

A Phase 1 Archaeological Study  
For the proposed Rockwell Specific Plan Project  
A 251 acre site located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue  
within the City Selma, Fresno County, California

**Prepared for:**

Bruce O'Neal

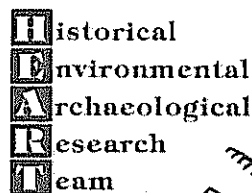
***Land Use Associates***

268 W. Cromwell Avenue

Fresno, California 93711

Telephone: 559-256-4250

E-mail: b.oneal@comcast.net



**Prepared and submitted by:**

Robert J. Wlodarski

Principal Investigator

Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team

M.A./R.P.A. and C.C.P.H Certified in History, Archaeology and Architectural History

Meets NPS Standards & Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation

8701 Lava Place, West Hills, California 91304

Telephone/Fax: 818-340-6676

E-mail: robanne@ix.netcom.com

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## Summary of Findings

At the request of Bruce O'Neal, Land Use Associates of Fresno, California (representing Michael Waiczis) a Phase 1 Archaeological study was prepared in support of an environmental document for the proposed Rockwell Specific Plan Project, a 251 acre site located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue within the City Selma, Fresno County, California. This report was designed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The scope of work consisted of:

1. Performing a record search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University Bakersfield, California.
2. Conducting an on-foot surface reconnaissance of the project area.
3. Preparing a report that summarizes the results of the records search and field investigation phases.

The project area is located south of Bishop, east of Salinas, northwest of Bakersfield and west of Mount Whitney, within the City of the Selma, Fresno County, California (Figure 1). More specifically, the property is depicted on the Conejo, California 7.5 minute USGS topographic map (1963 – photorevised 1978) within Township 15 South, Range 21 East, in Section 36 (Figure 2). The property is located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue. The roughly triangular-shaped parcel is bounded by Floral Avenue to the south, De Wolf Avenue to the west, State Route 99 to the northeast and existing development (Wal-Mart) to the east. Dinuba Avenue is located at the northern tip of the subject property. Land to the west is agricultural and Rockwell Pond extends into this area. Land to the south is agricultural. Property to the east is commercially developed and State Route 99 is located to the northeast (Figure 3). The entire project site is designated as "Open Space" in the City of Selma General Plan. The agricultural property in the area is designated and zoned for agricultural use by the Fresno County General Plan (other than Rockwell Pond which is designated as open space). The proposed Project is a specific plan ("Rockwell Specific Plan") for the ultimate urban development of an unincorporated area of approximately 251 acres located adjacent to northwest Selma (Figure 4).

A record search was performed by professional archaeologist Jon Brady at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield, California, on November 13, 2007 (RS #07-383). The results of the records search indicated that no cultural resources of a prehistoric or historic nature have been previously recorded within the project boundaries. The following information applies to a one-mile radius of the project area:

- Archaeological site P-10-002963, a segment of the Fowler Switch Canal, lies on the east side of State Route 99. More specifically, it is located northeast of the current project study area.
- No historic archaeological sites or historic properties are recorded
- Twenty-three prior studies have been performed: Ambro, et al 1980; Beatty 1981; Beatty & Becker 1973; Brady 2003a,b; Crist, 1981; Crist & Brady 1983; Dillon 1987; Dondero & Riley 1988; Hatoff 1995; InfoTech 1985, 1986, 1988; Kus 1989; Napton 1984, 1992; Nissen 1992; Nissen & Kennedy 1991; Peck & Crist 1979, 1980; Rugroden 2001; Tetra Tech/KCM Inc 2002; Wlodarski & Brady 2003. None of these investigations were performed for the subject property.
- A prior survey by Napton (1992) covering 113.6 acres was performed adjacent to the southeast corner of the current proposed project area; no cultural resources were identified.
- No National Register properties are identified.
- No significant California State Historic Resources Inventory properties are noted.
- No California Historical Landmarks (1990) exist.
- No California Points of Historical Interest (1992) are recorded.
- According to Granskog (1984), "From the early 1900's to the 1960's, this area was devoted to agricultural usage, primarily fig orchards. Fig trees were planted about 30 feet apart by blasting because of the hardpan in the area. Because of this intensive agricultural usage for more than fifty years, any prehistoric sites that could be expected in the area most likely have been destroyed or effectively buried." By the mid-1960s, residential and commercial development began making headway into this area of Fresno.
- Additional sources were also consulted, including: the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; Gold Districts of California; the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Fresno County (2000); The California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility Listings for Fresno County (2000); and, Historic maps on file at the Geography Department Map Reference Center, California State University Northridge.

As part of the scope of work, a thorough surface reconnaissance of the project area was performed by Jon Brady, Kristina Brady and Justin Brady of J&R Environmental Services of Clovis, on November 18 and 23, 2007. All open cuts, exposed profiles, rodent spoil, and other fortuitous exposures were examined for any evidence, which might suggest the presence of obvious or obscured archaeological remains. Plates 1 and 2 illustrate selected photographs taken of the structures and the project area. The following field observations were made:

- The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue. The roughly triangular-shaped parcel is bounded by Floral Avenue to the south, De Wolf Avenue to the west, State Route 99 to the northeast and existing development (Wal-Mart) to the east. Dinuba Avenue is located at the northern tip.
- The agricultural property within the project area is currently designated and zoned for agricultural use by the Fresno County General Plan (the Rockwell Pond area is currently designated as open space).
- The land to the west of the subject property is currently used for agricultural purposes, with Rockwell Pond extending into this area.
- The land to the south is currently used for agricultural purposes.
- The property to the east is commercially developed and State Route 99 is located to the northeast.
- Transects were spaced at no more than five meter intervals throughout the parcel where conditions permitted. In areas where row crops were planted, spacing was roughly every third row.
- Ground visibility was good to excellent throughout, and all but 10-acres located in the north central portion of the property (currently being harvested) was visually inspected for surface signs of cultural resources.
- The northernmost portion of the project area contains vineyards, a cleared area where crops were recently harvested, fallow ground, and a pre-1958 structure.
- The middle portion of the property contains 10-acres of crops, fallow land, and the Rockwell Pond borrow area.
- The southern portion of the project area contains a portion of the Rockwell Pond borrow area, vineyards, and four pre-1958 residential structures.
- Generally, vineyards account for roughly 40% of the project area, with the remaining terrain containing the excavated Rockwell Pond area, row crops, and fallow or recently disked land.
- All of the project area has been moderately disturbed due to prior agricultural activities including cultivation and disking, the use of the Rockwell Pond area as a borrow pit, access road construction, use for vineyards, the construction of residences and associated outbuildings, utility connection to the property and associated disturbances caused by drainage and erosion and the construction of associated roads and State Route 99.

No prehistoric archaeological remains were encountered within the surveyed area. Five historic structures adjacent to Floral Avenue or DeWitt Avenue, and date prior to 1958, were noted within the parcel. If future development has the potential to impact any or all of these structures, then they should be evaluated for significance under CEQA. As a means of evaluating a resource(s) potential to yield significant data, eligibility criteria has been established from which general research goals can be proposed to address the specifics of a site or feature. These goals are aimed at examining and documenting such broad behavioral patterns as: Ethnicity, acculturation and interaction; the organization and utilization of space by individuals or groups; changing land use patterns; the length and duration of occupation; technological advances and contributions; and, specialized activities and occurrences. Significance criteria includes the contextual association which provides the cultural affiliation or its place in time, its relationship to a person or event, or its architectural value; integrity of setting, feeling, and association, and, significance on the basis of contextual association and resource integrity. Since the properties in question appear to relate to the agricultural development of Selma, there is a potential that they may be historically significant on a local or regional level.

Since by its nature, a walkover can only confidently assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resource remains, customary caution is advised in development activities within the project area. Therefore, should unanticipated cultural resource remains (Cultural resource remains may include artifacts, shell, bone, features, altered soils, foundations, trash pits and privies, etc.) be encountered during construction or land modification activities within the study area that have not otherwise been considered in this report, the Fresno County Planning Department shall be notified immediately to determine the nature and extent of such resources and the appropriate measures to mitigate potential adverse impacts. If human remains are discovered, then the procedures described in Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code shall be followed. These procedures require notification of the County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines that the discovered remains are those of Native American ancestry, then the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be notified by telephone within 24 hours. Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, describe the procedures to be followed after the notification of the NAHC.

## **Table of Contents**

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Summary of Findings	ii
I. Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Project	1
1.2 Project Location and Description	1
II. Environmental Information	3
III. Cultural Overview	3
3.1 Prehistory/Protohistory	3
3.2 Ethnography	4
3.3 History	5
IV. Background Research Synthesis	7
V. Field Reconnaissance Program	8
5.1 Methodology	8
5.2 Crew	8
5.3 Results	8
5.4 Recommendations	10
VI. References	11

## **List of Figures**

<b><u>No</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1	Vicinity Map	1
2	Location of Survey	2
3	Aerial View of the General Project Area Looking North	2
4	Specific Plan Area	3
5	Survey Coverage Map	9

## **List of Plates**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1	Selected Views of the Structures within the Project Area	9
2	Photographs Taken of the Entire Project Area	10

# I. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Project

At the request of Bruce O'Neal, Land Use Associates of Fresno, California (representing Michael Waiczis) a Phase I Archaeological study was prepared in support of an environmental document for the proposed Rockwell Specific Plan Project, a 251 acre site located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue within the City Selma, Fresno County, California.. This report was designed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additionally, the results are intended to meet cultural resource guidelines, policies, and procedures as established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The scope of work consisted of:

1. Performing a record search conducted by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield, California.
2. Conducting an on-foot surface reconnaissance of the entire project area.
3. Preparing a report that summarizes the results of the records search and field investigation phases.

## 1.2 Project Location and Description

The project area is located south of Bishop, east of Salinas, northwest of Bakersfield and west of Mount Whitney, within the City of the Selma adopted sphere of influence, Fresno County, California (Figure 1).

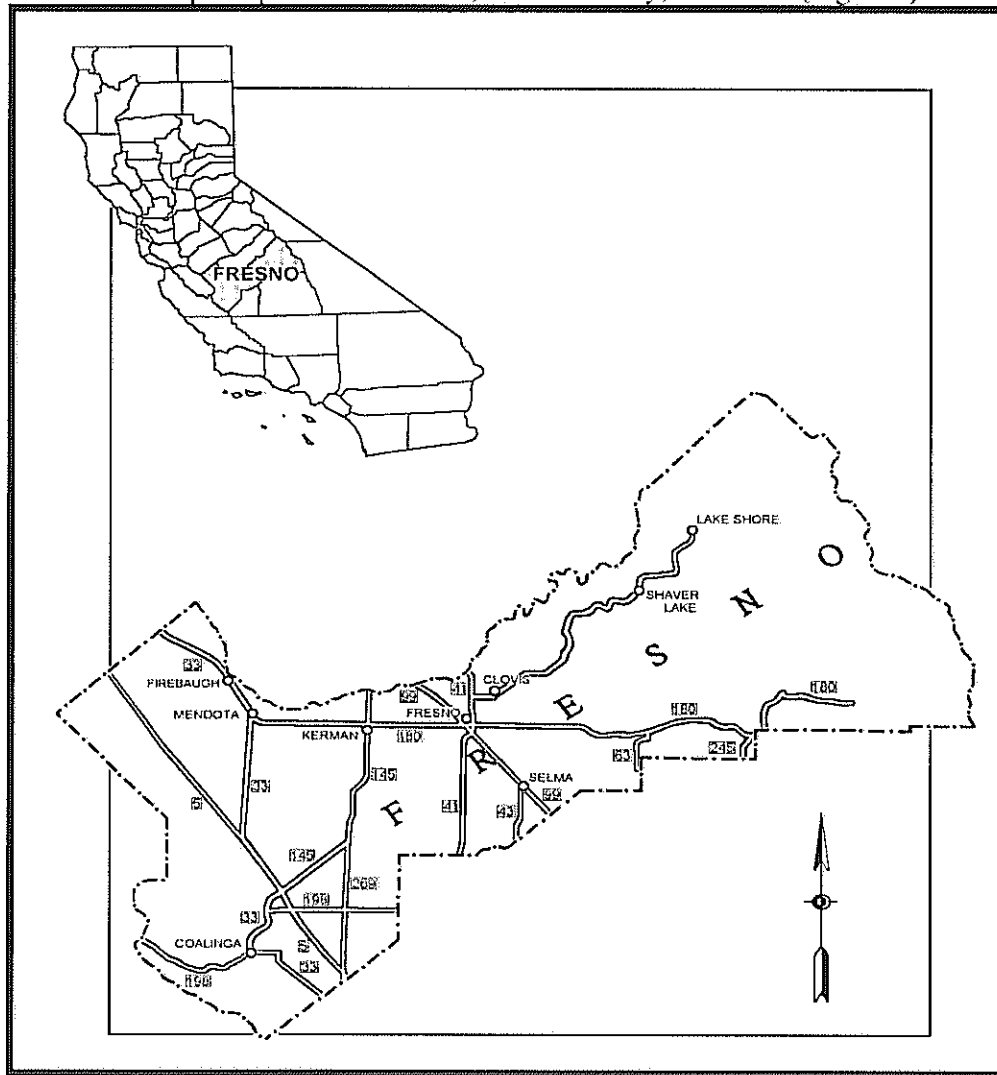


Figure 1: Vicinity Map

More specifically, the property is depicted on the Conejo, California 7.5 minute USGS topographic map (1963 – photorevised 1978) within Township 15 South, Range 21 East, in Section 36 (Figure 2).

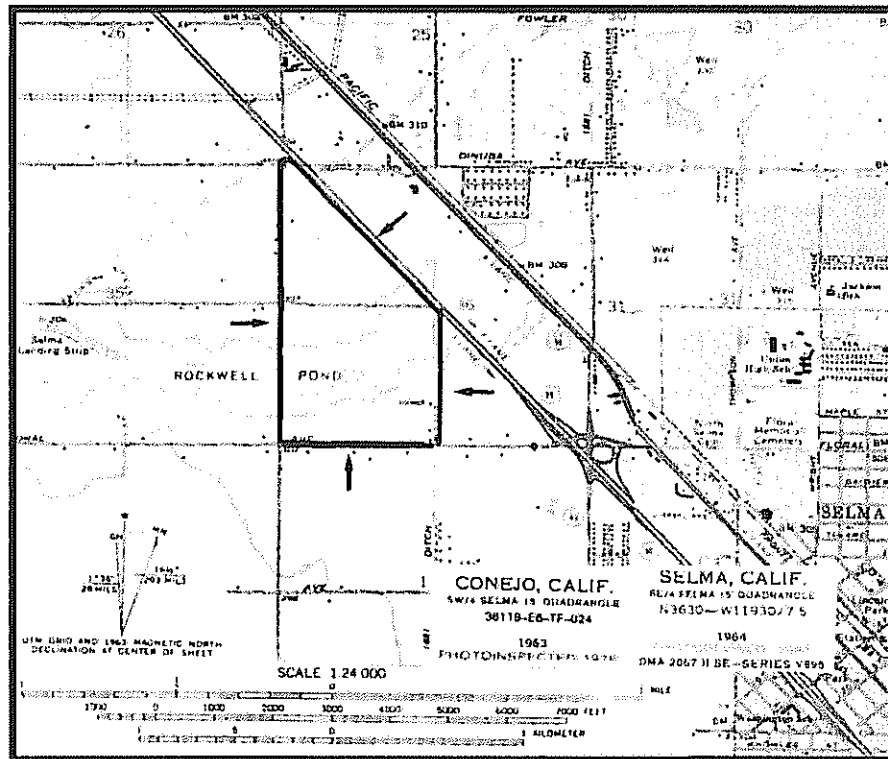


Figure 2: Location of the Survey

The roughly triangular-shaped parcel is bounded by Floral Avenue to the south, De Wolf Avenue to the west, State Route 99 to the northeast and existing development (Wal-Mart) to the east. Dinuba Avenue is located at the northern tip of the subject property. Land to the west is agricultural and Rockwell Pond extends into this area. Land to the south is agricultural. Property to the east is commercially developed and State Route 99 is located to the northeast (Figure 3).

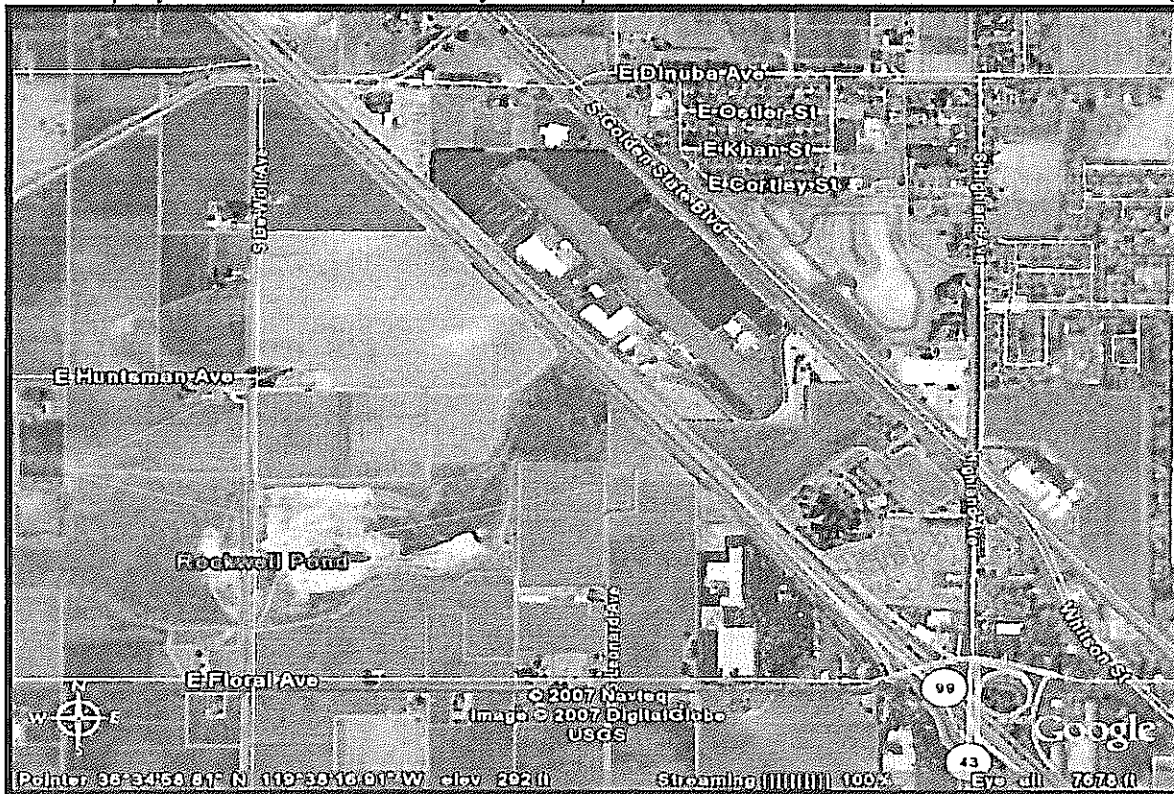


Figure 3: Aerial View of the General Project Area Looking North

The entire project site is designated as "Open Space" in the City of Selma General Plan. The agricultural property in the area is designated and zoned for agricultural use by the Fresno County General Plan (other than Rockwell Pond which is designated as open space). The proposed Project is a specific plan ("Rockwell Specific Plan") for the ultimate urban development of an unincorporated area of roughly 251 acres located adjacent to northwest Selma (Figure 4).

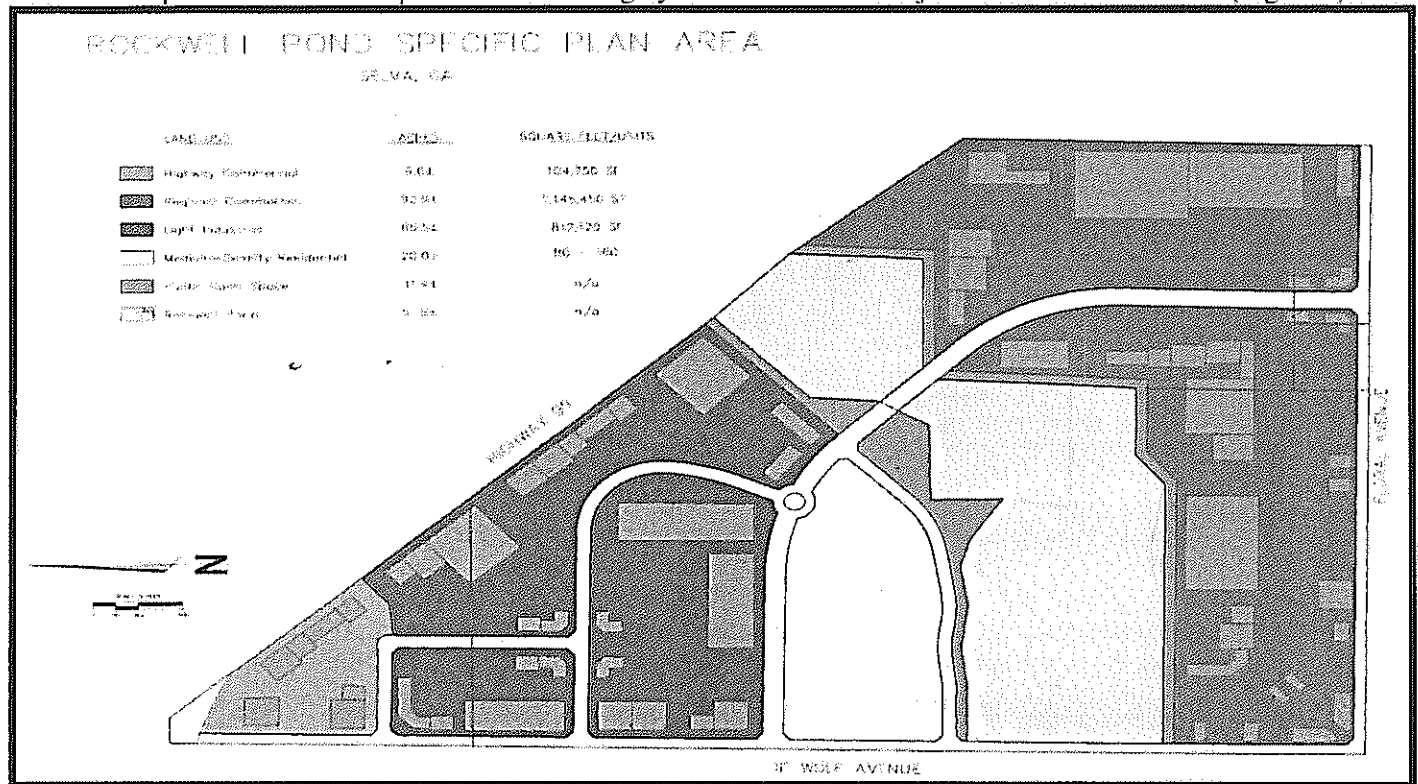


Figure 4: Specific Plan Area

## II. Environmental Information

The subject property, located in Fresno County, California, occupies part of the southern San Joaquin Valley, which represents a large intermontane alluvial trough situated between the Coast Ranges on the west and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada on the east. The Greater Central Valley that extends from near Redding south to Tehachapi Pass a distance of 375 miles is characterized by flat terrain with elevations ranging from 300 to 400 feet at the north and south ends and 50 feet at the center. Pleistocene non-marine deposits dominate the region, and generally, drainages trend northeast-southwest. The Lower Sonoran plant community is part of the California biotic province. The dominant species of tree are the Fremont Cottonwood, California Sycamore, Valley Oak, and Willow, which are found along stream beds or near springs. Fauna common to the project area include the Wood Duck, coyote and California quail. Other fauna common to the region include the stellar jay, red-tailed hawk, Horned Lark, the Magpie and the Cottontail.

## III. Cultural Overview

### 3.1 Prehistory/Protohistory

Archaeological investigations in the Sierra Nevada and the San Joaquin Valley have been an on-going process since 1920. Contributions from numerous researchers have provided a clearer picture of the area's prehistory (Ambro, Peck and Crist 1980:IV.A.) Prior archaeological work in the central and southern Sierra include those of Bennyhoff (1953), Elsasser (1960), Heizer and Elsasser (1953), Hinds (1959, 1962), and Lathrap and Shutler (1955). Recent investigations have come because of proposed hydroelectric reservoir projects in the foothill region (Fenega 1973; Johnson 1973; Moratto 1972; Moratto and Riley 1974; and IRI and TCR 1985; and IRI 1986). For a detailed discussion of the south-central Sierra Nevada region refer to Goldberg, et al. (1986), Goldberg & Moratto (1984), Kipps & Moratto (1985), Moratto (1981, 1984b), Moratto & Singleton (1986), Napton (1974), Napton & Greathouse (1976), TCR-ACRS (1984), and Brian Dillon (1987).

Moratto's early work at Buchanan Reservoir defined a prehistoric sequence of three phases, based on data recovery

from 66 archaeological sites (Brady 1983:3). The three phases include the:

- Chowchilla Phase which is characterized by large, heavy projectile points, cobble mortars, bone artifacts, smaller obsidian tools, beads, shell ornaments of various types and extended burials. Habitation sites during this period, are somewhat limited to the Chowchilla River;
- The Raymond Phase (A.D. 300-A.D. 1500) which is differentiated from the previous period by a noticeable reduction in the size of projectile points that may have coincided with the introduction of the bow and arrow. There is also the introduction of flexed burials, while small obsidian tools continue to be emphasized; and,
- The Madera Phase (A.D. 1500-A.D. 1850) which represents the final development phase of local Native American groups prior to Anglo intrusion into the area, where there is a common occurrence of bedrock mortars, while metates and manos are still present. There continues to be a refinement and use of small obsidian projectile points. A proliferation of "steatite tools, tobacco pipes, and ear plugs" may either represent innovation or diffusion. Artifacts made from European materials are also found during this period. Habitation sites are dominated for the first time by large semi-subterranean structures and circular houses. Flexed burials introduced during the Raymond phase continue during this period. Settlements are found along major drainage's and their tributaries (Moratto 1972:160-168 cited in Wren 1988).

During 1979, Varner conducted excavations at Kerckhoff Reservoir in Madera County where radiocarbon dates suggested a later period occupation there (Crist and Brady 1983:17). Varner (1976:6:22) conducted an excavation at Recreation Point on the shore of Bass Lake. Two radiocarbon samples revealed dates of B.C. 250 (UCR-413 2200+160 B.P.) and A.D. 1325 (UCR-414 625+150 B.P.).

During 1984 and 1985 INFOTEC Research, Inc. and Theodoratus Cultural Research, Inc. undertook investigations on behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the Crane Valley Hydroelectric Project. This work was continued under the direction of S. K. Goldberg of IRI in 1985. Based on the artifactual assemblage recovered from eight prehistoric sites in Crane Valley, occupation in the valley spanned a period of over 3000 years (Moratto 1988:49).

In 1984, Lynn Riley working for Yosemite National Park conducted test excavations at two sites, CA-MAD-250 and -382 in El Portal, CA. Data recovered from these two sites suggested occupation of the Merced River canyon as early as ca. 1690-1500 B.C. Mundy and Hull (1988) conducted extensive testing during the field seasons of 1984 and 1985. Data recovered from CA-MAD-67 suggests occupation of Yosemite Valley as early as B.C. 1510.

In 1983, under the direction of Michael J. Moratto, excavation of portions of a large ceremonial house floor at the ethnographic village of Wassama (CA-MAD-37), southwest of Yosemite National Park, near Ahwahnee took place. Data recovery from portions of the dance floor suggests construction during the historic period (J.L. Brady, pers. com). Excavations in the high Sierra have provided data suggesting occupation dates as early as 4000 B.C. (Kipps 1982). Both excavations and surveys have been conducted in the area of the project dating to the 1940s and 1950s when Oscar Noren, associated with the Millerton Lake Shore Park, identified and located a number of sites near Millerton Lake. In 1962, Theodoratos and Crain conducted a reconnaissance of the Millerton State Recreation Area and identified fifteen separate midden sites along with eighteen milling sites. The artifactual assemblage included obsidian and basalt projectile points, drills, and choppers as well as bedrock and portable mortars and metates. During the investigation, Olivella and trade beads were recovered, in addition to brown, gray and white shards (Wren 1988:4).

Additional surveys by Wren (1975, 1980, and 1983) and Beatty & Becker (1978) near Friant Dam along the San Joaquin River. Beatty and Becker located seven prehistoric sites and three historic sites. Wren (1984) surveyed an adjacent property and recorded two prehistoric sites. Wren and Beck (1979, 1980) surveyed two other properties that resulted in the recordation of 12 prehistoric and eight historic sites. There was one prior survey conducted to the west of the project area in 1980 by Larry Seeman Associates (1980-FR 00391) with no cultural resources encountered.

### **3.2 Ethnography**

Ethnographically, the inhabitants of the region were the Southern Valley Yokuts. Speakers of the Yokutsan Family of languages covered the entire San Joaquin Valley and extended into the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada. Taken together, "Eighteenth-century Valley Yokuts may have numbered 41,000 persons..." making them the largest ethnic group in California during the aboriginal period (Moratto 1984b:173). Kroeber (1976) indicates that many Southern Valley Yokuts tribes were dialectically distinct and each tribe had a defined territory. Tribes consisted of as many as 350 individuals living in one or more villages, and were organized in patrilineal totemic lineages, or moieties. Each tribe had a chief for each moiety, and each village had a shaman. Powers (1976) describes a remarkable regularity to

Southern Valley Yokuts villages, wherein each village has a single row of wedge-shaped thatched huts with a continuous thatched awning running along the front of them. According to Latta, the project area is located between the territory of the Wechikit tribal area to the northeast near Sanger and the Wimalche to the south on the Kings River (1977:163, 171).

Moratto describes the prehistoric valley environment as follows: "Except for stream corridors and the Delta, the prehistoric Central Valley was a lower Sonoran grassland -- the California Prairie" (1984b:170). Selma lies within close proximity to the former location of the sloughs and swamps of the lower Kings River. The environment contained a vast supply of plant and animal foods. Paramount among these were tules, whose roots, seeds, and new shoots provided food, and whose shafts were used for boats, houses, bedding, mats, hunting blinds, and myriad other applications. Cottonwoods, sycamores, and willows lined the creeks, but oaks did not extend far onto the valley floor. Grasses covered the spaces in between, and also were exploited for seeds and roots.

The Southern Valley Yokuts possessed a subsistence system that exploited the lake-marsh-prairie ecosystem, and they "lived in permanent villages on high ground near watercourses and subsisted by fishing, hunting, fowling, and intensive collecting" (Moratto 1984b:173-174). Large mammals that could be found in the valley included tule elk, pronghorn antelope, and deer. Rather than hunt these animals in pursuit, Southern Valley Yokuts constructed hunting blinds near sources of water and waited for the animals to come to the water's edge. Predatory mammals included grizzly bears, mountain lions, wolves, and foxes. Small and medium-sized mammals included squirrels, rabbits, badgers, skunks, raccoons, beavers, and coyotes. Quail, and rabbits and other small mammals were captured with snares, and rabbits were also driven into nets. Fish were caught using weirs, spears, and baskets (Powers 1976, Wallace 1978). Numerous species of resident waterfowl lived in aquatic environments of the valley, and that number was increased by birds flying the Pacific flyway migratory route. In addition to hunting many species of avifauna, the Southern Valley Yokuts also collected their eggs. Resources absent in the valley included raw materials for both flaked stone tools and ground stone tools. Cedar trees, the wood of choice for crafting bows, also were absent.

Southern Valley Yokuts were first encountered by Europeans in 1772 when Pedro Fages led an expedition through Tejon Pass, past Lake Buena Vista, and on toward the San Luis Obispo area. Mission influences did not extend into the southern San Joaquin Valley directly, but rather through runaway mission Indians who brought with them practices learned at the missions. Thus, the San Joaquin Valley Yokuts "acquired a taste for horseflesh; later they wanted horses to ride. Aided by apostate neophytes, the Yokuts began making forays against the mission and the rancho herds. They raided so successfully that they became known as 'Horsethief Indians'" (Wallace 1978:460). Consequently, punitive expeditions into the valley were organized by the rancheros to recover stolen livestock, for punishment, and to acquire slaves from the early to mid-1800s. One of the most devastating events for the Southern Valley Yokuts was "an 1833 epidemic, which may have been malaria of unusual severity (Cook 1955a). The epidemic devastated the native population, with an estimated mortality of 75 percent (Wallace 1978:460).

A record of the devastation of Native American populations in the Central Valley was recorded by Colonel J. Warner, a member of the Ewing-Young trapping expedition, which passed through the valley in 1832-1833 (Gilbert 1879:11). Warner made the following observation about Indian villages located along the San Joaquin River from the foothill region down into the valley floor "...many of those villages contained from fifty to one hundred dwellings, all of which were built with poles and thatched with rushes...On the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Calaveras rivers, there were Indian villages above the mouths, as also at, or near, their junction with the San Joaquin...On our return, late in the summer of 1833, we found the valleys depopulated. From the head of the Sacramento, to the great bend and slough of the San Joaquin, we did not see more than six or eight live Indians; while large numbers of their skulls and dead bodies were to be seen under almost every shade tree, near water, where the uninhabited and deserted villages had been converted into graveyards. Once California was annexed by the United States, settlers dispossessed the Southern Valley Yokuts from their lands. The remaining tribes were eventually relocated to reservations near the Tehachapi Mountains and Madera, and ultimately to the Tule River Reservation.

### **3.3 History**

The history of the region is linked to exploration dating back to the eighteenth century. The first Europeans in lower foothill region of the western Sierra were most likely an expedition led by Jose Joaquin Moraga. Clough (1968:9) notes that Moraga entered "the northern end of the valley and traveled south as far as Madera County, forded the river and traveled east one day". Early 19th century contact with valley Native Americans came about as a result of punitive actions by Spanish soldiers seeking runaway mission Indians and military deserters (Cook 1960, 1962). During the

Mexican Period, several expeditions into the valley resulted in Indians being captured and returned to the missions. Jose Pico passed through or near Gashowu territory in January, 1826 (Cook 1962:182-183). Sebastian Rodriguez may have made contact with the Gashowu in 1828. Between 1828 and 1837 Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo made a number of punitive expeditions into the valley (Crampton 1932:3). One source indicates that some of the local Indians were missionized as 49 Gashowu names appear in the Book of Baptism at Soledad Mission from 1791-1846. The proximity of Soledad Mission to the project area suggests that the Gashowu were impacted by the European expeditions into the valley (Cook 1960, 1962 and INFOTEC 1988:34). During the 1840s, more Mexicans and Anglos settled the region.

Near the project area and dating back to the 1850s, a road system would begin to evolve in response to the rush from southern California, to the gold fields. The Stockton-Los Angeles Road, also known as the Millerton Road or the Stockton-Visalia Road, went from Centerville to Millerton and then onto all points north. This road became a major thoroughway for travelers from the south. As the road was used with greater frequency, the Yokuts were forced to adapt to the presence of Anglos for one reason or another (Brady 1985:14). Historical highlights for Fresno County are adapted from Wash (1966:10-27) in an "Outline History of Fresno County" as follows:

- 1848 The discovery of gold brought thousands of adventures to the lower Mother Lode area causing increased friction between Indians and miners.
- 1851 Soldiers were sent into the area in response to the Mariposa Indian War, and a military post was eventually built on the south bank of the San Joaquin River above Friant and southwest of Auberry.
- 1856 The County of Fresno is formed and includes the present County of Madera and parts of San Benito, Tulare, Kings, Inyo and Mono Counties. The County Seat is placed at Millerton.
- 1858 The Butterfield Overland Stage has stops in several west side towns including Fresno City, Firebaugh's Ferry, and Elkhorn Springs. The Stage continues to run until the Civil War.
- 1860 Fresno County's population is listed as "4,304 whites, 305 Chinese, and 3294 Indians".
- 1863 Union troops were stationed at Fort Miller to keep the territory in Union possession.
- 1866 William Hazelton, Jesse Morrow, and Harvey Akers divert water from the Kings River for irrigation. The Woods Brothers build Tollhouse Road through the foothills to the top of the grade.
- 1868 The Centerville ditch is constructed to irrigate the land around Centerville.
- 1870 The first successful wheat crop in the county is harvested by R. McCapes near present day Sanger.
- 1871 Moses J. Church is hired by Easterby to build an irrigation canal to Easterby's property. The Fresno Canal and Irrigation Company is formed by Church a forerunner of the Fresno Irrigation District.
- 1872 The town of Fresno Station is born and the Central and Southern Pacific Railroads ran through Tulare, King's River, Fresno and Borden
- 1873 An inventory of the Town of Fresno list 16 buildings, including homes, business, and a school.
- 1874 An election is held to determine the new County Seat and Fresno is selected.
- 1880 The population of Fresno County reaches 9,478.
- 1881 The Fresno Colony is founded by Thomas Hughes.
- 1882 Fires nearly destroy the City of Fresno.
- 1883 Forty-three Armenian families arrive in Fresno. M. Theo Kearney begins development of his Fruit Vale Estate. James Porteous perfects the Fresno Scraper.
- 1884 Floods nearly destroy Fresno.
- 1885 Fresno is incorporated as a city of the fifth class.
- 1886 Dr. E. B. Perrin establishes the Perrin Colonies and a land boom is at hand.
- 1889 The 54-mile Sanger to Millwood Flume is completed.
- 1900 Fresno County's population grew to 37,862.
- 1910 Fresno County' population grows to 75,657.
- 1911 Fresno State Normal School (now California State University, Fresno) was established.
- 1920 Fresno County population grows to 128,779
- 1928 The Kettleman Hills oil fields are discovered.
- 1930 The population of Fresno County grew to 144,379.
- 1940 The Fresno County population grows to 178,574.
- 1944 Friant Dam is completed and Millerton Lake is formed, flooding the area that was the original County Seat.
- 1950 Fresno County population grows to 276,515.
- 1954 Fresno County becomes the leading agricultural producing county in the Nation.

The existence of Selma is linked to the railroad, which ran down the middle of the San Joaquin Valley in the 1870s. Selma would be located on the Southern Pacific Railroad, 15 miles south of Fresno. One of the city's founders, J. E. Whitson purchase 160 acres of land on what was considered a "sandy desert" with his soldier's land warrant (Thompson 1891:19). As the Southern Pacific railroad made its way down the valley, Whitson concluded that a 15 miles south of Fresno was the right distance for another town site. Four of the local farmers, one of which was Whitson, began pleading with the Southern Pacific to establish a non-agency station and siding. A strip of land within the property owned by Whitson and E. H. Tucker was given to the railroad company and the town of Selma was born (Clough and Secrest Jr. 1984:171).

During 1880, the community of Selma consisted of a grain warehouse near the railroad, but shortly thereafter, a general store, hotel, and post office were constructed. The first newspaper, the Selma Irrigator, began publication in 1886. By 1892 the town had expanded considerably. According Clough and Secrest (1984:173) the town had "several general stores, two 'family grocery stores,' two clothing stores, two large lumberyards, a planning mill, a raisin packing house (established in 1869), five blacksmith shops, two butcher shops, seven hotels and five livery stables." However, the main industry for Selma was agriculture. The rich soil in and around Selma was found to be very productive. The construction of the Fowler Switch Canal and the Centerville and Kingsburg ditch provided ample opportunities for agriculture to expand around the new town site of Selma.

According to one source "vineyards and orchards were planted" and because of the success of diversified farming in the area, Selma became one of the fastest growing communities next to Fresno (Thompson 1981:19). Early on, Selma was the second largest municipality in Fresno County next to the city of Fresno. During the early 1880s many of the new residents in and around Selma came from settlements "in what was called the Mendocino district to the northeast. Selma was incorporated March 6, 1893" (Winchell 1933:164).

#### IV. Background Research Synthesis

A record search was performed by professional archaeologist Jon Brady at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield, California, on November 13, 2007 (RS #07-383). The results of the records search indicated that no cultural resources of a prehistoric or historic nature have been previously recorded within the project boundaries. The following information applies to a one-mile radius of the project area:

- Archaeological site P-10-002963, a segment of the Fowler Switch Canal, lies on the east side of State Route 99. More specifically, it is located northeast of the current project study area.
- No historic archaeological sites or historic properties are recorded
- Twenty-three prior studies have been performed: Ambro, et al 1980; Beatty 1981; Beatty & Becker 1973; Brady 2003a,b; Crist, 1981; Crist & Brady 1983; Dillon 1987; Dondero & Riley 1988; Hatoff 1995; InfoTech 1985, 1986, 1988; Kus 1989; Napton 1984, 1992; Nissen 1992; Nissen & Kennedy 1991; Peck & Crist 1979, 1980; Rugroden 2001; Tetra Tech/KCM Inc 2002; Wlodarski & Brady 2003. None of these investigations were performed for the subject property.
- A prior survey by Napton (1992) covering 113.6 acres was performed adjacent to the southeast corner of the current proposed project area; no cultural resources were identified.
- No National Register properties are identified.
- No significant California State Historic Resources Inventory properties are noted.
- No California Historical Landmarks (1990) exist.
- No California Points of Historical Interest (1992) are recorded.
- According to Granskog (1984), "From the early 1900's to the 1960's, this area was devoted to agricultural usage, primarily fig orchards. Fig trees were planted about 30 feet apart by blasting because of the hardpan in the area. Because of this intensive agricultural usage for more than fifty years, any prehistoric sites that could be expected in the area most likely have been destroyed or effectively buried." By the mid-1960s, residential and commercial development began making headway into this area of Fresno.
- Additional sources were also consulted, including: the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; Gold Districts of California; the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Fresno County (2000); The California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility Listings for Fresno County (2000); and, Historic maps on file at the Geography Department Map Reference Center, California State University Northridge.

## V.

## Field Reconnaissance Program

### **5.1 Methodology**

As part of the scope of work, a thorough surface reconnaissance program which entails an on-foot inspection of the entire project area without major modifications the land surface, was performed by the Robert Wlodarski, Principal Investigator with the aid of Jon Brady, Kristina Brady and Justin Brady of J&R Environmental Services of Clovis, on November 18 and 23, 2007.

### **5.2 Crew**

The crew information follows: **Robert Wlodarski**, Principal Investigator has a BA in History and Anthropology, an MA in Anthropology from California State University Northridge (CSUN), 35 years of professional experience in California archaeology, completed over 1500 cultural resource management projects to date, is certification in field archaeology, and theoretical/ archival research by the Register of Professional Archaeologists [RPA], is a registered California historian by the California Committee for the Promotion of History [CCPH], and meets NPS Standards & Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation; **Jon L. Brady** meets the Secretary of Interior Guidelines for archaeology and architectural history, has a B.A. in both Political Science and Anthropology and an M.A. in History with an emphasis on Historical Archaeology from California State University, Fresno, and has served as a consulting archaeologist and historian over the last 26 years working with both Section 106 and CEQA compliance documents; **R. Kristina Brady** has 15 years of archaeological survey experience in California, performed numerous Phase I archaeological surveys and Extended Phase I archaeological investigations, has met the basic course work in Anthropology to qualify her for field survey work and report writing, and performed laboratory analysis on a number of archaeological projects, and report writing; and, **Justin M. Brady** has three years of archaeological survey experience in California, and has participated in numerous archaeological surveys in the Greater Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada under the supervision of the Jon L. Brady.

### **5.3 Results**

The following field observations were made during the on-foot field inspection of the subject property:

- The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Floral Avenue and De Wolf Avenue.
- The roughly triangular-shaped parcel is bounded by Floral Avenue to the south, De Wolf Avenue to the west, State Route 99 to the northeast and existing development (Wal-Mart) to the east. Dinuba Avenue is located at the northern tip.
- The agricultural property within the project area is currently designated and zoned for agricultural use by the Fresno County General Plan (the Rockwell Pond area is currently designated as open space).
- The land to the west of the subject property is currently used for agricultural purposes, with Rockwell Pond extending into this area.
- The land to the south is currently used for agricultural purposes.
- The property to the east is commercially developed and State Route 99 is located to the northeast.
- Transects were spaced at no more than five meter intervals throughout the parcel where conditions permitted. In areas where row crops were planted, spacing was roughly every third row.
- Ground visibility was good to excellent throughout, and all but 10-acres located in the north central portion of the property (currently being harvested) was visually inspected for surface signs of cultural resources.
- The northernmost portion of the project area contains vineyards, a cleared area where crops were recently harvested, fallow ground, and a pre-1958 structure.
- The middle portion of the property contains 10-acres of crops, fallow land, and the Rockwell Pond borrow area.
- The southern portion of the project area contains a portion of the Rockwell Pond borrow area, vineyards, and four pre-1958 residential structures.
- Generally, vineyards account for roughly 40% of the project area, with the remaining terrain containing the excavated Rockwell Pond area, row crops, and fallow or recently disked land.
- All of the project area has been moderately disturbed due to prior agricultural activities including cultivation and disking, the use of the Rockwell Pond area as a borrow pit, access road construction, use for vineyards, the construction of residences and associated outbuildings, utility connection to the property and associated disturbances caused by natural drainage and soil erosion, and the construction of associated roads and State Route 99.

Figure 5 illustrates the survey coverage for the project looking north.

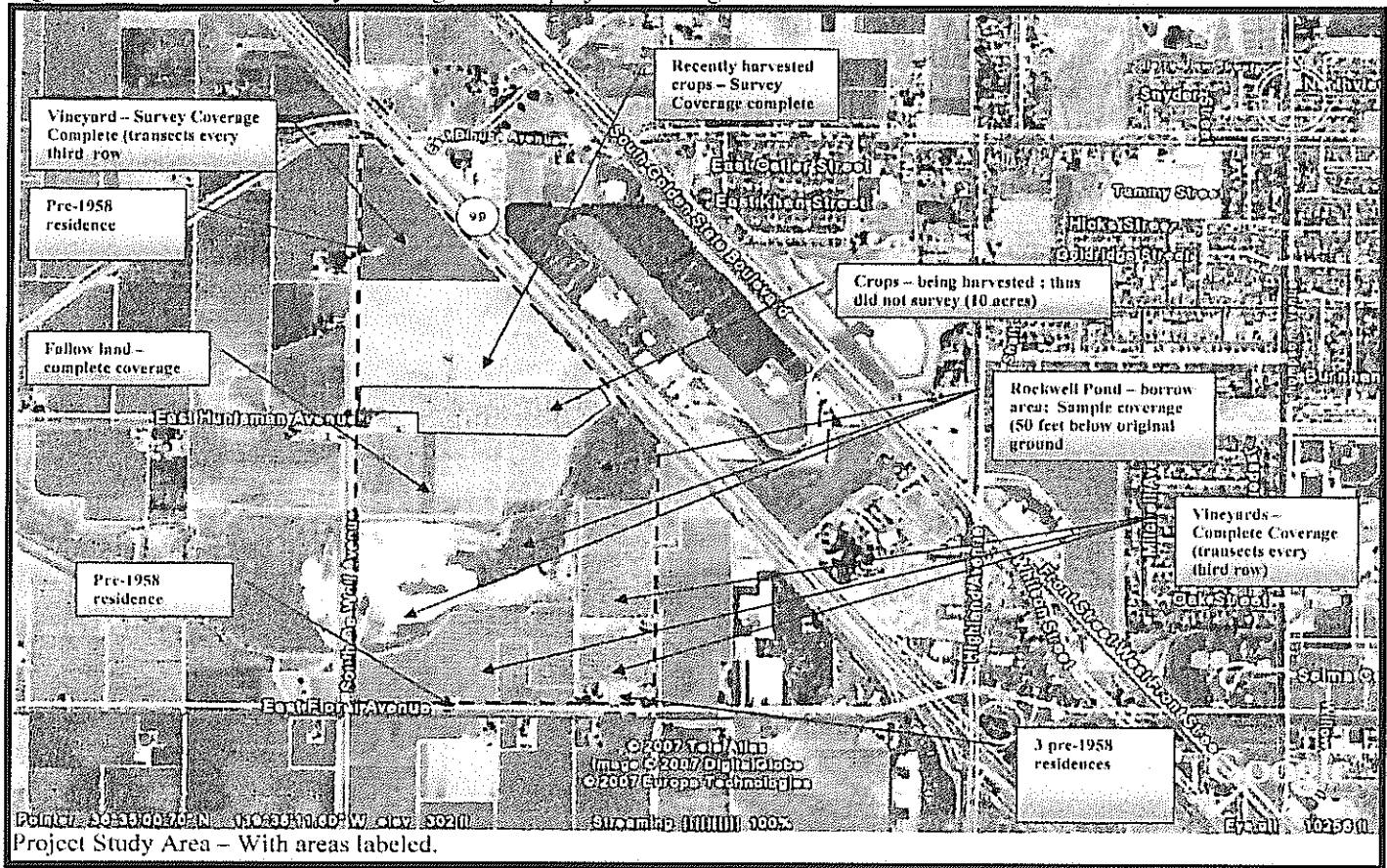


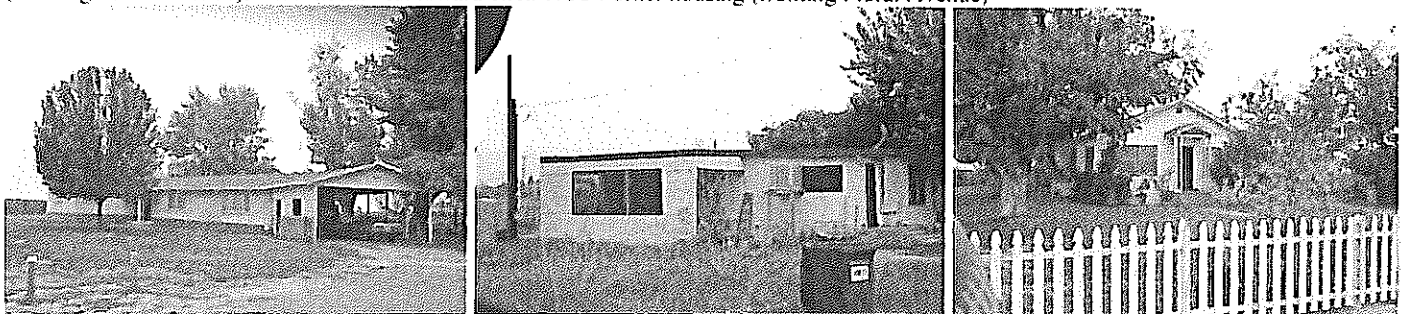
Figure 5: Survey Coverage Map

Plate 1 illustrates selected photographs taken of several structures within the project area, while Plate 2 illustrates all photographs taken of the project area.

### Plate 1: Selected Views of the Structures within the Project Area

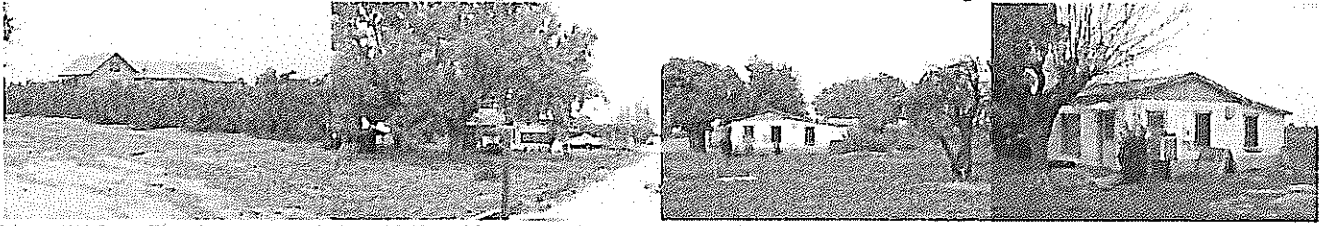


Looking NE from Floral Avenue toward circa 1910 residence at north end of project area; Looking NW toward circa 1950 worker housing (fronting Floral Avenue); View northwest toward circa 1950 worker housing (fronting Floral Avenue)

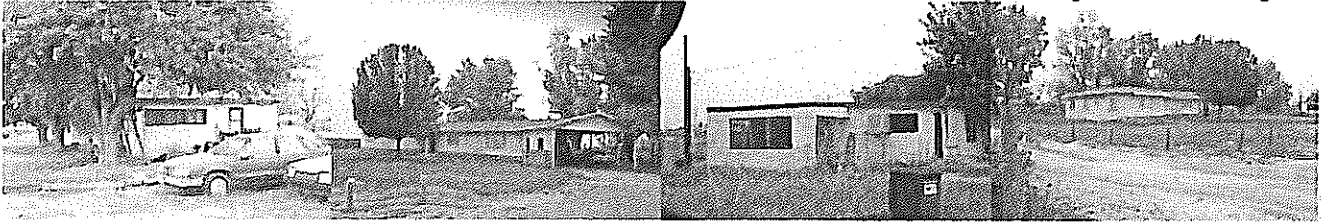


View from Floral Avenue toward circa 1960s residence; View from Floral Avenue toward unoccupied residence; View of circa 1940 residence (note picket fence fronting north side of Floral Avenue)

## Plate 2: Photographs Taken of the Entire Project Area



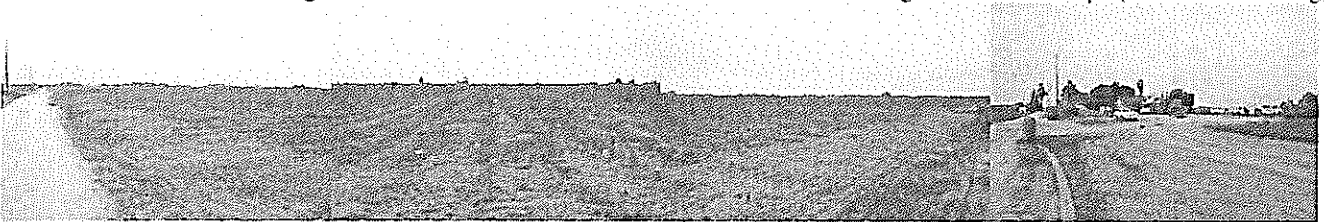
Looking NW from Floral Ave toward circa 1950 residence; Looking west toward east elevation of worker housing; Looking NW toward (façade) elevations of worker housing fronting Floral Avenue); East elevation and view of façade of worker housing, fronting Floral Ave looking west



View of circa 1960 residence showing façade and carport on east elevation looking NW; View of unoccupied worker housing fronting north side of Floral Avenue looking NE; View north of dirt access road adjacent to vineyards fronting north side of Floral Avenue looking north; View looking north toward vineyards



Looking NE toward west elevation and façade of circa 1960 residence fronting Floral Ave; Looking north toward vineyards; View from DeWitt Avenue toward fallow land; Looking east from DeWitt Ave toward Rockwell Pond, which is being used as a borrow pit (State Route 99 in bg)



View from dirt access road looking NE and north toward row crops; View looking SE from DeWitt Avenue toward recently plowed field; View from DeWitt Avenue toward western edge of recently plowed field with post-1960 Ranch in background (all within project study area)



Looking NE at façade and west elevation of circa 1940s cottage fronting Floral Avenue; Views looking east from DeWitt Avenue toward vineyard located at northern end of project study area; Views from DeWitt Avenue looking NE toward circa 1910 worker housing located at north end of project study area; Close view of circa 1910 worker housing at north end of project study area looking NE.

No prehistoric archaeological remains were encountered within the surveyed area. Five historic structures adjacent to Floral Avenue or DeWitt Avenue dating prior to 1958 were noted within the parcel.

### 5.4 Recommendations

If future development has the potential to impact any or all of these structures, then they should be evaluated for significance under CEQA. As a means of evaluating a resource(s) potential to yield significant data, eligibility criteria have been established from which general research goals can be proposed to address the specifics of a site or feature. These goals are aimed at examining and documenting such broad behavioral patterns as: Ethnicity, acculturation and interaction; the organization and utilization of space by individuals or groups; changing land use

patterns; the length and duration of occupation; technological advances and contributions; and, specialized activities and occurrences. Significance criteria includes the contextual association which provides the cultural affiliation or its place in time, its relationship to a person or event, or its architectural value; integrity of setting, feeling, and association, and, significance on the basis of contextual association and resource integrity. Since the properties in question appear to relate to the agricultural development of Selma, there is a potential that they may be historically significant on a local or regional level. Plate 1 illustrates selected photographs taken of the project area.

Since by its nature, a walkover can only confidently assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resource remains, customary caution is advised in development activities within the project area. Therefore, should unanticipated cultural resource remains (Cultural resource remains may include artifacts, shell, bone, features, altered soils, foundations, trash pits and privies, etc.) be encountered during construction or land modification activities within the study area that have not otherwise been considered in this report, the Fresno County Planning Department shall be notified immediately to determine the nature and extent of such resources and the appropriate measures to mitigate potential adverse impacts. If human remains are discovered, then the procedures described in Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code shall be followed. These procedures require notification of the County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines that the discovered remains are those of Native American ancestry, then the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be notified by telephone within 24 hours. Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, describe the procedures to be followed after the notification of the NAHC.

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