 Mar. 1998; Beatrice Ulery, "A Bovine Nursery," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 9, 1930, J7.

[41] *Los Angeles Times*, Sep. 30, 1934, 21.

[42] *Los Angeles Times*, Jul. 26, 1930, Nov. 9, 1930.

By May of 1933, Adohr expanded its Buttonwillow satellite ranch to 2,600 acres. This location was subsidiary to the main San Fernando Valley branch. Adohr ran an advertisement in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1933 with the headings, "Adohr grows its own feed; Adohr raises its own dairy cattle; Adohr operates its own stock farms; and Adohr, of course, has its own far-reaching delivery system."[43] The rich land in Kern County, already within close proximity to numerous irrigation structures, played a pivotal role in allowing this southern California company to vertically integrate their business model and provide an affordable product to a broader clientele. The company used the ranch until the 1940s.[44]

Initially, other farms in the study area tended to specialize in one crop. However, in 1943 the Soil Conservation Service introduced the Buttonwillow Demonstration Project, which included land in the Buena Vista Water Storage District south of Buttonwillow and north of Stockdale Road. The demonstration project analyzed soils, irrigation practices and facilities, and provided information on crop rotations, green manure, and noxious weed and rodent control. Plans for efficient management of farms in the area were developed. Plans included crop rotation schedules spanning seven to nine years. Rotations included both alfalfa and cotton, insuring that many farms would produce more than one crop over a period of several years.[45]

In 1954 a new crop, rice, was introduced to the Buttonwillow area. The new reservoir at Lake Isabella had been completed in 1953 promising better regulation of irrigation water. Local farmers Wayne Smith, William Buerkle, Jack Thomson, Nelson Lewis, Charles Parsons, R.L. Adams and Hall Smalstig harvested their first rice crops in 1954. Two rice dryers were constructed, one at the corner of Highway 58 and Wasco Avenue and a second on Palm Farms, the former Adohr farms site. The northern rice dryer was a co-operative investment managed by R.L. Adams, who also managed the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. The first 7,500 acres was planted and treated with weed control via airplane. Combines were used to harvest the crops. Despite the arid conditions in most of Kern county 3,377 acres of rice remained in production in 1980. However, production has since ceased.[46]

3.5. Modern Water Projects

Despite the changing crops in the study area, the extensive network of canals constructed during the Miller & Lux period remained sufficient. With the advent of groundwater pumping, farmers used the canals to move water from the wells to their fields, a practice which continues today. Several years of groundwater pumping raised the water table in the area to less than six feet for

[43] *Los Angeles Times,* Jun. 1, 1933.

[44] *Los Angeles Times,* Apr. 7, 1940; Nov. 1, 1951.

[45] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 52.*

[46] Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Jim Day, "Pipefuls," *Bakersfield Californian,* November 8, 1954; William D. Watson, Carole Frank Nuckton, and Richard E. Howitt, *Crop Production and Water Supply Characteristics of Kern County* (Davis, California: University of California Davis, 1980) 20.

almost 95% of the Buttonwillow area by 1943. This rapid rise from 1935 levels called for improvements to the drainage system, including Main Drain. At that time Main Drain was four to ten feet deep and suggestions were made for deepening it. Between 1943 and 1944 4.8 miles of new drains were constructed in the water storage district. The drains also needed improvements to remove obstacles to water flow. Culverts and bridges added as the road system developed were insufficient to keep the water flowing. Redwood culverts and corrugated metal pipe culverts, some installed by Miller & Lux, began to be replaced. The Buena Vista Water Storage district also instituted a canal maintenance program in 1943 which called for regular hand maintenance, and mechanized maintenance every four years. Today, the canals are reshaped twice a year and re-excavated approximately every five years.[47] To ease mechanized farming, ditches and drains have been rerouted around the regular fields within the district.[48]

Larger changes occurred to the water supply for the canals. The unsuitability of Buena Vista Lake for water storage had been a concern of the district from the beginning. The district had delayed construction of new canals to the lake for two years hoping to work with other districts to form a mountainous reservoir. The Army Corps of Engineers developed plans for Lake Isabella in the 1930s, but World War II delayed construction. The dam was finally completed in 1953. While the dam provides a reservoir for irrigation water, its main role is flood prevention.[49]

A second government program to supply water began around the same time. The Central Valley Project (CVP), completed in the 1950s, brought water to portions of the Central Valley. It could not serve some potential customers among the farmers of the San Joaquin Valley who were either outside the CVP service area and/or who could not qualify for water under the terms of acreage limitations associated with federal reclamation projects. In addition, many state leaders, although agreeing to federal funding, had never intended that the CVP should remain a federal project after it had been completed. For these and a host of other reasons, the State of California began planning its own massive State Water Project (SWP), even before the initial units of the CVP had been completed.

The SWP called for construction of Oroville Dam on the Feather River where runoff would be stored for delivery by way of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Water drawn from the Delta would then be sent to "areas of need" by an aqueduct system nearly 700 miles long.[50] The California Aqueduct was designed as the primary conveyance feature of the SWP. It originated in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and extended 444 miles

[47] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, 16, 18-19, Map 2.

[48] USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle*, 1954 photorevised 1973; USGS, *East Elk Hills Quadrangle*, 1954 photorevised 1973.

[49] Department of Water Resources, *Bulletin No. 17 Dams Within the Jurisdiction of the State of California*, Resources Agency of California, Department of Water Resources, 1962, A-4, A-5.

[50] JRP Historical Consulting Services and California Department of Transportation, *Water Conveyance Systems in California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures* (December 2000), 82.

southward down the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, over the Tehachapi Mountains, and into Southern California. Within the San Joaquin Valley, the California Aqueduct the design called for three separate divisions: the North San Joaquin Division, which extended from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta southward 68.4 miles to O'Neill Forebay at the San Luis Joint-Use Facilities; the San Luis Division, which extended 106 miles southward from O'Neill Forebay to Kettleman City; and the South San Joaquin Division, a 121-mile segment flowing in a southeasterly direction to its terminus at A.D. Edmonston Pumping Plant.[51] The Coast Branch Aqueduct split off from the California Aqueduct near Kettleman City in a southwesterly direction, while the main channel of the California Aqueduct continued south into the Tehachapi Division, where it was pumped up 2,000 feet to cross the Tehachapi Mountains through ten miles of tunnel. After crossing the mountains, the Aqueduct divided into two branches to serve areas of southern California. The Aqueduct is a major engineering achievement and water supply system in California and has previously been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in a number of studies.[52]

The Buena Vista Water Storage District reorganized in 1967 in order to receive water from the California Aqueduct. A connection to the aqueduct was completed in 1969, southeast of the old headgate for the KVCC.[53]

3.5.1. Development of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company/ PG&E

The San Joaquin Power Company was formed from the failed San Joaquin Electric Company in 1902.[54] The promoters of this young company negotiated a division of territory with the larger California Gas and Electric Corporation to avoid destructive competition. The company brought San Joaquin Powerhouse No. 1, built by the San Joaquin Electric Company, into profitability and expanded it. Power from the hydroelectric plant was transmitted to Fresno and the surrounding area. Albert G. Wishon, one of the founders, encouraged the use of electricity to pump water for irrigation and because of this vision the company served rural areas as well as towns. But in order to expand into new territory and aid the farmers of the San Joaquin Valley the company needed capital. The company was reorganized at the San Joaquin Light and Power Company in 1905 with increased capital. The company began acquiring small local companies and connecting them to the larger hydroelectric system. The San Joaquin Light and Power Company extended its service as far as Bakersfield in 1910. Operations in Bakersfield supported oil

[51] *California State Water Project: Conveyance Facilities*, Volume II (DWR, Bulletin Number 200, November 1974), 1-2.

[52] *California State Water Project, History, Planning, and Early Progress*, Volume I (DWR, Bulletin Number 200, November 1974), 49-71; Department of Water Resources, *The State Water Project is Unifying California* (Sacramento: November 1966), 1-3.

[53] William D. Watson, Carole Frank Nuckton, and Richard E. Howitt, *Crop Production and Water Supply Characteristics of Kern County* (Davis, California: University of California Davis, 1980) 15.

[54] Charles M. Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1952), 189.

pumping and were also the first intercompany transmission connections in 1913. The company later connected with PG&E to the north to create an integrated system from southern California to southern Oregon.[55] In 1912 the company expanded to the coast with the purchase of gas and electric works serving Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and other small towns. Increasing needs led to the construction of more hydroelectric facilities, and to construction of a steam plant at Midway near Buttonwillow, west of Bakersfield, in 1921.[56]

In 1924 Great Western Corporation purchased the corporation. Great Western operated a system in northern California and connected to its newly acquired system via a transmission line constructed from Brighton substation near Sacramento, to the Wilson substation outside of Merced. Both companies became a part of the North American Company that had holdings that extended across the nation. North American Company sold to PG&E for PG&E stock. As a result, PG&E controlled electric companies throughout most of northern California.[57]

"Backbone" transmission lines from Shasta Dam to Tracy were built to distribute power. The Midway Substation became PG&Es southern terminus for this "backbone."[58]

[55] Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, 265.
[56] Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, 193-196, 265.
[57] Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, 293, 296.
[58] Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, 329.

4. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES

The proposed Project and two potential transmission routes are located in a portion of the Buena Vista Water Storage District south of Buttonwillow. This area is mainly agricultural supporting crops of alfalfa, cotton and a growing orchard business. Within the study area are three types of structures: canals, farmsteads and industrial sites. While some of the canals date from the late nineteenth century, most of the buildings in the study area date from the 1930s and later. This is the result of dominance of Miller & Lux in the area until 1927.

JRP recorded and evaluated all buildings constructed before 1964 within the study area. Many properties included buildings from several periods. In these cases, buildings constructed after 1964 may simply be noted in the forms and evaluation. Several mobile homes are located within the study area, however, since these are movable structures they were not evaluated. The California Aqueduct, which brushes the southwestern edge of the study area, has been previously evaluated and found eligible. This property was not recorded as a part of this project. For more detailed descriptions of the properties see the individual DPR 523 forms attached in Appendix B.

4.1. Canals

All the canals in the study area, except the California Aqueduct, are a part of the Buena Vista Water Storage District. Water flows through the district in a generally southeast to northwest direction. Canals in the southern portion of the district where the proposed Project will be located are all earthen lined with either a trapezoidal or U shaped profile. The smaller canals and ditches, Depot Drain, Arizona Canal, Deep Wells Ditch, Weed Island Ditch, and Florida Ditch, are considered district laterals. These ditches have trapezoidal profiles and are between 15 and 27 feet wide at the top and six to twelve feet deep. These canals have few water control features, most of which are modern. Culverts tend to be large pipes without headwalls, and delivery gates are widely spaced. The gates are located along the sides of the canals and have concrete headwalls and flanking walls, with circular metal gates operated with a vertical screw mechanism. The drains are fed through corrugated metal pipes. Headgates for the Weed Island Ditch and the Florida Drain are located within the study area. Each of these is modern cast concrete. The gate into Florida Ditch operates like the delivery gates, whereas the headgates at the division of the Weed Island and Arizona Canals are cast concrete with slots for boards to be inserted. Metal walkways provide access to the headgates.

The Main Drain is located in the center of the district. The drain constructed between 1916 and 1918 is slightly larger than the lateral canals. The drain follows the general route of the natural Buena Vista Slough, but straightens the route. Approximately 25 to 30 feet wide at the top, the canal is five to nine feet deep. The drain becomes larger as it travels northwest. By the time it crosses under Highway 58 in Buttonwillow it requires a concrete bridge rather than a culvert.

The East Side and West Side Canals were constructed in the late 1870s as the main canals for the irrigation system serving the Buena Vista Slough area. The East Side Canal is slightly smaller at 45 feet across the top, compared to the 50 to 60 feet across for the West Side Canal. Both the East Side and West Side Canals are controlled by concrete check gates with metal frames for the gates and metal mesh walkways across the top. The East Side Canal has more checks along its southern route than the West Side Canal. Pumps divert water from the East Side Canal along with turn outs for lateral canals.

The oldest canal is the KVWCC originally constructed in 1876 as a 125 foot wide canal. The U-shaped canal was partially dug and leveed. As a result, the western slope of the canal appears as a hump of land in the flat plain. The height of the western side of the canal varies, as the original soil was not suitable for levies or compacted well. The eastern side of the canal is more regular as it also makes up the western side of the West Side Canal. The central channel is uneven as flood waters have cut a meandering path in the center of the canal. The canal channel is trash- and debris-strewn and highly vegetated. Maintenance has included the removal of vegetation and reshaping by bulldozers. The Old Headquarters Weir is part of this system.

The California Aqueduct brings water from the San Joaquin Delta to Southern California. Over 210 feet across, the concrete lined canal is a major feature in the Central Valley landscape. The aqueduct has been previously evaluated and found eligible for the NRHP/CRHR despite being less than 50 years old. As a well-known resource the aqueduct, which just brushes the edge of the study area, it was not evaluated as a part of this study.

4.2. Farmsteads

The farmsteads in the study area are widely dispersed, and organization of the buildings on the properties depends upon the ownership, crop production and individual property history. The architectural details and characteristics combined with mapping and aerial photographs indicate that a substantial number of buildings have been moved in this area. Interviews with residents further corroborate this conclusion. Buildings can be divided into four types: worker's housing, early twentieth century residences, mid to late twentieth century ranch houses, and utilitarian out buildings. Several generations of buildings are usually visible on each property. For example, at the Antongiovanni property (37760 Stockdale Road) the property contains an mid-twentieth century minimal traditional property, a newer ranch house from the 1970s and a modern 1984 ranch house. Different generations of the family live in each house. Other complexes, like the Franceschi complex at 38506 Stockdale Road, have multiple houses with similar construction dates. Its minimal traditional houses and early twentieth century house are used by tenant farmers or employees, and most of the migrant cotton labor housing has been removed. The former Curtis ranch at 5500 Buerkle Road once had a group of small buildings on the western side of the canal across from the house. The small cottages at the Romanini property, 37601 Stockdale Road, appear to be remnants of typical early twentieth century worker housing.

As noted, early twentieth century worker cottages are found as components of several properties. Many have been converted to other uses and exist in smaller numbers. As mentioned above, the largest number exist at the Romanini property (37601 Stockdale Road), but other examples exist at 5543 Freeborn Road, 6300 Brite, and 5920 Brite Road. Adohr Farms also provided housing for agricultural workers, although the remaining structures are larger than the small buildings provided for single workers or their immediate family. The workers' housing is wooden framed, and in all but the instance of the Romanini and Adohr farm examples, lack a concrete foundation. The buildings have gable roofs and horizontal wood siding. Often they are narrow rectangles. The small shed at the Perruchi property (5920 Brite Road) is arranged in a T shape with crossed gables and is barely big enough for a bed. The remaining Adohr Farm building was most likely a dining hall for the workers. The building has a monitor roof and porches on either side.

Seven examples of early twentieth century vernacular craftsman houses are located in the study area. A common form in California, these buildings are front gabled rectangles with open eaves. Ornamentation in the form of decorative inset roofs and trim are common. Originally these buildings were clad with horizontal wood siding, but frequently were stuccoed in an attempt at modernization. The original wood frame double hung windows are also often replaced with metal sliding windows. The 1948 Parsons home located at 5616 Brite Road is a relatively unmodified example of the type, while the 1964 version at 6010 Buerkle Road has been stuccoed and had all its windows replaced. Other modified examples are located at the Pierucci property (5920 Brite Road), the Farmer's Cooperative Gin (Wasco Avenue), the Franceschi property (38506 Stockdale Road) 36242 Stockdale Road, 37401 Stockdale Road and 6122 Tule Park.

The other common housing style is Ranch. These homes are irregular or rectangular in plan. The single story buildings are covered with gable or hip roofs. Materials used to cover the buildings vary; some later versions have two different materials on the walls and composition shingle roofs are common. Early examples date from the 1940s. The earliest example may be 5443 Brite Road. The Parsons, who owned the area, constructed housing in the vicinity between 1932 and 1942. This period corresponds with the horizontal wood siding and wood shingle roof used on this early ranch house. Rather than a modern Ranch style, the building resembles a twentieth century vernacular craftsman with side wings. The house at 5543 Freeborn has a similar central structure with a rectangle added across the front. In both cases a majority of the windows have been updated with metal sliding frames. Mid century versions such as 5648 Brite Road and 6300 Brite Road have stronger horizontal lines, with horizontal siding and shed roofed porches. The most recent is located at one of the Antongiovanni properties at 37760 Stockdale. These most recent ranches use stucco and brick siding. The modern ranch homes were not evaluated as they had not yet reached 50 years of age.

The farmsteads have a mix of sheds and storage facilities for farming equipment and products. The most common have wood framing with corrugated metal siding and roofing. The larger buildings are most often simple shelters without walls, like the hay shed adjoining 5543

Freeborn, or the more complex version at 5443 Brite Road. The mid to small sized shelters have either shed or gable roofs. The arched roof storage building at 5443 Brite Road is unusual with the only similar example a seed storage building at the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. A few wooden outbuildings are found in the study area. These tend to be small rectangular structures with gable roofs and narrow horizontal wood siding. Fenestration and entrances on these buildings varies. The example on the Pierucci property at 5920 Brite Road has sliding doors and appears to be used for storage, while that at 5543 Freeborn Road has windows on the north side and shelters animals. A third example at 37410 Stockdale has been carefully tended and may be used as a garden shed.

Some atypical structures are within the study area. The former Hair Ranch at 6300 Brite has two unusual buildings. The residence has a cross gable roof and windows divided into decorative lights. Behind the house is a structure which appears to be assembled from earlier buildings, including a water tower. The home at 5865 Adohr Road exhibits more style than other buildings in the study area. The building has a visual similarity to Craftsman plans and kit home which were sold from the late nineteenth century into the 1930s. The original Parsons home at 5632 Brite Road has an unusual plan. The Parsons built the house on the same plan as the family home in Northampton, Massachusetts. As a result, the home has some architectural features in common with New England farmhouses. Because of the harsh winters in New England the barns are usually attached to the rear of the house. Instead of barns, garages are attached to the rear of the Parsons house. The central portion of the house also has two stories, typical of New England, but not well suited to the heat of Southern California. Modifications including alterations to the east side porch and replacement of all the windows have adversely affected its integrity.

The study area also contains four mobile homes. Two are located on Highway 58, another on Buerkle and the fourth on Brite Road. On both Buerkle and Brite Roads the mobile homes have been used to replace earlier buildings. Those on Highway 58 have been moved in since 1973. None of the mobile homes were evaluated.

4.3. Industrial/Transportation

The study area contains several industrial properties. Most are located at the northern end of the study area along Highway 58. The other industrial sites are associated with the former Adohr farm property at the southeast end of the study area. While dates of construction span from 1893 to current alterations, construction remains utilitarian. For enclosed buildings the most common material is corrugated metal, with concrete as the second most common material. Equipment and piping is often left exposed. Most of the industrial properties are associated with processing local crops.

The most evident is the Farmer's Cooperative Gin, at 2531 Wasco Way. The gin includes five gins, three smaller gins from 1937-1951 and two super gins from the 1970s. These are simple structures of corrugated metal and grooved metal siding to enclose the processing activities inside. Pipes and equipment protrude from the buildings conveying products to storage. The rice processing facilities, one at the intersection of Highway 58 and Wasco Avenue and the other near Adohr Road and Dairy Road, built in the late 1950s early 1960s share similar characteristics. Each has short metal silos for storing or drying rice. The northern facility appears to have focused on storage with multiple concrete and metal silos for storage. The southern facility includes a grooved metal sided building containing processing machinery.

Near each of the rice processing facilities is an airfield. The airfields are simple strips of packed earth used for landing small aircraft for either personal transportation or crop management. Each airfield has a single hangar. The hangars each use different plans, but are common to small airfields across the country. The northern airfield has an arch hangar clad in metal sheathing. The southern hangar is a rectangular building with shed roof (now collapsed) also clad in metal siding.

The other two industrial properties are not associated with the agricultural production of the area. The McKittrick Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad parallels Highway 58. Constructed in 1893, it connected Bakersfield with Asphalto (now McKittrick). The line has been shortened and now ends in Buttonwillow. The lightweight metal rails are laid on wooden ties on gravel ballast, with trestles and culverts.

The Midway Substation is located on the corner of Highway 58 and Wasco Avenue. A substation has been at this location since 1912 - 1914. Originally just providing rural, local service, the substation has grown as a part of the Pacific Northwest Intertie, which distributes power from Canada to Mexico. Like most substations, Midway has few buildings. One concrete building along the southern edge dates to 1921 and is a remnant of the site's oil-fired power plant, since demolished. Another concrete structure within the substation dates to its expansion in 1966. Both are highly simplified with simple symmetry and carefully measured proportion. Most of the substation is composed of metal latticework supports for the wires and electrical equipment.

5. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Evaluation Criteria

JRP used the criteria of the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to assess the historical significance of the properties within the study area.

The State of California references cultural resources in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA—Public Resources Code (PRC) Division 13, Sections 21000-21178); archaeological and historical resources are specifically treated under Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1, respectively. California PRC 5020.1 through 5024.6 (effective 1992) creates the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and sets forth requirements for protection of historic cultural resources. The criteria for listing properties in the CRHR are in Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, which provide the criteria from Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code. The CRHR is in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 11.5. CRHR criteria closely parallel those of the NRHP. The eligibility criteria for listing properties in the NHRP are codified in Code of Federal Regulations 36 Part 60 and explained in guidelines published by the Keeper of the National Register.

Eligibility for listing in either the NHRP or CRHR rests on twin factors of significance and integrity. A property must have both significance and integrity to be considered eligible. Loss of integrity, if sufficiently great, will overwhelm historical significance a property may possess and render it ineligible. Likewise, a property can have complete integrity, but if it lacks significance, it must also be considered ineligible.

Historic significance is judged by applying the NRHP and CRHR criteria. The NRHP criteria are identified as Criteria A through D, the CRHR as Criteria 1 through 4. The NRHP guidelines explain that a historic resource's "quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture" is determined by meeting at least one of the four main criteria. Properties may be significant at the local, state, or national level:

- NRHP Criterion A (CRHR Criterion 1): association with events or trends significant in the broad patterns of our history;
- NRHP Criterion B (CRHR Criterion 2): association with the lives of significant individuals;
- NRHP Criterion C (CRHR Criterion 3): a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values;

- NRHP Criterion D (CRHR Criterion 4): has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.

In general, NRHP Criterion D (CRHR Criterion 4) is used to evaluate historic sites (as opposed to buildings, structures, or objects) and archaeological resources. Although buildings and structures can occasionally be recognized for the important information they might yield regarding historic construction or technologies, the properties within the study area for this project are building types that are well documented. Thus, these properties are not principal sources of important information in this regard.

Certain property types are usually excluded from consideration for listing in the NRHP, but can be considered if they meet special requirements in addition to meeting the regular criteria. The following are the seven Criteria Considerations that address properties usually excluded from listing in the National Register:[59]

- Consideration A: Religious Properties
- Consideration B: Moved Properties
- Consideration C: Birthplaces and Graves
- Consideration D: Cemeteries
- Consideration E: Reconstructed Properties
- Consideration F: Commemorative Properties
- Consideration G: Properties that have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years

Integrity is determined under NRHP guidelines through applying seven factors to the historic resource. Those factors are location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. These seven can be roughly grouped into three types of integrity considerations. Location and setting relate to the relationship between the property and its environment. Design, materials, and workmanship, as they apply to historic buildings, relate to construction methods and architectural details. Feeling and association are the least objective of the seven criteria, pertaining to the overall ability of the property to convey a sense of the historical time and place in which it was constructed.

The CRHR definition of integrity and its special considerations for certain properties are slightly different than those for the NRHP. Integrity is defined as "the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance." The CRHR further states that eligible resources must "retain

[59] USDI, National Park Service, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," *National Register Bulletin 15*, 41-43; USDI, National Park Service, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance within the Last Fifty Years," *National Register Bulletin No. 22* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1979, revised 1990 and 1996).

enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance" and it lists the same seven aspects of integrity used for evaluating properties under the NRHP criteria. The CRHR's special considerations for certain properties types are limited to: 1) moved buildings, structures, or objects; 2) historical resources achieving significance within the past fifty years; and 3) reconstructed buildings.

Under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5 (a), a "historical resource" includes:

- A resource listed in or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources;
- A resource listed in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code;
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines historically significant, provided the determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record;
- A resource so determined by a lead agency as defined in Public Resources Code sections 50203.1(j) or 5024.1.
- Historical resources listed in, or determined eligible for, the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR, Section 5024 (d)(1)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

5.2. Evaluation

Only two of the buildings or structures in the study area for the Project appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. All buildings or structures in the study area around the project location over 50 years old received evaluation. None of the more recently constructed buildings appear to meet the exacting standards of exceptional significance. Therefore, none of the buildings in the study area appear to be significant historic properties subject to Section 106, nor do they appear to be historical resources for the purposes of CEQA.

Old Headquarters Weir appears eligible under Criterion 3 (C) at the local level as a significant example of the work of a master designer and as an early example of a significant new construction method applied to water structure/bridge building. The structure is important as a rare surviving example of Leonard & Day's design of a reinforced concrete bridge/water control structure combination. Old Headquarters Weir, built in 1911, represents an early example of the type, and is only one of two known to have been built in this period by Leonard & Day. The structure also stands as an early example of use of reinforced concrete in construction of weirs. Furthermore, the bridge appears to retain a sufficient degree of integrity and therefore retains the ability to convey its historic significance. Its character-defining features are its reinforced concrete benchwalls and flat slab roadway. For these reasons, Old Headquarters Weir appears to meet the criteria for listing in the California Register and National Register and would therefore

qualify as a significant historic property under Section 106 and a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Old Headquarters Weir does not appear eligible under National Register Criteria A, B, or D (California Register Criteria 1, 2, or 4). While it is a part of the necessary infrastructure for the development of the area it does not have significance beyond its normal use. Old Headquarters Weir was built to replace an existing timber weir whose maintenance had become too burdensome. Although Old Headquarters Weir was the first road bridge at this location it did not fundamentally change transportation in the area. It connected an unimproved dirt road on the southwest side of the canal to a more established road on the northeast side of the canal.[60] Its function as a bridge alone does not appear to represent a significant contribution to the transportation history of the area. Although it is the only structure remaining from Miller & Lux Old Headquarters, it alone does not convey the meaning of a ranch headquarters.

Under Criteria B (2), Old Headquarters Weir does not appear to be eligible for association with persons important in our history. It is not eligible for its association with Miller & Lux Inc., who commissioned the bridge.

In rare instances, buildings and structures themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies under Criteria D and 4; however, reinforced concrete bridge technology is well documented in published and photographic sources. Therefore, Old Headquarters Weir does not appear to be a source of important information in this regard.

The second eligible structure within the study area is the California Aqueduct, which was previously evaluated by other studies at various locations along its 444 mile length. It was found exceptionally significant under Criterion 1 or A, for its association with the history of major water systems development in California, and as an exceptionally significant example of hydraulic engineering, under Criterion 3 or C.

5.3. Canals

The canals of the Buena Vista Water Storage District in the study area do not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the CRHR or the NRHP. The Kern Valley Water Company Canal, East Side Canal and West Side Canal constructed in 1876, along with the Kern Island Canal (ca. 1870), and Calloway Canal (1874-75), precipitated the seminal Lux v Haggin litigation which has shaped California water rights. However, on their own the KVWCC, East Side Canal and West Side Canal are not significant for their role in the litigation. The upstream canals diverting water before it reached Miller & Lux' property also had a crucial role in setting the scene of the conflict. One particular canal or water diversion alone could not have been entirely responsible

[60] USGS Quadrangle, East Elk Hills, 1932.

for *Lux v. Haggin*. Numerous conditions converged in Kern County to produce this fierce litigation over water. The shifting course of the Kern River, the construction of numerous canals and ditches diverting water from the river, and the competing interests of two large-scale landholders combined produced lengthy litigation. For this reason they are not eligible under Criterion 1 or Criterion A.

Under Criterion 2 or Criterion B the canals are not associated with a significant individual. While the canals were constructed under the auspices of Miller & Lux it is not directly associated with either of those individuals. Miller & Lux constructed numerous canals throughout their holdings to irrigate feed crops. While Henry Miller did visit most of his holdings including Buttonwillow, most of his time was spent in San Francisco or his home ranch, which are more appropriately associated with him and the business.

Under Criterion 3 or C, the canals were designed by S.W. Wible, a civil engineer who designed mines in El Dorado, Amador, and Calaveras Counties before coming to Kern County, where he designed the Pioneer and Wible canals before designing the KVWCC. Despite his engineering knowledge, the KVWCC is not an engineering success and is not significant for its design or construction. The smaller canals are farmer dug and were constructed according to the common practice at the time.

In addition, these canals lack integrity to any historical period of significance, owing to their regular realignment, reshaping, and replacement of control structures.

5.4. Farmsteads

None of the farmsteads or residences in the study area appear to meet the criteria for listing in the CRHR or the NRHP, because they lack significance. The farmsteads were constructed as a part of the general settlement of the area following land sales by Miller & Lux. Farming and irrigation were established by Miller & Lux beginning in the 1870s; the farmsteads represent the ensuing years of crop diversification and family farming as practiced throughout the Central Valley. (Criterion 1 or A). None of the farmsteads appear to be associated with significant individuals (Criterion 2 or B). The area has a tradition of multi-generational farms like the Antongiovanni farm and Parsons farm. However, no evidence was found that any of these families or individuals in the families played a significant role in the development of local agriculture. Charles Parsons is perhaps the best known of the residents of the study area. He was involved in the development of rice culture, banking in Buttonwillow, the Farmer's Cooperative board and community boosterism. The rice culture however, was a short term development which has not resulted in a lasting impact. His involvement with other institutions involved group activitiy and the success of any of the ventures cannot be directly attributed to him. Under Criterion 3 or C, none of the farmsteads possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. The farm residences are

common examples of Craftsman and ranch style houses found throughout the Central Valley of California. The residence at 5865 Adohr Road is similar to plans and catalog houses available from the end of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. The farm outbuildings are utilitarian and lack distinctive characteristics or artistic value. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

In addition to their lack of significance the farmsteads in the study area have frequently been altered thus affecting their integrity. In addition, study of the architectural characteristics, style and materials of the buildings, along with evidence from maps from various periods indicates that many of the farm buildings within the study area have been relocated to their current locations. This relocation has by definition degraded their integrity, as moving the buildings and structures has separated them from their original setting, which may have included worker camps, and thereby removed their association with an important aspect of local history.

5.5. Industrial/Transportation Properties

None of the industrial properties within the study area appear to meet the criteria for listing in the CRHR or the NRHP. Under Criterion 1 or A none of the properties is eligible for their association with significant events or trends. The McKittrick branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, while an important piece of infrastructure for petroleum production southeast of Buttonwillow, is not significant for its association with petroleum production. Production had begun before the construction of the railroad in 1893. The railroad merely provided additional infrastructure supporting production. The Farmer's Cooperative Gin provided alternative ginning facilities in the area, but did not introduce cotton culture or processing to the area. Similarly, the rice elevators and processing plants were associated with the recent and brief period of rice culture in the area between 1954 and the 1980s. Rice culture was practiced as a means of conditioning the soil for other crops and did not become a significant crop in the area. Numerous airfields exist in the area for crop management and private transportation. The two in the study area are not significant for their roles in transportation or agriculture. The Midway substation provides needed infrastructure to the state. None of the early equipment or structures for the electrification of the area remain. The current structures as a part of the Pacific Northwest Intertie do not meet the level of exceptional significance for Consideration G.

Under Criterion 2 or B none of the industrial properties are associated with significant individuals. The industrial properties were developed by groups of individuals, whether corporations or cooperative efforts of farmers. Under Criterion 3 or C, none of the industrial properties have any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. The industrial properties are all utilitarian in nature and use standard engineering available at the time of their construction. In rare instances, buildings

themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

In addition to their lack of significance, several properties have lost integrity. The McKittrick branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad has undergone regular maintenance which has altered with materials and workmanship. The line has also been shortened, tracks between Buttonwillow and McKittrick have been removed significantly shortening the line and affecting the design, materials, workmanship and association of the branch line.

The Midway Substation has undergone continual alteration since it was selected as the southern anchor point of the Pacific Northwest Intertie in 1966. Before that the construction of the Midway steam plant in 1921 removed all portions of the previous substation. The steam plant was removed in 1956. These alterations have continuously disturbed the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of previous periods.

These properties have been evaluated in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act using criteria described in 36 CFR 30 and in accordance with Section 15064.5(a) (2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlines in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Full evaluations of each of these properties are found on the DPR 523 inventory and evaluation forms located in Appendix B.

6. IMPACTS ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The CEQA guidelines Section 15064.5(b) states that "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." The following provides reference to the project description in Section 2 as it relates to the Old Headquarters Weir, and the California Aqueduct, and provides an impacts analysis for both historical resources identified in this report. Impacts analysis is not necessary under CEQA for properties that are not considered historical resources.

The Project activities will be situated primarily in Township 30 South, Range 24 East, Section 10, M.D.B.M. The project excludes parcels in the northeast and southwest corner of the section. The California Aqueduct and Old Headquarters Weir adjoins property controlled by the project, but is not included in the project area. None of the project components or construction activities, therefore, will cause a substantial adverse change to the aqueduct or weir such that they will be materially impaired and unable to continue to convey their significance. Potential impacts to these resources are to the surrounding setting.

The Project proposes the construction of solids handling, gasification, gas-treatment and power generating facilities at the site. These construction activities will not directly affect the aqueduct and weir, but represent a change to the setting from agricultural to industrial use. This change of use does not affect the aspects of the setting which allow the aqueduct or weir to convey their significance and therefore do not pose a significant impact.

The weir is significant as an example of early reinforced concrete construction. Additional significance is a result of the early use of this technique for a structure operating as both a weir and bridge. As a result, the important aspects of the setting for this resource are the KVWCC canal and the gravel access roads. The significant aspects of the weir are not conveyed by the surrounding land use. The Project will not affect the construction of the weir, canal or roadway—only the surrounding land use. The aqueduct is a long linear resource that passes through a variety of settings, many of which have changed over time. Like the weir, this loss of setting does not significantly impact the aqueduct's ability to convey its significance. Neither the aqueduct nor weir will be directly affected by the project in terms of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, or association. Therefore, the proposed Project does not pose a significant impact under CEQA and does not require mitigation.

7. PREPARERS' QUALIFICATIONS

JRP Principal Rand Herbert (MAT, History, University of California, Davis, 1977), provided project direction and management for the preparation of the report, directed the field work, and edited the report and forms. Mr. Herbert has more than 30 years professional experience working as a consulting historian and architectural historian on a wide variety of historical research and cultural resource management projects as a researcher, writer, and project manager. Architectural historian Cheryl Brookshear (MS Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania, 2000) performed the portions of the research and prepared portions of the contextual statement, DPR 523 forms, and evaluations for this report. Research Assistant Heather Norby (MA History, University of California, Berkeley 2002) assisted in research, fieldwork and preparation of the context statement and DPR 523 forms.

Mr. Herbert qualifies as a historian/architectural historian under United States Secretary of Interior's Professional Standards (as defined in 36 CFR Part 61). Ms. Brookshear has a Master of Science degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and qualifies as a historian/architectural historian under United States Secretary of Interior's Professional Standards (as defined in 36 CFR Part 61). Ms. Norby qualifies as a historian under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (as defined in 36 CFR Part 61).

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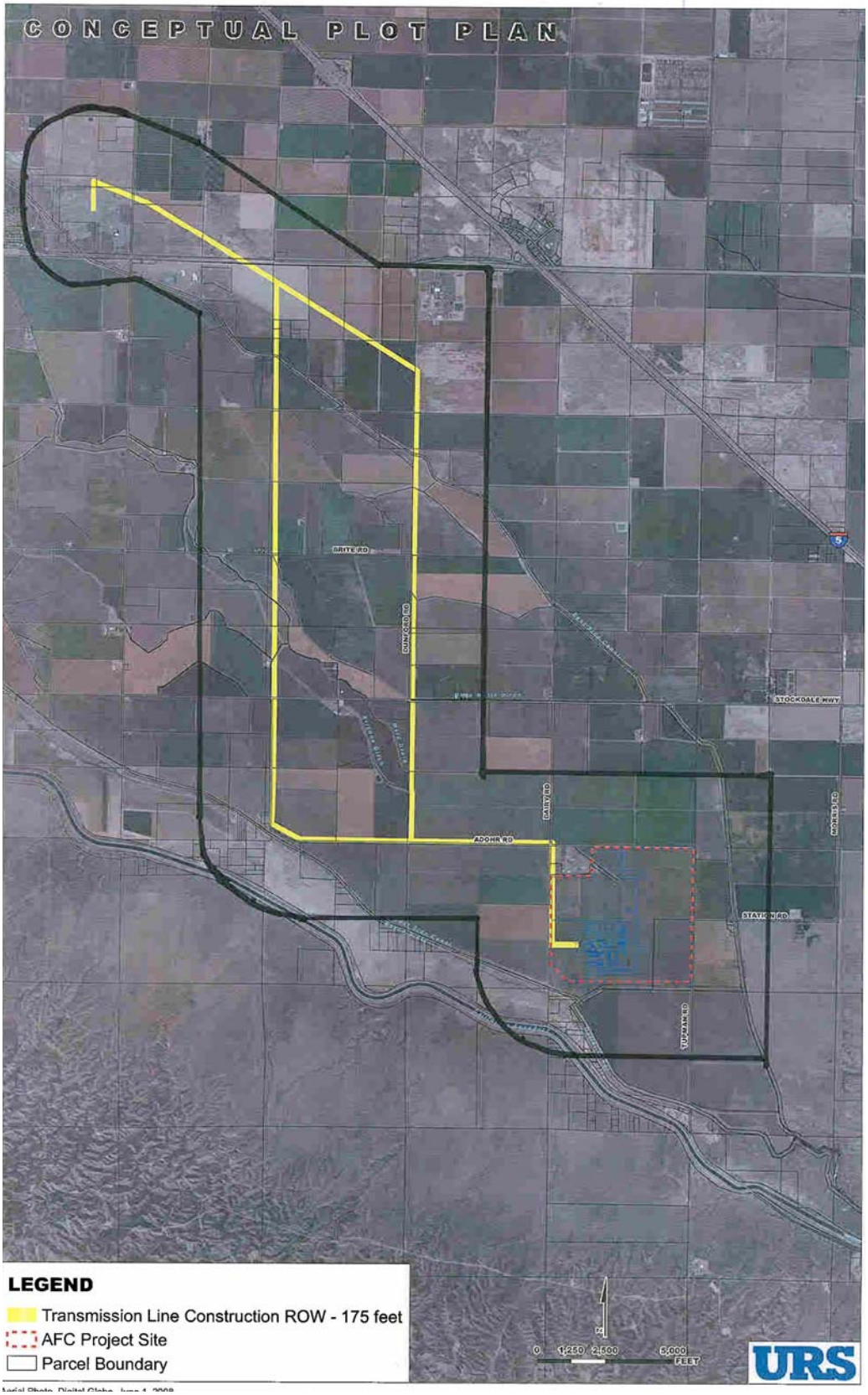
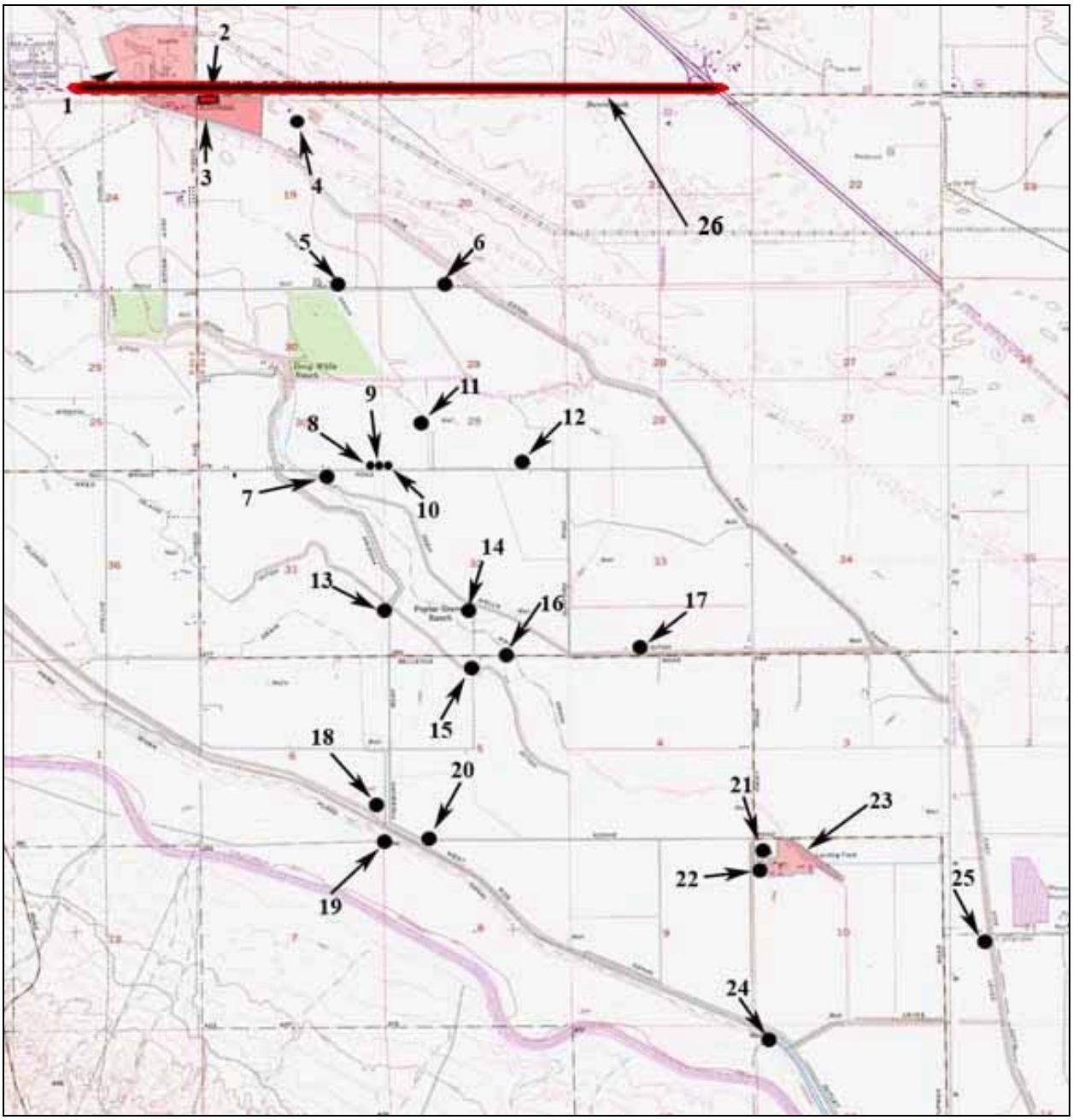
APPENDIX A:

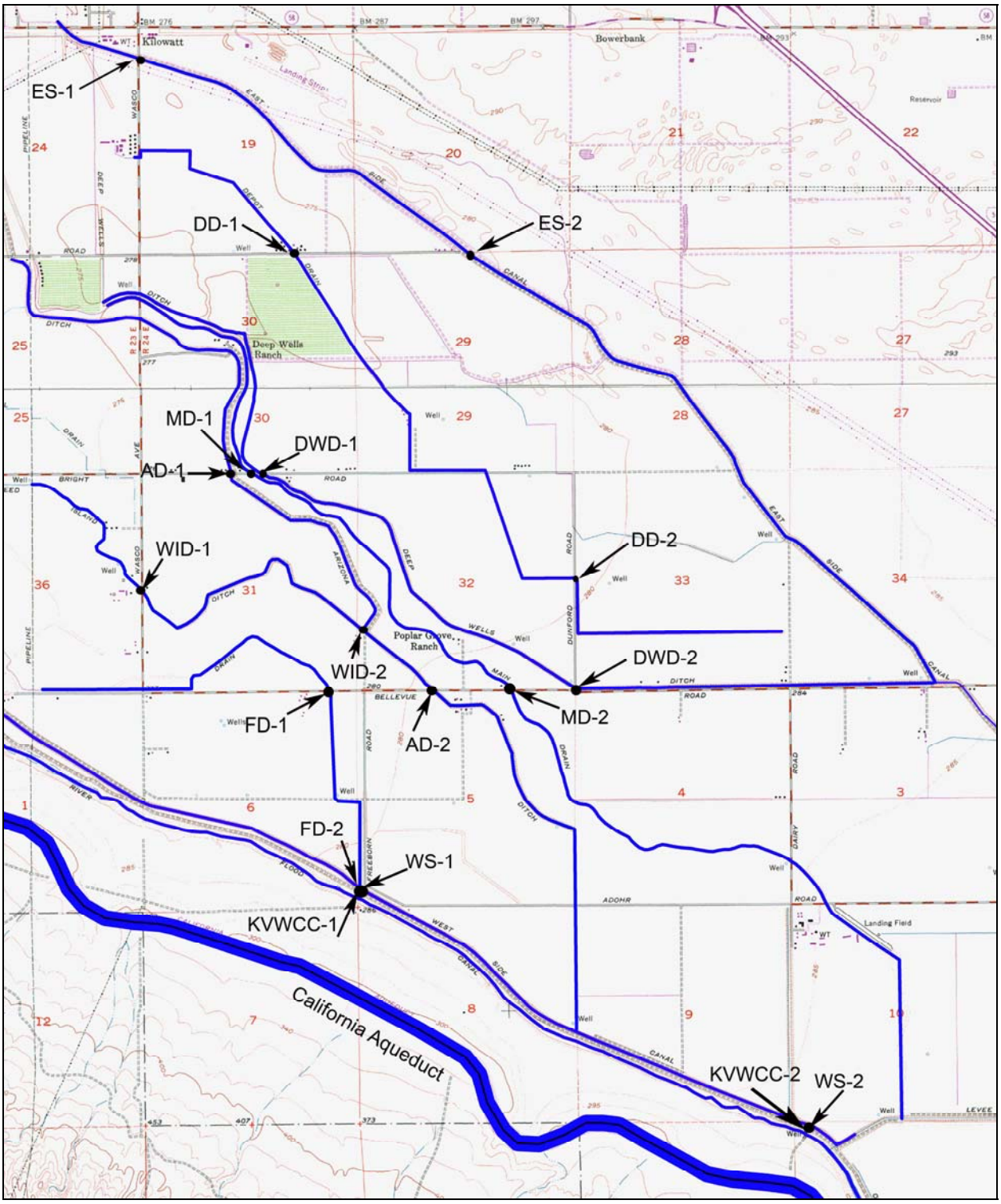
Figures



Map 1. Location and Vicinity Map. Study Area outlined in black.



Map 2. Resource Map, Buttonwillow, East Elk Hills and Tupman USGS Quadrangles



Map 3. Canals included in the study area. Buttonwillow, East Elk Hills and Tupman USGS Quadrangles.

APPENDIX B:

DPR 523 Forms

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #1

P1. Other Identifier: Midway Substation

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 23E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 13 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 2205 Wasco Way City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 101-010-02-00 and 101-010-15-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

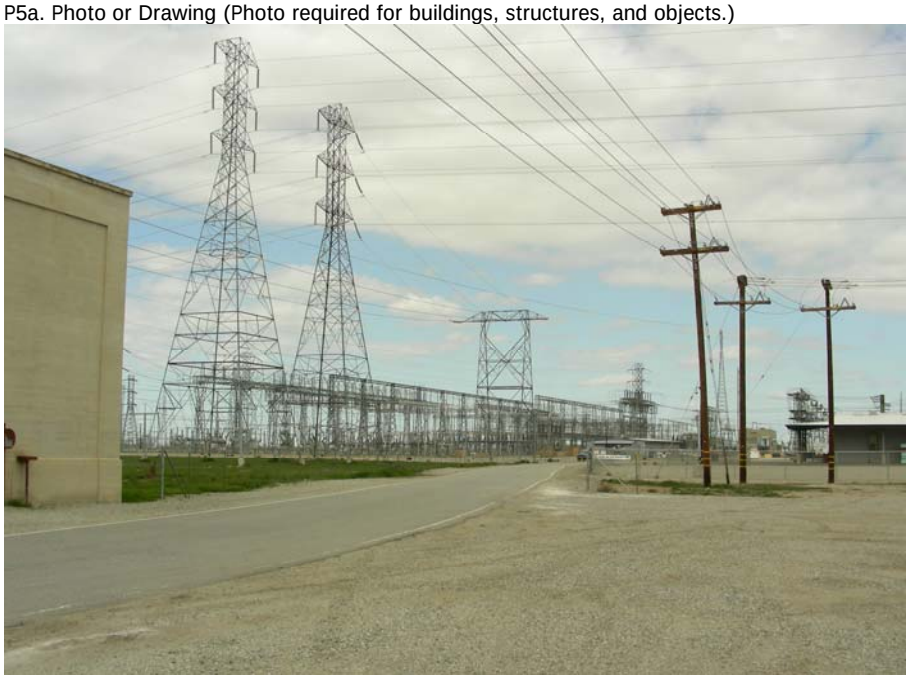
The Midway substation is a major substation linking northern and southern California and covers a total of 138.49 acres north of Highway 58 between Wasco Avenue and the East Side Canal. The substation has two portions; a smaller portion is laid out north to south along Wasco Avenue, a second larger portion is laid out northwest to southeast in the middle of the parcel.

The north-south oriented portion consists of three banks of switch towers and distribution busses. The eastern most bank has closely associated north and south sections. Each has four switch towers and sets of voltage regulators. The switch towers and long central bus are constructed of flat metal strips with long pieces connected by diagonal bracing to create lightweight towers and cross beams. The switch towers have flared supports on either side with an open lattice work cross beam. The central buss is longer with similar construction. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP9) Public Utility Building

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Structure ☐ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Midway Substation, facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1912-1914, maps and written sources

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Pacific Gas and Electric Co
PO Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177-0001

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #1

B1. Historic Name: Midway Substation

B2. Common Name: Midway Substation/ Buttonwillow Substation

B3. Original Use: Utilities B4. Present Use: Utilities

***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1912-1914 original construction, 1921 rebuilt for steam plant, 1956 steam plant removed, 1966 western portion of substation added, alteration of equipment and addition of lines continuous since 1966.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Midway Substation at 2205 Wasco Way does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance, nor does it retain integrity to its earlier uses as an early substation and steam power plant. The substation is an important part of the state's infrastructure dating from the introduction of the Pacific Northwest intertie. However, as the intertie is still developing it is not possible to evaluate its significance as a property under 50 years old in accordance with Consideration G. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

Charles M. Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company*, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1952; James C. Williams, *Energy and the Making of Modern California*, Akron, Ohio: University of Akron Press, 1997; USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle*, 1932, 1954, 1954 photorevised 1973; CEC, *California Transmission Lines – Substations and Selected Power Plants*, 2006; (see footnotes).

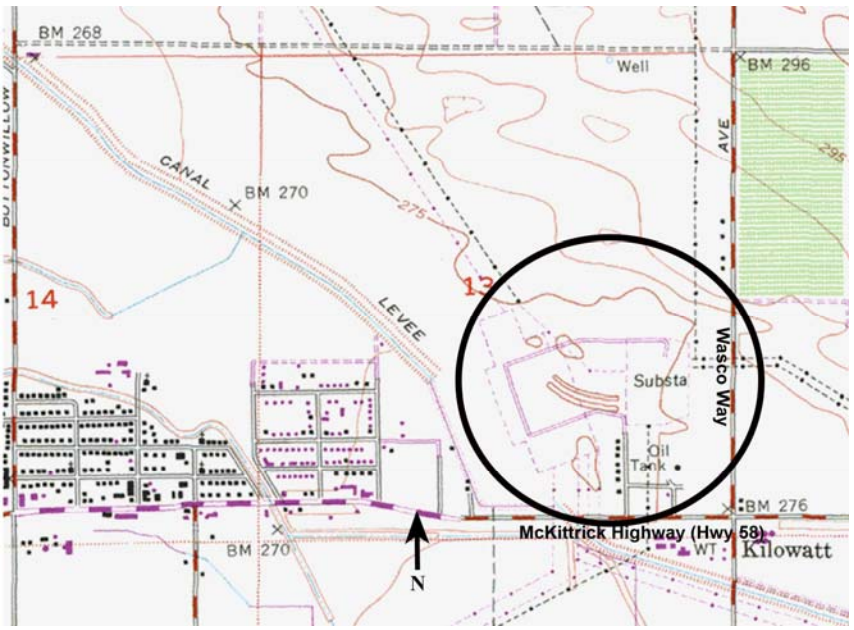
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

The western line of switch towers and busses are similar with the switch towers to the west linked in a way to appear as a third column of busses. A smaller set of busses to the north is constructed of lightweight hollow tapered poles. The result is a bus that resembles a swing set. Between the eastern line of busses and the western are five buildings. The largest building is three stories and rectangular (Photograph 2). This poured concrete building has a flat roof. A one story room is located on the south side. Two story glass block windows are evenly spaced around the building and the roof has four vents. North of the large control building is a long, rectangular, prefabricated two story building with a low gable roof. Along the east side of the building vents lead from the building to the ground. Across the interior service road is another prefabricated building with a flat roof and three windows on the south and east facades. A three-sided equipment shed is opposite the concrete control building. The shed has stucco siding and a shed roof. South of the eastern section is a prefabricated administration building. The modern building has a low gable roof and sliding windows. The north entrance is sheltered by a small shed roof.

The large switch yard oriented to the northwest southeast has six columns. Each column has switch towers at either end and three rows of voltage regulators though the center alternating with switch towers. At the northern end and southern end are a row of transformers or larger voltage regulators. At the southern end the transformers or voltage regulators are raised on metal platforms. The transmission lines appear to run through this portion of the substation in a northwest to southeast orientation. The rows of towers supporting the lines through the station are constructed of flat metal segments creating flared towers with cross bracing support and cross beams. The lower supports across the voltage regulators are simple metal poles with insulators at the top. A modern prefabricated control building is located in the center of the six columns.

The substation has a small fenced service yard along Wasco Way. A small substation, likely associated with the 1921 power station, is located north of Highway 58. The small substation has two switch towers and transformers and a single distribution bus with voltage regulators. The switch towers and bus are constructed of flat supports and cross bracing. Four street lights on poles with decorative bulbous tops are located with in the substation perimeter (Photograph 3). The lines leading to the small substation are carried upon wooden poles and are most likely used for local service. West of the small substation is a two story tall board-formed concrete building (Photograph 4). The building has a high water table and slightly recessed panels on each wall. A parapet surrounds the flat roof. The logo of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company is painted on the south side facing the road. Stairs lead to large metal overhead doors on the north and south side. A modern prefabricated shop or storage building is at the southern end of the fenced switch yard. This building has a gable roof and shed roofed porch. The porch is only absent in the northern corners of the building allowing access through overhead doors. A three sided shed roofed modern storage facility is also nearby.

Numerous power lines converge at Midway Substation. Near the substation are a variety of poles to allow the lines to cross over and under each other. Within a under a mile they standardize into five main types. The line traveling due north from the substation is the oldest remaining and consists of square metal towers with cross bracing. Square towers with flared bases and cross bracing are found leading to the northwest, southeast, east and west. The third form resembles a swing set with two supports on either side that flare in the direction of transmission. Transmission lines are carried through the mid point of the cross piece and the ends. These carry lines to the northwest, west and east. The fourth form has an hourglass shape narrowing before angling out wards to support a cross piece from which the transmission lines are suspended. These lines are located to the southeast. The last form is a modern hollow pole with three cross bars at the top. These carry lines to the south and west.

B10. Significance (continued):

Development of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company/ PG&E

The San Joaquin Power Company was formed from the failed San Joaquin Electric Company in 1902.[1] The promoters of this young company negotiated a division of territory with the larger California Gas and Electric Corporation to avoid destructive competition. The San Joaquin Power Company would be undisturbed in the territory south of Stanislaus County. The company brought San Joaquin Powerhouse No. 1, built by the failed San Joaquin Electric Company, into profitability and expanded it. Power from the hydroelectric plant was transmitted to Fresno and the surrounding area. Albert G. Wishon, one of the founders, encouraged the use of electricity to pump water for irrigation and because of this vision the company served rural areas as well as towns. The company needed capital in order to expand into new territory and aid the farmers of the San Joaquin Valley. The company was reorganized as the San Joaquin Light and Power Company in 1905 and began acquiring small local companies and connecting them to the larger hydroelectric system. The San Joaquin Light and Power Company became a corporation and extended its service as far as Bakersfield in 1910. Operations in Bakersfield supported oil pumping and were also the first intercompany transmission connections in 1913. San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation later connected with PG&E to the north to create an integrated system from southern California to southern Oregon.[2] In 1912 the company expanded to the coast with the purchase of gas and electric works serving Paso Robles, Pismo and other small towns. Increasing needs led to the construction of more hydroelectric facilities and a steam plant at Midway near Buttonwillow in 1921.[3]

Despite being a growing and profitable company, San Joaquin Light and Power was not large enough to avoid purchase. In 1924, Great Western Corporation purchased the corporation. Great Western operated a system in northern California and connected to its newly acquired system via a transmission line constructed from Brighton substation near Sacramento, to the Wilson substation outside of Merced. Both companies became a part of the North American Company that had holdings that extended across the nation. In a later stock deal the North American Company turned control of the San Joaquin Light and Power and Great Western to PG&E and in return, North American received stock in PG&E. As a result, PG&E controlled electric companies throughout most of northern California.[4]

PG&E was strongly opposed to government-run utilities, and the new Central Valley Project (CVP) would bring the government into the arena as a producer of electricity. Beginning in 1923, and not settled fully until 1951, PG&E and the government entered into a period of conflict. After years of conflict and lawsuits, agreements were reached to establish that the government would sell the generated power to PG&E, who would transmit it to customers. "Backbone" transmission lines from Shasta Dam to Tracy were built to distribute the power.[5]

The decades of Depression and World War II saw limited growth of new generation facilities. Following World War II, PG&E began a program of expanded generation to serve the growing post-war population. One billion dollars was spent on new plants. PG&E was also able to develop new hydroelectric sites that were not available to southern California companies and World War II had also encouraged greater interconnectivity and transmission lines now connected companies from British Columbia to Mexico.[6]

[1] Charles M. Coleman, *PG & E of California: The Centennial Story of Pacific Gas and Electric Company* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1952) 189.
[2] Coleman, *PG & E of California*, 265.
[3] Coleman, *PG & E of California*, 193-196, 265.
[4] Coleman, *PG & E of California*, 293, 296.
[5] Coleman, *PG & E of California* 329.
[6] Coleman, *PG & E of California*, 265.

Midway Substation

A substation was constructed near Buttonwillow between 1912 and 1914. This corresponded with the growing use of electric pumps for agricultural and petroleum production. Between 1910 and 1913 the number of motors, for pumps and other machinery, served by the San Joaquin Light and Power Company in Kern County increased from 109 to 1,027.[7] A series of dry years and the discovery of a new natural gas well in the Elk Hills led San Joaquin Light and Power to construct a new steam plant on the site in 1921.[8] The plant was known as Midway, and contained two steam turbine generators each capable of producing 12,500 kVa. The company also provided housing at the plant for workers and their families. The 1930 census lists 13 families and a boarding house at the power plant property. This residential grouping came to be known as Kilowatt and is noted on maps until 1973.[9] The steam plant reached peak production during the fall and winter months when hydropower from other plants was at its lowest. During high water years the plant would shut down through the summer months.[10] Two lines ran north and west from the substation associated with the power plant to connect the plant with Bakersfield and supply Wasco and other agricultural areas to the north east. A third line ran south through the Elk Hills to Taft. The most important line in the system was the line north to Fresno. The first of the lines connecting Kern county and the San Joaquin River were built around 1913.

The company had large hydroelectric capacity in the mountains and foothills east of Fresno and by linking this supply to their southern holdings in Kern, they could make the best use of their capacity.[11] The line from Midway to the north, as indicated on 1932 quadrangle maps, still remains as a series of square towers traveling north from the substation. The towers support three 110-161 kVa lines, much more powerful than the 60,000 volt lines used in the early twentieth century.[12]

The Midway Steam Plant remained a part of the generating capacity of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company and later the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) until 1956. World War II had prevented the construction of new plants, but the increased demands from rapidly growing wartime industry and population necessitated additional power. As a result, the electrical grid became more interconnected to help suppliers balance generating capacity and load. Following the war new steam plants were rapidly constructed. These new plants were much larger, and a single turbine at these plants could produce more than the entire Midway plant. PG&E constructed new steam plants which would serve the area, Kern in 1948 and Morro Bay in 1955. The steam plant at Midway was dismantled leaving its substation and a small equipment building (Photograph 4).[13]

Despite the removal of the steam plant, Midway Substation continued to be an important link in the electrical distribution system. The early lines to Wasco and Bakersfield were replaced with a major corridor of two 110-161 kV lines and three 345-500 kV lines to Bakersfield. Other lines were added to the northwest. The western line installed between 1932 and 1942 served the west side down to Taft and looped back up to the substation via the south line was updated. All these alterations were made before 1954. In 1966 PG&E selected Midway substation to anchor its new major north-south tie which became part of the Pacific Northwest Pacific Southwest Intertie. Construction in 1966 cost approximately $4 million. Midway Substation became the southern-most end of PG&E's extra high voltage (EHV) line, which began at Shasta and ran over 1,000 miles south. Midway substation was linked to Los Banos Substation. Los Banos was in turn connected to Tesla

[7] Roger Ellingson, "Power Era Brings Vast Prosperity Here," *The Bakersfield Californian, Centennial Edition,* October 8, 1966, 2C.
[8] Henry Clifford Spurr and Ellsworth Niwrls editors, *Public Utilities Reports* (Rochester, New York: Public Utilities Reports Inc, 1920) 956.
[9] US Census Bureau, Manuscript Census 1930, California, Kern County, Buttonwillow Township, Enumeration District 15-35, Sheets 2-B, 3; USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle* (Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1954 photorevised 1973).
[10] Pacific Gas and Electric Company, *Annual Report of the Department of Electrical Operation and Maintenance,* 1930, 59, 113-118.
[11] Ellingson, "Power Era Brings Vast Prosperity Here," 2C.
[12] USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle,* (Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1932); California Energy Commission, *California Transmission Lines – Substations and Selected Power Plants,* 2006.
[13] Ellingson, "Power Era Brings Vast Prosperity Here," 2C; California Energy Commission, Database of California Power Plants, http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/powerplants/index.html accessed March 25, 2009.

substation and the Morro Bay power plant. The new connections transmitted power at 500,000 volts, an increase from the previous high of 23,000 volts.[14] Southern California Edison later connected to the substation to bring electricity further south through Vincent Substation outside of Los Angeles. An additional line was added by PG&E and Southern California Edison to transmit power to Palmdale increasing their ties in 1973.[15] Continued expansion also connected the substation directly to the Morro Bay plant. In this way the substation connected the major north south transmission route and the coast to the valley. PG&E constructed another line between Midway substation and the Diablo nuclear generating plant in 1971, and spent over $8 million to expand the substation.[16]

These events in the late 1960s into the 1970s have made Midway substation a major hub within the electrical transmission system along the west coast. Expanding electrical needs since the beginning of the Northwest Pacific intertie have resulted in ongoing changes to the substation. The LaPaloma and Sunrise power plants were connected to the substation in 2001, and the substation now distributes power from six plants. Equipment has been updated to carry additional power over the Tehachapi mountains and help balance the needs of northern and southern California.[17]

Evaluation

Under Criterion 1 or A the Midway substation is not significant for its association with the development of electrical transmission. The substation began as a rural service substation and was later converted to serve as a distribution point for the steam plant constructed there. While it has become a major distribution point for electrical power after 1966, its inclusion in the Pacific Northwest Intertie does not differentiate it from other infrastructure necessary for the continued growth and development of electric power in the state. The Pacific Northwest Intertie has not yet reached 50 years of age providing sufficient historical perspective for evaluation. At this time the Pacific Northwest Intertie does not meet the criteria of exceptional significance necessary under Criterion Consideration G. The intertie is a major distribution line, but developed out of a general increase in need for electrical power rather than a significant engineering achievement or significant precipitating event.

Under Criterion 2 or B the Midway substation is not significant for its association with a significant individual. The Midway substation is a construct of a large company and not associated with a single individual. Under Criterion 3 or C the substation does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The substation was constructed using standard equipment and general layout for substations at the periods of construction.

In addition to the lack of significance the oldest portions of the substation lack integrity. No signs of the first substation from the early twentieth century remain. The steam plant constructed in 1921 was removed in 1956, and the only remaining structure from that period is the concrete building near the southern end of the substation, and possibly portions of the eastern substation yard. These remnants have altered and diminished integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The substation has been undergoing regular alterations since 1966 to increase its capacity. These continuing alterations have adversely impacted the integrity of design, materials and workmanship for the 1966 period.

[14] "PG&E Sets $4 Million Expansion of Substation Near Buttonwillow," *Bakersfield Californian*, January 14, 1966.
[15] "Third Buttonwillow Transmission Line Okayed," *Bakersfield Californian*, March 30, 1973.
[16] "PG&E Work Here to Cost $8.34 Million," *Buttonwillow Times*, January 7, 1971.
[17] Mitchell Landsberg, "Kern County Basks in Role as State's Blackout Buster," *Los Angeles Times*, May 29, 2001; California Independent System Operator, "Path 26 Upgrade Study Phase A – Short-Term Implementation" April 2001.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: Substation control building, camera facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

Photograph 3: Small substation south of current large switching yards., camera facing northeast, March 9, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 4: San Joaquin Light and Power building, camera facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #2

P1. Other Identifier: 2530 Wasco Way - Rice Dryer

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 19 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 2530 Wasco Way City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-120-01-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The parcel located at the southeast corner of Wasco Way and McKittrick Highway includes a large rice dryer and a small administrative building at 2530 Wasco Way (See Photograph 1). The dryer and elevator are composed of various metal and concrete silos, located on the east side of the parcel (See Photograph 2). Ten paired narrow metal tanks followed by two wider metal tanks are along the northern edge. Four concrete silos arranged in a square are just south of the line of tanks. A new, metal top feed is located on top of the silos and connects down to the cluster of tanks. A raised-seam metal chute leads to the top of the line of metal tanks. At the base of the chute sliding doors face the railroad tracks. An overhead loading pipe leads from the metal tanks and hangs over the railroad tracks. Immediately west of the silos is a small concrete block control building with a flat roof and aluminum sliding windows. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP8 (Industrial building); HP2 (Single Family Property)

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Structure ☐ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Grain elevators and small residence, camera facing east.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1954 *Daily Midway Driller*

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Co.
7540 Tracy Ave.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9742

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Hydrogen Energy California Project." April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

B1. Historic Name: _____
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Rice Dryer B4. Present Use: Vacant
***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Constructed 1954

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Farmer's Cooperative Gin at 2531 and 2135 Wasco Avenue does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

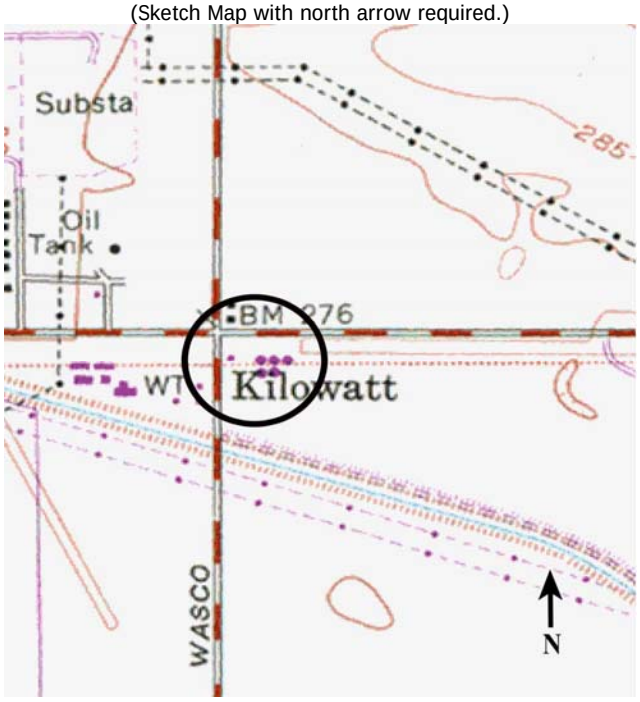
Historic Context

Following the subdivision of the former Miller & Lux holdings surrounding Buttonwillow farmers diversified adding important crops like cotton. However, problems remained. The original swampland had been drained and irrigated with the canal and drain system constructed by Miller & Lux. While the water was contained, the former swamp soil remained highly alkali. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**
Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Jim Day, "Pipefuls," *Bakersfield Californian*, November 8, 1954; William D. Watson, Carole Frank Nuckton, and Richard E. Howitt, *Crop Production and Water Supply Characteristics of Kern County* (Davis, California: University of California Davis, 1980) 20; Interview with Mike Hooper, Farmer's Cooperative Gin manager, March 30, 2009. *Los Angeles Times*; *Van Nuys News* (Also see footnotes.)
B13. Remarks:

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** April 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

P3a. Description (continued):

The small administrative building at 2530 Wasco Way is located in the northwest corner of the property (See Photograph 3). This small rectangular structure has a composition shingle, side gable roof with a moderate pitch and overhang. The building has open boxed eaves accented by wooden fascia boards. The walls are clad in stucco and there is a bay window extension on the south side. Fenestration includes replacement fixed and single-hung windows in the bay and three fixed window on the west side in addition to a solid metal door and a louver vent within the gable. A in-ground scale is immediately south of the building.

B10. Significance (continued):

In 1953 a new crop was introduced to Buttonwillow: rice. Rice thrived in alkali soils and would help prepare the soil for other crops. A new reservoir at Lake Isabella had been completed in 1953, promising better regulation of irrigation waters. Local farmers Wayne Smith, William Buerkle, Jack Thomson, Nelson Lewis, Charles Parsons, R.L. Adams and Hall Smalstig harvested their first rice crops in 1954. A $100,000 rice dryer was constructed at the corner of Highway 58 and Wasco Way. The rice dryer was a co-operative investment managed by R.L. Adams, who also managed the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. The first 7,500 acres was planted and treated with weed control via airplane. Combines were used to harvest the crops. Despite the arid conditions in most of Kern county 3,377 acres of rice remained in production in 1980. Production has since ceased as the water supply has become more restricted.[1]

Evaluation

Under Criterion A or 1 the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative rice dryer is not significant for its association with the development of agriculture near Buttonwillow. Rice production was a short-lived development in the area. The main purpose of the crop was not so much development of an agricultural business, but for soil conditioning. Under Criterion B or 2 the dryer is not associated with a significant individual. The cooperative organization involved several communitiy leaders, but they had gained their prominence through other activities that better illustrate their lifetime achievements. Under Criterion 3 or C, the rice dryer does not have any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The dryer is utilitarian in nature and used standard engineering available at the time of its construction. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the dryer does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[1] Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Jim Day, "Pipefuls," *Bakersfield Californian*, November 8, 1954; William D. Watson, Carole Frank Nuckton, and Richard E. Howitt, *Crop Production and Water Supply Characteristics of Kern County* (Davis, California: University of California Davis, 1980) 20; Interview with Mike Hooper, Farmer's Cooperative Gin manager, March 30, 2009.

Photographs (continued):

Photograph 2: Grain Silos, camera facing northeast, March 9, 2009

Photograph 3 Administrative buildin, camera facing northeast, March 9, 2009

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #3

P1. Other Identifier: 2531 Wasco Way – Farmer's Cooperative Gin

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 23E ; NE ¼ **of Sec** 24 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 2531 Wasco Way City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 102-050-17-00 (west) and 103-120-13-00 (east)

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The Farmer's Cooperative Gin is a sprawling complex south of Highway 58 near Buttonwillow. The complex includes 9.68 acres west of Wasco Avenue (APN 102-050-17-00) and 54.22 acres east of Wasco Avenue (APN 103-120-13-00). The complex east of Wasco Avenue is composed of two gins and an open seed storage building constructed after 1973. The older portions of the gin complex are located west of Wasco Avenue.

West of Wasco Avenue the complex contains an administrative business office, three ginning buildings and two storage buildings. The administration building is located on Wasco Avenue. The building is a modern stucco construction (Photograph 2). The irregular plan building has a flat roof with deep enclosed eaves. The entrance in the northeast corner is recessed deeper under the eaves and the roof above is supported on a square post. The fenestration is irregular and includes high ribbon windows and larger fixed windows. All the windows have metal frames. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP8) Industrial Building

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Farmer's Cooperative Gin camera facing west, March 9, 2009

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1937; 1948; 1951; 1974; 1977 Catherine Merlo, *From the Ground Up*

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Farmers Cooperative Gin Inc.
2531 Wasco Way
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9711

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #3

B1. Historic Name: Farmer's Cooperative Gin
B2. Common Name: Farmer's Cooperative Gin
B3. Original Use: Cotton Gin B4. Present Use: Cotton Gin
***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Gin #2 constructed 1937, Gin #3 constructed 1948, Gin #1 Constructed 1951, Gins east of Wasco Avenue Constructed 1974 and 1977.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Farmer's Cooperative Gin at 2531 and 2135 Wasco Avenue does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

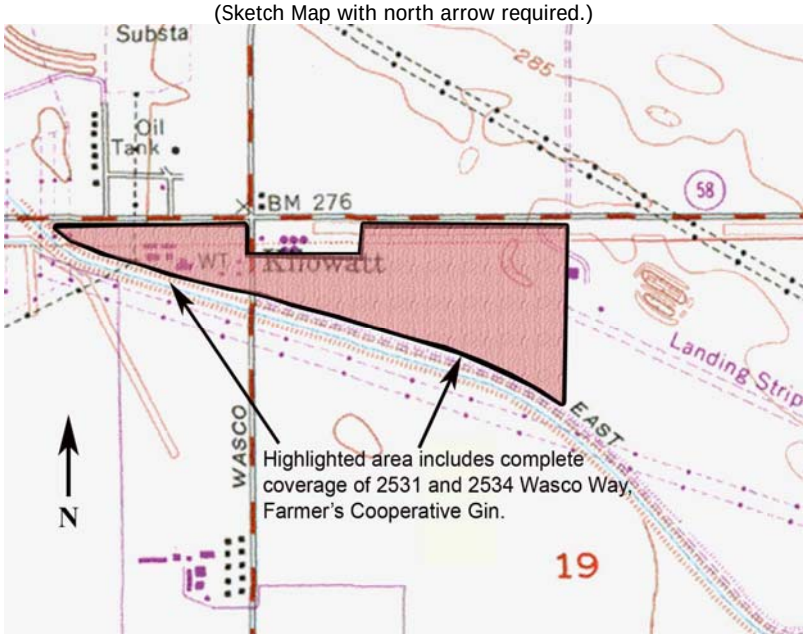
***B12. References:**
Baughman, C.F. *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem.* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization. *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938.* San Francisco: np, 1938; Merlo, Catherine. *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmer's Cooperative Gin.* Buttonwillow, California: Farmer's Cooperative Gin, 1987; Turner, John. *White Gold Comes to California*. Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981. (See Footnotes)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

On the north side is a drive up window that projects slightly from the building. Three sides of the projection have windows.

East of the business office are the three ginning buildings and two storage buildings. The first gin building is the southern-most of the buildings east of Wasco Avenue (Photograph 3). Gin #1 is a corrugated metal building equivalent to two stories. The main portion is rectangular with a gable roof. Off center to the west on the north side a shed roofed overhead loading bay projects from the building. A single story shed roof porch runs along the west end of the building. The doors and windows under the porch were not visible from the public right-of-way. On the south side, pipes project from the second story of the building connecting to equipment. The equipment consists of two square supports with hoppers above and a pump mechanism below. The north façade has five 12 light metal sash windows on the lower level and three 9-light metal windows on the upper level. On the south side are similar windows covered over with the machinery. Along the east end is a sliding door with a 12-light metal sash window in the door.

Gin #2 is located along the northern edge of the property (Photograph 4). The corrugated metal building has an irregular plan with complex roof line. The building has a roughly shallow U shape facing north. The main portion has a gable roof which extends along the sides of the U. A shed roof continues from the south side of the roof to create a partial porch along that side. The approximately two story building has single story shed roofs along the east and west sides. The east side is enclosed. A tower is located in the eastern interior of the U. The tower has a gable roof. The building has irregular fenestration with two windows on the south, one on the west, four on the north and one on the east. A double wide sliding door is located on the eastern end of the north façade and the south side.

A barn-like storage structure is located south of Gin #2. The corrugated metal barn has a rectangular plan and monitor roof on a north south axis. A clerestory allows light to enter between the two roof levels. A double wide sliding door is located on the east side. A personnel door is located on the north side.

Gin #3 is located west of the barn-like structure and southwest of Gin #2 (Photograph 5). Gin #3 is a one and a half story rectangular corrugated metal structure with a gable roof. A shed roof extends from the second floor to the north to create an overhead unloading bay at the northwest corner. A single story shed roof porch is located along the eastern end of the building. Replacement windows are evenly spaced along the north side. Double sliding doors are located on the west side. Equipment is connected to the south side of the building by over head pipes.

The storage building is located in the northwest corner of the property west of Gin #2 and north of Gin #3 (Photograph 6). The rectangular corrugated metal building has an arched roof. A extra wide sliding door is on the western portion of the north side.

East of Wasco Avenue Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc. includes two large ginning buildings, seed storage and a residential complex of three buildings located along Wasco Way. The Farmers Cooperative Gin consists of two large enclosed buildings connected to two smaller ancillary buildings and a modern open seed storage facility. The buildings that make up the gin complex have similar construction styles (Photograph 7). They are rectangular structures with corrugated metal gable roofs. The walls are clad in raised-seam vertical metal siding. The buildings are attached by metal piping that runs from the central building and is supported on metal braces. Fenestration includes an open passageway on the main building, numerous overhead and sliding doors. The large modern facility is composed of pre-fabricated metal supports and corrugated metal roofing.

The residential complex includes a Ranch style house, a three-car garage and smaller outbuilding (See Photographs 8 & 9). The residence is a single-story, rectangular building on a concrete foundation. It has a side gable roof with a front gable extension over the porch. Composition shingles cover the roof, which has a moderate overhang and fascia boards along the

trim. The walls are clad in stucco and there are louver vents within the gables. Fenestration includes aluminum-framed sliding windows and a wood and glazed front door, which is place slight north of center on the façade.

The three-car garage is a rectangular building with a side gable roof of composition shingles and a shed roof extension of corrugated metal sheet on the south side. It has exposed rafter ends along the north and south sides and fascia boards enclose the gable ends. The walls are clad in horizontal siding with louver vents in the gables. A solid door and a double-hung window are located on the west side. Three replacement metal roll-up doors are located under the roof extension on the south side.

Located east of the residence and garage is the third building, which appears to serve as a small storage shed. It has a rectangular footprint with a front gable roof of composition shingles. Similar to the garage, it has a moderate overhang with fascia boards along the gable ends, leaving the two other sides with exposed rafter ends. The walls appear to be clad in stucco and there is a single solid door on the north side.

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres.[1]

The Farmer's Cooperative Gin was founded in 1937 providing an alternative to the C.E. Houchin-controlled Buttonwillow Cotton Gin. Following the example of a new cooperative gin in Wasco, W.L. Smith organized farmers into the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. The new gin operated under a cooperative plan, owned and operated by the farmers, distributed the profits normally taken by the gin back to the farmers. Cooperatives began in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. By pooling the production and purchasing power of farmers, cooperatives were able to bargain for better prices for their crops and cut out the middlemen. State legislation beginning in 1911 cumulated in the 1922 Capper-Volstead Act which provided legal protections for cooperatives.[2] The cooperative secured a loan and constructed their first gin along the railroad tracks in 1937 (Gin #1).[3]

Despite the continuing decline in cotton prices the farmers were able to pay off the loans for constructing the gin the following year. The gin flourished and produced high quality cotton bringing good prices. The gin also provided needed services such as banking. The gin brought in cash from Bakersfield and took the farmer's checks in return. In this way the farmers secured cash to pay their field hands. This system continued until 1952 when Charles Parsons, W.L. Smith, Richard L. Adams formed the Buttonwillow Community National Bank.[4]

Farmer's Cooperative Gin grew rapidly though the 1940s as the war time economy increased cotton prices. In 1948 a second gin was constructed southwest of the first (Gin #3). And a third gin was necessary in 1951 (Gin #1). In 1958 the

[1] Raznoff, William A. Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945. Unpublished manuscript, (Water Resources Center Archives, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, 1945) 27.
[2] Hal S. Barron, *Mixed Harvest: The Second Great Transformation in the Rural North 1870-1930* (Chappell Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, 1997) 122.
[3] Catherine Merlo, *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin* (Buttonwillow, California: Farmer's Cooperative Gin, 1987) 4.
[4] "Buttonwillow's Bank Expanding to Meet Growth" *Bakersfield Californian*, December 31, 1958.

Farmer's Cooperative expanded again constructing two additional gins off site, one on the Seventh Standard and a second at Garrison City. The cooperative stored the seed in two seed storage barns at Wasco Avenue before sending it out for processing. Farmers received payment for both the fiber and the seed oil at annual meetings held each year. [5]

The cooperative plan provided greater profits to the farmers and encouraged other cooperative activities. Under the direction of R.L. Adams, an ardent supporter of cooperative activities, several other organizations spun off from the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. The Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative formed after the first rice crops were introduced in 1954. The Buttonwillow Community National Bank developed to handle the banking needs of the farmers previously supported by the cooperative. Last, in 1957 the Buttonwillow Agricultural Chemical Association began to provide additional purchasing power for the cooperative's member farmers. The Farmer's Cooperative also trained managers for other cooperative gins which opened in the 1950s.[6]

Otis Page replaced R.L. Adams as manager of the cooperative gin in 1960 and managed the gin through a period of depressed cotton prices in the 1960s. Carlton Hooper replaced him in 1974. As the mechanization of cotton production increased through the 1960s the cotton gin planned for changes. Increased production necessitated faster processing. In 1974 the Farmer's Cooperative Gin built the first of the 'super gins.' Super gins increased capacity and entire trailers of cotton could be dumped into the gin, quadrupling production. A second 'super gin' was added in 1977 making the Farmer's Cooperative the largest gin in the state. The cotton industry introduced the new modular system of handling harvested unginned seed cotton in 1972. Modules are assembled in the field and can be stored either in the field or at the gin until they can be processed. This allows the cotton to be harvested at its peak rather than when the gin can handle it. The cooperative helped purchase equipment for forming modules in the field and converted the 'super gins' for the new system. Expansion of the gin included a reorganization of the cooperative offices and the addition of a residence to the property. The USGS quadrangle for 1973 (based upon 1973 aerial photography) indicates that the residence was moved into place after 1973. The Farmer's Cooperative constructed the canopy protecting the cotton seed before shipment to a cotton seed press in 2000. Increased world production has decreased the demand for California cotton, despite producing a high quality of cotton. Farmers in the area are transitioning to orchard crops and the gin is producing lower volumes of cotton.[7]

Evaluation

Under Criterion A or 1 the Farmers Cooperative Gin is not significant for its association with the development of cotton culture near Buttonwillow. Cotton had already been grown in the area for several years before the gin was formed. The Farmer's Cooperative Gin provided alternative ginning facilities in the area, but did not introduce cotton culture or processing to the area. Under Criterion B or 2 the gin is not associated with a significant individual. As a cooperative organization the gin depended upon the talents of the participating farmers. W.L. Smith provided an impetus for the formation of the gin, which was only one of several community organizations he participated in. His significance is better illustrated by his cotton ranch located approximately one half mile south on Wasco Avenue. Under Criterion 3 or C, the gin does not have any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The gin is utilitarian in nature and use standard engineering available at the time of their construction. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[5] USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle* (Washington D.C.: USGS, 1954); Jamie Alvidres "Construction Continues on Project," *Buttonwillow Times*, April 17, 1977; Catherine Merlo, *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin* (Buttonwillow: Famers Cooperative Gin, 1987) 5-6, 9.
[6] "Adams Preaches Gospel of Co-Ops" *Bakersfield Californian,* December 31, 1958; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Jim Day, "Pipefuls," *Bakersfield Californian,* November 8, 1954
[7] Merlo, *From the Ground Up*, 10,12-14*;* Interview with Mike Hooper, Farmer's Cooperative Gin manager, March 30, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: Administration and business office, camera facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

Photograph 3: Gin #1, camera facing east, March 9, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 4: Gin #2, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009.

Photograph 5: Gin #1 with Gin #3 to the left, camera facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 6: storage building, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009.

Photograph 7: Modern gins east of Wasco Avenue, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009.

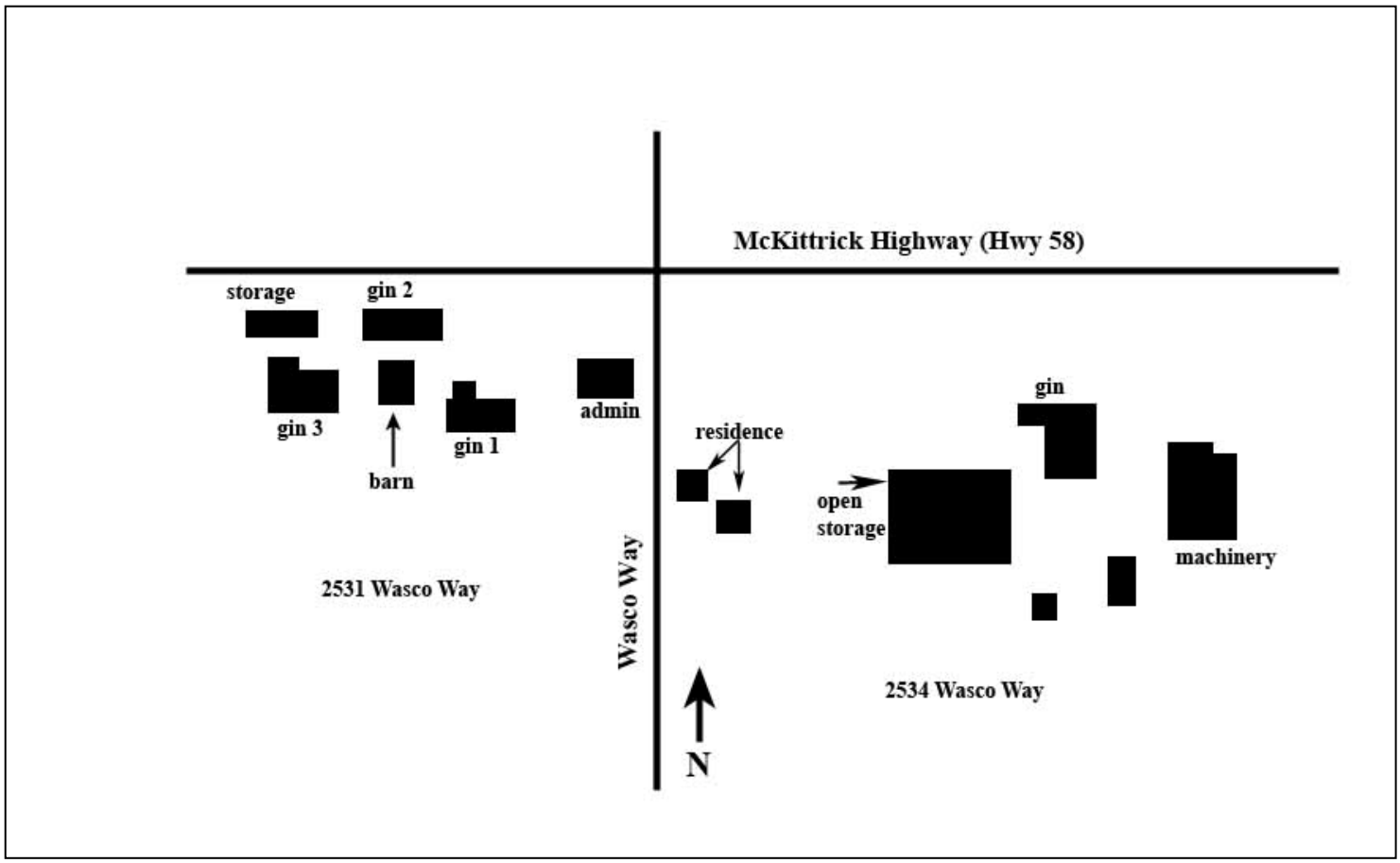
Photographs (cont):

Photograph 8: Residential complex, camera facing northeast, March 9, 2009

Photograph 9: Residential complex, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009

Sketch Map:

Not to Scale



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #4

P1. Other Identifier: East of 2534 Wasco Way

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 19 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 2534 Wasco Way City Buttonwillow Zip 93206-9711

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor Parcel Number: 103-120-29-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The hangar is the remnant of a dirt air field from the late 1950s. The prefabricated steel building has an arched roof. The wall away from the former air strip is corrugated metal with a single personnel door set near the north edge. The opposite end has two sliding doors which are supported by a top beam that extends beyond the top width of the arch. Other buildings which had occupied the site were victims of a recent fire.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP8) Industrial building

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Structure ☐ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
Hangar, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
Constructed between 1954 and 1973; USGS quadrangles.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Pro Logis
4545 Airport Way
Denver, CO 80239-5716 R070

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #4

B1. Historic Name: East of 2534 Wasco Way
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Industrial B4. Present Use: Industrial
***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Constructed between 1954 and 1973.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** Air field

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The airfield and hangar at APN 103-120-29-00 does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because they do not have historical significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California,* April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73;

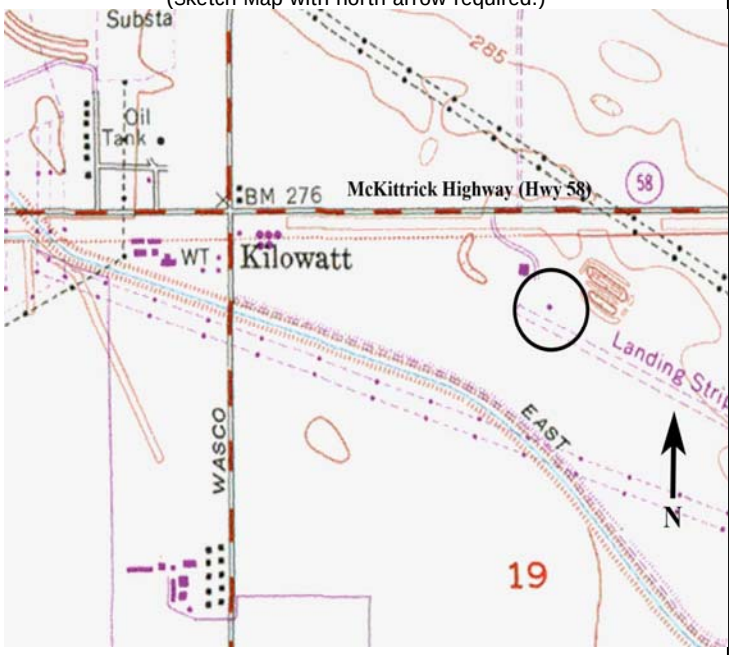
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

Following completion of the San Joaquin line the Southern Pacific Railroad received significant tracts of land throughout the Central Valley. Further construction of the Asphalto Branch (now McKittrick Branch) in 1893 secured additional lands around Buttonwillow. As a result of prior Miller & Lux claims and purchases of the swampland along Buena Vista Slough Southern Pacific only received 60 acres of land in Section 19 Township 29 South Range 24 East. Legal maneuvering of the company and the Big Four owners, Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, and Mark Hopkins, transferred the land to the Southern Pacific Land Company. The company held land for future sale and development through out the state. The parcel containing the airfield remained under the control of Southern Pacific Land Company throughout the twentieth century. The land company underwent legal and name changes to Catellus Development Corporation and ProLogis.[1]

Air travel developed as a transportation and a means of managing crops during the 1920s. Kern County developed a municipal airport in 1925 outside of Bakersfield. Continuing enthusiasm for aircraft and flight led to the development of a county wide system of airfields approved by the Civilian Aviation Administration in 1946. In 1958 the system included 15 airfields across the county. Companies and large landholders also found it convenient to develop their own airfields. Five airfields including the Buttonwillow-Kern County Airfield (off Elk Hills Road) were constructed between 1954 and 1973. These airfields supported crop dusting and private aircraft. The airfield at APN 103-120-39-00 is among the smallest and is not paved. The airfield has a single metal arch hanger manufactured by several manufacturers.[2]

Evaluation

Under Criterion 1 or A the airfield is not significant for its association with the development of flight. The airfield is a common rural field used for crop management and private flights. Under Criterion 2 or B the airfield is not significant for its association with a significant individual. The airfield is a construct of a large company and not associated with a single individual. Under Criterion 3 or C the airfield does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The field is unpaved and the hangar is a prefabricated building of common construction.

[1] Congdon, Charles H. Official Map of Kern County, California. San Francisco: W.B. Walkup, 1898; Earl M. Price & Co., Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., Land Ownership of Kern County, edition of 1972-73; Catellus Development Corporation home page, http://www.catellus.com/about_catellus/ accessed April 3, 2009.

[2] William Richardson, " Cecil Meadows Accomplishments Cited by Kern's Airport Director" *Bakersfield Californian* January 2, 1958; Mary O'Connor, *Facts and History of Meadows Field and the Airport System of Kern County*, no publisher, 1970; American Steel Span home page http://www.americansteelspan.us/Aircrafthangars.html accessed March 30, 2009; USGS, *Buttonwillow Quadrangle*, 1954 photorevised 1973; USGS, *East Elk Hills Quadrangle,* 1954 photorevised 1973.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #5

P1. Other Identifier: 5500 Buerkle Road

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 19 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5500 Buerkle Road City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

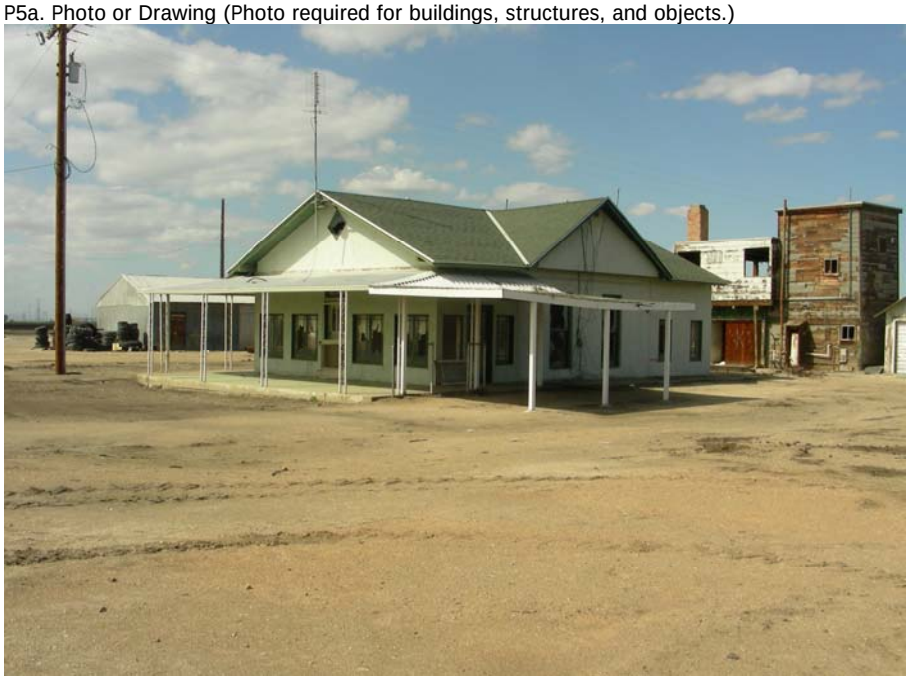
d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor Parcel Number: 103-120-10-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
The large agricultural parcel near the intersection of Wasco Way and Buerkle Road contains an abandoned residence, a water tower complex, a garage, and a large outbuilding. The primary residence is a large Ranch style building with a rectangular footprint. Its cross-gabled roof is clad in composition shingles and has a moderate overhang with boxed eaves. A combination of decorative metal and square metal posts support a wrap-around grooved metal shed roof extension along the south, west, and east sides and serves to cover the beginning of a concrete-based porch. The walls are clad in stucco and include many large double hung windows along the east and west sides. Additional fenestration includes evenly spaced windows on all sides, a diamond-shaped window in the façade gable, and small transom windows over the front and backdoors. The gables overhang the basic form of the building and partially hide the transom windows. The glazed and wood front door is covered by an aluminum screen and faces south. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP2 (Single Family Property); HP 33 (Farm/ranch); HP4 (Ancillary building)
***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** 5500 Buerkle Road, camera facing northwest

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
ca. 1912-1932, USGS maps

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Parsons Bros. Partnership
400 Buttonwillow Dr.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9749

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #5

B1. Historic Name: 5500 Buerkle Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Agricultural/ Residential B4. Present Use: Agricultural
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular, Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: ca. 1912-1932; water tower complex addition: ca. 1932-1942

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5500 Buerkle Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to the 1920s and 1930s, their estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

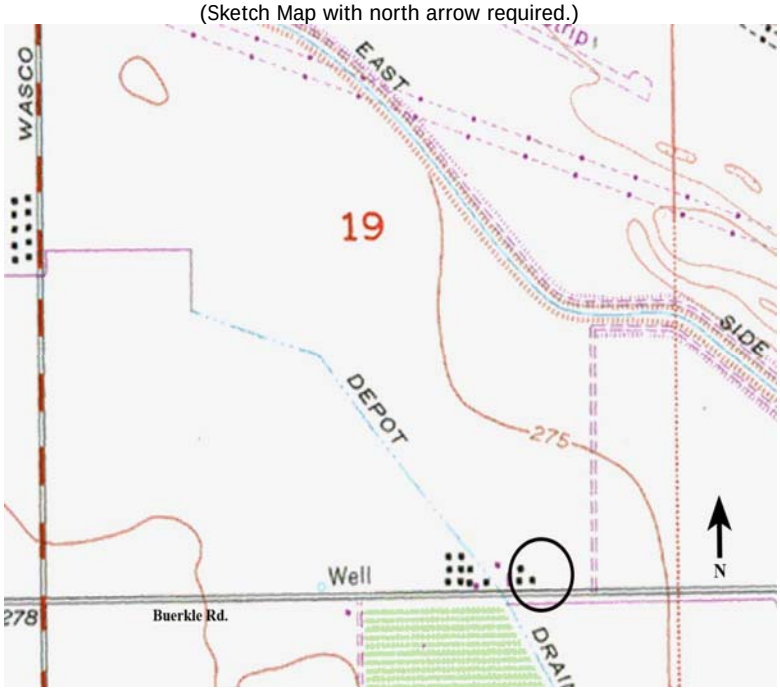
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945).* (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

The water tower structure is located north of the residence (See Photograph 2). It is a multi-level building composed of grooved horizontal wood siding topped by a flat roof of composition shingles. There is a small shed roof extension on the south side that covers a water heater. Fenestration includes two sliding windows on the south side and one on the east side. The west side of the water tower connects to an open carport with a second story. Located on the west side is a brick chimney, which appears to be constructed on top of an existing brick structure with open windows. Only the basic elements remain of the second story include horizontal wood siding and large openings for windows. A wooden staircase leading to the second floor can be found on the north side (See Photograph 3). This structure is located on a concrete foundation that does not correspond with the size or footprint of the existing building.

Northeast of the residence is a freestanding garage with a rectangular footprint (See Photograph 2). It has a front gable roof of wood and corrugated metal sheets. The walls are clad in horizontal siding with metal corner boards and there is vertical wood siding on the façade. Additionally, a replacement aluminum roll-up door faces south.

West of the residence is a large, rectangular utilitarian outbuilding composed of two sections (See Photograph 4). The portion closest to the road is a single story and the rear is one and a half stories. Both segments have corrugated metal front gable roofs with vertical corrugated metal siding. Located on the north side is a set of large sliding doors, while on the southeast there is a smaller solid metal personnel door. The only window in the building is a single open frame on the northwest side.

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928.[1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

Similar to most agricultural lands east of Buttonwillow, the property at 5500 Buerkle Road was owned and initially cultivated under Miller & Lux. According to census records, by the 1930s the Hair family, headed by Hardy Hair and his son Curtis, owned and worked on the H.H. and Curtis Hair Ranch growing cotton. The ranch employed multiple other families and farm laborers during the 1930s as one of the large cotton camps, though only three buildings are shown in existence by 1929. By 1937 Echo Ranch, as it was titled on the topographic map, expanded from a total of three buildings to include five buildings on each side of the Depot Drain for a total of ten buildings. The large utilitarian building was one of the most recent additions completed between 1954 and 1973, while the numerous small buildings east of the canal were removed. The mechanization of agriculture has reduced the number of people involved in agriculture, leaving the remaining buildings abandoned. In 2001 Dana and Martha Hair sold the property to Parsons Bros. Partnership, who currently own the land.[8]

Evaluation

The property at 5500 Buerkle Road is associated with the large cotton ranches and camps Buttonwillow; however the removal of the additional labor housing has significantly altered the integrity of design, setting, feeling and most importantly association. Agricultural labor was an essential part of cotton culture in Kern County though the beginning of cultivation until the development of mechanized crop management. The available records do not indicated that the laborers at the Hair ranch were involved in the organization and protests surrounding poor conditions and pay which occurred during the Great

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California* (n.p.: Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963); *Land Ownership of Kern County*. (n.p.: Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973); Shell Oil Company Land Department, "South Buttonwillow Area, Kern County," map no. 248, April 1936; USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map (Washington, D C: USGS, 1932, 1954, 1973); USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map (Washington, DC: USGS, 1932, 1942); McAlester, Virginia & Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005).

Depression of the 1930s. Therefore, the residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. While the Hair family was a prominent landowner in the Buttonwillow area, their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of a pre-Depression farmstead development, with sprawling homes, large tracts of land and multiple ancillary buildings. The residence is a modest example of a vernacular style, common in California during this period. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5500 Buerkle Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building, therefore, does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

The residence at 5500 Buerkle Road has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to meet the significance criteria as outlined in these guidelines.

Photographs (continued):

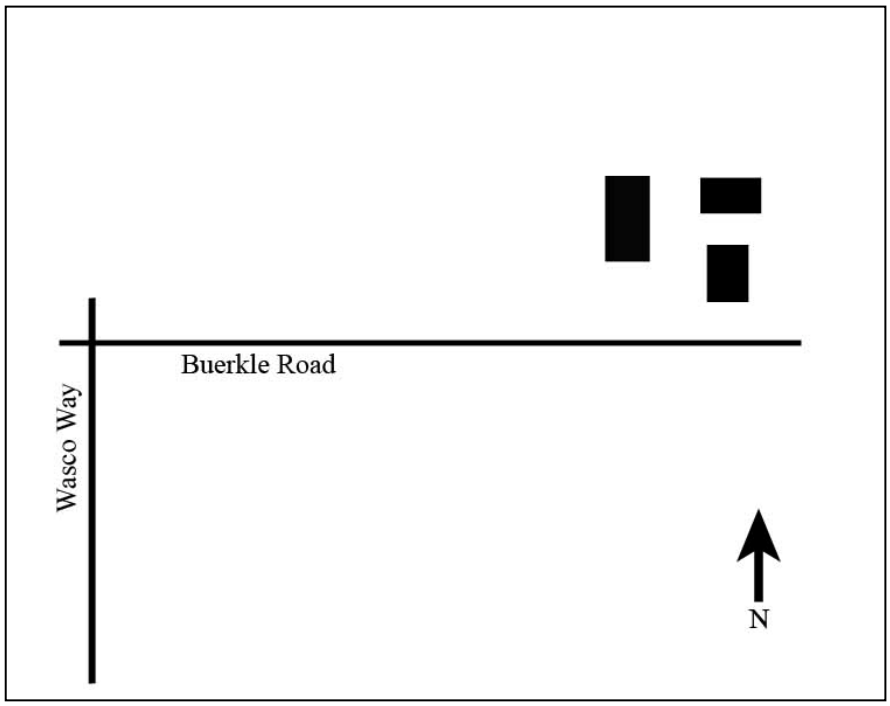
Photograph 2: showing water tower structure and garage, camera facing northwest, March 9, 2009.

Photograph 3: showing rear of water tower structure and garage, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009

Photographs (continued):

Photograph 4: showing ancillary building, camera facing southwest, March 9, 2009

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #6

P1. Other Identifier: 6010 Buerkle Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 20 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 6010 Buerkle Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-140-10-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The one story T-shaped house at 6010 Buerkle Road is clad in stucco and has a cross-gabled, composite shingle roof with moderate overhanging eaves enclosed by narrow grooved board. The projecting central front gable roof overhangs an open concrete front porch and is supported by four plain round columns. A fanlight is beneath the roof's peak. The front entry is slightly off-center and is raised on a one-step concrete stoop. The side gable has a small shed extension to the rear and louvered vents centered beneath its peak. There is a one-room gable roof extension at the rear, northeast corner of the house that projects both to the north and east. All windows are paired sliding with false muntins. There is an enclosed in-ground pool to the building's east.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing northwest, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1964, Assessor records

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Rosalio & Amparo Morales
P. O. Box 518
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-0518

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)

Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Constulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #6

B1. Historic Name: 6010 Buerkle Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** No discernable style due to modifications
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1964; remodel: 1997; pool addition: 2007; replace windows: 2008

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 6010 Buerkle Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to the 1960s, its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

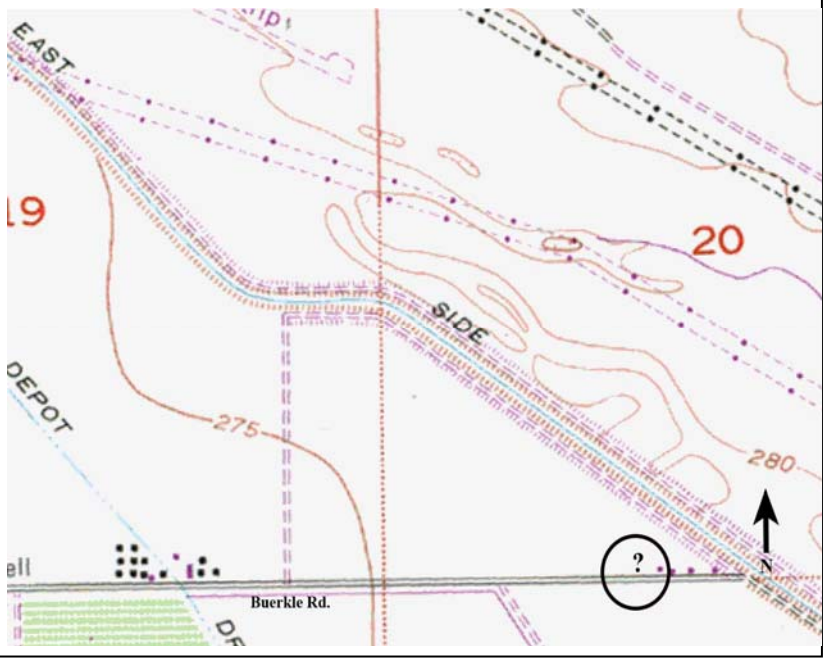
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945);* Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

Similar to most agricultural lands east of Buttonwillow, Miller & Lux originally owned the property at 6010 Buerkle Road. The residence at 6010 Buerkle Road was originally part of a larger property that was divided into its current residential parcel during the modern period. Martin L. Snow purchased the property in the 1950s. Martin L. Snow was one of the pioneers in developing cotton in the Buttonwillow area. His was joined by his son, Martin, in agricultural enterprising and the two owned and developed many parcels, of which this property was one. By 1963 D. Snow owned the property and was probably first owner of the residence. The ownership changed again by 1973 to Bank of America, which appears to have taken over all of D. Snow's properties. [8]

Since its original construction in 1964, the residence has undergone significant modifications resulting in an indiscernible architectural style. In 1994 Homer Prine purchased the property and began renovating the residence; his modifications include a partial remodel of the house. Prine sold the property in 2005 to Rosalio and Amparo Morales, who have continued to modernize the house with the addition of the pool and replacement windows. The stucco and roof also appear to have been updated during one of the recent modernizations of the residence. It is difficult to determine the original architecture style of the house due to the remodeling and the addition of Classical elements such as the front gable extension with classical support columns. These renovations have significantly impacted any historical integrity the house may have once had.[9]

Evaluation

The property at 6010 Buerkle Road is associated with the post-World War II, continued agricultural growth of Buttonwillow; however this property was constructed well after other similar farmsteads, and does not represent a significant example of post-World War II building trends. Indeed, by the time the residence was built, numerous farmsteads were developed throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. The multiple additions and remodeling of the building in addition to the separation of this parcel from its original larger agricultural parcel further contribute to the property's loss of integrity in association to the agricultural history of Buttonwillow. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. While the Snow family was a prominent landowner in the Buttonwillow area, their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the parcel is a typical example of farmstead residential development when it was originally constructed on part of a larger agricultural parcel. Since the residence can no longer be classified under a specific architectural style due to significant modifications, it therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 6010 Buerkle Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building, therefore, does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. (n.p.: Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963); *Land Ownership of Kern County*. (n.p.: Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973); Shell Oil Company Land Department, "South Buttonwillow Area, Kern County," map no. 248, April 1936; USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map (Washington, DC: USGS, 1932, 1942); Martin Snow Obituary, *Bakersfield Californian*, February 11, 2009.

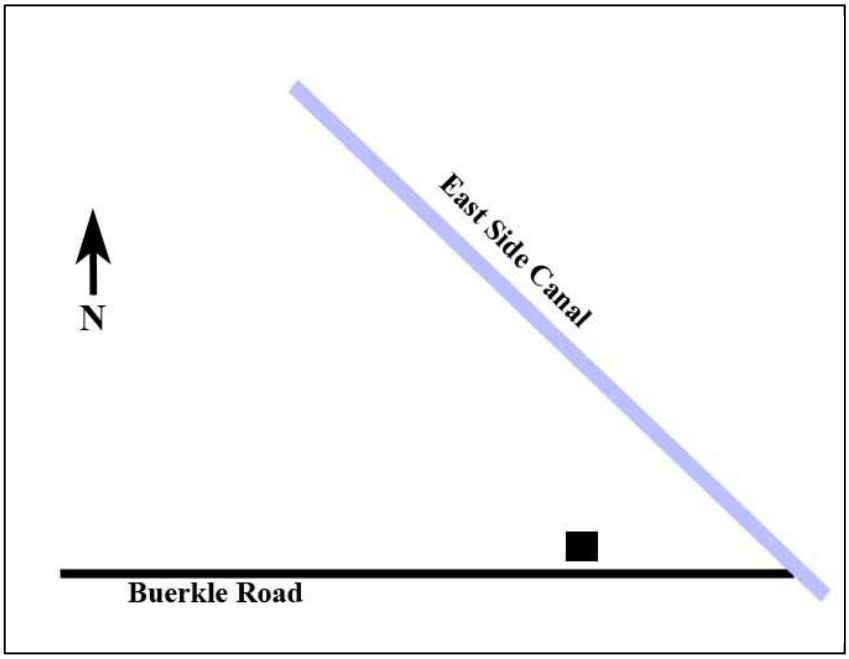
[9] Kern County Assessor Records; McAlester, Virginia & Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005).

The residence at 6010 Buerkle Road has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to meet the significance criteria as outlined in these guidelines.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: 6010 Buerkle Road, facing northeast, March 2009.

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #7

P1. Other Identifier: 5443 Brite Road

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; NE ¼ **of Sec** 31 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5443 Brite Road City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-220-02-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The farmstead at 5443 Brite Road includes a Vernacular house and three outbuildings. The residence has a cross gable roof with wood shingles and exposed rafter tails. The front entry is recessed within a projecting smaller front gable bay. The fenestration includes wood double hung windows and one replacement aluminum sliding window. A carport with metal support poles extends off the east gable end of the house.

A square corrugated metal shed lies south of the house. To the north, at roadside, is a corrugated metal storage unit with a round arch roof and a frame carport with a corrugated metal flat roof attached to its north side. West of this structure is a large frame machine shed with a two-tiered corrugated metal front gable roof and partially enclosed corners with corrugated metal siding. A metal tubular storage vessel is located at its south end.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing southwest, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
ca. 1930, mapping

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Parsons Home Ranch
409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy.
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. " Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #7

B1. Historic Name: _____
B2. Common Name: 5443 Brite Road
B3. Original Use: Agriculture/Residence B4. Present Use: Agriculture/Residence
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1900

***B7. Moved?** ☐ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☒ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5443 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the residence lacks historic integrity to the 1900s its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

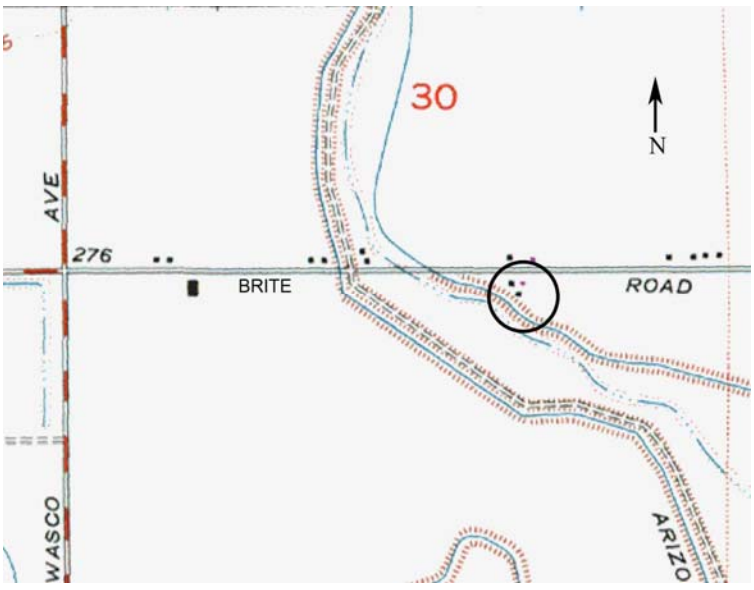
***B12. References:**
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945).* (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the discovery of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

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[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

This parcel was originally part of the Miller & Lux acquisition and was subdivided for sale. No roads or other construction took place in the area until after 1929. By 1936 Graham & Young owned the entire section. Four buildings were constructed along the road by 1937 and recorded on the 1942 quadrangle map. These were most likely housing for cotton labor and correspond with the architectural characteristics of this residence. In 1952 the number of buildings had been reduced to two corresponding with the declining need for agricultural labor. The current residence and rear shed correspond with these buildings. Charles M. Parson owned this property in 1956.[8]

Using money obtained from a pervious lumber business, Walter Parsons purchased land in Kern County to raise cotton. His sons, Charles and John continued to run Parsons Ranch, and specialized in cotton and rice. The brothers helped pioneer the production of rice in the Buttonwillow area and the Parsons were members of the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. In addition to their agricultural contributions, Charles Parson was an active community leader in Buttonwillow. He served as president of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, president of the Lions Club, one of the founders of the Buttonwillow Community National Bank, vice president of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, and was on the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative. [9]

During the 1960s Parsons obtained many of the surrounding parcels from family members and was involved in establishing the Parsons Home Ranch, which continues to own this property. The most recent addition of the corrugated shed in the northeast section of the property was completed during Parson ownership.[10]

Evaluation

The residence at 5443 Brite Road is associated with the early agricultural development of Buttonwillow; however this property does not represent a significant example of turn-of-the-century building trends. Indeed, by the time the residence was built, numerous farmsteads were developing throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Parsons were one of many families who helped developed the cotton and rice industry in Buttonwillow and this property was one of many similar farmsteads owned by the Parsons (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of farmstead development, with sprawling homes on large tracts of land and multiple ancillary buildings. The residence is constructed using the architectural vernacular for workers housing. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5443 Brite Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building and farmstead, therefore, do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

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[8] USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map, Washington, D C: USGS, 1932, 1954; USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map, Washington, DC: USGS, 1942; *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963;

[9] Shell Oil Company Land Department, "South Buttonwillow Area, Kern County," map no. 248, April 1936; "Charles Parsons Hailed as Community Leader," *The Bakersfield Californian*, December 31, 1958; Interview with Christine Thompson, March 9, 2009; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past-Kernland Tales," *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin*, n.p.: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987.

[10] *Land Ownership of Kern County*. Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: 5443 Brite Road, residence, facing south, March 2009.

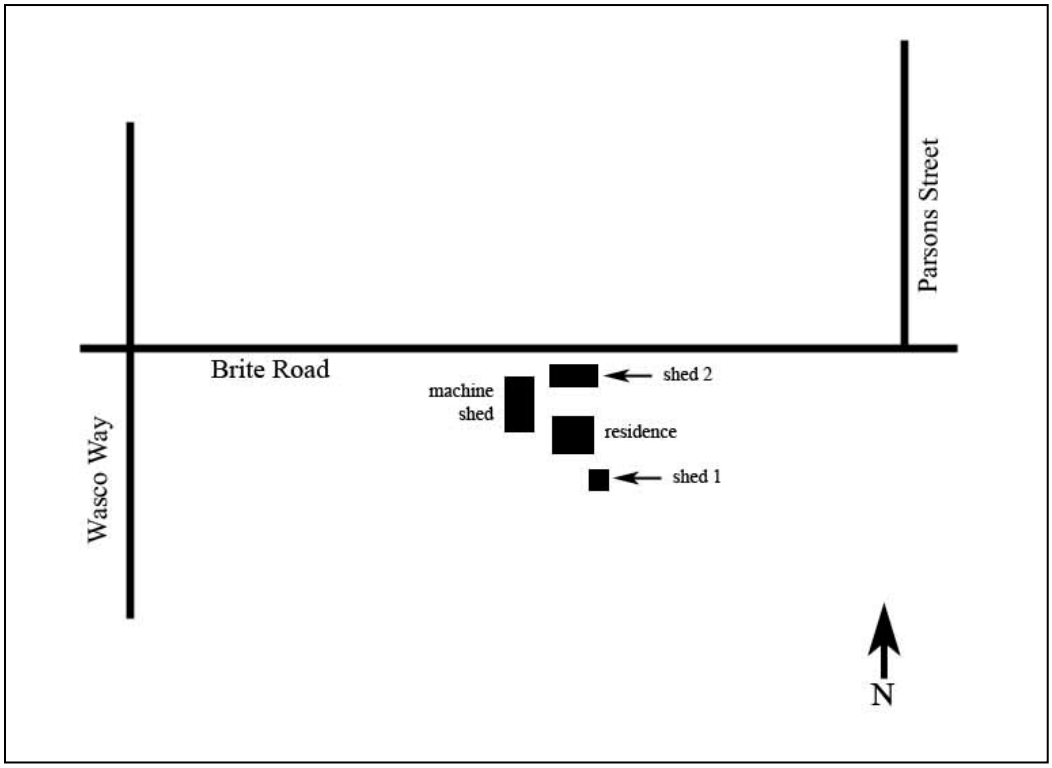
Photograph 3: 5443 Brite Road, shed 1, facing south, March 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 3: 5443 Brite Road, shed 2, facing southwest, March 2009.

Photograph 4: 5443 Brite Road, machine shed, facing south, March 2009.

Sketch Map:


Parsons Street
Brite Road
Wasco Way
machine shed
shed 2
residence
shed 1
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #8

P1. Other Identifier: 5616 Brite Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted**

***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 30 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5616 Brite Road City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-210-26-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The one-story Craftsman house at 5616 Brite Road has a front gable, composite shingle roof and a concrete foundation. A raised central front entry porch has wrought iron rails and is beneath an altered gabled canopy supported by square wood posts. A sun room with a shed roof, a brick watertable and base, a sliding side door, and large fixed window extends off the east of the building. A shed roofed, frame carport extends off the west end. There is a small windowless hipped roof addition on the west side of the building directly behind the carport, and a gable roof addition extending to the north off the rear. The roofs of both additions have exposed rafter tails, unlike the historic sections of the building. Fenestration includes wood 1/1 double hung windows of varying sizes and positions.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1948, Assessor records

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Parsons Home Ranch
409 N Pacific Coast Hwy
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-2870

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. " Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #8

B1. Historic Name: N side of Brite – Parcel 26
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1948

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5616 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to the 1940s, their estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

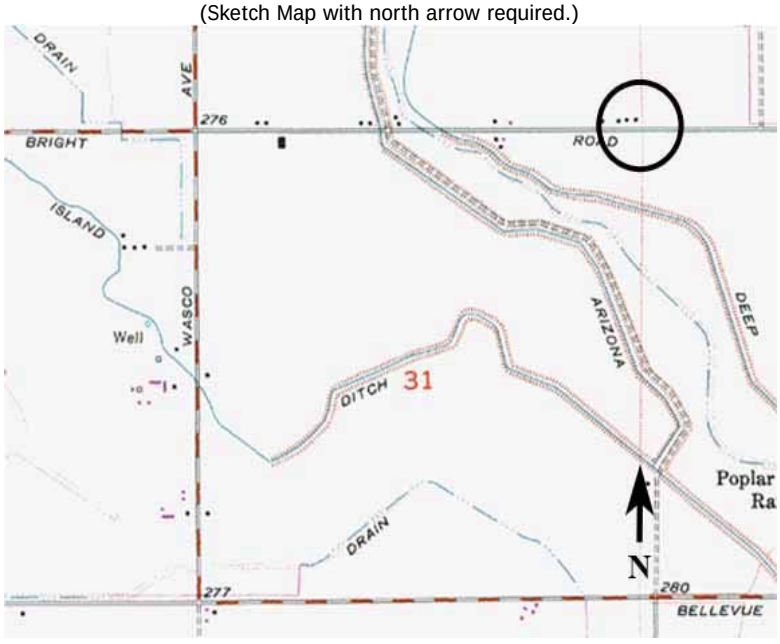
***B12. References:**
Los Angeles Times; *Van Nuys News*; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records. Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

The residence at 5616 Brite Road was originally part of a larger property owned by the Parsons family. The division of the property into its own parcel was performed during the modern era, yet it remains one of many parcels that complete the larger Parsons Home Ranch. Using money obtained from a pervious lumber business, Walter Parsons purchased land in Kern County to raise cotton in 1932. This house adjoining his home to the east, was constructed for one of his sons. His sons, Charles and John continued to run Parsons Ranch, and specialized in cotton and rice. The brothers helped pioneer the production of rice in the Buttonwillow area and the Parsons were members of the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. In addition to their agricultural contributions, Charles Parson was an active community leader in Buttonwillow. He served as president of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, president of the Lions Club, one of the founders of the Buttonwillow Community National Bank, vice president of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, and was on the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative.[8]

Evaluation

The residence at 5616 Brite Road is associated with the post-Depression agricultural growth of Buttonwillow; however this property was constructed after other similar farmsteads, and does not represent a significant example of post-Depression building trends. Indeed, by the time the residence was built, numerous farmsteads were developed throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. Its recent separation from the larger agricultural parcel to become a single-family property further compromises the building's association with the area's agricultural history. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Parsons were one of many families who helped developed the cotton and rice industry in Buttonwillow and this property was one of many similar farmsteads owned by the Parsons (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of farmstead development, with sprawling homes on large tracts of land and multiple ancillary buildings. The residence is a modest example of the Minimal Traditional style, common in California during this period. Additionally, the structural additions made to the residence and carport, as well as replacement windows and roof have compromised the integrity of the building. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5616 Brite Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building and farmstead, therefore, do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

The property at 5616 Brite Road has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to meet the significance criteria as outlined in these guidelines.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] "Charles Parsons Hailed as Community Leader," *The Bakersfield Californian*, December 31, 1958; Interview with Christine Thompson, Walter Parson's granddaughter, March 9, 2009; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past-Kernland Tales," *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin*, n.p.: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: 5616 Brite Road, facing northeast, March 2009.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #9

P1. Other Identifier: 5632 Brite Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 30 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5632 Brite Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-210-26-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The three-part, multilevel Ranch house at 5632 Brite Road includes a front one-story side gable primary structure with a two-story section attached to its rear that, further, has a one-story side gable three-bay wide garage attached to its side and rear. The three units are attached in line, altogether forming an L-shaped plan. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1932, Chris Thompson, third generation owner

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Christine Annette Thompson
5632 Brite Rd. A
Buttonwillow CA 93206-9721

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #9

B1. Historic Name: N side of Brite – Parcel 26
B2. Common Name: 5632 Brite Rd
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Ranch
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1932; window replacement and alterations 2002

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5632 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to 1932, its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

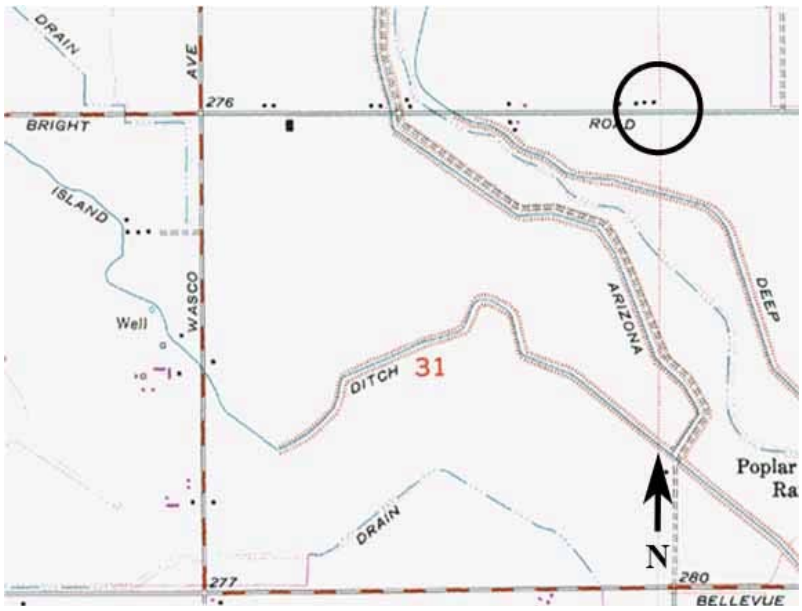
William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

The front section of this homestead has wood siding and a wood shingled side gable roof with exposed rafter tails. A small front gable extension with diamond-patterned supports shelters a raised off-center front entry stoop. The east gable end includes a door accessing a raised porch that connects to the aforementioned two-story "middle" section. This middle section has wood siding and a wood shingled front gable roof. A non-historic second story shed roofed sun room extends off its east side and is supported by wood posts stemming from the porch below. This porch adjoins a shed roof breezeway that extends off of a three-bay wide garage wing with a side gable roof. Fenestration includes replacement fixed and casement windows in all three sections.

B10. Significance (continued):

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

The property associated with this residence was associated with cotton production at the time this house was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

The residence at 5632 Brite Road was originally part of a larger cotton ranch owned by the Parsons family. The division of the property into its own parcel was performed during the modern era, yet it remains one of many parcels that complete the larger Parsons Home Ranch. Using money obtained from a pervious lumber business, Walter Parsons purchased land in Kern County to raise cotton in 1932. According to family tradition, he constructed this house in the rural area around Buttonwillow based upon the family homestead in Northampton. However, the building has either been modified or the original construction was not an accurate reproduction. The two story middle portion borrows from the New England building tradition, and in rural areas barns were often attached to the side and rear of the house so animals could be tended during cold weather. In this case the organization has been changed so that the 'barns,' modernized as a garage, are at a right angle to the house. The one story portion across the front is atypical as well. One story additions to New England construction usually occur along the long side gable increasing the compact mass of the house, not at a right angle creating a sprawling floorplan. His sons, Charles and John continued to run Parsons Ranch, and specialized in cotton and rice. The brothers helped pioneer the production of rice in the Buttonwillow area and the Parsons were members of the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. In addition to their agricultural contributions, Charles Parson was an active community leader in Buttonwillow. He served as president of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, president of the Lions Club, one of the founders of the Buttonwillow Community National Bank, vice president of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, and was on the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative. The current owner, Christine Thompson, is a niece of Charles Parson and she continues to help run the Parson farmstead.[8]

Christine Thompson provided a construction date of 1932 for this residence; however current assessor records reports a modern, 2002 date of construction associated with this parcel. This modern construction may relate to extensive renovations, which included the replacement of all the windows and alteration to the eastern side porch.

Evaluation

The residence at 5632 Brite Road is associated with the post-Miller & Lux diversification and introduction of cotton to the Buttonwillow area; however Walter Parsons was a late arrival to the area in 1932 after cotton was established in 1928. Its recent division from the larger agricultural parcel to become a single-family property further compromises the building's association with the area's agricultural history. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Parsons were one of many families who helped developed the cotton and rice industry in Buttonwillow. While Walter Parsons and his son

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] "Charles Parsons Hailed as Community Leader," *The Bakersfield Californian,* December 31, 1958; Interview with Christine Thompson, March 9, 2009; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past-Kernland Tales," *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin*, n.p.: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992) 78, 80.

Charles practiced large scale agriculture and were highly involved in the community, their activities and successes were those of the community (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the residence is attributed to New England architecture, but architectural analysis indicates several alterations were made at the time of construction or later. As a result the design is more vernacular and does not have significant design, or construction. Additionally, the replacement windows have compromised the original strong fenestration pattern affecting the integrity of the building. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5632 Brite Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building and farmstead, therefore, do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #10

P1. Other Identifier: 5648 Brite Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 30 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5648 Brite Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-210-14-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The broad Ranch house at 5648 Brite Road has a shallow-pitched side gable roof with wood shingles and open overhanging eaves. A two-bay wide garage end sits below a lower section of the side gable roof. The partial-width front entry porch is below a shed roof extension supported by square wood posts and enclosed by a diamond-patterned wood rail. The building also features wide wood lap siding and a Roman brick interior chimney. Fenestration includes large fixed and grouped double hung windows.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1951, Assessor records

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Parsons
5648 Brite Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9721

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #10

B1. Historic Name: 5648 Brite Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Ranch
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1951; patio addition: 2001

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5648 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to the 1950s, its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

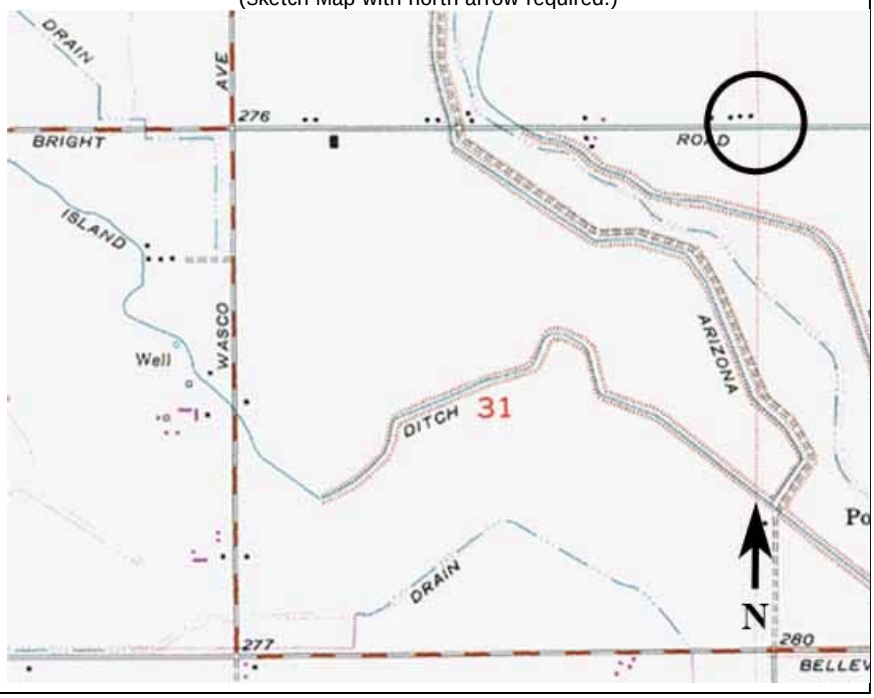
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**
Los Angeles Times; *Van Nuys News*; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records. Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928.[1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously

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[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

The residence at 5648 Brite Road was originally part of a larger property owned by the Parsons family. The division of the property into its own parcel was performed during the modern era, yet it remains one of many parcels that complete the larger Parsons Home Ranch. Using money obtained from a pervious lumber business, Walter Parsons purchased land in Kern County to raise cotton in 1932. His sons, Charles and John continued to run Parsons Ranch, and specialized in cotton and rice. The brothers helped pioneer the production of rice in the Buttonwillow area and the Parsons were members of the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. In addition to their agricultural contributions, Charles Parson was an active community leader in Buttonwillow. He served as president of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, president of the Lions Club, one of the founders of the Buttonwillow Community National Bank, vice president of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, and was on the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative. This ranch house was constructed for one of the widows of the second generation. The Parson family continues to own 5648 Brite Road and in 2001 a detached patio area was added to the property.[8]

Evaluation

The property at 5648 Brite Road is associated with the post-World War II agricultural growth of Buttonwillow; however this residence was constructed after other similar farmsteads, and does not represent a significant example of post-World War II building trends. Indeed, by the time the residence was built, numerous farmsteads were developed throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. Its recent division from the larger agricultural parcel to become a single-family property further compromises the building's association with the area's agricultural history. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Parsons were one of many families who helped developed the cotton and rice industry in Buttonwillow and this property was one of secondary family residences owned by the Parsons (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of a sprawling farmstead house. The residence is a modest example of the Ranch style, common in California during this period. Additionally, replacement windows, garage doors, and roof have compromised the integrity of the building. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5648 Brite Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building and farmstead, therefore, do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] "Charles Parsons Hailed as Community Leader," *The Bakersfield Californian*, December 31, 1958; Interview with Christine Thompson, March 9, 2009; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past-Kernland Tales," *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin*, n.p.: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #11

P1. Other Identifier: 5920 Brite Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 29 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 111 City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-200-10-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The one-story Craftsman house at 5920 Brite Road is clad in stucco and has a front gable composite shingle roof with open overhanging eaves. A smaller front gable roof with an exposed horizontal truss beam projects over an open concrete front porch and is supported by square wood posts on brick piers. A new entry door is centered on the front façade and is flanked by a new picture window in an enlarged opening. The remaining windows are replacement 1/1 double hung and vary in size and placement. There is a carport on the building's south side supported by square wood posts on sunken concrete piers. (see continuation sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm; (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Residence, camera facing southeast, March 11, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1965, Kern County Assessor

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Allen D. Pierucci
P. O. Box 700
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-0700

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 11, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #11

B1. Historic Name: 5920 Brite Rd.
B2. Common Name: Julian Pierucci & Son Farms
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1965

***B7. Moved?** ☐ **No** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** approx. 1989 **Original Location:** unknown
***B8. Related Features:**

B9. Architect: unknown b. Builder: unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5920 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

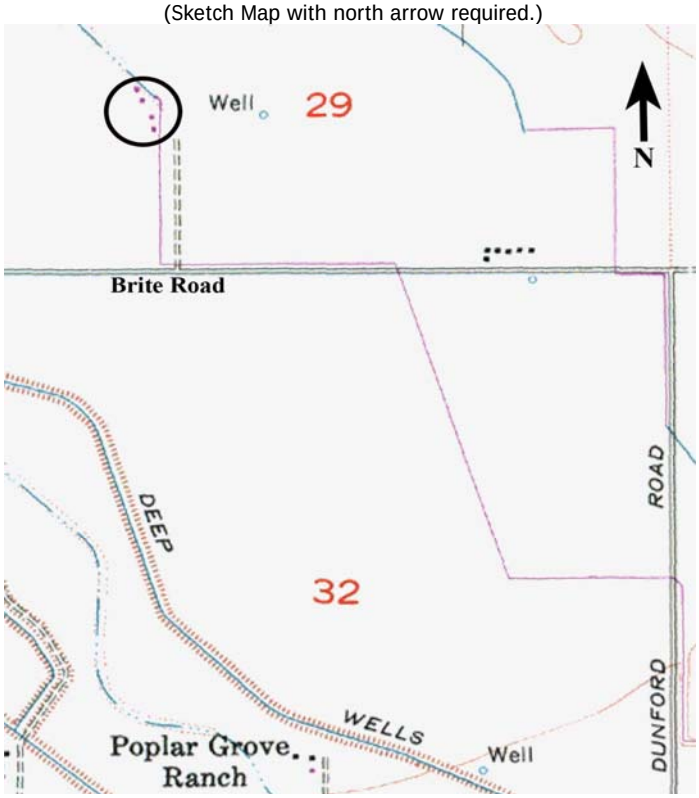
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945);* Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby, M. A.
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

To the northeast of the house is a cabin with wood siding, a wood shingle cross gable roof, a shed roof porch along one of its ells, and wood 1/1 double hung windows (Photograph 2). It does not rest on a concrete foundation.

There are four secondary structures to the north of the residence. Closest to the house is a two-tiered wood frame carport, nearly two stories tall, with corrugated metal roofs and a corrugated metal west side wall. Further to the north is a small rectangular shed with a corrugated metal gable roof, horizontal wood siding, a sliding door on its north end, a large patched opening and small open window on its east side, and a panel door on its south end (Photograph 3). Next is a large shed with a corrugated gable roof, a sliding door on its east end, and a shed roof extension on its north side with a smaller sliding door. A smaller gabled shed with corrugated metal siding and a single door on its east side lies furthest from the house.

B10. Significance (continued):

The Julian Pierucci & Sons Farm is in between the sites of Miller and Lux's former Poplar Grove Ranch and Deep Wells Ranch. Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [1] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [2]

In 1895 Miller and Lux advertised in San Francisco to promote an Italian colony in the Buttonwillow region to grow wheat. A few families attracted by the offer established farms in the area on land leased from Miller and Lux or went to work on farms already in operation.[3] In 1899, Angelo Torgianni, one of the Italians attracted from San Francisco to the Buttonwillow area joined a brother already employed at the Buttonwillow Ranch. In 1950 he reminisced that 23 families lived in the area when he arrived, only three of which were not Italian. Although not a direct antecedent of the Julian Pierucci family, sources indicate that Peter Pierucci arrived in Buttonwillow, directly from Italy in 1901 to join "the Buttonwillow community of his former countrymen."[4]

During the 1920s Miller & Lux Inc. prepared to subdivide and sell their Buttonwillow Ranch land. They commissioned reports that highlighted the potential for cultivation of crops like cotton and fruit.[5] By 1926 the transfer of their system of canals and water works to the Buena Vista Water Storage District was complete and the area prepared for its next phase. In 1927 Miller and Lux Incorporated under the direction of land agent C.E. Houchin platted another incarnation of

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 17-18.

[2] Means, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.

[1] Buttonwillow Times, "The Price Tag was 25 Cents an Acre!" 3 Mar. 1960.

[4] *Bakersfield Californian*, 29 Nov. 1967.

[5] Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

Buttonwillow.[6] On June 26, 1927 the townsites and surrounding agricultural parcels opened for sale. In a 2005 interview with Allen Pierucci, he stated that his grandfather began farming in the Buttonwillow area in the 1920s.[7]

Between 1956 and 1959 Joe and Louis Pierucci purchased the 5920 Brite Road parcel and established the family farm that remains at the location today. U.S. Geological Survey maps show five structures on this parcel in 1954, all of which were razed or moved and replaced with four other structures by 1973. In an interview JRP conducted with Seth Pierucci, he stated that the main residence on the property had been moved onto the location approximately 20 years ago. Based on the characteristics of the small cabin, it is likely that it was constructed prior to U.S. Geological Survey maps dating its arrival on the property between 1954 and 1973. Its size and form suggest that it would have served as farm laborer housing, either on one of the Miller & Lux ranches, or one of the later cotton farms.

After settling on their farm in the late 1950s, the Pierucci family followed the growing trend of growing cotton in the area.[8] Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[9] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[10]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[11] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[12]

The Pierucci family is one of numerous Italian families who settled both in Kern County and more specifically, in the Buttonwillow area in the early twentieth century. In a 1982 article about Italian associations in the area, the *Bakersfield Californian* remarked that "Over the years, the contributions and accomplishments made by the Italians, especially in agriculture, would be realized as integral factors in the growth and prosperity of Kern County…."[13] They are also one of a few families who have passed their family farms down the generations since purchasing from Miller & Lux in 1927.

Today the farm, denominated "Julian Pierucci & Son Farms, Joe – Julian – Allen – Seth: Four Generations of Quality Farming," remains a family residence. Although Allen Pierucci stated in 2005 that "Buttonwillow will be one of the last places we'll still grow cotton in the San Joaquin Valley," a portion of the farm is now planted with alfalfa.[14]

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[3]Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County,* California (Beverley Hills: Autograph Press, 1977), 85*;* Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" Ph.D. Thesis, University of California Los Angeles, 1976, 328.

[7] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California," *Farm Journal*, 1 Nov. 2005.

[8] Merlo, 2005.

[9] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945,* 27.

[10] Raznoff, 81-82.

[11] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California,* (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[12] Merlo, 2005.

[13] *Bakersfield Californian,* 8 Jun. 1982.

[14] Merlo, 2005; Field observation, March 2009.

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

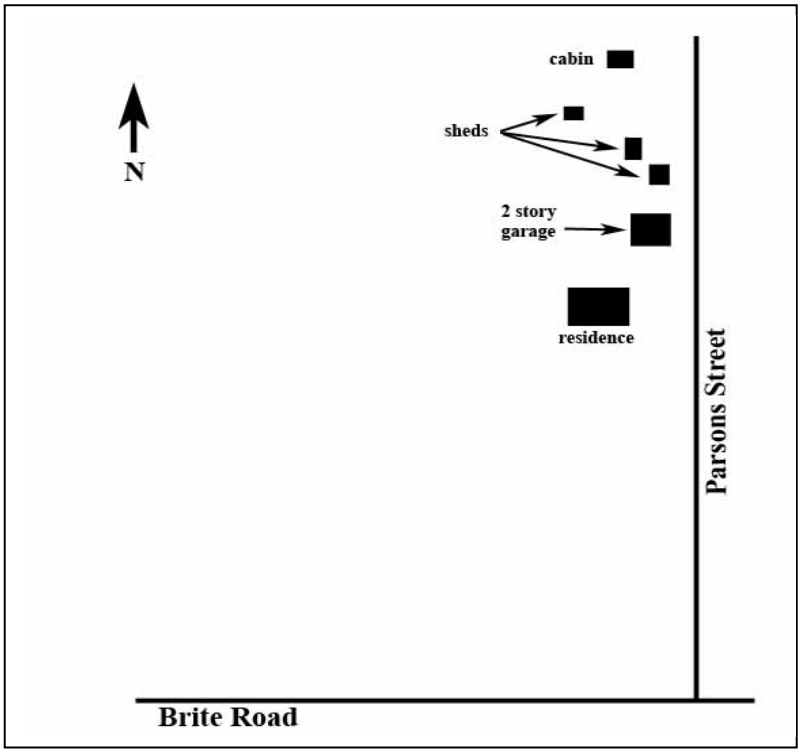
Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 5920 Brite Road are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Constructed after 1954, they post-date any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, the buildings were constructed by, or transported in by the Pierucci family to serve as a farm residence. While they are associated with the historical themes of agricultural development and settlement in the region, they are one of numerous farm residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the buildings do not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The Pierucci family represents one of many families who have a long history of farming in the area. Their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. The main residence is a modest example of a Craftsman house, a popular style of home built in the early – mid twentieth century. Even if the main residence were historically significant, its historic integrity has been compromised with replacement windows and doors which effect original design, workmanship, materials, and feeling. It also lost historic integrity of location when it was moved to the property. The small cabin's historic integrity to its location was also compromised when it was moved onto the property. The secondary structures on the property are of common utilitarian type and do not possess distinctive characteristics that would render them eligible. The buildings are also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: cabin, camera facing northeast, March 11, 2009.

Photograph 3: small shed on left and second shed on right, March 11, 2009.

Sketch Map:


cabin
sheds
2 story
garage
residence
N
Parsons Street
Brite Road

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #12

P1. Other Identifier: 6300 Brite Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 29 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 6300 Brite Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-200-33-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This farmstead at 6300 Brite Road includes four structures. The 1-story Ranch house has wood siding and a shallow-pitched side gable gravel roof that spans over a 2-bay wide carport (Photograph 1). The front entry porch is beneath a shed roof extension supported by square posts. Fenestration includes single and grouped fixed and sliding windows. Directly to the west of the primary residence is a 1-story frame structure in fair condition with wood siding, a front gable wood shingle roof with open eaves, and a concrete foundation (Photograph 2). An off-center smaller gable roof with square wood post supports projects over a one-step front entry concrete stoop. There are replacement sliding windows in original openings with original wood surrounds on the primary façade and louvered vents beneath the gable roof peaks. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm/ranch

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
ca. 1932-1942, USGS maps

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Raymond P. Blair Family
4709 Mount Hood Rd.
Bakersfield, CA 93309-2434

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. " Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #12

B1. Historic Name: 6300 Brite Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Agriculture/Residence B4. Present Use: Agriculture/Residence
***B5. Architectural Style:** Ranch
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: ca. 1932-1937

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 6300 Brite Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to the 1930s, its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

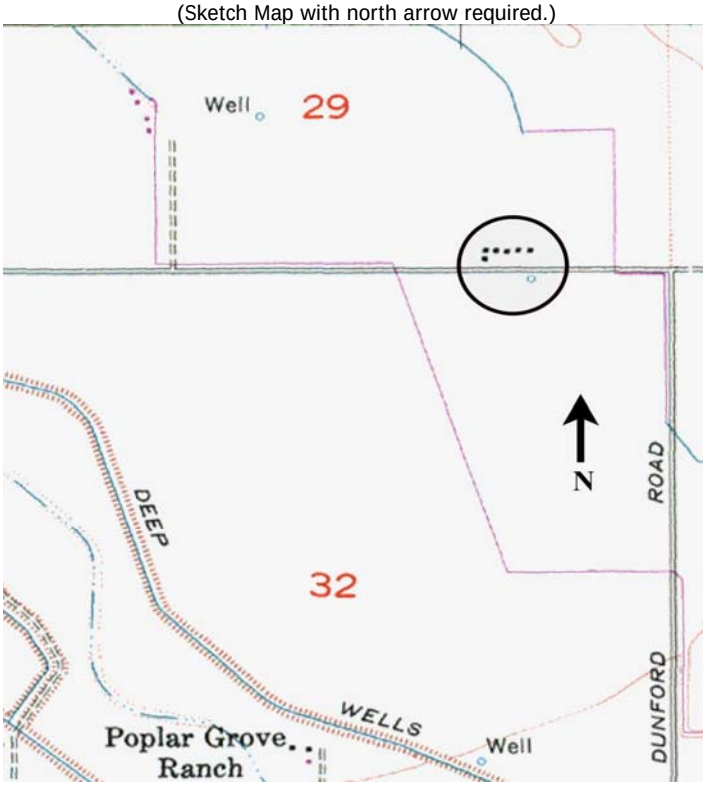
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945).* (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

To the northwest of this structure lies a neglected frame gable-roofed building with wood shingles and a small gabled cupola (Photograph 3). Small square windows are positioned directly beneath the roofline. In addition to these historic outbuildings, there is a large trapezoidal prefab storage building at the west end of the property with grooved metal siding, a large floor-to-ceiling sliding door, and sliding windows (Photograph 4).

B10. Significance (continued):

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, *Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, 27.

[3] Raznoff, *Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California*, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962,9.

[5] Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization* 8, 10.

harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

Similar to many other properties along Brite Road, this parcel was originally owned by Miller & Lux and was later purchased by the Parson family who retained ownership from the 1930s through the 1970s. Using money obtained from a pervious lumber business, Walter Parsons purchased land in Kern County to raise cotton in 1932. His sons, Charles and John continued to run Parsons Ranch, and specialized in cotton and rice. The brothers helped pioneer the production of rice in the Buttonwillow area and the Parsons were members of the Farmer's Cooperative Gin. In addition to their agricultural contributions, Charles Parson was an active community leader in Buttonwillow. He served as president of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, president of the Lions Club, one of the founders of the Buttonwillow Community National Bank, vice president of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, and was on the Buttonwillow Rice Growers Cooperative.[8] The Blairs are descendants of the Parsons and retain the farm today.

The buildings on this large agricultural parcel were constructed between 1932 and 1937 according to topographic maps and aerial photography. The property contained five buildings along the road and eight additional buildings were located to the northwest all the buildings were consistent with housing for the many agricultural workers needed for cotton production. Current topographic maps from 1973 continue to show five buildings on the property in the same configuration as shown in 1942; however only four buildings are currently located on the parcel indicating further changes after 1973. No assessor information was available for this property, so the construction dates could not be verified. Based on architectural analysis, the two outbuildings are remnants of the 1932—1937 construction. The ranch appears to have replaced earlier construction in the early 1950s. The prefabricated shed also replaces earlier construction.[9]

Evaluation

The property at 6300 Brite Road is associated with cotton culture in the area surrounding Buttonwillow in the 1930s; however the Parsons were late comers to cotton culture in the area and this property was constructed after other similar farmsteads. Indeed, by the time the residence and surrounding camp was built, numerous farmsteads were developed throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. The removal of the numerous small buildings associated with cotton labor camps and replacement with newer construction has impacted the property's integrity of association, feeling and

[6] Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. (n.p.: Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 196)3; *Land Ownership of Kern County*. (n.p.: Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973); Shell Oil Company Land Department, "South Buttonwillow Area, Kern County," map no. 248, April 1936; "Charles Parsons Hailed as Community Leader," *The Bakersfield Californian*, December 31, 1958; Interview with Christine Thompson, March 9, 2009; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past-Kernland Tales," *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; *From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin* (n.p.: Farmers Cooperative Gin, 1987).

[9] USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map (Washington, D C: USGS, 1932, 1954, 1973); USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map (Washington, DC: USGS, 1932, 1942); McAlester, Virginia & Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005).

design. The property does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Parsons were one of many families who helped developed the cotton and rice industry in Buttonwillow and this property was one of many similar farmsteads owned by the Parsons (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of a farmstead property including sprawling residences on large agricultural parcels, and numerous ancillary buildings. The residence is a modest example of the Ranch style, common in California during this period. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 6300 Brite Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building and farmstead, therefore, do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

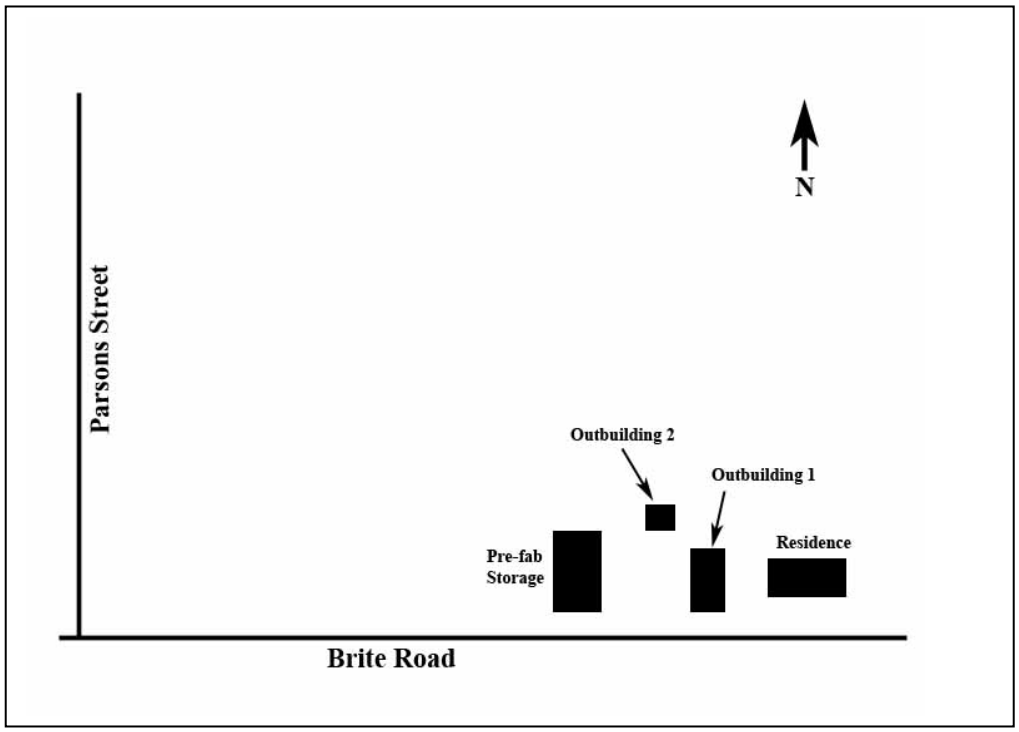
Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: 6300 Brite Road, outbuilding 1, facing north, March 2009.

Photograph 3: 6300 Brite Road, outbuilding 2, March 2009.

Photograph 4: 6300 Brite Road, prefab storage building, facing west, March 2009.

Sketch Map:


N
Parsons Street
Outbuilding 2
Outbuilding 1
Residence
Pre-fab
Storage
Brite Road

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #13

P1. Other Identifier: 38506 Stockdale Highway

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 32 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 38506 Stockdale Highway City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-220-10-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The farmstead located at 38506 Stockdale Highway includes three residences, detached garage, and large equipment shed. The houses are situated north-to-south on the east side of the property with the outbuildings similarly aligned to their west. The southernmost residence is a one-story wood-sided Craftsman bungalow with an overhanging front jerkinhead roof. A smaller front jerkinhead projection covers a stepped front porch and is supported by corner wood posts on concrete piers. All windows are in their original openings but have been replaced, and include paired 9/9 double hung windows on the north and south sides and sliding windows on the front façade flanking the central entry. A two-car detached garage with a pyramidal roof and wood siding lies directly west of this house. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP33 (Farm/ranch); HP3 (Multiple Family Property)

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
Quads indicate bet. 1933-54

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Rita Franceschi
P. O. Box 194
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-0700

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #13

B1. Historic Name: 38506 Stockdale Highway

B2. Common Name: Franceschi & Son Farming

B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential

***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman/Minimal Traditional

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Between 1954 and 1973

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** Weed Island Ditch

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 38506 Stockdale Highway does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945);* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes.)

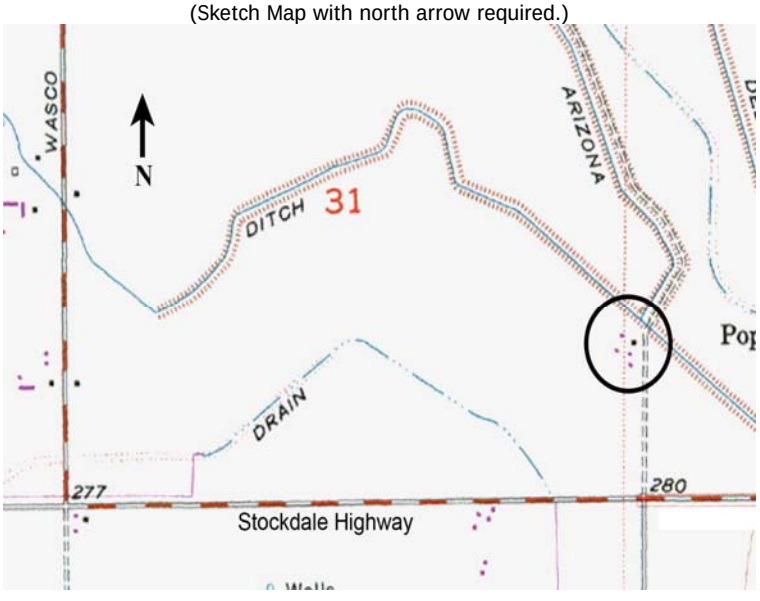
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

The second residence is a one-story side gable worker's cottage with some Craftsman detailing in the form of exposed rafters under the overhanging eaves. The house is clad in wood siding. Fenestration includes both large and small replacement metal frame sliding windows and gable vents provide ventilation. A centered wood panel front entry door is raised on a one-step concrete stoop. There is a rear shed roof addition.

The northernmost house is one story Minimal Traditional style house with a broad, overhanging hipped roof with open eaves and fascia board and a recessed entry beneath its southeast corner supported by a single metal pole. The building is clad in stucco and a carport is attached to its south side. Fenestration includes metal sliding windows of varying sizes.

A large corrugated metal, side gable equipment shed is to the southwest of this house. It includes an open shed roof attached garage to its south and two shed roof shelters on its east side that mirror each other in orientation.

B10. Significance (continued):

The Franceschi Farm is located just west of Miller and Lux's former Poplar Grove Ranch. Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [1] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [2]

In 1895 Miller and Lux advertised in San Francisco to promote an Italian colony in the Buttonwillow region to grow wheat. A few families attracted by the offer established farms in the area on land leased from Miller and Lux or went to work on ranches.[3] In 1899, Angelo Toriginni, one of the Italians attracted from San Francisco to the Buttonwillow area joined a brother already employed at Buttonwillow Ranch. In 1950 he reminisced that 23 families lived in the area when he arrived, only three of which were not Italian.

During the 1920s Miller & Lux Inc. prepared to subdivide and sell their Buttonwillow Ranch land. They commissioned reports that highlighted the potential for cultivation of crops like cotton and fruits.[4] By 1926 the transfer of their system of canals and water works to the Buena Vista Water Storage District was complete and the area prepared for its next phase. In 1927 Miller and Lux Incorporated under the direction of land agent C.E. Houchin platted another incarnation of

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 17-18.

[2] Means, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.

[1] Buttonwillow Times, "The Price Tag was 25 Cents an Acre!" 3 Mar. 1960.

[4] Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

Buttonwillow.[5] On June 26, 1927 the townsites and surrounding agricultural parcels opened for sale. Available records do not indicate if the Franceschis purchased their farm in this initial sale. They do not appear in the 1930 census, however, Rita and Frank Franceschi are registered voters in Buttonwillow by 1942.[6]

Rita Franceschi, listed as current legal owner of 38506 Stockdale Highway by the Kern County Assessor, was born in Buttonwillow on the farm neighboring that property to the east. She was the daughter of Frank and Emma Antongiovanni who had immigrated to Kern County from Italy in 1907.[7] The Franceschis purchased the 38506 Stockdale Highway parcel sometime between 1956 and 1959. A 1959 ownership/lease map lists F. & R. Franceschi as the occupants of the 38506 Stockdale Highway parcel, F. & A. Franceschi as the occoupants of the parcel directly north, and F. Franceschi et al as occupants of a property further south. The structures present on the Franceschi property were likely built after the Franceschis bought the property in the late 1950s and prior to 1973 when they appear on U. S. Geological Survey maps. One structure appears on the property sometime between 1932 and 1954, however, none of the present structures are located at the site.[8]

Available sources do not indicate what crops the Franceschis historically grew, however, the growing trend in the region after 1928 was to plant cotton. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[9] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[10] As farmers increased cotton production in the area, the demand for new processing facilities also increased. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin founded in 1937. A post-WWII boom in demand for cotton led to the building of a second gin on the Farmer's Cooperative gin property in 1948.[11]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[12] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[13]

The Franceschi family is one of numerous Italian families who settled both in Kern County, and more specifically in the Buttonwillow area in the early – mid twentieth century. In a 1982 article about Italian associations in the area, the

[3]Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County*, California (Beverley Hills: Autograph Press, 1977), 85*;* Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" Ph.D. Thesis, University of California Los Angeles, 1976, 328.

[6] U. S. Census, 1930; California Voter Registration, *Buttonwillow East*, 1942-1944, accessed through Ancestry.com, 30 March 2009.

[7] U. S. Census, 1930; *Bakersfield Californian*, 13 June 1957.

[8] USGS Quadrangles, *East Elk Hills*, 1932; 1954; 1954 photorevised 1973.

[9] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945*, 27.

[10] Raznoff, 81-82.

[11] Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987).

[12] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[13] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California, *Farm Journal*, 1 Nov. 2005.

Bakersfield Californian remarked that "Over the years, the contributions and accomplishments made by the Italians, especially in agriculture, would be realized as integral factors in the growth and prosperity of Kern County…."[14]

Today, the farm, denominated "Franceschi & Son" by a road sign is planted with alfalfa. Although the residences are currently inhabited, legal owner Rita Franceschi died in 2007.

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 38506 Stockdale Highway are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Since construction of all of the current structures is estimated between 1956 and 1973, they post-date any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, they were constructed by the Franceschi family as a farm residence. While they are associated with the historical themes of agricultural development and settlement in the region, they are one of numerous farm residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the buildings do not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The Franceschi family represents one of many families who have a long history of farming in the area. Their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. Rather they are modest examples of popular styles of homes built in the early and mid twentieth century. In the case of the southernmost house, even if it were historically significant, its historic integrity has been compromised by the fact that it appears to have been moved to this location. The prevalence of the Craftsman style of architecture was highest prior to 1940; this house does not appear at this location until at least 1954 and probably later, when the Franceschis arrived.[15] The foundation raised on concrete blocks also suggests that this location is not where the house was constructed. Even if the smaller cabin and northernmost building were historically significant, their historic integrity has been compromised with replacement windows and composition roofing, which all effect original design, workmanship, materials and feeling. The shed outbuildings are of common utilitarian style and do not represent any distinctive characteristics either. The buildings are also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[14] *Bakersfield Californian,* 8 Jun. 1982.

[15] Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1988).

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: 38506 Stockdale Highway, residence 1, facing northwest, March 2009.

Photograph 3: 38506 Stockdale Highway, residence 2, facing west, March 2009.

Photographs (cont):

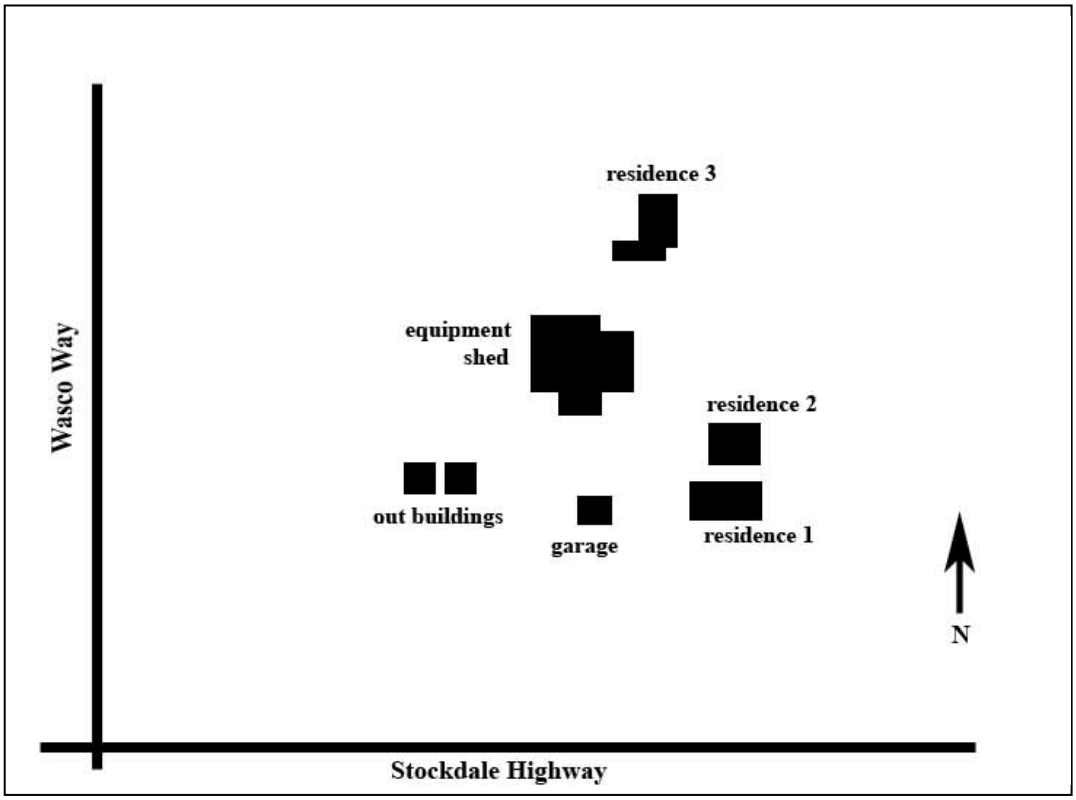
Photograph 4: 38506 Stockdale Highway, residence 3, facing west, March 2009.

Photograph 5: 38506 Stockdale Highway, detached garage, facing southwest, March 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 6: 38506 Stockdale Highway, equipment shed(s), facing west, March 2009.

Sketch Map:


residence 3
equipment shed
residence 2
out buildings
garage
residence 1
Wasco Way
Stockdale Highway
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #14

P1. Other Identifier: 37760 Stockdale Hwy

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 32 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 37760 Stockdale Hwy City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-230-07-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The farmstead located at 37760 Stockdale Highway includes three residences, two of which are not historic (see **Sketch Map**). The house of interest is a one-story Minimal Traditional with an L-shaped plan and a concrete foundation (**Photograph 1**). The projecting end has a front gable roof with a centered pair of double hung windows. The ell has a side gable roof with a small shed roof extension over a stepped concrete front entry stoop. A raised concrete flower bed extends to each side of the steps along the remaining width of this wall. The wood panel front door is flanked by a large picture window to the east and a 4/4 wood double hung window to the west. The building is clad in stucco aside from vertical wood board siding in each gable end. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm; (HP3) Multiple family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Historic residence, facing north, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1949, Kern County Assessor

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Aldo Antongiovanni
37744 Stockdale Hwy
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9720

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #14

B1. Historic Name: 37760 Stockdale Hwy

B2. Common Name: Antongiovanni Farm

B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: not in use

***B5. Architectural Style:** Minimal Traditional

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1949

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 37760 Stockdale Highway does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

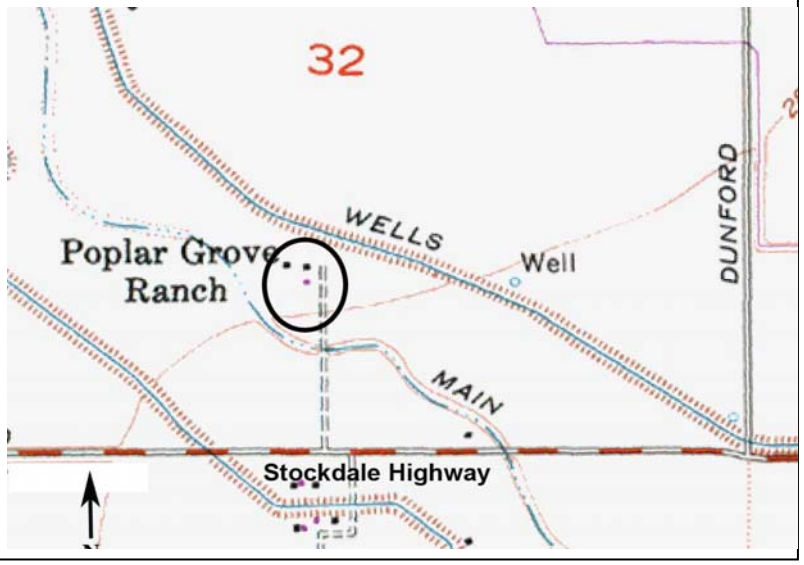
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County*, California (Beverley Hills: Autograph Press), 1977. (Also see footnotes).

B13. Remarks:

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

P3a. Description (continued):

A shed roof porch supported by braced wood posts extends from the rear northeast corner of the house (**Photograph 2**). Its northeast corner is an enclosed storage space. There is also a detached shed located behind the house with plywood walls and a gable roof (**Photograph 2**). Further north, there is a large corrugated metal equipment building with a shed roof, wood fascia board, sliding corrugated metal doors, and rear sliding window (**Photograph 3**).

B10. Significance (continued):

The Antongiovanni Farm is at the site of Miller and Lux's former Poplar Grove Ranch. Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [1] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [2]

In 1895 Miller and Lux advertised in San Francisco to promote an Italian colony in the Buttonwillow region to grow wheat. A few families attracted by the offer established farms in the area on land leased from Miller and Lux or went to work on farms already in operation.[3] In 1899, Angelo Torigianni, one of the Italians attracted from San Francisco to the Buttonwillow area joined a brother already employed at the Buttonwillow Ranch. In 1950 he reminisced that 23 families lived in the area when he arrived, only three of which were not Italian. Frank Antongiovanni and his wife Emma immigrated from Italy, directly to Kern County in 1907.[4] Although available records do not pinpoint where the Antongiovannis settled when they arrived in Kern County in 1907, they could have worked at the Poplar Grove Ranch, the property they later bought.

During the 1920s Miller & Lux Inc. prepared to subdivide and sell their Buttonwillow Ranch land. They commissioned reports that highlighted the potential for cultivation of crops like cotton and fruit.[5] By 1926 the transfer of their system of canals and water works to the Buena Vista Water Storage District was complete and the area prepared for its next phase. In 1927 Miller and Lux Incorporated under the direction of land agent C.E. Houchin platted another incarnation of Buttonwillow.[6] On June 26, 1927 the townsites and surrounding agricultural parcels opened for sale. Frank Antongiovanni probably purchased his farm southeast of Buttonwillow during this initial sale. His obituary states that he was one of the first farmers to settle the Buttonwillow area, and the 1930 census lists him as the owner of his farm.

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[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 17-18.

[2] Means, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.

[3] Buttonwillow Times, "The Price Tag was 25 Cents an Acre!" 3 Mar. 1960.

[4] U. S. Census, 1930; *Bakersfield Californian*, June 13, 1957.

[5] Barnes 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[6] Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County*, California (Beverley Hills: Autograph Press, 1977), 85*;* Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" Ph.D. Thesis, University of California Los Angeles, 1976, 328.

In 1930 Frank and Emma had five children and were growing grain as their primary crop, but later followed the trend of growing cotton in the region. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[7] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[8]

As farmers like the Antongiovannis increased cotton production in the area, the demand for new processing facilities also increased. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin, and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin founded in 1937. A post-WWII boom in demand for cotton led to the building of a second gin on the Farmer's Cooperative gin property in 1948.[9]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[10] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[11]

The Antongiovanni family is one of numerous Italian families who settled both in Kern County and more specifically, in the Buttonwillow area in the early twentieth century. In a 1982 article about Italian associations in the area, the *Bakersfield Californian* remarked that "Over the years, the contributions and accomplishments made by the Italians, especially in agriculture, would be realized as integral factors in the growth and prosperity of Kern County…."[12] They are also one of a few families in the area who have passed their family farms down the generations since purchasing from Miller & Lux in 1927.

Three generations of Antongiovannis reside at the farm today. The youngest Antongiovanni child listed in the 1930 census, Aldo, resides in the house built approximately 35 years ago and is the legal owner of the property. His son Larry, and an adult grandson live in the newest house on the property; the oldest house is uninhabited. In an interview JRP conducted with Larry Antongiovanni, he stated that "farming is what we do, it's not about money for us, it's just what we do."[13]

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The two modern houses on the property are less than 45 years of age and do not require historic evaluation.

[7] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945*, 27.

[8] Raznoff, 81-82.

[9] Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987).

[10] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[11] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California, *Farm Journal*, 1 Nov. 2005.

[12] *Bakersfield Californian*, 8 Jun. 1982.

[13] Interview with Larry Antongiovanni, March 11, 2009.

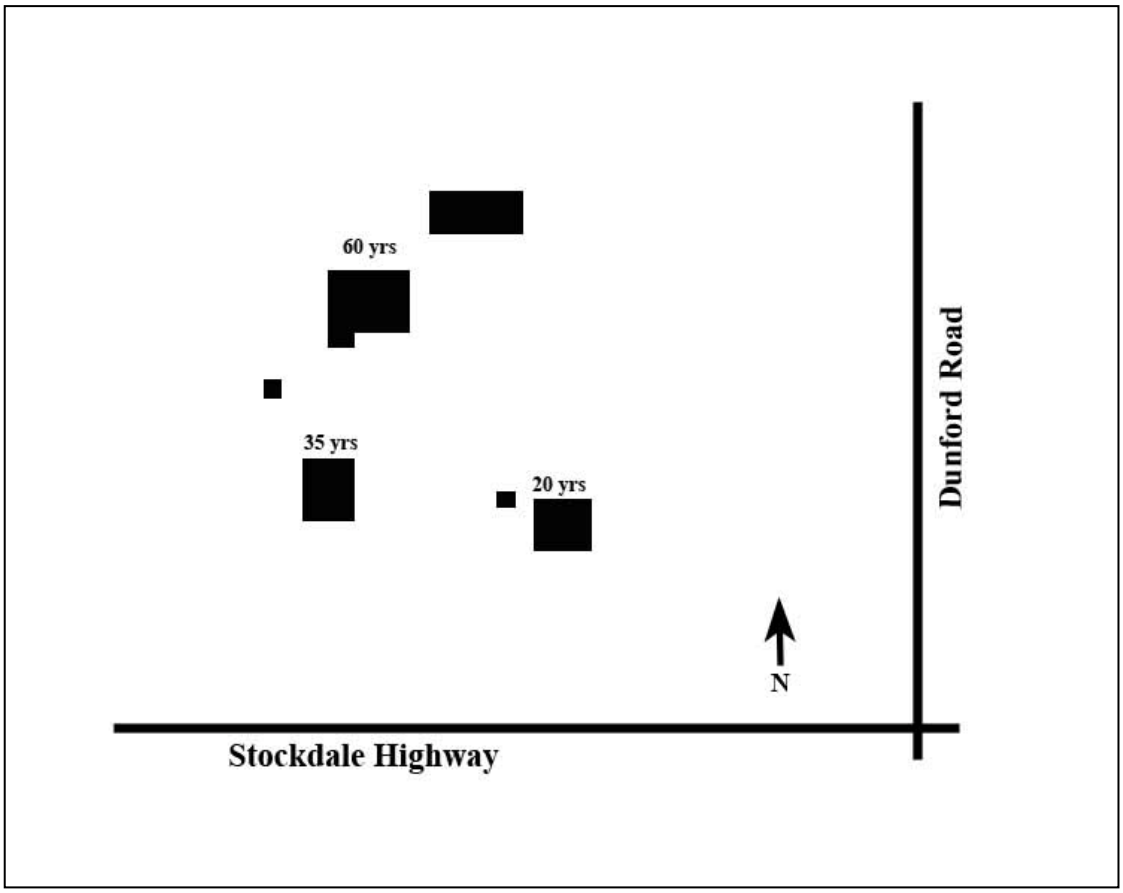
Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 37760 Stockdale Highway are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. The house constructed in 1949 post-dates any association with Miller & Lux's Poplar Grove Ranch. It was constructed by the Antongiovanni family in 1949 as a farm residence. While it is associated with the historical themes of agricultural development and settlement in the region, it is one of numerous farm residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the buildings do not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The Antongiovanni family represents one of many families who have a long history of farming in the area. Their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. Rather, the residence is a modest example of a Minimal Traditional, a popular style of house built mid-century. The equipment shed and outbuildings are of typical utilitarian design and materials and do not represent examples of historically significant design. The buildings are also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2. Rear porch and detached shed, facing south, March 2009.

Photograph 3. Equipment building, facing north, March 2009.

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #15

P1. Other Identifier: 37601 Stockdale Hwy

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 5 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 37601 Stockdale Hwy City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-080-15-00 and 159-080-13-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The farm complex consists of three cottages along Stockdale Highway, a grouping of farm buildings and two modern residences across the Arizona Canal south of the cottages. The buildings area grouped together along the northern edge of two parcels totaling 255.71 acres. Additional acreage is owned by the same family partnership in the area.

The three cottages along Stockdale Highway are wooden frame construction with horizontal wood siding. They progress from the smallest to the west and the largest to the east. The smallest cottage (cottage #1) is a small side gabled rectangle with a half width shed roofed addition across the east half of the south side (Photograph 2). The composition shingle roof has shallow open eaves. The building has a single replacement door off center on the north façade with a concrete stoop. Three wood frame double hung windows are spaced across the façade. Each end has a single double-hung window.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm; (HP3) Multiple family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Cottages along road, camera facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
Between 1937-54; post-1973, U.S. Geological Survey mapping

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Romanini Family L. P.
8909 Versailles Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1531

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 11, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #15

B1. Historic Name: 37601 Stockdale Hwy
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Farm/Residential B4. Present Use: Farm/Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman; Modern Ranch; Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Cottages 1 and 3 appear on mapping between 1942 and 1954; Cabin 2 appears after 1954. Similarity of construction among all three suggests they were moved to this location; Only Residence 1 may appear on 1973 mapping; likely both were constructed post-1973.

***B7. Moved?** ☐ No ☒ Yes ☐ Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** unknown
***B8. Related Features:** Arizona Canal

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 37601 Stockdale Highway does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

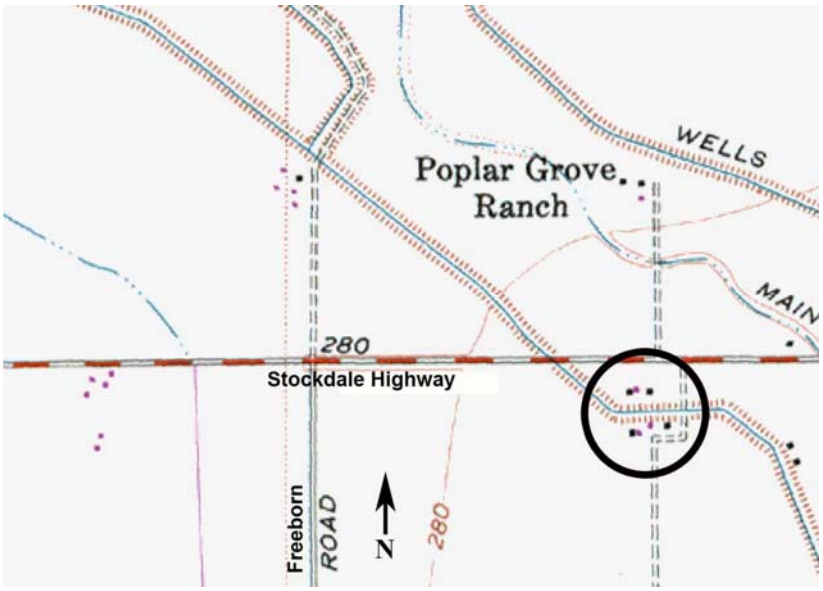
Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield:USDA,Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District) 1945;* Thomas H. Means *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes).

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

Cottage #2 is slightly larger with an L plan consisting of a side gable rectangle with shed roofed addition in the southwest corner (Photograph 3). The read addition has narrower horizontal wood siding than the rest of the building and sits on a newer concrete foundation. Projecting from the rear addition is a shed roof porch with metal trellis supports. The fenestration on this addition consists of paired replacement windows. The front portion of the house has shallow open eaves. A shed roof with square wooden posts protects the off center front door and three step concrete stoop. The front door has four lights. The north façade has three double hung windows with a fourth at the northwest corner. The corner window is paired with a window on the west end to create a corner window. The west end of the building has a narrow protruding square with a gable roof and narrow horizontal wood siding.

Cottage #3 is the largest of the cottages (Photograph 4). The single story Z plan building has a composition shingle cross gable roof. The gable ends have vertical board siding with the ends trimmed to create a decorative border. The rear portion of the cottage has a shed roof to the south with a porch. A shed roof supported on posts protects the front door in the corner formed by the crossed gables. The north façade has a pair of wood framed double hung windows below the gable end and a single double hung west of the door. The west side has replacement casement windows. A single double hung window and small fixed window are on the east side.

South of the cottages across the Arizona Canal are the two modern residences and the farm structures. Residence #1 is a rectangular ranch with hip roof (Photograph 5). The building is clad in horizontal siding with a vertical watertable. The fenestration consists of large paired eight light casement windows. There are four windows across the front with the front door offset between the third and fourth window east to west. Behind the house is a detached garage with a hip roof and horizontal siding. The garage has two windows on the north side.

The second residence is newer and is set in a clump of trees and bushes. The rectangular ranch building has a hip roof. Vertical siding creates a watertable. The door is offset to the west. A large 24 light window is centered in the façade. An eight light window is west of the center window and a 16 light window is east of the door.

To the east of the residences is a complex of barns and sheds. The largest barn is located in the northwest corner of the barn and shed complex (Photograph 6). The barn is a two story side gable corrugated metal building. The west side has a wide sliding door. The north side has four nine-light metal frame windows.

The second barn is further to the south. The narrow rectangular building has a gable roof and is sheathed in horizontal wood siding. The north side has one double hung window.

To the east of the second barn is a series of three small sheds with vertical wood siding and corrugated metal shed roofs (Photograph 7). To the north is a shed roofed equipment shed with corrugated metal shed roof and sides. Just to the east is a small sheet metal building with gable roof.

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The structures on the property at 37601 Stockdale Highway sit on two adjacent parcels. In the early development of the area, the properties were under the single ownership of Miller & Lux. After 1927, the two parcels were separately owned by Freeborn Brothers and the Olsen family until 1975 when the Romanini family purchased both.

The complex of structures at 37601 Stockdale Highway is just south of the site of Miller and Lux's former Poplar Grove Ranch. Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [1] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [2]

In 1895 Miller and Lux advertised in San Francisco to promote an Italian colony in the Buttonwillow region to grow wheat. A few families attracted by the offer established farms in the area on land leased from Miller and Lux.[3] In 1899, Angelo Torigianni was one of the Italians attracted from San Francisco to the Buttonwillow area and joined a brother already employed at the Buttonwillow Ranch. In 1950 he reminisced that 23 families lived in the area when he arrived, only three of which were not Italian.

During the 1920s Miller & Lux Inc. prepared to subdivide and sell their Buttonwillow Ranch land. They commissioned reports that highlighted the potential for cultivation of crops like cotton and fruit.[4] By 1926 the transfer of their system of canals and water works to the Buena Vista Water Storage District was complete and the area prepared for its next phase. In 1927 Miller and Lux Incorporated under the direction of land agent C.E. Houchin platted another incarnation of Buttonwillow.[5] On June 26, 1927 the townsites and surrounding agricultural parcels opened for sale.

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[6] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[7]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. Haggin and Carr had experimented with bringing African Americans to Bakersfield to work in their cotton fields. While many left to find better paying jobs in Bakersfield, some remained as

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[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 17-18.

[2] Means, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.

[1] Buttonwillow Times, "The Price Tag was 25 Cents an Acre!" 3 Mar. 1960.

[4] Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[3]Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County,* California (Beverley Hills: Autograph Press, 1977), 85*;* Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" Ph.D. Thesis, University of California Los Angeles, 1976, 328.

[6] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945,* 27.

[7] Raznoff, 81-82.

seasonal labor. Mexicans and Filipinos also provided a necessary labor force.[8] By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The 1930 census lists five camps: Cottonwillow, Palomas, Negro Camp, Maddux camp and Negro Camp 2 in the vicinity of the study area. More camps were located in the nearby 'Wildwood' district. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing. The Combs Ranches supported 46 laborers and the H.H. Curtis Ranch supported eleven in the off season. Additional seasonal workers would fill the camps during harvest.[9]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[10] Larger farming operations provided camps, which often had inadequate sanitary and plumbing facilities for labor families and inadequate means of supervising and educating children. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[11]

As farmers increased cotton production in the area, the demand for new processing facilities also increased. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin founded in 1937. A post-World War II boom in demand for cotton led to the building of a second gin on the Farmer's Cooperative gin property in 1948.[12]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[13] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[14]

Ownership History

Freeborn Brothers, who owned the 37601 Stockdale Highway parcel south of Arizona Canal had an established ranch southwest at the intersection of Freeborn and Adohr by the late 1930s.[15] Voter registration records indicate Leland and Richard Freeborn residing in the area by the mid 1920s. George Leland Freeborn was married to Dust Bowl migrant, Norma Jean Lawson sometime in the 1930s. US Geological Survey mapping from 1932 through 1973 indicates the number of structures on this particular property gradually increasing over the years from one in 1932 to five in 1973.[16] Not only did the number of structures increase over the years, but the placements shifted. Based on placement of structures recorded by

[8] William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962, 8; Eugene Burmeister, *The Golden Empire Kern County, California* (Beverly Hills, California: Autograph Press, 1977), 81-82.

[9] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization*, 9.

[10] Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization*, 8, 10.

[11] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[12] Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987).

[13] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[14] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California, *Farm Journal*, 1 Nov. 2005.

[15] USGS Quadrangle, *East Elk Hills*, 1932; *Buttonwillow*, 1942.

[16] Voter Registration, Tupman, 1924-1932; USGS Quadrangles Buttonwillow 1942; East Elk Hills, 1932, 1954, 1954 photorevised 1973.

USGS mapping in 1973, it is possible that residence #1 was there, but residence #2 was not. Since the two residences are of very similar style, design, and materials, it is likely they were constructed at the same time, sometime after 1973, or moved onto the property in phases.[17]

The Olsen family began a farming operation on the 37601Stockdale Highway parcel north and east of Arizona Canal in the 1930s. In 1954 George W. Olsen owned the parcel, but by 1963 it had been split into two parcels, one still owned by George, the other by his son Teddy.[18] Aerial photographs taken in 1942 depict a structure present on the property, just north of the canal. Presumably the main residence for the farm, it was gone by 1954 when the USGS mapped the area.[19] Instead, two other structures appeared, and a third by 1973, all of which remain today in the form of small cabins.[20] The fact that all three cabins are of similar style and materials, yet appeared on the property in two separate phases suggests they may have been moved onto the property, perhaps from one of the farm labor camps in the area.

The 1920 census indicates one branch of the Romanini family, headed by Guiseppe and Italia, living in Kern County. Sometime shortly after their son Gino was born in 1921, they moved from Bakersfield to the Buttonwillow area where they farmed and raised their family.[21] Another branch of the Romanini family, headed by Natale Romanini, entered a business partnership with Angelo Torgianni and purchased a farm west of Buttonwillow in 1927.[22] Since 1975, both properties at 37601 Stockdale Highway have been owned by the Romanini family, today under the care of John G. and Christine A. Romanini.

The Romanini family is one of numerous Italian families who settled both in Kern County and more specifically, in the Buttonwillow area in the early twentieth century. In a 1982 article about Italian associations in the area, the *Bakersfield Californian* remarked that "Over the years, the contributions and accomplishments made by the Italians, especially in agriculture, would be realized as integral factors in the growth and prosperity of Kern County.…"[23]

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 37601 Stockdale Highway are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Erected after 1954, they post-date any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, the properties were constructed as farm residences and labor housing. While they are associated with the historical themes of agricultural development and settlement in the region, they are one of numerous farm residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the buildings do not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The present owners, the Romanini family, and the prior owners, the Olsens and Freeborn Brothers are representative of many families who have a long history of farming in the area. Their contributions alone are not significant to local, state, or national history. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, these buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. Rather, the cottages are

[17] USGS Quadrangle, *East Elk Hills*, 1954 photorevised 1973.

[18] *Bakersfield Californian*, March 2005, accessed via www. usgwarchives.net, March 2009.

[19] USGS Quadrangles: Buttonwillow, 1942; East Elk Hills 1954; Aerial Photographs of Kern County, 1942.

[20] USGS Quadrangle, East Elk Hills, 1954 photorevised 1973.

[21] U. S. Census, 1920; *Bakersfield Californian*, 15 Nov. 2005.

[22] *Buttonwillow Times*, 17 Dec. 1970.

[23] *Bakersfield Californian*, 8 Jun. 1982.

modest examples of Craftsman houses, a popular style of house built in the early to mid twentieth century. The two residences on the south portion of the property are modern ranch style houses, likely constructed after 1973, and do not require historic evaluation. All of the outbuildings on the eastern part of the property were constructed after 1973 and also do not require historic evaluation. Even if the cottages were historically significant, their historical integrity to their location was compromised when they were moved to this location. These buildings are also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Photographs (cont)

Photograph 2: Cottage #1, camera facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

Photograph 3: Cottage #2, camera facing southeast, March 11, 2009.

Photographs (cont)

Photograph 4: Cottage #3, camera facing southeast, March 11, 2009.

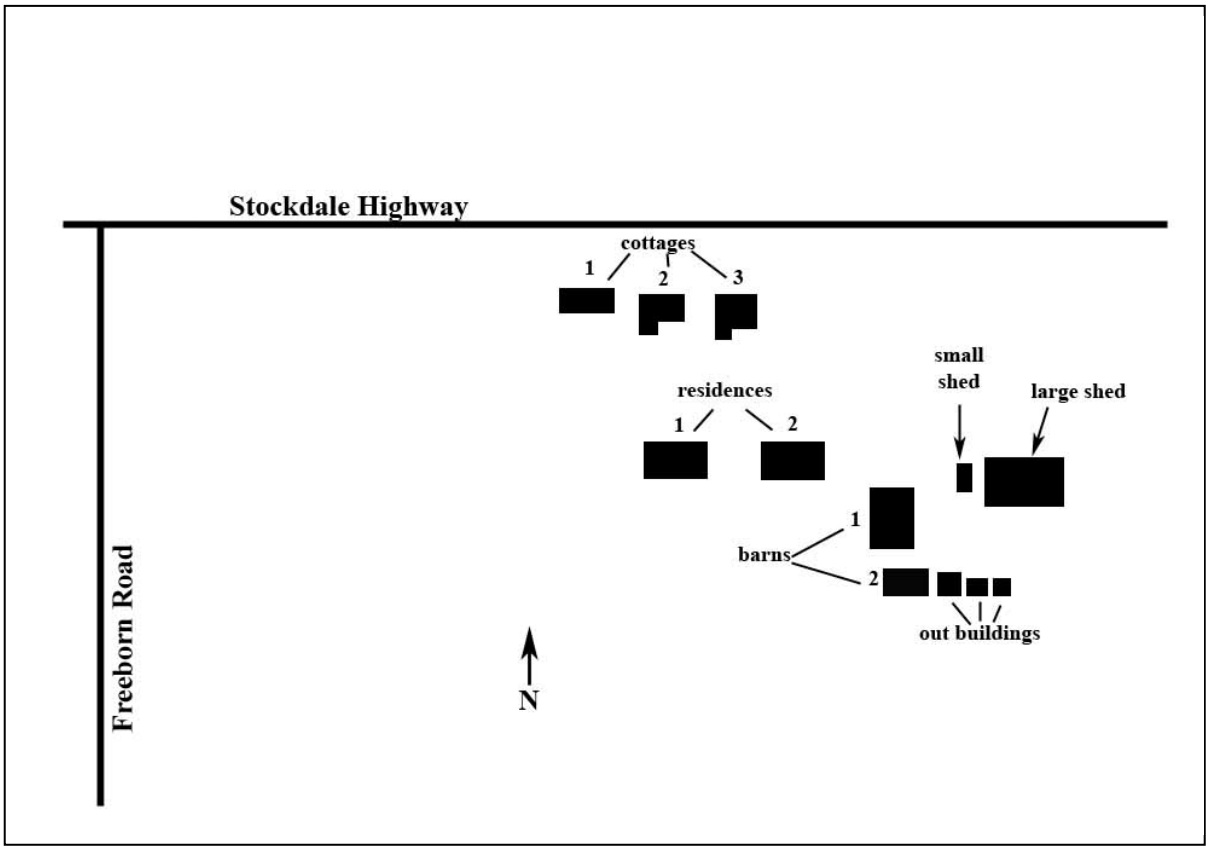
Photograph 5: Residence #1, camera facing south, March 11, 2009.

Photographs (cont)

Photograph 6: Barn #1, Barn #2 in back to the right, camera facing southeast, March 11, 2009.

Photograph 7: Farm building complex, barn #1 on left, camera facing southeast, March 11, 2009.

Sketch Map:


Stockdale Highway
Freeborn Road
cottages
1
2
3
residences
1
2
small shed
large shed
1
barns
2
out buildings
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #16

P1. Other Identifier: 37410 Stockdale Hwy

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 32 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 37410 Stockdale Hwy City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor Parcel Number: 103-230-31-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
The homestead located at 37410 Stockdale Highway includes a residence, a detached storage shed, and a detached garage with 2nd story living quarters (**Photograph 1**). The one-story Ranch house has an overhanging front gable composite shingle roof with a smaller front gable projection (**Photograph 2**). A raised front entry porch is located at the interior corner created by this room extension and is beneath a wood pergola and enclosed by a wood rail. The gable fronts feature decorative fish scale shingles, round arch louvered vents, and fascia board. The frame house rests on a concrete foundation and is wood-sided. Fenestration includes a pair of double hung wood windows in the front-projecting gable and singular and grouped double hung wood windows of varying sizes on all sides. There are three replacement windows with false muntins at the rear northeast corner of the house. The front-facing windows have decorative wood board shutters.
(See Continuation Sheet.)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)
Photograph 1: Facing northeast, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
Between 1937-42; post-1973, *USGS* mapping/aerial photography, Kern County

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Christina Laree Snow
44722 Highway 58
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") .") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #16

B1. Historic Name: 37410 Stockdale Hwy
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Modified Craftsman
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Main residence, between 1937-1942; garage and outbuilding, post-1973.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 37410 Stockdale Highway does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

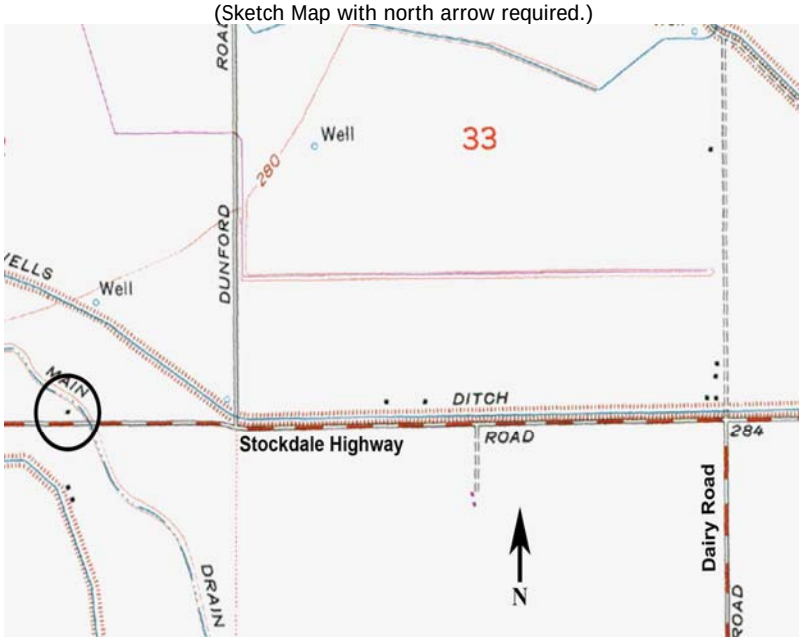
William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem* (Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division) 1937. (Also see footnotes).

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

There is a wood-sided detached shed with an overhanging side gable composite shingle roof behind the house. The structure has two ten-light doors -- one in the west gable end and the other beneath an off-center gabled eyebrow on the south, house-facing side (**Photographs 2** and **3**). A 1/1 double hung window is located to the side of the latter, near the southeast corner of the building. Both gables are accented with board and batten siding, with the building's east end differentiated by a louvered vent beneath its roof apex and a centered small diamond-shaped window opening in its wall.

The property's multi-use building is located to the northwest of the house. The ground level is a two-bay-wide garage and the second story is a living space with an overhanging wraparound porch and centered double-door entry (**Photograph 4**). The building's front gable roof has board and batten siding and both a square louvered vent and a round arch fanlight centered beneath its apex. The wood panel overhead garage door has lights inserted into its upper row. An exterior wood quarter-turn stairwell attached to the east side of the building accesses the upper floor.

B10. Significance (continued):

The Snow residence at 37410 Stockdale Highway is located southeast of Miller & Lux' former Poplar Grove Ranch. Constructed between 1937 and 1942, the main residence post-dates any association with that period in the region's history. Following the subdivision and sale of Buttonwillow Ranch in 1927, the region entered a period of thriving agricultural production and modest increase in settlement.

The first construction at 37410 Stockdale Highway occurred between 1937 and 1942 with the erection of the main residence. Ownership maps show Opal Richard Culp owning the parcel from at least 1956 through 1963; no owner is listed in 1972-73.[1] Culp resided near Buttonwillow from 1939 until his death in 1982. Migrating from Kansas, with his wife Irene, he was one of many who fled the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and arrived in Kern County.[2]

The Snow family, of whom current owner Christina Laree Snow is a member, were early Buttonwillow settlers. They owned various parcels of land near Buttonwillow in the post-Miller & Lux period. Martin L. Snow arrived in Buttonwillow in the mid-late 1920s and was among the first wave of cotton farmers in Buttonwillow.[3]

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the discovery of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[4] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[5]

[1] USGS Quadrangle, *Buttonwillow*, 1942; Kern County Aerial Photographs, 1942; Kern County Assessor; Homer R. Dublin Co., *Lease and Ownership Map, Buttonwillow*, 1956.

[2] *Bakersfield Californian*, 1 August 1982, 11 August 1997.

[3] *Bakersfield Californian*, 11 February 2009; Earl M. Price, *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California,* April 1954; Hoven & Co., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, 1972-73.

[4] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945*, 27.

[5] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations,* 81-82.

As farmers like the Snows increased cotton production in the area, the demand for new processing facilities also increased. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin founded in 1937. A post-WWII boom in demand for cotton led to the building of a second gin on the Farmer's Cooperative gin property in 1948.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[8]

The small size of the parcel at 37410 Stockdale Highway, combined with the ownership history, and lack of utilitarian outbuildings indicates that it has continuously served as a residence rather than the nucleus of a farming operation. The small shed and two-story multi-purpose structure were constructed after 1973, expanding the residential space.

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the building at 37410 Stockdale Highway is not significant for its association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Constructed between 1937 and 1942, the main residence post-dates any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, it was likely constructed by the Culp family as a residence. While it is associated with the historical theme of settlement in the region, it is one of numerous residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the building does not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The historical owners, the Culp family, represent many families who have a long history of settlement and farming in the area. Their contributions alone are not significant to local, state, or national history. Christina Laree Snow, current owner, does not appear to be historically significant. Although her family is associated with early agricultural development and settlement in the area, Snow's occupation of this house post-dates that period of significance. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the building does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. Rather it is a modest, and modified example of a Craftsman, a popular style of house built in the early to mid-twentieth century. Even if the main residence was historically significant, its historic integrity has been compromised with the addition of adornments like decorative shutters and fish scale shingles on the front façade of the house which effect original design, workmanship, materials and feeling. The building is also not likely the work of a master. Constructed after 1973, the garage and outbuilding do not require historic evaluation. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, this building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[6] Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987).
[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.
[8] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California, *Farm Journal*, 1 Nov. 2005.

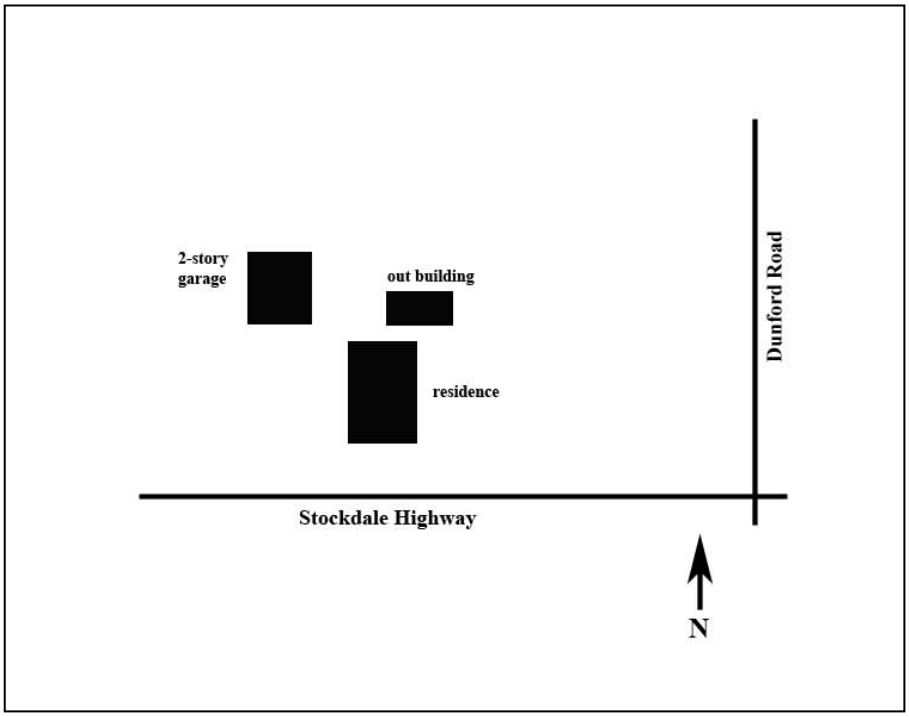
Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2. Shed (center), facing northeast, March 2009.

Photograph 3. Shed (center right), facing northwest, March 2009.

Photograph 4. Multi-use building, facing north, March 2009.

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #17

P1. Other Identifier: 36242 Stockdale Hwy

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 29S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 33 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 36242 Stockdale Hwy City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 103-250-04-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The one-story L-form house located at 36242 Stockdale Highway is clad in stucco and has a composite shingle cross gable roof. The front-facing end has a centered wood-sided gabled canopy supported by corner square wood posts on an entry porch. There is a second entry near the interior corner of the building beneath a gabled roof extension/overhang. The wall of the setback "ell" section has board and batten siding. Fenestration includes a plywood-infilled opening with wood surround to the west of the front entry and replacement sliding metal windows of varying sizes on all sides. There is a small shed roof room extension on the west side of the house and a corrugated metal gable roof carport attached to the north side.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing north, March 11, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1925, Kern County Assessor

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Maria G. Amaya
1908 Calle Las Brisas
Bakersfield, CA 93309

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 11, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #17

B1. Historic Name: 36242 Stockdale Hwy
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Constructed 1925; alterations unknown

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 36242 Stockdale Highway does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance and integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to 1925, its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

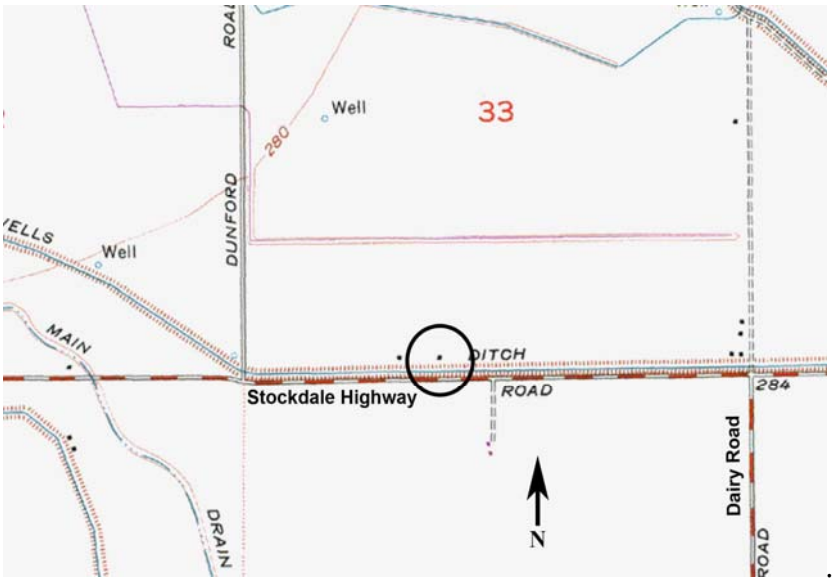
John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California* (Bakersfield: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors), 1981; William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; William Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County* (United states Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation Division) 1945. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928. [1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

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[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,* 27.

[3] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,* 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

In the years following the Miller & Lux era an 80 acre parcel was crated in the southwest corner of Section 33 Township29 Range 24 East. The house was constructed by the time the USGS conducted its 1927-1929 survey. According to the 1930 census records the area was devoted to a mixture of cotton and grain farming. Houses in the area were both owner occupied and rented. By the time the 1937 aerial photographs a second house was added on the same 80 acres indicating at least one was rented out. This also corresponds with Martin Snow moving to the area. Snow moved to California in 1920, originally settling in Madera County before coming to Buttonwillow in 1936. Snow was among the cotton growers of the early to mid twentieth century, owning several tracts of land through the area. His son Martin Snow Jr. continued to grow cotton in the area through the late 1950s. For a brief period Dollie Snow owned the property. The Bank of America came into possession between the 1960s and the early 1973. They subdivided the lot into three properties separating the ownership of the two houses. The current lot with the house is about 19 acres and the neighboring house has been rebuilt.[8]

Evaluation

Under Criterion 1 or A the residence at 36242 Stockdale Highway is not significant for its association with the development of cotton culture and diversified agriculture around Buttonwillow. The home began as a small farm and became a tenant farm, this farm did not provide a significant role in the introduction of cotton or diversified farming. Under Criterion 2 or B the property is not significant for its association with a significant individual. The Snow family was one of several multi generational large scale farmers in the area, but not make a special individual contribution. The house as a tenant farm is also not closely associated with the family. The tenant farmers also did not make significant contributions to local history. Under Criterion 3 or C the residence does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The house is a common Craftsman form found thoughout California. Additions to the northeast corner, stuccoing and replacement windows have significantly affected the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

[8] *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. (n.p.: Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963); *Land Ownership of Kern County*. (n.p.: Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973); Shell Oil Company Land Department, "South Buttonwillow Area, Kern County," map no. 248, April 1936; USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map (Washington, DC: USGS, 1932, 1942); Martin Snow Obituary, *Bakersfield Californian*, February 11, 2009; California Great Register of Voters, Kern County, 1936, accessed through ancestry.com, April 3, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2. 36242 Stockdale Highway, facing north, March 2009.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #18

P1. Other Identifier: 5543 Freeborn Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; SE ¼ **of Sec** 6 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5543 Freeborn Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-090-12-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This complex including a residence, small cottage and several out buildings sits on 1.18 acres. The main residence has an irregular plan of 2,394 square feet (Photograph 2). A complex intersecting composite shingle hip roof covers the house. The house has a concrete block watertable and stucco walls. The entrance faces the south. The windows on the rear portion of the east side area double hung. Windows on the front have been replaced with eight light false muntin windows. A brick chimney protrudes from the south roof line.

To the north west of the house is a detached garage (Photograph 3). The garage is square with a composite shingle pyramidal hip roof. The garage has a concrete block base and wide horizontal wood siding. A personnel door and fixed window are located on the east side. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm/ranch

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Farm complex, facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1942, Assessor records

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Susan A. Johnson
5543 Freeborn Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9715

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 11, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #18

B1. Historic Name: 5543 Freeborn Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential/ Agricultural B4. Present Use: Residential/ Agricultural
***B5. Architectural Style:** Ranch
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1942

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5543 Freeborn Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to the 1940s, their estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**
William H. Metzler, *Cotton Mechanization and Labor Stabilization*, Manuscript, Beale Memorial Library, Bakersfield, 1962; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California,(Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945)*. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

P3a. Description (continued):

West of the residence is a large open storage structure (Photograph 4). The building has a gable roof with shed roof extensions to the sides. Portions of the corrugated metal roofing are missing exposing the wood framing. A partial wall of corrugated metal protects the north side.

South of the residence is a small coop-like structure for sheltering animals (Photograph 5). The end gable rectangular building has a wood shingle roof with open eaves. A corrugated metal shed roof runs across the east end. Four six light windows are located on the north side. No windows are located on the south side.

South of the animal shelter is a small cottage or cabin (Photograph 6). The side gable rectangular building has a wood shingle roof with open eaves. The building is clad in horizontal wood siding. The building has no foundation and sits on the ground. The shed roof extension on the west side of the building is clad in vertical wood siding. The building includes two doors with four full-width panels. Alternating with the doors are three wood frame double hung windows. Each end of the building has louvered vents in the gable ends and a small wood frame double hung window. The shed roof extension has small replacement sliding windows on the north side. A third door is located on the south side in the shed roof addition.

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928.[1]

The property associated with this home was associated with cotton production at the time this home was constructed. Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the development of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H.Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing.[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with 75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

This property is located in the vicinity of the former Miller & Lux Willow Grove Ranch, which was one of the agricultural holdings in the area. When Miller & Lux subdivided the area, Willow Grove was abandoned. According to the survey conducted in 1927-1929 only one building of the ranch remained east of Freeborn Road. Following subdivision in the late 1920s early 1930s it was part of a large agricultural parcel owned by Mary E. Freeborn. According to 1930 census records, Freeborn and her sons William, Daniel, and Leland grew cotton on the property and provided living quarters for farm laborers. By the 1940s the Freeborn Brothers Ranch included a farmhouse and a large barn located in the southeast corner of the property. Earlier maps show a second building south of the residence, which may have served as laborer housing; however by the early 1940s the second house was no longer extant.[8]

In 1956 F. Franceschi was shown as the owner on a local atlas; however, by 1959, M.E. Freeborn once again claimed ownership to the property and developed it through the 1970s during which time it became part of the Freeborn Land Company property. The current parcel was divided from the larger agricultural land during the modern era. Susan A. Johnson is the current owner of the residential parcel and Michael Franceschi owns the large agricultural parcel that surrounds it (APN 159-090-11).[9]

Evaluation

The property at 5543 Freeborn Road is associated with the post-Miller & Lux diversification and introduction of cotton to the Buttonwillow area. However, it is not unique or significant in this regard. Its recent division from

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem,* Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map (Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1932, 1954); USGS, *Buttonwillow*, 15-minute topographic map (Washington D.C.: USGS, 1942).

[9] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Tupman precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-63 Sheet 1A; *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. (n.p.: Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963); *Land Ownership of Kern County*. (n.p.: Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973);

the larger agricultural parcel to become a single-family property further compromises the buildings' association with the area's agricultural history. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (Criterion 1 or A). Additionally, this farmstead does not appear to be associated with significant individuals (Criterion 2 or B). The area has a tradition of multi-generational farms including the Freeborn Brothers Ranch, the Franceschi farm, and Parsons farm. The Freeborns were one of many families who engaged in the cotton industry boom in Buttonwillow. Their farm was typical in that they employed laborers to help with cotton production and, like many other families, they retained their property through multiple generations. However, no evidence was found of the Freeborn family playing a significant role in the development of local agriculture.

Under Criterion 3 or C, none of the buildings at 5543 Freeborn Road possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. Of the remaining buildings at 5543 Freeborn Road only the residence, its garage, and the large dilapidated storage building appear to be originally constructed at this location during the historic era. The primary residence is a vernacular example of a modified ranch style house found throughout the Central Valley of California. Aerial photography suggests significant alterations have occurred to the building since the 1940s, expanding it from an original rectangular footprint, that may have had more Craftsman characteristics to its current modified Ranch style, L-shape. The property also houses a small residence similar in style and appearance to laborer housing from the 1930s that can be found throughout the Buttonwillow countryside. Based on mapping and aerial photography, the additional buildings were constructed or relocated to the property between 1954 and 1973. This relocation has by definition degraded the integrity. In addition, moving the buildings and structures has separated them from their original setting, which may have included worker camps, and thereby removed their association with an important aspect of local history. The additional farm outbuildings are utilitarian and lack distinctive characteristics or artistic value. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.[10]

[10] USGS, East Elk Hills, 7.5-minute topographic map, Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1932, 1954; McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005); United States. Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Aerial Photographs of Kern County, California (Salt Lake City, UT: The Administration, 1942).

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: Main residence, camera facing west, March 11, 2009.

Photograph 3: Garage, camera facing west, March 11, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

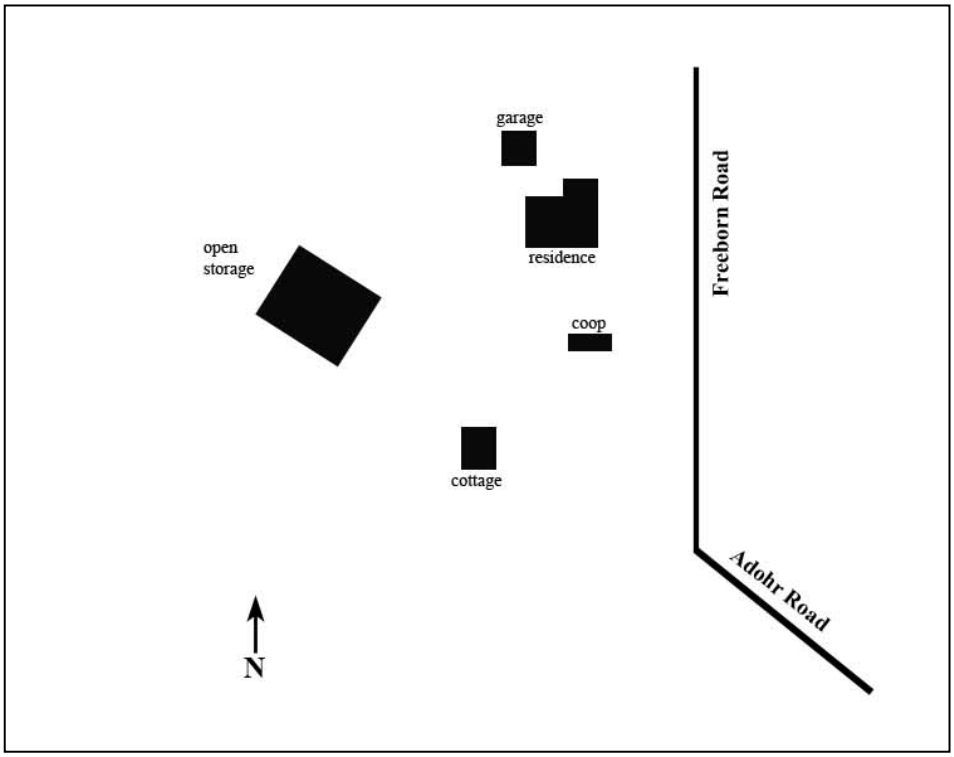
Photograph 4: Open storage building, camera facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

Photograph5: Coop like animal shelter, camera facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 6: Cottage or cabin, camera facing northwest, March 11, 2009.

Sketch Map:


garage
residence
open
storage
coop
cottage
Freeborn Road
Adohr Road
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #19

P1. Other Identifier: Southwest of Adohr Road and Freeborn Road

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 5 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-100-07

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The structure located southwest of the Westside Canal near the intersection of Adohr and Freeborn roads sits alone and appears to be abandoned. It is a one-room frame rectangular building with a concrete foundation and an overhanging wood shingled side gable roof. The walls are clad in asbestos shingle. All openings possess wood surrounds but are missing their respective window or door. There are also gable vents on each end located directly beneath the roof apex.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2)Single family building

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing southwest, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
ca. 1933-37; USGS maps; aerials

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Joseph B. Bradshaw
3413 Juniper Ridge Rd.
Bakersfield, CA 93306

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #19

B1. Historic Name: Southwest of Adohr Road and Freeborn Road
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Abandoned
***B5. Architectural Style:** Early twentieth-century vernacular
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) ca. 1933-37

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:**

B9. Architect: unknown b. Builder: unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property southwest of Adohr Rd. and Freeborn Rd. does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**

(See Footnores)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

B10. Significance (continued):

When the Kern Valley Water Company organized to reclaim the Buena Vista Slough in the 1870s, they purchased land stretching northwesterly along the western side of Miller & Lux Buttonwillow Ranch in the slough to build their massive flood control canal. The Kern Valley Water Company's Canal was completed in 1877 and the company owned small triangular shaped parcels around the canal.[1]

The building on the southwest corner of Adohr Road and Freeborn Road sits on one of these parcels along the canal. When the Buena Vista Water Storage District acquired the Kern Valley Water Company's canals and waterworks in 1926, they did not acquire all of their land holdings. According to US Geological Survey mapping, the small structure on this parcel appears between 1933 and 1937, although it is unclear who owned it.[2] Property ownership maps beginning in 1953 list the owner as "C.A.R.M."[3] One of few buildings situated on the southwestern banks of the large flood channel, it may have been associated with canal maintenance. Although on a separate parcel, it also could have been associated with nearby Freeborn Ranch just across the canal to the north.

By 1972, this parcel did not have an owner listed; today's owner, Joseph B. Bradshaw purchased the property from the Kern County Tax Collector in 1987.

Evaluation

To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the building southwest of Adohr Road and Freeborn Road is not significant for its association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Because construction is estimated between 1933 and 1937, it post-dates any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, it was constructed in the following period, likely to house laborers associated with farming or canal maintenance. This building represents one of numerous small residences built in the region in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, building does not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the building does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. Rather it is a modest example of a common style of early twentieth-century vernacular architecture. Even if it were historically significant, its historic integrity has been compromised by the addition of asbestos shingling to the exterior which effects original design, workmanship, materials and feeling. The building is also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, this building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[1] David Igler, *Industrial Cowboys*, 2001, 97-117; Charles H. Congdon, *Official Map of Kern County*, 1898.
[2] USGS Quadrangle, *East Elk Hills*, 1932; *Buttonwillow*, 1942.
[3] Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, 1954.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #20

P1. Other Identifier: 5865 Adohr Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 8 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 5865 Adohr Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor Parcel Number: 159-120-08-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The Craftsman-style residence located at 5865 Adohr Road has a shallow-pitched overhanging side gable roof supported by knee braces (**Photograph 1**). There is a centered front gabled dormer with louvered vents, not a window. The front entry porch is recessed beneath the west half of the front roof overhang supported by a corner square wood post and knee braces with a slightly-arched post-to-beam connector. Fenestration includes a replacement sliding front porch window and what appears to be replacement double hung windows on all sides. The structure's foundation is of concrete and walls are covered in wood siding. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Residence, facing southeast, March 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1932, Assessor records

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Wendell & Bessie Heck
5865 Adohr Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9716

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #20

B1. Historic Name: 5865 Adohr Rd.
B2. Common Name: 5865 Adohr Rd.
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Craftsman
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations)
Original construction: 1932

***B7. Moved?** ☐ **No** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** between 1942 & 1954 **Original Location:** Unknown
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 5865 Adohr Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance. Alterations have been made to the building including relocation, which has altered the integrity of the building to 1932 estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

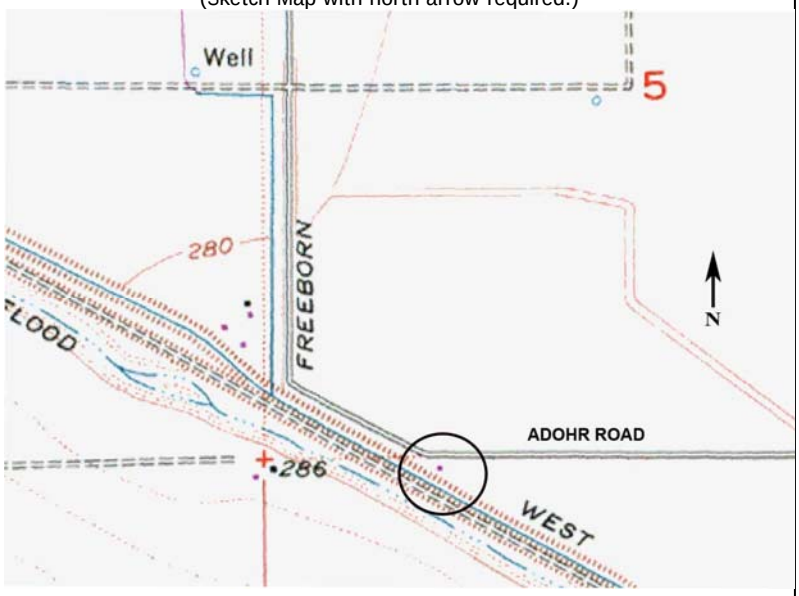
***B12. References:**

Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records. Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972. Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009
(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

An exterior garage lies directly to the west of the house (**Photograph 2**). This one-and-a-half-story structure has a steeply-pitched front gable roof and vertical wood board siding. The garage door is located on the east half of the building beneath a projecting shallow-pitched front gabled carport. Sliding windows are located opposite the garage door beneath a wood string course, centered under the roof apex, and on the side elevations beneath the roofline.

In addition, there is an open shelter located further to the west with a corrugated metal gabled roof supported by metal poles (**Photograph 3**).

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

The subdivision of Miller & Lux holdings in the area around Buttonwillow established new more diversified cropping patterns to support smaller farms. A report from Thomas Means on the Miller & Lux Southern Division in 1919 pointed to the potential for other crops notably cotton and fruits. With the addition of ground water, cotton became a major new crop first harvested in 1928.[1] (See Continuation Sheet)

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the discovery of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

Cotton production was a labor intensive operation. Rows of cotton required weeding and hoeing during the growing season and fall months were spent hand picking the cotton. By 1930 several labor camps were located around Buttonwillow. The 1930 census lists five camps: Cottonwillow, Palomas, Negro Camp, Maddux camp and Negro Camp 2 in the vicinity of the study area. More camps were located in the nearby 'Wildwood' district. The H.H. Curtis Ranch and the Combs Ranches, including Deep Wells, were the largest ranches providing both work and housing. The Combs Ranches supported 46 laborers and the H.H. Curtis Ranch supported eleven in the off season. Additional seasonal workers would fill the camps during harvest[4]

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in an influx of migratory workers and families displaced by the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and Texas. Kern County's cotton acreage was increasing and employment was readily available. However, housing for the influx of new labor and their families was not. Peak immigration occurred between 1935 and 1937 with

[1] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, 16-17; William A. Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, (Bakersfield: USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Water Conservation District, 1945), 26;* Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p.

[2] Raznoff, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Census Bureau, 1930 Manuscript Census, Buttonwillow precinct, Kern County, California, Enumeration District 15-55 Sheets 1A – 9A; Metzler, 9.

75% of the cotton labor coming from outside the county.[5] A single family farm could require 10-30 laborers during the harvest, but could not justify the cost of housing that many families year round. Larger farming operations provided camps, which often had inadequate sanitary and plumbing facilities for labor families and inadequate means of supervising and educating children. Conditions improved through the decade as new adequate housing was constructed and the new farm labor population settled in.[6]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[7]

Assessor records date the construction of the residence at 5864 Adohr Road to 1932, which corresponds to the architectural style of the building. However, aerial photographs and historic maps do not show a building in its location until 1952. Nevertheless, the architectural style reflects the earlier construction date, thereby implying that the residence was moved to its current location after construction.[8] The architectural style of the residence is similar to patterns and catalog houses available from the end of the nineteenth century through the 1930s.[9]

By 1959, the current parcel was included in M.L. Snow's almost 200 acres of farmland located northeast of the West Side Canal. Martin L. Snow was one of the pioneers in developing cotton in the Buttonwillow area. His was joined by his son, Martin, in agricultural enterprising and the two owned and developed many parcels, of which this property was one, but likely not the location of their primary residence. The property at 5865 Adohr Road remained in the Snow family as part of the larger parcel through 1973; Wendell and Bessie Heck who continue to raise crops on the surrounding land currently own it. The movement of the buildings onto the parcel and the addition of the ancillary buildings have compromised the integrity of the parcel. Furthermore, the addition of replacement windows throughout the residence compromised the integrity of the older residence.[10]

Evaluation

The residence at 5865 Adohr Road is associated with the post-Depression agricultural growth of Buttonwillow; however this property was constructed after other similar farmsteads, and does not represent a significant example of post-Depression building trends. Indeed, by the time the residence was built, numerous farmsteads were developed throughout the eastern countryside of Buttonwillow. The residence does not appear to have important associations with historically significant events (NRHP Criterion A / CRHR Criterion 1). Furthermore, available evidence does not suggest that individuals associated with this property, have made significant contributions to our history. The Snows were one of many families who helped developed the cotton industry in Buttonwillow and this property was one of many similar farmsteads owned by the

[5] Metzler, 8, 10.

[6] Metzler, 13; Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, *Report of the Bakersfield Conference on Agricultural Labor-Health, Housing and Relief, Held October 29, 1938* (San Francisco: np, 1938) 1-4; C.F. Baughman, *Survey of Kern County Migratory Labor Problem*, Kern County Health Department, Sanitary Division, 1937, 2.

[7] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[8] USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map, Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1932, 1954; Kern County Assessor Records; McAlester, Virginia & Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

[9] Katherine H. Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1986), 131.

[10] *Earl M Price & Company's Map Book showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*. Earl M. Price & Co, 1959 and 1963; *Land Ownership of Kern County*. Hoven & Co, Inc, 1973; USGS, *East Elk Hills*, 7.5-minute topographic map, Washington, D.C.: USGS, 1932, 1954; Martin Snow Obituary, *Bakersfield Californian*, February 11, 2009.

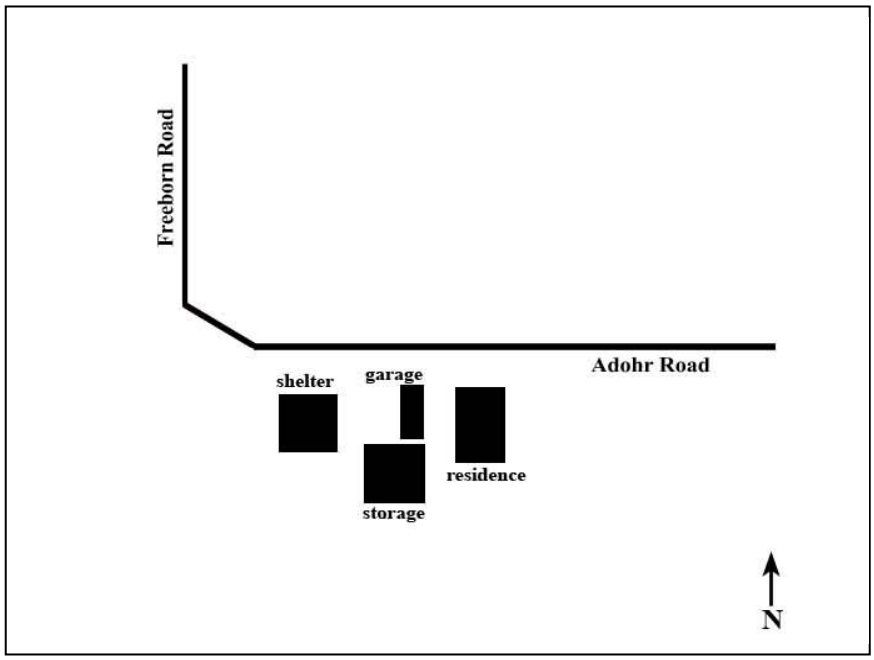
Snows (NRHP Criterion B / CRHR Criterion 2). Under Criterion C (Criterion 3), the primary residence is a typical example of a post-Depression farmstead development, with modern, sprawling homes, large tracts of land and multiple ancillary buildings. The residence is a common example of Craftsman style patterns and catalog homes available from the end of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. The residence, therefore, does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction, and it is not the work of a master. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (NRHP Criterion D / CRHR Criterion 4). The construction methods for the residence at 5865 Adohr Road are otherwise documented in a wide body of historical documents and literature; the building, therefore, does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2. Garage and carport, facing south, March 11, 2009.

Photograph 3. Shelter, facing southwest, March 11, 2009.

Sketch Map:


Freeborn Road
Adohr Road
shelter
garage
residence
storage
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #21

P1. Other Identifier: 7307 Adohr Road

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 10 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 7307 Adohr Road City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-040-18-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Building A has a generally rectangular but irregular footprint. Vertical wood paneling sheaths the exterior of the structure which sits on piers. Fenestration includes a variety of window styles including fixed pane and one-over-one double hung sashes. The roof is a side gabled monitor rising above a shed roof on two sides. Horizontal slats in the eaves at the gable peaks and beneath the monitor provide for ventilation. Decorative notching adorns the fascia boards in the eaves of the monitor and shed roofs. According to a *Los Angeles Times* article published in 1930 describing the new construction, the remnants of green paint visible on the trim are the original paint (**see Photograph 4**). The shed roof is supported by beams and forms a partially enclosed porch on the west side and an enclosed porch on the east side. (See Continuation Sheet.)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP33) Farm

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Building A, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1930, *Los Angeles Times*, 9 Nov. 1930

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Jomistro Properties LLC
1600 Corn Camp Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9729

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Rand Herbert & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** February 2, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #21

B1. Historic Name: Adohr Farms
B2. Common Name: 7303 Adohr Road
B3. Original Use: Dormitory/Dining Hall B4. Present Use: Abandoned
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular/Modified Oilfield
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1930

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 7345 Adohr Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

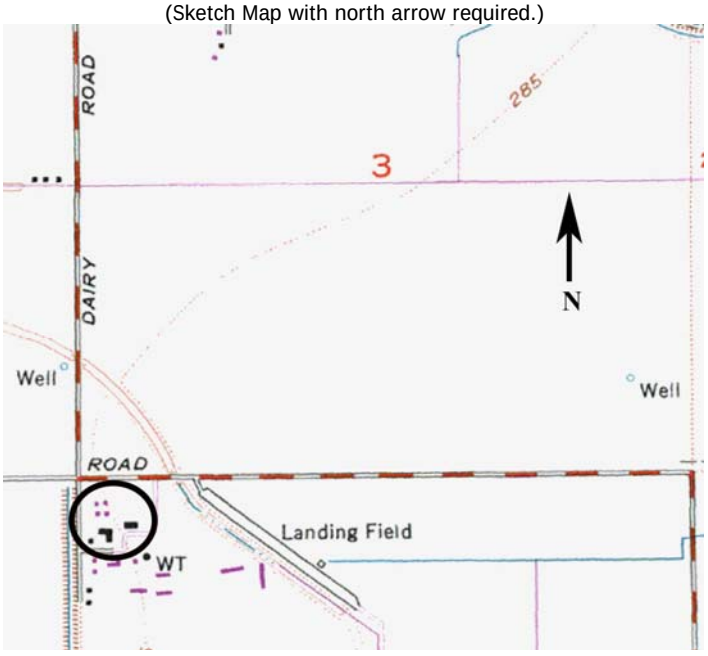
***B12. References:**
Los Angeles Times; Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjacent Lands*, 1920, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California; *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972; Thomas H. Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller and Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California*, October 1919, Manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, Berkeley, California, n.p. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

On the east side, a perpendicular wing extends from the southern end of the house (**see Photograph 2**). The roofline of this wing matches the rest of the house with a monitor rising above a shed roof. Entrance doors are found on the west side, one boarded up on the southern end, two on the east side, and one on the north side. Many of the openings have been covered with corrugated metal. The structure has many composition shingles missing from the roof, broken windows, missing doors, and weather beaten wood paneling.

Building B has a hipped monitor roof with boxed eaves raised above a shed roof with exposed eaves extending over three sides of the house (**see Photographs 6, 7, 8**). Sets of five horizontal slats in the eaves, below the monitor, allow for ventilation. The shed roof, supported by 4x4 beams at the corners and 2x4 beams in between, forms a porch around three sides of the house. Wood beams forming an "X" pattern between the supporting beams partially enclose the porch. Vertical wood paneling sheaths the exterior of the house. Although no longer present, evidence of a brick chimney on the west side of the house remains. Almost all of the windows are covered with corrugated metal panels. A pair of six-over-six double-hung sash windows are visible on the west and south sides. Entrance doors are located on both the south and east sides of the house. The house sits on mudsills with the foundation supported by piers.

Building C, a rectangular garage to the northeast of the house, rests on mudsills. It has front gabled roof with exposed rafters (**see Photograph 9**). A sliding garage door on the south side is the only opening; there are no windows. The siding is of vertical wood planks. Composition shingles are peeling from the concave roof, and loose boards are hanging from the exterior.

B10. Significance (continued):

The Adohr Farms buildings are located just north of the former site of Miller & Lux's Morton Place ranch.[1] Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [2] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [3]

Adohr Stock Farms, one of the largest and most successful enterprises in the study area after the Miller & Lux period, is an example of the continuing importance of alfalfa during Buttonwillow's cotton boom following Miller & Lux' sale of Buttonwillow Ranch in the late 1920s. Adohr Stock Farms was a southern California dairy company owned by Rhoda Rindge Adamson and her husband Merritt Adamson. Rhoda Rindge was the daughter of Frederick H. Rindge, a very wealthy, influential East-Coast transplant to California.[4] Rhoda attended one year of college at Wellesley before returning to

[1] Charles H. Congdon, *Official Map of Kern County*, 1898.

[2] Harry Barnes, *Data on Irrigation of Buttonwillow Ranch and Adjoining Lands,* (unpublished manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, 1920), 17-18.

[3] Thomas Means, *Report on Farming Lands Miller & Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California, 1919,* (unpublished manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, 1919), 10-11; A.E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.

[4] Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972, prologue.

finish her education in California. After marrying Merritt Adamson, an attorney and sheep rancher's son, she used her family inheritance to start Adohr (her given name spelled backward) Farms with her husband.[5] Mr. Adamson left the law behind to focus on ranching and dairying. Their first farm in the San Fernando Valley opened in 1916 and by the late 1920s they began to vertically integrate their business, seeking to not only maintain a herd of productive dairy cows, but to rear "replacement" calves, and grow alfalfa for their herds.[6]

In 1929, the Adamsons had an area northwest of Tupman, owned by Miller & Lux, analyzed to determine if the soil and conditions would support an alfalfa farm and a herd of cattle.[7] They learned that the land had rich soil, lay on top of an artesian belt, and had already been successfully planted with corn and wheat. Satisfied that it met their requirements, they purchased 1,500 acres from Miller & Lux in July of 1930 for $250,000, and set aside $50,000 for immediate improvements. By the fall of the same year, the company had planted a field, sunk ten new wells, and built a headquarters building, dormitory, and dining hall on the southeast corner of what became Adohr Road and Dairy Road.[8] The headquarters building remains today on an adjacent parcel. Buildings A and B are the dining hall and dormitory, although it is not clear which one served which purpose. Between 1937 and 1942, the company constructed three warehouse buildings, still existing, on an adjacent parcel.[9]

By May of 1933, Adohr expanded its Buttonwillow satellite ranch to 2,600 acres. This location was subsidiary to the main San Fernando Valley branch. Adohr ran an advertisement in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1933 with the headings, "Adohr grows its own feed; Adohr raises its own dairy cattle; Adohr operates its own stock farms; and Adohr, of course, has its own far-reaching delivery system."[10] The rich land in Kern County, already within close proximity to numerous irrigation structures, played a pivotal role in allowing this southern California company to vertically integrate their business model and provide an affordable product to a broader clientele. The company operated the ranch until the1940s.[11]

Adohr Farms experienced two distinct phases of decline in which they sold land holdings in order to remain solvent. The first occurred during the Great Depression, and the second following Merritt Adamson's death in 1949, until 1966 when Rhoda Adamson sold the company. The Adamsons sold the Buttonwillow satellite in 1948 to the Banducci and Anton families.[12] By the late 1950s Fred Banducci and his brother Joe were operating Palm Farms at the former site of Adohr Farms. Today it is owned by Jomistro Properties. The only structure on the parcel not associated with Adohr Farms is a small shed in the northwest corner.[13]

Evaluation of Adohr Farm buildings

To be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

[5] *Los Angeles Times*, 31 Aug. 1930, L14; *Van Nuys News*, 10 Jan. 1949.
[6] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 Mar. 1998; Beatrice Ulery, "A Bovine Nursery," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 9, 1930, J7.
[7] *Los Angeles Times*, Sep. 30, 1934, 21.
[8] *Los Angeles Times*, Jul. 26, 1930, Nov. 9, 1930.
[9] USGS Quadrangle, *Buttonwillow*, 1942 (based on 1937 data); Aerial photographs of Kern County, 1942.
[10] *Los Angeles Times*, Jun. 1, 1933.
[11] *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 7, 1940; Nov. 1, 1951.
[12] Kern County Recorder, records accessed online, April 3, 2009.
[13] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 Mar. 1998; *Van Nuys News*, 10 Jan. 1949; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 7307 Adohr Road are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Constructed in 1930, the buildings post-date any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. While Adohr Farms is associated with the historical themes of agricultural development in the region, it alone did not make a significant contribution. Rather, it is one of numerous farming operations in the post-Miller & Lux period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the buildings do not appear to be significant for their associations with any historically significant people. Although Rhoda Rindge Adamson and Merritt Adamson gained recognition within the dairying industry due to the success of Adohr Farms, the Buttonwillow satellite was peripheral to their main operation in the San Fernando Valley. These buildings do not convey the significance of their commercial success. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, these buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render them eligible under these criteria. While the style of the buildings is reminiscent of "Oilfield" architecture, a style used in the remote oilfields of Kern County, the construction date and function preclude it from being of this class of architecture. Rather, it is a modified version of this style.[14] The garage is of common utilitarian style and material. These buildings are also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[14] JRP, *Historic Architecture Survey Report, Tier 1, For Route Adoption on Route 58 Between I-5 and State Route 99 in Kern County*, June 9, 1995.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: Building A, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 3: Building A, facing southwest, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 4: Building A, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 5: Building A, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 6: Building B, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

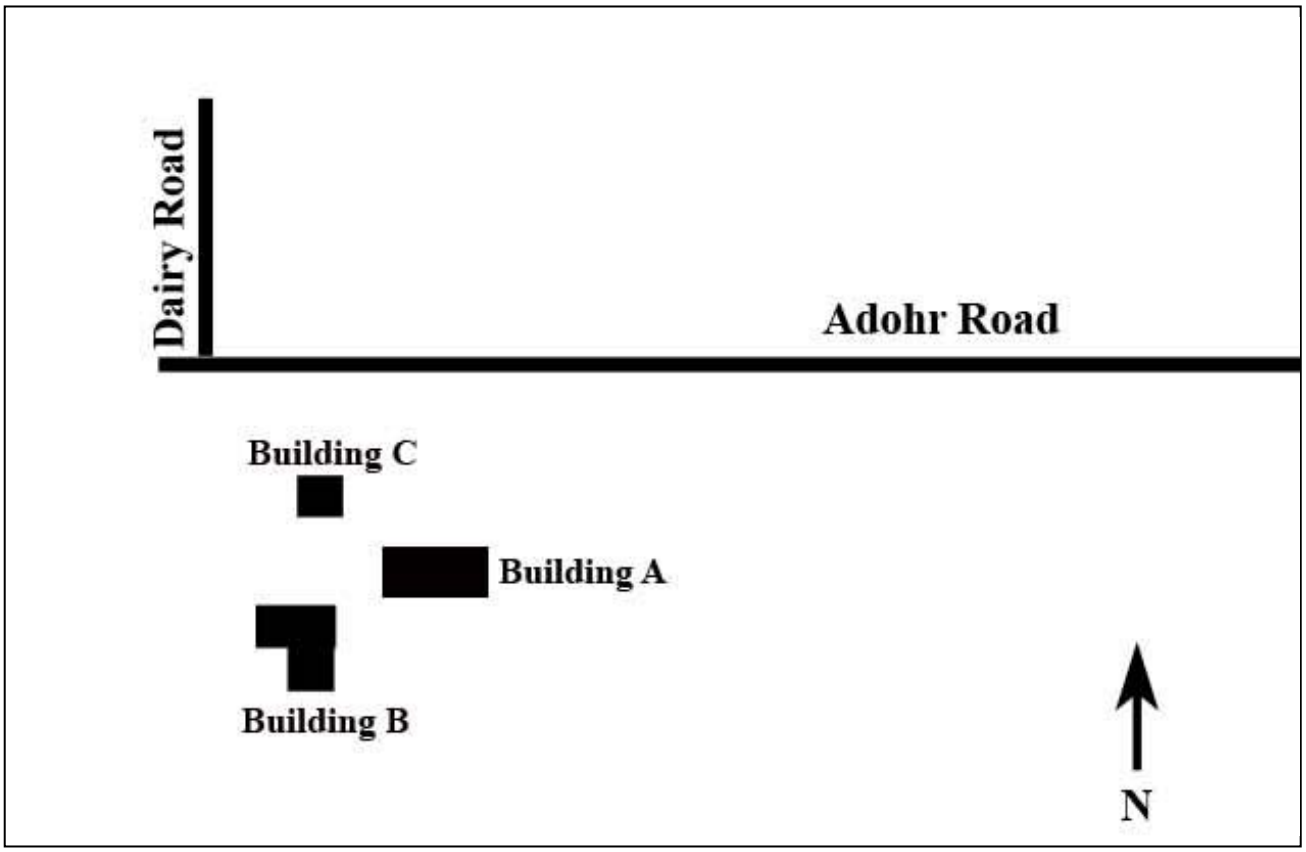
Photograph 7: Building B, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 8: Building B, facing southwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 9: Building C, garage, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #22

P1. Other Identifier: 7345 Adohr Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 10 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 7345 Adohr Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-040-17-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The residential house at 7345 Adohr Rd. is a heavily modified version of the headquarters building constructed in the 1930s for Adohr Farms. Two perpendicular sections of the house form an L-shaped footprint. The stucco walls enclose what was originally an open-air porch. Fenestration consists primarily of aluminum replacement windows. The roof is side gabled on each perpendicular section with a side gabled monitor roof above. Narrow, horizontal rectangular windows are placed between the two rooflines. Each end of the house has a wide brick chimney built in almost flush with the exterior wall. Decorative tile work ornaments the top of each chimney. Entrance doors are located on the east side and the north side of the east-west portion of the home. (see Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Residence, facing southwest, February 2, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1930, *Los Angeles Times*, November 9, 1930.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Claire Marie Ackerman
7345 Adohr Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9795

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Rand Herbert & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** February 2, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #22

B1. Historic Name: Adohr Farms Buttonwillow Headquarters
B2. Common Name: 7345 Adohr Rd.
B3. Original Use: Residence B4. Present Use: Residence
***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular/Modified Oilfield
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1930

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 7345 Adohr Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

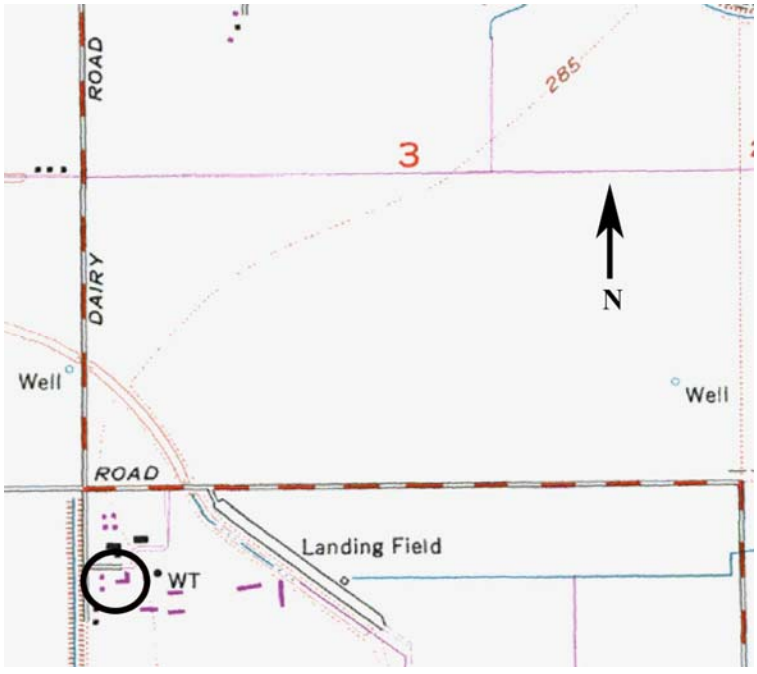
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**
Los Angeles Times; *Van Nuys News*; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records. Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972. (Also see footnotes.)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

The east side of the house has medium pitched gabled roof that extends over the driveway forming a carport. A curved concrete driveway extends from the carport, north to the fence-line. The house is very modern in appearance.

A small modern rectangular shed with a front gabled, composition shingle roof is on the property, west of the home.

B10. Significance (continued):

The Adohr Farms buildings are located just north of the former site of Miller & Lux's Morton Place ranch. Large scale land owners and cattle ranchers, Henry Miller and Charles Lux secured their "Southern Division" ranch in the Buena Vista Slough under the Green Act of 1855, an act which subsidized reclamation of swampland. Miller & Lux divided their acquisition into various ranches, the Buttonwillow Ranch being the largest of the southern division and also serving as their headquarters. North of McKittrick (Route 58), they leased land to tenant farmers; south of McKittrick Buttonwillow Ranch was divided into individual ranches made up of one to four sections and staffed by Miller and Lux employees. Each ranch operated independently, having its own set of buildings and a water supply system. [1] Four ranches in addition to the headquarters operated in the study area by 1918: Deep Wells, Poplar Grove, Willow Grove, and Morton Place. These ranches grew almost all of the alfalfa farmed by the company at Buttonwillow. [2]

Alfalfa and other feed grains remains a major crop south of Buttonwillow. Adohr Stock Farms, one of the largest and most successful enterprises in the study area following Miller and Lux's ranches, is an example of the continuing important role of alfalfa during Buttonwillow's cotton era, which began after Miller & Lux Inc. sold off Buttonwillow Ranch in the 1920s.

Adohr Stock Farms, one of the largest and most successful enterprises in the study area after the Miller & Lux period, is an example of the continuing important role of alfalfa. Adohr Stock Farms was a southern California dairy company owned by Rhoda Rindge Adamson and her husband Merritt Adamson. Rhoda Rindge was the daughter of Frederick H. Rindge, a very wealthy, influential East-Coast transplant to California.[3] Rhoda attended one year of college at Wellesley before returning to finish her education in California. After marrying Merritt Adamson, an attorney and sheep rancher's son, she used her family inheritance to start Adohr (her given name spelled backward) Farms with her husband.[4] Mr. Adamson left the law behind to focus on ranching and dairying. Their first farm in the San Fernando Valley opened in 1916 and by the late 1920s they began to vertically integrate their business, seeking to not only maintain a herd of productive dairy cows, but to rear "replacement" calves, and grow alfalfa for their herds.[5]

In 1929, the Adamsons had an area northwest of Tupman, owned by Miller & Lux, analyzed to determine if the soil and conditions would support an alfalfa farm and a herd of cattle.[6] They learned that the land had rich soil, lay on top of an artesian belt, and had already been successfully planted with corn and wheat. Satisfied that it met their requirements, they purchased 1,500 acres from Miller & Lux in July of 1930 for $250,000, and set aside $50,000 for immediate improvements. By the fall of the same year, the company had planted a field, sunk ten new wells, and built a headquarters building, dormitory, and dining hall on the southeast corner of what became Adohr Road and Dairy Road.[7] The main residence at 7345 Adohr Road is the former headquarters building. The dining hall and dormitory remain today on an adjacent parcel.

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[1] Barnes, 17-18.
[2] Means, 10-11; A. E. Stegeman, Map of 1918, Kern County, California.
[3] Frederick H. Rindge, *Happy Days in Southern California* (Los Angeles: Rindge Family), 1972, prologue.
[4] *Los Angeles Times*, 31 Aug. 1930, L14; *Van Nuys News*, 10 Jan. 1949.
[5] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 Mar. 1998; Beatrice Ulery, "A Bovine Nursery," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 9, 1930, J7.
[6] *Los Angeles Times*, Sep. 30, 1934, 21.
[7] *Los Angeles Times*, Jul. 26, 1930, Nov. 9, 1930.

By May of 1933, Adohr expanded its Buttonwillow satellite ranch to 2,600 acres. This location was subsidiary to the main San Fernando Valley branch. Adohr ran an advertisement in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1933 with the headings, "Adohr grows its own feed; Adohr raises its own dairy cattle; Adohr operates its own stock farms; and Adohr, of course, has its own far-reaching delivery system."[8] The rich land in Kern County, already within close proximity to numerous irrigation structures, played a pivotal role in allowing this southern California company to vertically integrate their business model and provide an affordable product to a broader clientele. The company used the ranch until the 1940s.[9]

Adohr Farms experienced two separate phases of decline in which they sold land holdings in order to remain solvent. The first occurred during the Great Depression, and the second following Merritt Adamson's death in 1949, until 1966 when Rhoda Adamson sold the company. Available records indicate that the Buttonwillow satellite was sold sometime between 1941 and 1953. By the late 1950s Fred Banducci and his brother Joe were operating Palm Farms at the former site of Adohr Farms. Today it is owned and resided in by Claire Marie Ackerman.[10]

Evaluation of Adohr Farm buildings

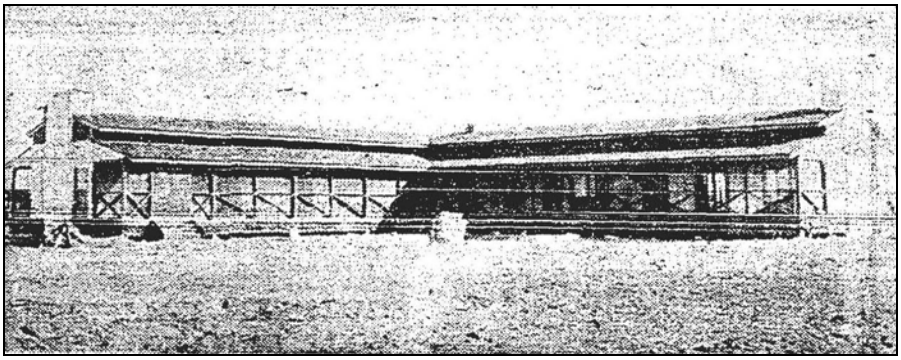
To be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the buildings at 7345 Adohr Road are not significant for their association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Constructed in 1930, the buildings post-date any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. While Adohr Farms is associated with the historical themes of agricultural development in the region, it alone did not make a significant contribution. Rather, it is one of numerous farming operations in the post-Miller & Lux period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the building does not appear to be significant for its associations with any historically significant people. Although Rhoda Rindge Adamson and Merritt Adamson gained recognition within the dairying industry due to the success of Adohr Farms, the Buttonwillow satellite was subsidiary to their main operation in the San Fernando Valley. These buildings do not convey the significance of their commercial success. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, these buildings do not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. While the style of the former headquarters is reminiscent of "Oilfield" architecture, a style used in the remote oilfields of Kern County, the construction date and function preclude it from being of this class of architecture. Rather, it is a modified version of this style.[11] The outbuilding is of common utilitarian style and material. Even if the main residence were historically significant, its historic integrity has been so heavily compromised by enclosure of the open porch, addition of replacement windows and doors, stucco cladding, and composition shingle roof which all effect original design, workmanship, materials and feeling. The building is also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, these buildings do not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[8] *Los Angeles Times*, Jun. 1, 1933.
[9] *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 7, 1940; Nov. 1, 1951.
[10] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 Mar. 1998; *Van Nuys News*, 10 Jan. 1949; Earl M. Price & Co., *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co. Inc., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, edition of 1972-73; Kern County Assessor Records.
[11] JRP, *Historic Architecture Survey Report, Tier 1, For Route Adoption on Route 58 Between I-5 and State Route 99 in Kern County*, June 9, 1995.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

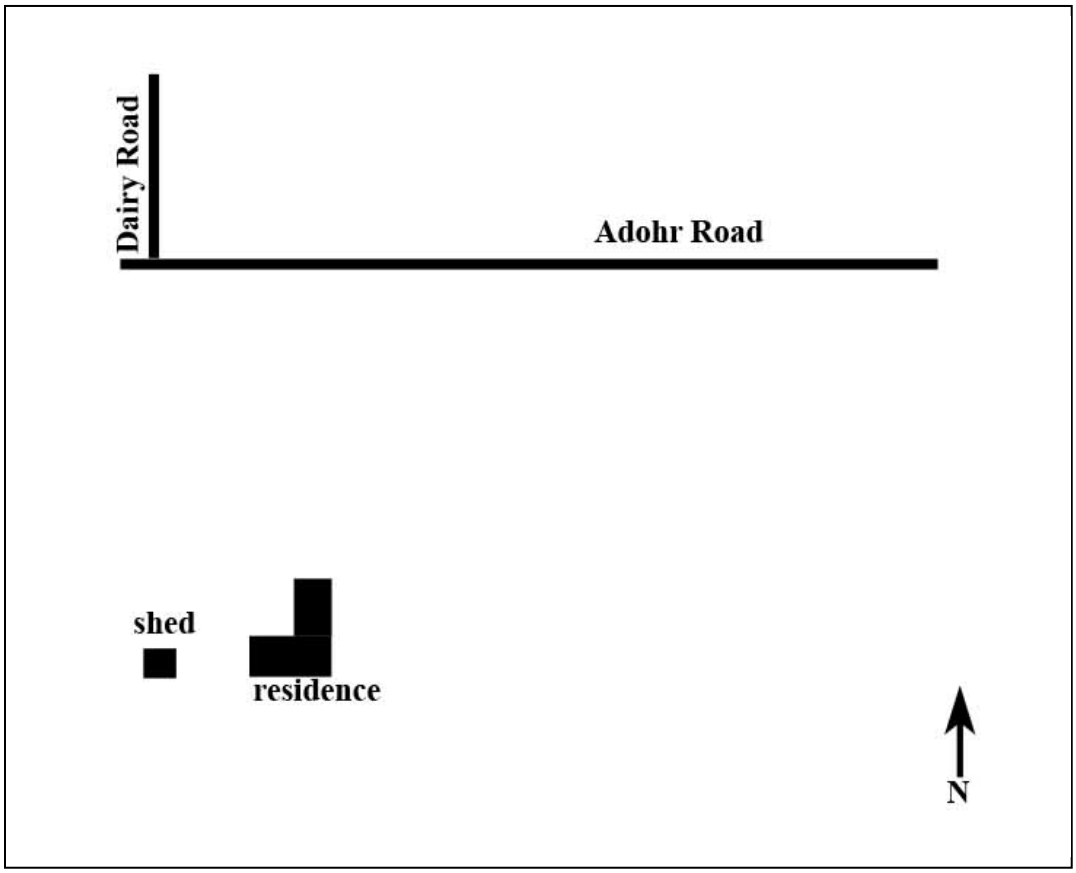


Photograph 3: 7345 Adohr Rd, facing southeast; from *Los Angeles Times*, November 9, 1930.

Photograph 4: Facing southwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 5: Outbuilding, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Sketch Map:



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #23

P1. Other Identifier: 7307 Adohr Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 10 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 7307 Adohr Rd. City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Number: 159-040-18-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The southeast portion of the parcel located at the southeast corner of Adohr and Dairy roads includes a large rice dryer, four warehouses, one small outbuilding, and a landing strip and hangar. The rice dryer and elevator are composed of various metal silos and towers (**see Photograph 1**). Four concrete silos arranged in a square sit west of the dryer (**see Photograph 2**). A metal top feed is located on top of the silos and connects down to the four silos and the main dryer. Two smaller tanks sit on the west end of the main dryer (**see Photograph 3**). Metal chutes lead to the top of the line of the metal tanks. A small, raised control building is built into the southwest corner of the complex. (See Continuation Sheet)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP8) Industrial Building

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession. **Photograph 1:** Rice Processor, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1953, rice drier, *Los Angeles Times*, November 1, 1953

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Jomistro Properties LLC
1600 Corn Camp Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9729

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Rand Herbert & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** February 2, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #23

B1. Historic Name: Palm Farms

B2. Common Name: 7307 Adohr Rd.

B3. Original Use: Industrial B4. Present Use: Non-operational/Industrial

***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Rice processor, 1953; warehouse and landing field approximately 1953.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** _____

B9. Architect: unknown b. Builder: unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 7307 Adohr Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:**

Los Angeles Times; *Bakersfield Californian*; Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Earl M. Price and Company, *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954. (See footnotes page 4).

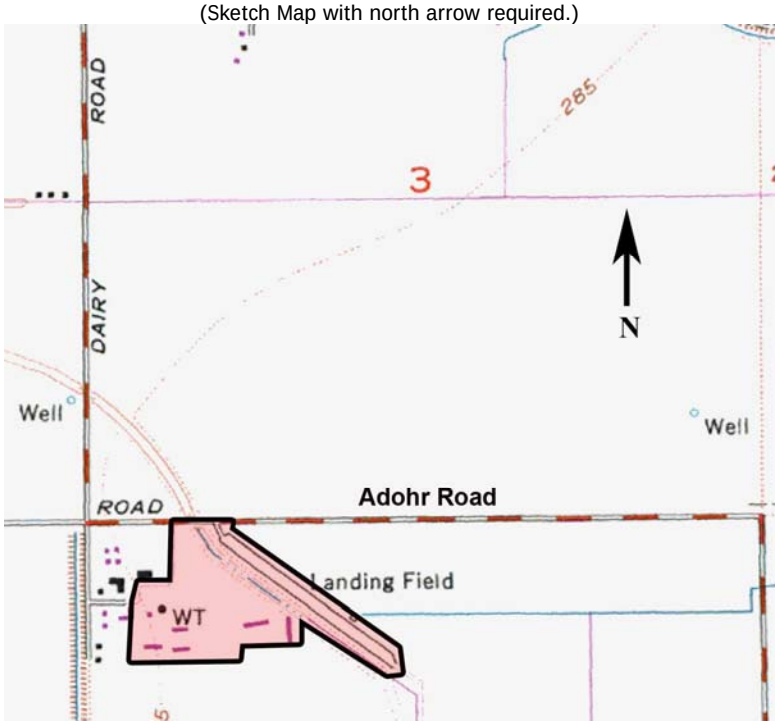
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



P3a. Description (continued):

Building A (**see Photographs 2, 3**) is single-story with a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 45' x 150'. The medium pitched roof is side gabled with exposed rafters. Roofing and siding are corrugated metal. The north side has three corrugated metal sliding doors that cover large bays; some of the bays do not have doors. The south side has four six over six double-hung windows. The east side had a sliding door that is now covered with corrugated metal. A small wooden shed with a corrugated metal roof is also attached to the south end of the east side. The building has numerous damaged roof panels, loose or missing metal sheeting, missing doors, and broken windows.

Building B (**see Photographs 4, 5**) is also single-story with a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 45' x 150'. The side gabled building with exposed rafters had no foundation and rests directly on mud sills. Both roofing and siding are corrugated metal. The north and south facing sides have large open bays with the remnants of one sliding door. A corrugated metal double-door is the only opening on the west side. Inside flooring consists mostly of exposed dirt; some bays have concrete floors. The building has loose or missing corrugated metal panels on the walls and roof.

Building C (**see Photographs 6, 7**) is a single-story warehouse resting on mud sills, with a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 45' x 150'. The medium pitched roof is side gabled with exposed rafters. Roofing and siding are made of corrugated metal. The only openings are one bay and one personnel door on the north side. A concrete loading ramp sits in front of the bay. The building has loose or missing metal sheeting on the sides.

Building D (**see Photographs 8, 9**) is two single-story rectangular warehouses that have been joined together. Each measures approximately 45' x 150.' Roofing and siding are of corrugated metal. The east end features a large sliding door of corrugated metal. The front-gabled metal roof has very little overhang.

This landing field (**see Photograph 10**) extends southeasterly from Adohr Rd. The surface is mostly dirt with remnants of a thin layer of asphalt. A highly deteriorated rectangular hangar sits on the north side (**see photograph 11**). The shed roof and most of the walls of the hangar are missing, leaving a wood frame exposed. Remaining walls are made of corrugated metal. The existing windows and doors are all blocked.

Building E (**see Photograph 12**) is a small outbuilding constructed primarily of wood. The front-gabled roof has wide overhang with exposed rafters. The entrance is a wood door on the east side. Fenestration includes a six-paned fixed window. Roofing material is exposed tar paper.

A modern warehouse and weigh station, both under 45 years of age, are also on the property.[1]

B10. Significance (continued):

Historic Context

Following the subdivision of the former Miller & Lux holdings surrounding Buttonwillow farmers diversified, adding important crops like cotton. However, problems remained. The original swampland had been drained and irrigated with the canal and drain system constructed by Miller & Lux. While the water was contained, the former swamp soil remained highly alkali. (See Continuation Sheet)

[1] USGS Quadrangle, *East Elk Hills*, 1954 photorevised 1973.

B10. Significance (continued):

In 1953 a new crop, rice, was introduced to Buttonwillow. Rice thrived in heavy alkali soils and would help prepare the soil for other crops. A new reservoir at Lake Isabella had been completed in 1953, promising better regulation of irrigation waters, which a water-heavy crop like rice would require.

The Banducci brothers, Fred and Joe, purchased the parcel at 7307 Adohr Road sometime in 1948 from Rhoda and Merritt Adamson, who had been operating Adohr Farms at the site. The Banducci brothers took over their existing warehouses, former headquarters, mess hall, and dormitory and started operating Palm Farms at the site.[2] The headquarters is located on a separate parcel; the mess hall and dormitory are evaluated on DPR 523 Map Reference #21. The Banduccis installed a rice drier on the property in 1953.[3] The landing strip and hangar were probably constructed around the same time. In December of 1954 *Daily Midway Driller* reported "Rice is planted, fertilized and weeded by airplane in this area."[4] Rice production required storage for dried sacks, which the four warehouses provided.[5] By the close of 1954, this was one of two rice driers in the area, the other, cooperatively, owned at the corner of Wasco Way and Highway 58. Despite the arid conditions in most of Kern county 3,377 acres of rice remained in production in 1980. Production has since ceased as the water supply has become more restricted.[6]

Evaluation

Under Criterion A or 1 the Palm Farms complex is not significant for its association with the development of agriculture near Buttonwillow. Rice production was a short-lived development in the area. The main purpose of the crop was not so much development of an agricultural business, but for soil conditioning. Under Criterion B or 2 the dryer is not associated with a significant individual. Fred and Joe Banducci, owners of Palm Farms, were two of many successful local farmers. Under Criterion 3 or C, the rice dryer does not have any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The dryer is utilitarian in nature and used standard engineering available at the time of its construction. All four warehouses, the outbuilding, and hangar are also of common utilitarian style and materials. The modern warehouse and weigh station are under 45 years of age and do not require historic evaluation. In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the dryer does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

[2] *Los Angeles Times*, 7 April 1940, 1 November 1953; Earl M. Price and Company, *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954.
[3] *Los Angeles Times*, 1 November 1953.
[4] *Daily Midway Driller*, 27 December 1954.
[5] *Bakersfield Californian*, 8 November 1954.
[6] Edith Dane, "Out of the Past – Kernland Tales" *Daily Midway Driller*, December 27, 1954; Jim Day, "Pipefuls," *Bakersfield Californian*, November 8, 1954; William D. Watson, Carole Frank Nuckton, and Richard E. Howitt, *Crop Production and Water Supply Characteristics of Kern County* (Davis, California: University of California Davis, 1980) 20; Interview with Mike Hooper, Farmer's Cooperative Gin manager, March 30, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: Rice processing, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 3: Rice processing, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 4: Building A, facing west, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 5: Building A, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 6: Building B, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 7: Building B, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 8: Building C, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 9: Building C, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 10: Building D, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 11: Building D, facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

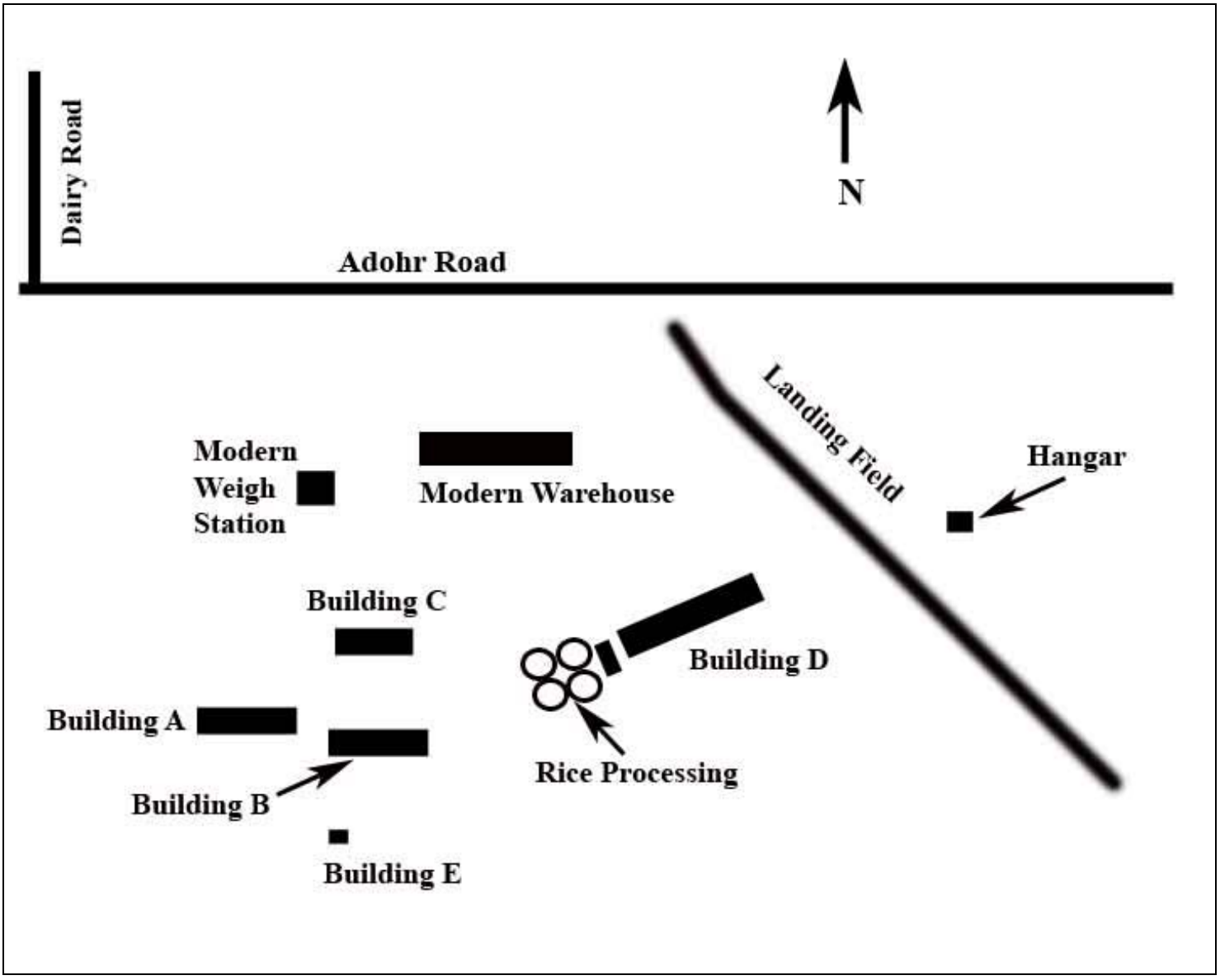
Photograph 10: Landing field, facing northwest, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 11: Hangar, facing northeast, February 2, 2009.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 12: Building E, facing southwest, February 2, 2009.

Sketch Map:


Dairy Road
N
Adohr Road
Landing Field
Modern
Weigh
Station
Modern Warehouse
Hangar
Building C
Building D
Building A
Rice Processing
Building B
Building E

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3S
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #24

P1. Other Identifier: Old Headquarters Weir

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** East Elk Hills, CA **Date** 1954 (revised 1973) **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; NW ¼ **of Sec** 15 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address: d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Approximately 7 miles southeast of Buttonwillow; southwest of intersection of Tupman Rd. and Adohr Rd.

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This structure, both weir and bridge, crosses the Kern Valley Water Company Canal at the point where that canal historically began and Outlet Canal ended. Designed by consulting engineers Leonard & Day, it was constructed in 1911 entirely of reinforced concrete. The structure has a flat deck, 163 feet in length and 19 feet across. Thirteen evenly spaced solid benchwalls separate 14 seven-foot wide bays. Each bay has a set of horizontal steel beams for operation of flashboards. Low walls approximately two feet high line each side of the roadway crossing the structure. A modern metal walkway has been installed on the west side of the structure beginning on the north end and extending south about two-thirds the span (**see photograph 4**). (See Continuation Sheet.)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP19) Bridge

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Structure ☐ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Old Headquarters Weir, facing west, February 2, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1911, "The Concrete Bridge," Leonard & Day, 1913.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Buena Vista Water Storage District
525 North Main Street
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Rand Herbert & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** February 2, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC – "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 3S

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #24

B1. Historic Name: Old Headquarters Weir
B2. Common Name: Old Concrete Weir
B3. Original Use: Weir/Bridge B4. Present Use: Bridge
***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1911; addition of sidewalls at roadway, 1941

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:** Kern Valley Water Company Canal, also known as the flood channel

B9. Architect: Leonard & Day b. Builder: unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** Engineering **Area** Kern County
Period of Significance 1911 **Property Type** Bridge/Weir **Applicable Criteria** C/3
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

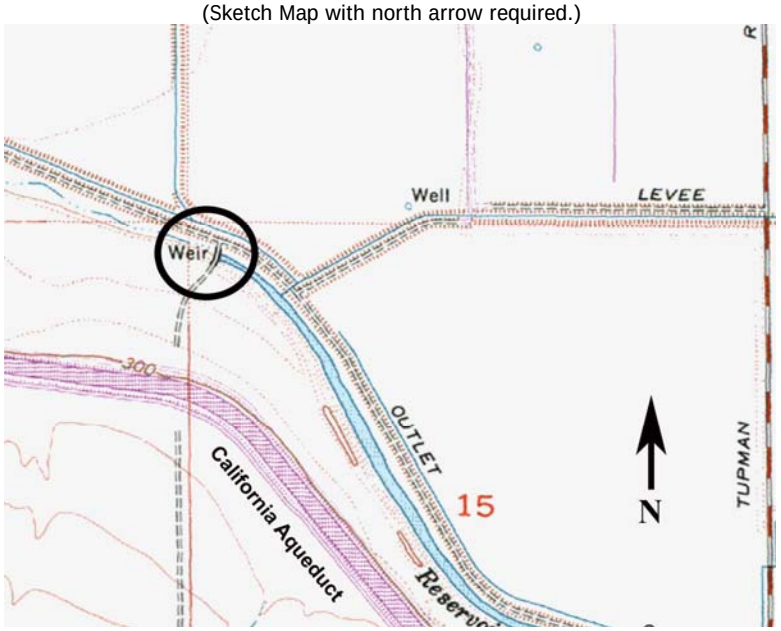
Old Headquarters Weir was constructed across the Kern Valley Water Company's Canal in 1911 on Miller & Lux's Buttonwillow Ranch to replace an existing timber weir. Designed by Leonard & Day, consulting engineers from San Francisco, the weir represents an early work in the career of a master engineer as well as an early example of the use of reinforced concrete in weir/bridge construction. The following overview provides an historic context for the Kern Valley Water Company Canal across which the structure is located, as well as context for the structure's orientation in the history of the use of reinforced concrete in bridge and weir construction. (See Continuation Sheet.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) ____

***B12. References:** See footnotes in text.

Margaret Aseman Cooper [Zonlight], Land, Water and Settlement in Kern County, California, 1850-1890. New York: Arno Press 1979; Robert Kelley, *Battling the Inland* Sea (Berkeley, California: Univeristy of California Press, 1989); Miller, Mary Catherine, *Law and Entrepreneurship in California: Miller and Lux and California Water Law, 1879-1928*, 1982; United States Geological Survey, *Water Supply and Irrigation Papers, No. 17*, 1898; John W. Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century," *California History* (Fall 1984); John W. Snyder, "The Bridges of John B. Leonard, 1905 to 1925," *Concrete International* (June 1984); John Snyder and Steve Mikesell, "The Consulting Engineer and Early Concrete Bridges in California," *Concrete International* (May 1994); Snyder, Fall 1984; B. A. Etcheverry, "Irrigation Practice and Engineering: Irrigation Structures and Distribution System," v. 3 (New York: McGraw-Hill), 1916; John B. Leonard and William P. Day, "The Concrete Bridge: How it has Proved itself in California," (San Francisco: Leonard & Day), 1913; (Also see footnotes.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B13. Remarks:
***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby
***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

P3a. Description (continued):

In numerous places the concrete has spalled revealing the rebar within (**see photographs 10, 11**). Exposed twisted steel rebar runs the length of the side walls, and notched rebar protrudes vertically near the roadway entrance on the north side. The spalling also reveals different concrete compositions on different parts of the structure. The façade is finished with a smoother finish coat than the layer beneath.

B10. Significance (continued):

Early History of the Buena Vista Slough

In 1851 the Yokuts along with several other San Joaquin Valley tribes, relinquished their land in the southern Central Valley, opening it to settlement under federal land law. These laws fundamentally shaped the early history of Kern County. The area located along the Buena Vista Slough, where Old Head quarters Weir is located, and the marshy area connecting Buena Vista Lake and Tulare Lake was sold under the Arkansas Act of September 28, 1850, whereby congress ceded to certain states the swamp and overflowed lands on the federal public domain within their borders. The state was then to use the proceeds from the sale of such lands to reclaim them, thereby making them useful to the new landowners. The land act was subject to abuse and fraud. The seasonal nature of swamp land in California led to disagreements between state and federal surveyors regarding boundaries. In some instances parcels sold as dry by the federal government were also sold by the state as swamp and overflowed. In the end the state made its own surveys, and on December 5, 1871, the secretary of the interior accepted the state's boundaries.

The state also struggled to find a means of reclaiming the swamp lands. The Green Act of 1855 placed settler's payments into an earmarked fund. When the settler could prove that the land was 'reclaimed,' usually by affidavit, they were given a cash credit, about $1 an acre - the purchase price. The Green Act also removed limits on acreage, allowing the assembly of large tracts. After 1868 the counties boards of supervisors served as reclamation commissioners. The purchase price ($1.00 per acre) was paid into the county's swampland fund, but the county swampland commissioners could waive payment if independent commissioners attested that the land had been reclaimed and cultivated for three years.[1] Upon the selection of a parcel a settler received a certificate denoting their claim; a certificate of purchase upon partial payment; and a state patent for the lands followed upon completion of payments and reclamation. It was under these provisions that Henry Miller, Charles Lux, John Redington, Horatio Stebbins, F.A. Tracy, H.L. Bonestell, and Horatio Livermore amassed their acreage on the lower Kern River west of Bakersfield. They acquired swampland certificates of purchase from would-be settlers or from local agents like Julius Chester, Duncan Beaumont, Richard Stretch and Thomas Baker, whose earliest claims were made in the area dated to January 28, 1870.[2] In this manner Miller and Lux, secured their "Southern Division" in Kern and Kings Counties.

Kern Valley Water Company Canal in the Miller & Lux Era

The partnership between Henry Miller and Charles Lux, both German immigrants, began in San Francisco where they both worked as butchers in the early 1850s. They cemented their business partnership in 1858 when they joined forces to purchase a herd of Texas cattle. From that time on they bought western lands ranches for their increasing herds.[3] After acquiring their Southern Division, they organized it into ranches, the largest being Buttonwillow Ranch, which served as

[1] The Arkansas Act's early history and administration in California is summarized in John Thompson, "The Settlement Geography of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta, California." Ph D Diss., Stanford University, 1958. Chapter 8, 185-207.
[2] Margaret Aseman Cooper [Zonlight], Land, Water and Settlement in Kern County, California, 1850-1890. New York: Arno Press 1979.
[3] David Igler, *Industrial Cowboys; Miller & Lux and the Transformation of the Far West 1850-1920*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001, 7.

headquarters ranch of that division. Originally, the headquarters complex that became known as "Old Headquarters" lay in the south at the base of Tupman Road. It moved to Buttonwillow in 1885. Buttonwillow Ranch consisted of 52,440 acres and the weir and canal lies within its former limits. The area operated under this single ownership from the 1870s until 1927, when Miller and Lux Incorporated started selling the land.[4]

The system of drainage, irrigation, flood control canals, and water control structures built by Miller and Lux has left an enduring legacy in the area. While some of their southern lands could immediately accommodate their herds of cattle, other areas required labor and capital, primarily to construct water control features. Construction of the drainage and irrigation canals was critical to their reclamation efforts for their newly acquired swampland along Buena Vista Slough. If the waters of the Kern River could be diverted away from the slough, the swamp could be dried and then cultivated. Under the Arkansas Act, Buena Vista Slough was to be reclaimed as a part of the purchase agreement. In accordance with Assembly Bill 54 of 1861, Swampland District 121 was formed in May 1871, taking in swamplands along Buena Vista Slough. Miller & Lux, along with a few others who had pastured their cattle in the slough, organized the Kern Valley Water Company in 1876. The water company acted as agents for the district. The principal works of the company were canals for irrigation and for reclamation that became known as the Kern Valley Water Company's Canal (KVWCC). After the Kern Valley Water Company was organized for the reclamation of Buena Vista Slough, S. W. Wible was put in charge as engineer. The massive size of his canal was intended to drain the water of the Kern River from the slough, and also feed irrigation laterals. Canal construction began along the west side of the slough in 1877 with fifty-horse teams pulling one-ton "Fresno Scrapers" excavating the bed and building up levees of what became known as the Kern Valley Water Company's Canal. When finished, it extended 26 miles northwesterly up the slough from Old Headquarters, had a top width of 250 feet, bottom width of 125 feet, and was seven feet deep. It was a massive project that required a significant labor force. Fortunately for the company, recently laid off Southern Pacific laborers were available to do the job.[5]

A series of four timber weirs built on the KVWCC regulated the flow of water. Denominated Weir 1 through 4, and approximately four miles apart, each weir could be closed, forming a reservoir behind it whose water could then be channeled into canals for distribution. The weirs also functioned to slow the flow of water down the canal as it proceeded northwesterly up the slough. In the early years of the canal, flood waters from the Kern River posed a constant threat to the canal's water control features. In 1878, within three months of the canal's completion, water split its headgates. An 1898 map indicates four weirs along the canal, however, a U. S. Geological Survey report of that year stated that three of the four weirs were washed out, leaving only one intact.[6]

Faced with constant repairs and expense, by the early years of the 20th century Miller & Lux made the decision to invest in only one of the weirs, that located nearest their old headquarters, denominated Weir No. 1. Originally, the KVWC Canal was meant to serve as a flood and distribution canal. After they built the West Side Canal as a distribution canal parallel to

[4] Settlers claiming tracts on dry lands nearer to Bakersfield resorted to other federal land patenting laws to obtain their lands. These included homestead entries, Desert Land Act filings, cash entries, and purchases from the Southern Pacific Railroad, which received patent to odd-number sections along its right of way through the San Joaquin in a strip extending ten miles on either side of the line in Kern County in April of 1876. Haggin acquired substantial acreage from the railroad, and through allies amassed a large quantity of public lands through homestead, cash entry, and Desert Land Act filings; Thomas H. Means, "Report on Farming Lands Miller & Lux, Inc. Southern Division Kern and Kings Counties California," (unpublished manuscript, Water Resources Center Archives, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, October 1919), 8.

[5] Assembly Bill 54, "An Act to provide for the Reclamation and Segregation of Swamp and Overflowed, and Salt March and Tide Lands, donated to the State of California by Act of Congress" was passed on May 31, 1861 and crated a Board of Swamp Land Commissioners who in turn authorized the creation of Swampland Districts. The districts, geographically similar areas, then had the ability to levey taxes and fees to fund reclamation projects. Robert Kelley, *Battling the Inland Sea* (Berkeley, California: Univeristy of California Press, 1989) 42-48; Miller, Mary Catherine, *Law and Entrepreneurship in California: Miller and Lux and California Water Law, 1879-1928*, 39; United States Geological Survey, *Water Supply and Irrigation Papers, No. 17*, 1898, 61-63.

[6] Kern County Map, 1898; Igler, *Industrial Cowboys*, 99, 117; Grusky, WSP 17, 62.

the KVWC Canal, it lost its distribution function. This meant that Weirs 2, 3, and 4 were no longer needed in order to form reservoirs. Weir #1, however, was crucial for diverting water into both the East and West Side Canals.
In order to combat the costly and time consuming repairs to the timber weir, Miller & Lux commissioned consulting engineers, Leonard & Day to design a reinforced concrete structure to serve as both weir and bridge over their massive flood control canal. The resulting structure became known as Old Headquarters Weir, built in 1911, was a flat span bridge and weir combination. It spanned 163 feet, was nineteen feet from bottom to bridge slab and had a thirteen foot roadway across. A series of simple columns spanned each side of the roadway serving as ornamentation and connectors for a rope guard rail.

Reinforced concrete construction: Leonard & Day

At the turn of the century, the use of reinforced concrete construction was an emerging technology, still viewed with skepticism by many in terms of structural integrity and cost efficiency. Contrary to the general belief that architectural advances spread from east to west in the United States, San Francisco was the center of this particular innovation. This may be partially attributed to the frustrations faced by construction delays in the west resulting from delayed shipments of steel from the east. Furthermore, engineers working out of San Francisco received increased interest after investigations following the Earthquake of 1906 showed that concrete construction withstood fire well.[7] As for cost, marketing combined with performance sold buyers on the investment in new materials.

Early San Francisco pioneers using reinforced concrete included Peter H. Jackson, who began using the technology for sidewalks in 1877, and the collaboration of Ernest L. Ransome and George W. Percy. In the 1880s Ransome and Percy engineered a series of buildings that made use of reinforced concrete in either the floors, walls, roofs, or combinations thereof. In 1889 Ransome designed the Alvord Lake Bridge in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the first concrete bridge built in the United States with steel rebar reinforcement. Ransome left San Francisco in the mid-1890s for Chicago, after which the development of reinforced concrete slowed. From that point through 1905, concrete bridges constructed in California tended to be small, and many were concrete, but not reinforced. [8]

John B. Leonard's contributions to reinforced concrete technology fueled the next period of innovation. Already trained in engineering when he arrived in San Francisco in 1889, he began working for established firms as a draughtsman and civil engineer before opening his own office as a consulting engineer in 1904. Almost immediately he was recognized as a leading designer of reinforced concrete bridges. His first reinforced concrete bridge, the Truckee River Bridge in Reno on Virginia Street, won a competition in 1905. According to bridge historians, John W. Snyder and Stephen Mikesell, the years from 1905 through 1913 represent Leonard's "early" period of work prior to his development of a bridge type known as canticrete.[9]

At the end of Leonard's early period of bridge design, he and his junior partner William P. Day published a book entitled *The Concrete Bridge: How it has Proved itself in California*. The slim volume included text explaining the benefits of using reinforced concrete, followed by photographs of twenty of their concrete bridges. In a pitch to sell the economy of concrete bridges over steel they wrote, "…county bridges will not last as long as railroad bridges, because the former are not given the same care as the latter. It may be seen, therefore, that steel bridges require maintenance, and that further, they have a limited existence. Concrete bridges require absolutely no maintenance, and the effect of age is to strengthen rather

[7] John W. Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century," *California History* (Fall 1984), 280-292.

[8] John W. Snyder, "The Bridges of John B. Leonard, 1905 to 1925," *Concrete International* (June 1984), 60; John Snyder and Steve Mikesell, "The Consulting Engineer and Early Concrete Bridges in California," *Concrete International* (May 1994), 38-44; Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century" 1984.

[9] Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century,", 60; Snyder and Mikesell, "The Consulting Engineer and Early Concrete Bridges in California," 38-44; Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century."

than weaken."[10] Even so, by 1913 they still had to convince their audience that the new technology was a worthwhile investment.

Reinforced concrete offered new possibilities in the design and construction of weirs and dams as well as bridges. Early small scale diversion weirs made of sand, gravel, cobblestone, loose rock, and brush provided an economical but temporary solution to water control. Easily washed out, these weirs required constant maintenance and rebuilding and were only suitable for simple irrigation systems. Where logs were readily available, weirs could also be constructed entirely of wood, however, the use of the raw material had a limiting effect on design and engineering. Often, log weirs were constructed at sites where transporting other materials was not a feasible option. In the early development of California mines, crib weirs made of log frames filled with rock were used extensively for water storage. These weirs could be constructed and maintained cheaply with local materials. Wooden frame open weirs were the preferred choice for diversion structures on many of San Joaquin Valley's rivers in the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These weirs could also be designed for more complex water control methods. They divided the waterway into panels or bays that accommodated removable horizontal flashboards to control water flow. Also low in cost to construct, the primary concern with these weirs was the periodic replacement necessary to their substructures. In the early twentieth century, masonry or concrete weirs offered the benefit of strength and durability but generally cost more to construct than other weirs, and larger scale weirs could be constructed of concrete or masonry compared with other available materials. At this time, numerous large concrete or masonry weirs were constructed. These included the Granite Reef diversion weir on the Salt River in Arizona, built in 1908 and 1,000 feet long, a 600-foot long weir on the Rio Grande in New Mexico, a 216-foot weir on Boise River in Idaho and a 500 foot long weir in Cache Creek in California.[11]

According to prominent California hydraulic engineer, B.A. Etcheverry, by 1916 the superior weight of gravity weirs compared to earlier methods, and the relatively recent use of reinforced concrete in construction meant that comparatively few reinforced concrete diversion weirs and dams had been built. Cost also presented an obstacle to the use of the new technology. Some of the earliest reinforced concrete diversion weirs were built by the federal Bureau of Reclamation. In 1908 they constructed the Corbett Diversion Dam, stretching 400 feet across the Shoshone River in Wyoming, and later the Three Mile Falls diversion weir stretching 820 feet across the Umatilla River in Oregon in 1913.

Constructed in 1911, Old Headquarters Weir represents an early example of the use of reinforced concrete in weir construction. It is also one of only two known hybrid (bridge and water control feature) structures designed by Leonard & Day in the early p eriod of their career, making it a rarity in the work of this master engineer. Leonard & Day used illustrations of the structure in their 1913 book to show potential clients of the economy of this construction method. The photograph captions stressed the economy of reinforced concrete over timber weir construction and demonstrated that private corporations like Miller & Lux, not just federal agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation, could afford the technology.

Old Headquarters Weir is significant as an early example of reinforced concrete weir construction. It is also a rarity in the early work of a master engineer, John B. Leonard, in that it is one of two known bridge/water control features engineered by him in this period, and it was commissioned by Miller & Lux during the early years of the development of the technology. In Leonard & Day's promotional book, the only two bridges illustrated that also served as water control features, the Temple Slough Weir/flume/bridge and the Old Headquarters Weir/bridge, had captions that stressed the economy of concrete over timber construction. Not surprisingly, these two early examples, both built in 1911, were commissioned by Miller & Lux Inc., which certainly had the capital necessary to invest in a cutting edge technology.

[10] John B. Leonard and William P. Day, "The Concrete Bridge: How it has Proved itself in California," (San Francisco: Leonard & Day), 1913, 10.

[11] B. A. Etcheverry, "Irrigation Practice and Engineering: Irrigation Structures and Distribution System," v. 3 (New York: McGraw-Hill), 1916, 42-69.

Old Headquarters Weir and the Buena Vista Water Storage District

When the Buena Vista Water Storage District acquired the Miller and Lux canal system in 1926, it acquired Old Headquarters Weir. When the district incorporated they made immediate plans to construct a new concrete weir at the end of the Outlet Canal at the East Side Canal intake. From that point, Old Headquarters Weir became locally known as the "Old Concrete Weir" and the new construction the "New Concrete Weir." The Old Concrete Weir continued to operate until flood waters seriously damaged it the 1940-41 season. In July of 1941, the Buena Vista Water Storage District constructed a temporary dam in the flood canal to dewater the weir and determine the necessary repairs. The district advertised in late August for bids for construction of a concrete apron, side walls, and related structures. Bidding opened on October 15, 1941 and the following day the district awarded a contract to Wonderly Construction Company to perform the work.[12] During the 1941 repairs, replacement of the simple columns with a low side wall had the greatest impact on the appearance of the structure. Oddly, when viewing the weir from the canal bank, the alteration did not produce the appearance of an addition of side walls, but rather, the removal of posts. The other alteration, construction of a concrete apron, changed the appearance of the western bank which had originally been retained by a timber apron (**see photographs 4, 9**).

Although still owned by the Buena Vista Water Storage District, they no longer operate the weir. Its last use as a weir was in 1986.[13] The structure retains its function as a bridge, connecting two unpaved country roads.

Evaluation of Old Headquarters Weir

Old Headquarters Weir appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C and the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 3. The structure is significant as an early example of a new construction method and as a significant work of a master engineer, John B. Leonard. Although the structure's historic integrity has diminished because of alterations, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance as a significant example of an early reinforced concrete bridge and weir.

John Buck Leonard, senior partner of Leonard & Day in San Francisco, gained fame and notoriety as a pioneer in reinforced concrete construction techniques, and is also credited with conceiving and patenting the canticrete system. Leonard studied engineering at Michigan State College, Illinois University, and the University of Michigan, and in 1888 moved to Los Angeles where he began his career in the city's engineering department. He quickly relocated to San Francisco where, during the 1890s, he became involved with bridge building as a civil engineer for several private firms. In 1904 he opened his own consulting engineering firm and quickly established a reputation as the foremost designer of concrete and reinforced concrete bridges in California. His first commission, completed in 1905, was a closed spandrel concrete arch bridge across the Truckee River in Reno, Nevada. Other early commissions included the San Joaquin River Bridge at Pollasky (1905), the Dry Creek Bridge at Modesto (1905-06), and the Stanislaus Bridge at Ripon (1905-06), all concrete arch bridges that were recognized for the length of their spans. He culminated this early phase of his career with one of his most bold designs, Fernbridge, a massive closed spandrel arch bridge over Eel River in Humboldt County consisting of seven 200 foot spans. This bridge remains the largest of its type ever built.[14] He did not limit his designs to arch spans however, and designed flat span bridges such as Old Headquarters Weir.

As a flat span bridge, Old Headquarters Weir was not as technically challenging for Leonard & Day to design as their arch span bridges. In their 1913 book they wrote, "Forms and temporary supports for flat span bridges offer no particular difficulty."[15] Although it may not have represented one of their most technically complicated designs, Old Headquarters

[12] Bancroft Library, Miller & Lux Collection, CG-163, Carton 318 Buena Vista Water Storage District, 1938-41, Concrete Weir Repairs.
[13] Email correspondence with David Hampton, Buena Vista Water Storage District, March 2009.
[14] Stornetta Bridge DPR form.
[15] Leonard & Day, 1913, pg. 8.

Weir stands out as significant because it is a rare example of Leonard & Day designing a water control feature and bridge combination. They are known to have designed two bridge/water control feature combinations in their early period of design. Both were constructed in 1911 for Miller & Lux, and both still exist today. Temple Slough Weir in Merced County was designed as a bridge, weir, and flume although it was significantly smaller than Old Headquarters Weir, at 83.5 feet in length. No other combined bridge/water control structures are known to exist from this early period of Leonard & Day's career.
The structure has significance not just as an important work of a master engineer, but also as an early example of the use of a new construction method. In 1911, when Old Headquarters Weir was constructed it was on the forefront of the transition from the construction of timber, masonry, or plain concrete weirs to reinforced concrete weirs.

Old Headquarters Weir has maintained historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. When constructed the setting of the weir/bridge was on a canal system that served an area used for irrigated agricultural, and that describes the setting today. The structure retains its historical feeling through continuity of setting and retention of materials and basic form. Its associations with the canal system remain evident since it still spans the large flood control channel over which it was built.

The structure lost some historic integrity of design during the repairs of 1940-1941, but not to the degree that it has lost its ability to convey its significance as an early example of a reinforced concrete bridge/water control feature. The addition of the side walls and elimination of the original columns altered the appearance of the structure, yet it maintains its basic form of a flat slab bridge with evenly spaced benchwalls beneath that accommodate flashboards for water control (**see photographs 6, 7**). At some point the original concrete slab that functioned as a walkway on the west side was removed and replaced first with a wooden walkway, and later with a metal walkway that remains today. The appearance of the walkway is clearly that of an "add-on" and again, does not alter the basic form of the structure (**see photographs 2, 3**). The alteration of the apron from timber to concrete in the 1941 renovation also does not alter the basic form of the structure, but rather changes the appearance of the banks of the canal adjacent to it.

Old Headquarters Weir has experienced a significant degree of deterioration of materials over the years. As Leonard & Day predicted, a bridge in this remote setting would not receive the maintenance attention other bridges might. At numerous points the concrete has spalled revealing the reinforcing steel bars beneath (**see photographs 10, 11**). The deterioration of some of the outer layers of concrete also exposes the coarser concrete used beneath the smoother exterior concrete sheath. This deterioration does not inhibit the structure from conveying its use as a bridge and a weir, nor does it change the fundamental appearance of the structure. The retention of materials and basic design illustrate the original workmanship of the structure. Workmanship was however modestly compromised when the original columns were removed.

The character-defining features of Old Headquarters Weir are its extant original components and design including the flat deck, thirteen benchwalls, fourteen bays, columns lining the roadway, roadway spanning the deck, and reinforced concrete construction. The modification made when the columns were removed, and sidewalls added is the only significant change to the basic character of the structure.

Old Headquarters Weir appears eligible under Criterion C/Criterion 3 at the local level as a significant example of the work of a master designer and as an early example of a new construction method applied to water structure/bridge building. The structure is important as a rare surviving example of Leonard & Day's design of a reinforced concrete bridge/water control structure combination. Old Headquarters Weir, built in 1911, represents an early example of the type, and is only one of two known to have been built in this period by Leonard & Day. The structure also stands as an early example of use of reinforced concrete in construction of weirs. Furthermore, the bridge appears to retain a sufficient degree of historic integrity and therefore retains the ability to convey its historic significance. Its character-defining features are its reinforced concrete benchwalls and flat slab roadway. For these reasons, Old Headquarters Weir appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register and California Register and would therefore qualify as a significant historic property under Section 106 and a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Old Headquarters Weir does not appear eligible under National Register Criteria A, B, or D (California Register Criteria 1, 2, or 4). The evaluation methodologies created and implemented for the recent Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory Update studies are helpful tools in evaluating bridges. It states that bridges are considered potentially significant under Criteria A (1) if they "are importantly associated with trends and/or events in transportation development, regional or local economic development, community planning or military history."[16] The study also noted that by their very nature bridges, like other infrastructural elements, are inherently vital to the community development, and that they "considerably impact communication and the distribution or people, goods, and services that facilitate development on both the local and regional levels." Care must be taken, then, not to elevate the importance of these resources to an inappropriate level; otherwise, virtually any bridge would be considered historically significant. The study concluded:

> To be eligible for listing in the National Register [under Criterion A], resource types such as bridges and other infrastructure must have demonstrable importance directly related to important historic events and trends, with emphasis given to specific demand for such facilities and the effects the structure had on social, economic, commercial, and industrial developments locally, regionally, or nationally…In this analysis, for example, a bridge that is the first in its location would be inherently more significant than one that is the second or third constructed at that location.[17]

As discussed above in the historic context, Old Headquarters Weir was built to replace an existing timber weir whose maintenance had become too burdensome. Although Old Headquarters Weir was the first road bridge at this location it did not fundamentally change transportation in the area. It connected an unimproved dirt road on the southwest side of the canal to a more established road on the northeast side of the canal.[18] Its function as a bridge alone does not appear to represent a significant contribution to the transportation history of the area.

Under Criteria B (2), Old Headquarters Weir does not appear to be eligible for association with persons important in our history. It is not eligible for its association with Miller & Lux Inc., who commissioned the bridge. Although it is the only structure remaining from their Old Headquarters, it alone does not convey the significance of a ranch headquarters.

In rare instances, buildings and structures themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies under Criteria D and 4; however, reinforced concrete bridge technology is well documented in published and photographic sources. Therefore, Old Headquarters Weir does not appear to be a principle source of important information in this regard.

[16] JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historic Context Statement, Roadway Bridges in California: 1936 to 1959," prepared for State of California, Department of Transportation, Environmental Program, January 2003, 68.

[17] JRP, "Historic Context Statement, Roadway Bridges in California," 68.

[18] USGS Quadrangle, East Elk Hills, 1932.

Photographs (cont):

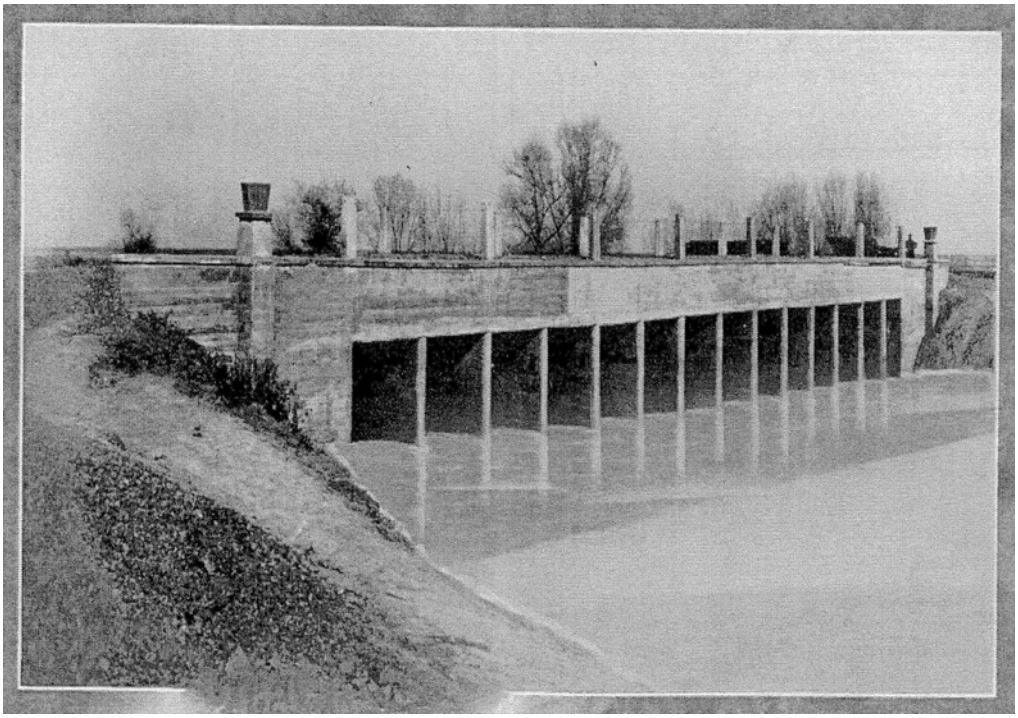
Photograph 2: facing south, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 3: facing south; from Mean's 1919 report.

Photograph 4: facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

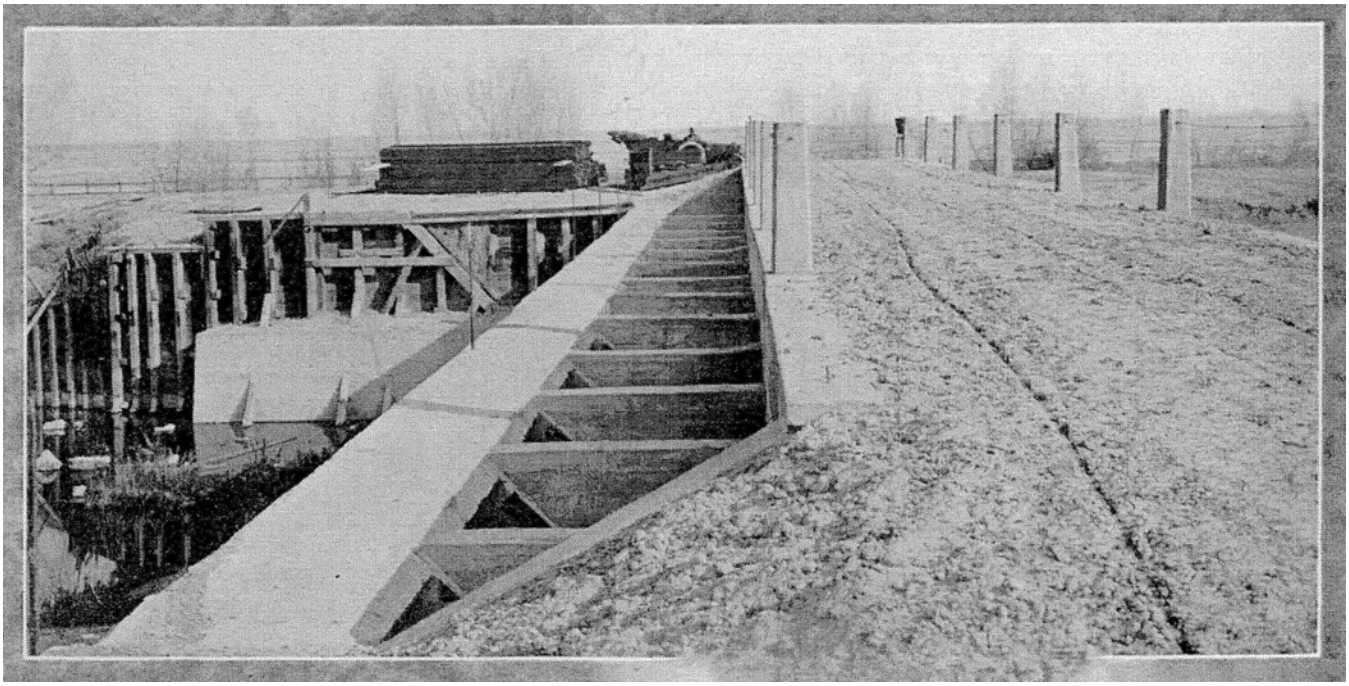
Photograph 5: facing east, from Mean's 1919 report.

Photograph 6: facing southwest, February 2, 2009.



Photograph 7: facing northwest, from Leonard & Day's book, *The Concrete Bridge,* 1913.

Photograph 8: facing north, February 2, 2009.



Photograph 9: facing north, from Leonard & Day's book, *The Concrete Bridge*, 1913.

Photograph 10: Exposed rebar, facing downward, February 2, 2009.

Photograph 11: Exposed rebar, facing downward, February 2, 2009.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #25

P1. Other Identifier: 6122 Tule Park Rd.

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Tupman, CA **Date** 1954, photorevised 1968 & 1973 **T** 30S ; **R** 24E ; SW ¼ **of Sec** 11 ; MD **B.M.**

c. Address 6122 Tule Park Road City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor Parcel Number: 159-050-17-00

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The residence at 6122 Tule Park Rd. is a Minimal Traditional style house with side-gabled roof and boxed eaves. A separately gabled roof on the west side of the building suggests the placement of an entrance, however, the main entrance door is located on the south side; there is one other entrance door on the east side. A carport with the same roofline is attached to the south side of the building, above the front door. All windows have been replaced with vinyl sliders, the roof is of composition shingle, and the exterior clad in vertical siding (**see photographs 1, 2**). A new utilitarian structure sits east of the residence. (See Continuation Sheet.)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP2)Single family property

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:** Facing southeast, February 2, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1941, Kern County Assessor

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Thomas N. Adams
6122 Tule Park Rd.
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9522

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Rand Herbert & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** February 2, 2009
***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z
***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #25

B1. Historic Name: 6122 Tule Park Rd.
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Minimal Traditional
***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) 1941

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____
***B8. Related Features:**

B9. Architect: unknown b. Builder: unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a
Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property at 6122 Tule Park Road does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the buildings lack historic integrity to its estimated original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____
***B12. References:**

Earl M. Price, *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California*, April 1954; Hoven & Co., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, 1972-73; *Bakersfield Californian;* Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987); John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981); *Bakersfield Californian*. (Also see footnotes.)

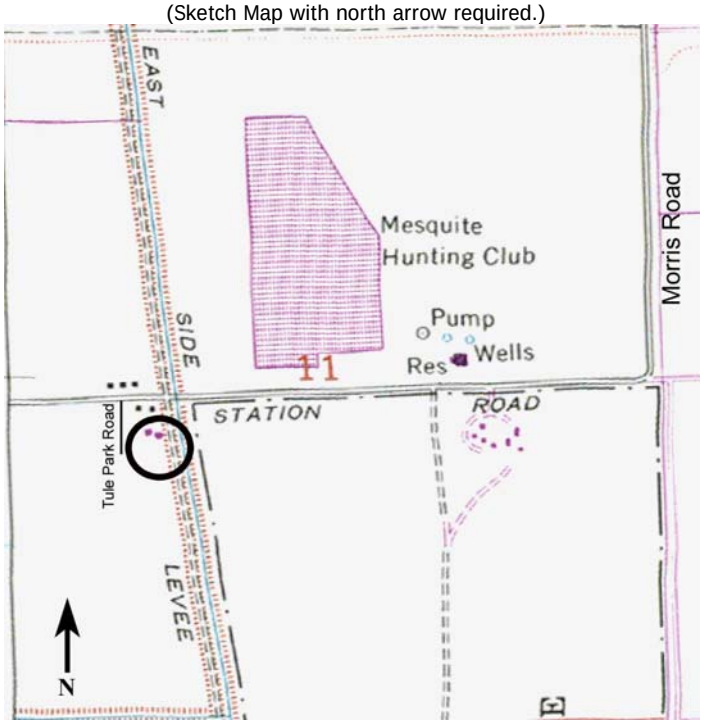
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Heather Norby

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



B10. Significance (continued):

The Adams' residence at 6122 Tule Park Road is part of a small area near the intersection of Station and Tupman roads that was developed sometime between 1933 and 1941. Although it is located in the former Buttonwillow Ranch of large scale land owners Henry Miller and Charles Lux, this building, constructed in 1941, post-dates any association with that period in the region's history. Following the subdivision of Buttonwillow Ranch in 1927, the region entered a period of thriving agricultural production and modest increase in settlement.

The Snow family, early Buttonwillow settlers, owned a 95-acre parcel that included the property at 6122 Tule Park Road as early as 1954 until approximately 15 years ago when the current owner purchased it. Martin L. Snow arrived in Buttonwillow in the mid-late 1920s and was among the first wave of cotton farmers in Buttonwillow. The property changed hands between his sons, Martin Jr., and Mason from the 1950s – 1970s.[1]

Cotton had been grown in Kern County since 1862 and a knowledge base for the cultivation of the plant and its processing slowly developed through time. Bakersfield became a center for processing and shipping of the processed fiber and oil. In 1906 the discovery of Acala cotton, a strong long-fibered variety, at the Shafter Experimental Farm boosted the industry. In 1928 the first cotton crops were planted in the area south of Buttonwillow. Between 1920 and 1935 cotton production grew to 3,800 acres; volunteer pasturage ceased, grain production nearly quadrupled, and milo was introduced.[2] By 1945 the three major crops around Buttonwillow were alfalfa, cereal grains and cotton. These commercial crops supported 187 farms, only 85 of which were tenant operated.[3]

As farmers like the Snows increased cotton production in the area, the demand for new processing facilities also increased. Buttonwillow supported two gins, the Buttonwillow Gin and the Farmer's Cooperative Gin founded in 1937. A post-WWII boom in demand for cotton led to the building of a second gin on the Farmer's Cooperative gin property in 1948.[4]

The number of acres planted in cotton in Kern County peaked between 1951 and 1953 at over 300,000 acres. However, with this peak began a decline in the need for labor. A reduced work force due to World War II prompted the development of tractors with plows and cultivators that could handle as much or more acreage with one quarter of the manpower previously needed. Demand for labor began to decline in 1949 and new agricultural practices transformed farm labor by 1960 making large labor camps unnecessary.[5] California's cotton production entered a period of steady decline in the 1980s. By 2005 production was one-third of what it was in 1981.[6]

The relatively small size of the Snow parcel (95 acres) on Tule Road suggests that it served primarily as a residence, and not the nucleus of their farming operation. Today, 6122 Tule Park Road is a small, residential parcel owned and occupied by Thomas N. Adams.

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[1] *Bakersfield Californian*, 11 February 2009; Earl M. Price, *Map Book Showing Ownership of Farm Lands in Kern County, California,* April 1954; Hoven & Co., *Land Ownership of Kern County*, 1972-73.

[2] Raznoff, *Drainage Investigations Buttonwillow Area of Kern County, California, 1945*, 27.

[3] Raznoff, 81-82.

[4] Catherine Merlo, "From the Ground Up: The First Fifty Years of Farmers Cooperative Gin," (Farmers Cooperative Gin: 1987).

[5] John Turner, *White Gold Comes to California*, (Bakersfield, California: California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors, 1981), 56, 69-75.

[6] Catherine Merlo, "Cotton in California, *Farm Journal,* 1 Nov. 2005.

Evaluation

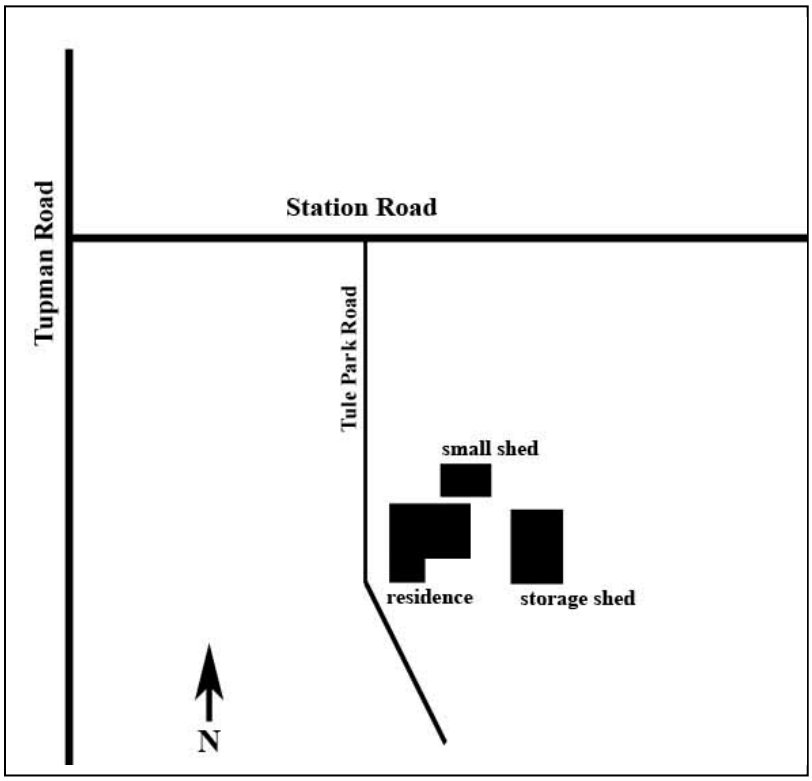
To be eligible for listing on the National and California Register, a property must not only be shown to be significant under at least one of the NRHP and CRHR criteria, but it must also retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Under Criterion A/Criterion 1, the building at 6122 Tule Park Road is not significant for its association with agricultural development or settlement of the Buttonwillow area. Constructed in 1941, it post-dates any association with Miller & Lux's ranches. Instead, it was likely constructed by the Snow family as a farm residence. While it is associated with the historical themes of agricultural development and settlement in the region, it is one of numerous farm residences built in this period. Under Criterion B/Criterion 2, the building does not appear to be associated with any historically significant people. The historical owners, the Snow family, represent one of many families who have a long history of farming in the area. Their contribution alone is not significant to local, state, or national history. Thomas N. Adams, current owner, does not appear to be historically significant. Under Criterion C/Criterion 3, the building does not possess any distinctive characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. Rather it is a modest example of a popular style of house built in the mid-twentieth century. Even if the smaller building was historically significant, its historic integrity has been compromised with replacement windows and doors, composition-shingle roofing, and the reorientation of the entrance to the south, which all effect original design, workmanship, materials and feeling. The building is also not likely the work of a master. Finally, in rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D/Criterion 4); however, this building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Photographs (cont):

Photograph 2: facing northwest.

Sketch Map:


Station Road
Tupman Road
Tule Park Road
small shed
residence
storage shed
N

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6Z
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

 ***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #26

P1. Other Identifier: Southern Pacific McKittrick Branch

***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** ***a. County** Kern
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Buttonwillow, CA **Date** 1954 photorevised 1973 **T**___; **R** ___; __ ¼ **of Sec** ___; _____ **B.M.**

c. Address Highway 58 Buttonwillow City Buttonwillow Zip 93206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____mE/ _____mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
South side of Highway 58 from I-5 to Buttonwillow

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
This form records a portion of the McKittrick branch of the Southern Pacific Railway from I-5 east to Buttonwillow. The branch line originally connected Bakersfield with McKittrick to the west. The line from Buttonwillow to McKittrick has been demolished.

The portion of the Southern Pacific McKittrick spur along the southern edge of Highway 58 consists of light weight rails with rock ballast and wood ties. The tracks become raised heading west into Buttonwillow. The rails are connected with bolted plates. Automated crossing gates are located at road crossings and the J.G Boswell Tomato Company cannery entrance. Crossings at other businesses and residences along the tracks are combined into limited drives with stop signs and crossing warnings. At most points it is a single track. Sidings are located in Buttonwillow crossing Mirasol Road and at the J.G. Boswell cannery. Three spurs serve the Murray Cotton Gin, an industrial complex south of Meadow Street, a former grain elevator east of Wasco Avenue, and the J.G. Boswell cannery. Two wooden trestles convey the tracks over the Main Drain and East Side Canal of the Buena Vista Water Storage District.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) (HP18) Train

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Structure ☐ Building ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) **Photograph 1:**.Railroad bridge over Main Drain south of Highway 58, camera facing southeast, March 9, 2009.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1893

***P7. Owner and Address:**
San Joaquin Valley Railroad
221 North F Street
Exeter, CA 93221

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, address)
Cheryl Brookshear & Heather Norby
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave, Suite 110,
Davis, CA 95618

***P9. Date Recorded:** March 9, 2009

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, "Historical Resources Inventory and Evaluation for Hydrogen Energy California Project," April 2009.

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☒ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list) _____

***NRHP Status Code** 6Z

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Map Reference #26

B1. Historic Name: Southern Pacific Asphalto Branch

B2. Common Name: Southern Pacific McKittrick Branch

B3. Original Use: Industrial B4. Present Use: Industrial

***B5. Architectural Style:** Utilitarian

***B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Constructed 1893; line shortened 1982; tie replacement and reballasting 1990-1991

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

***B8. Related Features:** crossing gates, spurs, sidings, bridges.

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** n/a **Area** n/a

Period of Significance n/a **Property Type** n/a **Applicable Criteria** n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Southern Pacific McKittrick Branch (previously the Southern Pacific Asphalto Branch) does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) because it does not have historical significance or integrity. The branch line does not have significant associations with the development of petroleum production in the fields surrounding McKittrick (Criterion A or 1). While Southern Pacific constructed the branch in cooperation with Solomon Jewett and Hugh Blogget who began the asphalt industry in the area, production had begun before the railroad agreement. The branch line is not associated with a significant individual (Criterion B or 2). The railroad branch does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics of a period, type, or method of construction (Criteria C or 3). In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criteria D or 4); however, the building does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard. In addition to a lack of historic significance, the building lacks historic integrity to 1893, its original date of construction and possible period of significance. This property has been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

***B12. References:** JRP Historical Consulting Services, "Historic Architectural Survey Report, Tier 1, for Route Adoption on Route 58, Between I-5 and State Route 99 in Kern County," 1995; John Bergman, *The History of the Sunset Railway, Including the McKittrick Branch of the Southern Pacific Company*. Bakersfield, California: Kern County Historical Society, 1994; Richard Harold Smith, "Towns Along the Tracks: Railroad Strategy and Town Promotion in the San Joaquin Valley, California" PhD, University of California Los Angeles, 1976.

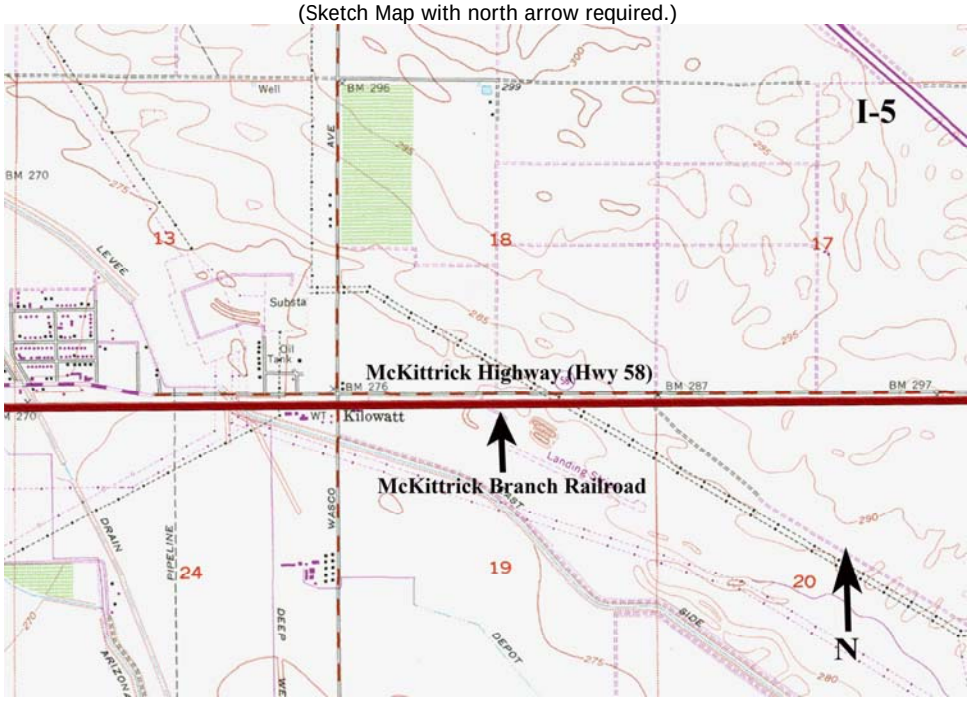
B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Cheryl Brookshear

***Date of Evaluation:** March 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



L1. Historic and/or Common Name: Southern Pacific Asphalto Branch/ Southern Pacific McKittrick Branch

L2a. Portion Described: ☐ Entire Resource ☐ Segment ☒ Point Observation **Designation:** SP-1

b. Location of point or segment: (Provide UTM coordinates, legal description, and any other useful locational data. Show the area that has been field inspected on a Location Map)

Intersection of the McKittrick Branch and Wasco Avenue east of Buttonwillow, CA approximately 50 feet south of Highway 58.

L3. Description: (Describe construction details, materials, and artifacts found at this segment/point. Provide plans/sections as appropriate.)

The point consists of east-west tracks of light weight rails on a crushed rock ballast and wooden ties. The rails are connected with bolted plates. No date stamps were observed. A spur line approximately 15 feet to the south parallels the main line and ends east of Wasco Avenue. Ballast lifts the tracks approximately 3 feet above the surrounding grade. Automated crossing gates are located on each side of the tracks.

L4. Dimensions: (In feet for historic features and meters for prehistoric features)

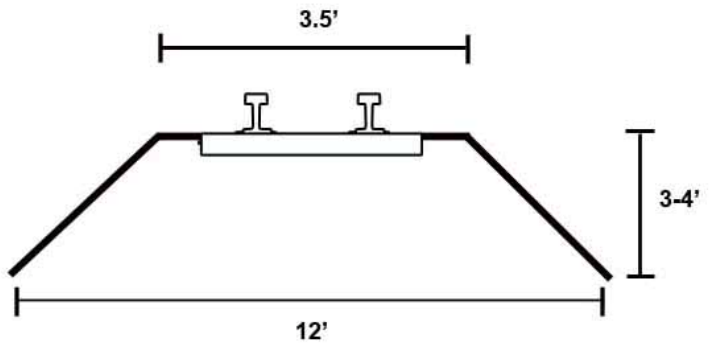
a. Top Width: approximately 3 ½ feet
b. Bottom Width: approximately 12 feet
c. Height or Depth: approximately 3 feet
d. Length of Segment: approximately 100 feet

L5. Associated Resources: crossing gates, spur, and grade crossing

L6. Setting: (Describe natural features, landscape characteristics, slope, etc., as appropriate.)

The tracks are bordered by industrial complexes of cotton gins and a substation to the north.

L4e. Sketch of Cross-Section (include scale) **Facing:** West



Not to scale

L7. Integrity Considerations:

Records indicate that the branch was updated in 1990-91. No date stamps were visible at this location; several different levels of ballast are visible.

L8a. Photograph, Map or Drawing

L8b. Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing (View, scale, etc.) Railroad with loading spur on right, Camera facing northeast from Wasco Avenue south of Highway 58, March 9, 2009.

L9. Remarks:

L10. Form Prepared by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Cheryl Brookshear
JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
1490 Drew Ave. Suite 110
Davis, CA 95618

L11. Date: March 9, 2009

DPR 523E (1/95)

B10. Significance (continued):

The area around McKittrick and Asphalto was the scene of some of the original asphalt and petroleum discoveries in Kern County, being first discovered in 1863. Commercial development was first attempted in 1889, when influential Kern County residents Solomon Jewett and Hugh Blodget, and a group of other speculators, acquired 2,000 acres in the area and began explorations through their company, Standard Asphalt. They built an asphalt refinery at Asphalto, and produced and shipped refined asphalt for paving streets. In 1891 Blodget and Jewett had begun mining and refining asphalt at Sunset, located in the Sunset Oil Field southeast of McKittrick. Their product was originally hauled by wagon to Bakersfield for shipment east; this proved costly and the two began negotiations with the Southern Pacific to build a railroad to Asphalto, and later, to the Sunset fields. The railroad agreed to this arrangement, and soon thereafter altered it to build to Asphalto first, holding the Sunset line in abeyance until sufficient traffic made the line more attractive economically.[1]

The Southern Pacific constructed the line in 1892-1893, reaching the existing settlement of Asphalto (located 1.3 miles east of McKittrick) in September 1892 and McKittrick in February 1893 after approximately one year of construction. The company continued the line to McKittrick, where it owned land, instead of Asphalto where it could not obtain title to land for a station. As a part of the agreement with Jewett and Blodget, the railroad company became a partner in Standard Asphalt; and in the panic of 1893 it obtained full control of the company. The line was extended to Olig in February 1901, and the line began shipping materials and people to the developing McKittrick oil fields, while shipping out oil to market. The line used 50 lb. rails laid on 2,600 ties to the mile. Fourteen stations or sidings existed on the line in the 1920s, including Stevens, Strand, Rio Bravo, Bowerbank, and Buttonwillow. Besides shipping oil and asphalt, the line, with its stations and sidings, also provided local farmers with ready access to the railroad mainlines for their produce.[2] Of these, only the site of the Buttonwillow station is within the recorded segment.

The Southern Pacific cut the line at Buttonwillow in 1960. In 1982 a Caltrans railroad map showed that the line was still in the hands of the Southern Pacific, but that it no longer extended beyond Buttonwillow. The line underwent substantial rehabilitation in 1990-91, at which time most ties were mechanically replaced and the line reballasted. The line is currently used primarily to carry corn and oil to a food processing plant near Buttonwillow, and to carry general freight from that town to the main line at Bakersfield.[3] The branch is one of several branches in the San Joaquin Valley owned and operated by the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.

Evaluation

Under Criteria A or 1, the McKitrrick branch is not significant for its association with the development of the petroleum industry and McKittrick (formerly Asphalto). Asphalto and the infant petroleum industry in the area was established before the railroad was constructed. While the railroad provided improved transportation, its role was that of necessary infrastructure than a motive cause of development. Under Criteria B or 2, the railroad is not associated with any historically significant people. While Solomon Jewett and Hugh Blodget did arrange the deal with Southern Pacific, they do not appear to be involved with the railroad in any other manner. The railroad was a side activity to their other business ventures and is not a good illustrative example of their achievements. Under Criteria C or 3, the railroad does not possess any distinctive

[1] John F. Bergman, *The History of the Sunset Railway, Including the McKittrick Branch of the Southern Pacific Company*. (Bakersfield: Kern County Historical Society, 1994), 3-11; Lewis E. Aubury, *Production and Use of Petroleum in California*. California State Mining Bureau Bulletin No. 32. (Sacramento: State Printing Office, 1904. 41; William Rintoul, *Spudding In: Recollections of Pioneer Days in the California Oil Fields* (San Francisco: California Historical Society, 1976), 7.

[2] Bergman, *The History of the Sunset Railway,* 1994, 6-11, 13.

[3] Southern Pacific Railroad Company, *Southern Pacific Railroad, Bakersfield to Olig, First Section, Kern County, California.* August 1913. California State Archives Railroad Alignment Maps, 102-11; USGS "Rio Bravo Quadrangle" 1954; field observations; Bergman, *The History of the Sunset Railway*, 1994, 10; Caltrans, *California State Railroad Map.* (Sacramento: Caltrans, 1982).

characteristics or high artistic value that would render it eligible under these criteria. The railroad is built according to standard design and practice of the time. In addition the railroad has been altered in such a manner that it lacks integrity.

Like machines with moving parts, actively used railroads are constantly being repaired and defective or worn-out pieces replaced. The result of the years of operation and maintenance is that only the remaining resource that dates to the period of significance is the right-of-way itself; even embankments have been raised or ballasted as changing conditions demand. Within the study area, the ties, spikes, and gravel ballasting on the main lines are of relatively recent origin and do not relate to the period of significance.

The line lacks integrity because it is no longer complete and has undergone a series of rehabilitations. Originally built with 50 lb. rails, the currently installed rails are 80 lbs. The line now ends at the western margin of Buttonwillow. Beyond this point the entire line -- rails, ties, and embankment -- has been removed and local farmers have reduced the embankment to grade. Portions of the old right of way exist between Buttonwillow and McKittrick as oil field roads; the Buttonwillow depot has been demolished. This means that the line is now only about two-thirds its original length. Furthermore, it was substantially rebuilt in 1990-91, when the majority of the ties were replaced. The line was also reballasted at this time. In addition, most of the important stations -- Rio Bravo, Buttonwillow, McKittrick -- no longer exist. Finally, the industry in McKittrick that originally generated construction of the line -- the asphalt mine and plant -- no longer exists, the landscape of McKittrick dominated by oil wells and related development.[4]

[4] Interview with Donald Holt, June 7, 1995; field observations.