

Northeast Center of the
California Historical Resources
Information System

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June 4, 2019

City of Chico
Community Development Department – Planning
P.O. Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927
Attn: Ms. Shannon Costa

RECEIVED
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CITY OF CHICO
PLANNING SERVICES

**I.C. File # R19-1
Project Review**

RE: ER 19-02 (Thorntree)/ Don Brown/ APN 016-200-122
T22N, R1E MDBM / Arroyo Chico Land Grant
USGS Richardson Springs 7.5' and 15' quadrangles
7 acres (Butte County)

Dear Ms. Costa,

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

RESULTS:

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

Historic Resources: According to our records, no sites of this type have been recorded in the project area. However, one site of this type has been recorded within a quarter mile of the project. This consists of a rail grade that was once part of the Sacramento Northern Railroad/Northern Electric Railroad. Unrecorded historic cultural resources may be located in the project area.

The USGS Richardson Springs (1952) 15' quad map indicates Sycamore Creek and the Arroyo Chico Land Grant are within the project area while the Chico Municipal Airport, roads, and buildings are in the project vicinity. The GLO (1867) map indicates the Rancho Arroyo Chico is within the project area and a historic road is within the project vicinity. A copy of this is enclosed.

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

Previous Archaeological Investigations: According to our records, the project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. The studies are listed below.

Manning, James P. (Society for California Archaeology)

1980 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Foothill Park Subdivision*
(Addition)

NEIC Report 009382

Resources:

None

Literature Search: The official records and maps for archaeological sites and surveys in Butte County were reviewed. Also reviewed: **National Register of Historic Places - Listed properties and Determined Eligible Properties** (2012), **California Register of Historical Resources** (2012), **California Points of Historical Interest** (2009), **California Investigation of Historic Resources** (1976), **California Historical Landmarks** (2012), **Gold Districts of California – Bulletin 193** (2012), **Historic Spots in California – Fifth Edition** (2002), **Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California** (1978), and **Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Butte County** (2012).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon the above information and the local topography, and regional history, the project is located in an area considered to be highly sensitive for prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic cultural resources. The *Mechoopda* subgroup of Konkow Maidu populations used the local region for seasonal and/or permanent settlement, as well as for the gathering of plants, roots, seeds, domestic materials, and hunting seasonal game. Historically, Euro-Americans utilized the region for farming and transportation opportunities.

Therefore, due to the sensitivity, and because the previous survey is more than ten years old, we recommend that a professional archaeologist be contacted to conduct a cultural resources review of the project area. The consultant can offer recommendations for avoidance and protection of

previously recorded as well as any newly identified resources. In addition, any existing structures should be evaluated for potential historical significance. The project archaeologist will be able to offer recommendations for the preservation of or mitigation of effects on any cultural resources encountered as a result of field survey. A list of qualified consultants is available online at www.chrisinfo.org.

The project archaeologist should also contact the appropriate local Native American representatives for information regarding traditional cultural properties that may be located within project boundaries for which we have no records. The Native American Heritage Commission should be contacted at (916) 373-3710 for information regarding Native American representatives in the vicinity of the project.

During any phase of parcel development, if any potential prehistoric, protohistoric, and/or historic cultural resources are encountered, all work should cease in the area of the find pending an examination of the site and materials by the project archaeologist. This request to cease work in the area of a potential cultural resource find is intended for accidental discoveries made during construction activities, and is not intended as a substitute for the recommended cultural resources survey.

The fee for this project review is \$75.00 (1 hour of Project Review Time @ \$75.00 per hour). Payment for this project review was received on May 9, 2019 (Check # 11257). Thank you for your dedication in preserving Butte County's and California's irreplaceable cultural heritage, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,



Noel Jones
Research Associate