

# Appendix D

---

## Cultural Resources Memorandum



**Cultural Resources Overview Report  
SRR Project – Modesto Irrigation District  
Claribel Substation Site**

**Prepared by:** Nicholas Hanten    **Contact Information:** gerald.snow@water.ca.gov  
**Peer-Reviewer:**                      **Date:** 1/4/2023

**Jurisdiction:** California Department of Water Resources

**Regulatory Nexus:**     CEQA         NEPA/ NHPA Section 106

**Project Location:** The proposed project (project) is located in unincorporated Stanislaus County between the cities of Modesto and Riverbank. The proposed project site is located on a parcel containing the existing Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Claribel substation, with the project directly adjacent to and east of the existing substation. The proposed installation area is currently a vacant, undeveloped area used for storage and staging. The project is depicted in Sections 3 of Township 3 South, Range 9 East, on the *Riverbank, California* 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 1).

**Project Description:** California Assembly Bill (AB) 205 and AB 209 created a state-led Strategic Reliability Reserve (SRR) program to be developed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in conjunction with its sister state agencies, the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Air Resources Board (CARB). As part of the SRR program, DWR is looking to develop new emergency and temporary generators, new energy storage systems, and clean energy generation projects, and generate funding for an extension of existing energy generation operations. This effort is just one part of California’s broader effort to safeguard the state’s energy system in the face of climate-induced drought, wildfires, and heat waves that are impacting the state’s energy grid. The equipment installed as part of the SRR program would be used only in extreme peak-demand events to provide temporary power generation to stabilize and supplement existing grid-tied power supplies to avoid grid failures.

The proposed project would include installation of 123 natural gas generators, arranged in 24 rows with five generators each and one row with three generators. Associated infrastructure proposed for installation adjacent to the generators would include 25 transformers, 25 generator step-up transformers (GSUs), and four electric switchgear boxes. Each generator would be housed in an enclosure with maximum dimensions of 120 inches by 96 inches by 142 inches (length by width by height). The overall footprint of the proposed generator facility measures approximately 200 feet by 250 feet (Figure 2).

Construction of the proposed project would include site preparation and grading of approximately 70,000 square feet of land for installation of the generators. There would be approximately 900 feet of trenching for fuel pipelines on the project site. Proposed trenches would be 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep. No demolition would be required and no import of soil is anticipated. The area proposed for installation of the generators would be

surfaced with several inches of compacted crushed concrete base rock. Overall depth of disturbance is not expected to exceed 6-feet below existing surface accounting for grading, trenching, and potential over-excavation.

## Background Research

### Data sources:

- Internal DWR Cultural Database
- California Historical Resources Information System Record Search (CHRIS):
  - New     Previous

On October 14, 2022, a CHRIS records search was completed on behalf of Dudek by staff at the Central California Information Center (CCaIC). The records search request included the project footprint with a 1-mile radius buffer. The CHRIS search included previously recorded cultural resources and cultural resource studies, as well as review of the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Points of Historical Interest list, California Historical Landmarks list, Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility list, and California State Historic Resources Inventory list (Confidential Attachment A).

- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Search and Native American Contact List Request Sacred Lands Search Results:
  - Negative     Positive

On October 27, 2022, Dudek requested an NAHC Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contact List. The results of this search, received December 9, 2022, were negative. Additionally, Tribal engagement letters requesting consultation for this project, as well as the SRR Energy Project Lodi and Turlock Sites, were sent to tribes on the Tribal Consultation List (see Attachment B)

- Aerial Imagery: 1957, 1967, 1984, 1985, 1993, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 (NETR 2022)
- Historic USGS Maps: 1916, 1954, 1965, 1972, 1978, 1987, 2012, 2015, 2018 (NETR 2022)
- GLO Maps:
- Previous publications and reports
- Other:

Previous survey coverage:         No     Yes

Fourteen cultural resource investigations have been undertaken within 1-mile radius of the project footprint, 8 of which intersect the project area: ST-03857, ST-5167, ST-6121, ST-6335, ST-7244, ST-8004, ST-8005, ST-8006. Four of these studies included intensive pedestrian survey of a portion of the project footprint, such that approximately half of the project footprint has been subject to previous survey coverage most of which was concentrated in the northern portion of the project footprint.

Previously recorded resources in project footprint: According to the CCalC record search results, no previously recorded cultural resources are located in the project footprint, however 22 historic-era built environment resources within a 1-mile radius (see Table 1 below)

**Table 1. Previously Record Resources within 1-mile of Project Site**

Resource	Name	Age	Type	Attributes
P-50-000074	San Joaquin Pipelines #1 and #2, Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct;	Historic	Structure	Engineering Structure
P-50-000075	M.I.D. Lateral No. 6; Lateral No. 6	Historic	Structure	Water conveyance system
P-50-002158	Gonzalez Property	Historic	Building, Structure	Single family property
P-50-002159	Besio Property	Historic	Building, Structure	Farm/ranch
P-50-002160	Liakos Property		Building, Structure	Farm/ranch
P-50-002161	Renata Property	Historic	Building, Structure	Farm/ranch
P-50-002162	Ellis Property (1)	Historic	Building, Structure	Single family property
P-50-002163	Ellis Property (2)	Historic	Building, Structure	Farm/ranch
P-50-002164	Rodin Property	Historic	Building, Structure	Farm/ranch
P-50-002271	4616 Oakdale Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch
P-50-002283	4500 Oakdale Rd.	Historic	Building	Single family property
P-50-002284	1301 Crawford Rd.	Historic	Building	Single family property
P-50-002285	1300 Crawford Rd.	Historic	Building	Single family property
P-50-002286	5348 Coffee Rd.	Historic	Building	Single family property; Ancillary building
P-50-002287	5413 Oakdale Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch
P-50-002288	707 Claribel Rd.	Historic	Building	Ancillary building
P-50-002289	706 Crawford Rd.	Historic	Building, Structure	Single family property; Ancillary building
P-50-002296	4828 Oakdale Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch
P-50-002297	4636 Coffee Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch
P-50-002298	4724 Coffee Rd.	Historic	Building	Ancillary building
P-50-002299	4309 Oakdale Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch
P-50-002300	4613 Coffee Rd.	Historic	Building	Farm/ranch

Potential resources in project footprint:

Review of historic aerials and topographic maps was conducted to assess the history of development and disturbance within the project footprint, as a means of assessing the potential presence of unrecorded cultural resources. Topographic maps show the project footprint and most of the surrounding area as undeveloped or agricultural lands for the duration of map coverage. Similarly, Claribel Road and the Modesto Irrigation District Ditch Lateral, both of which are immediately north of the project footprint, are evident and appear unchanged on all of the topographic maps. The only development in the

immediate vicinity of the project evident on the topographic maps is the construction of a trailer park on the opposite side of the irrigation ditch some time between the 1972 and 1978 maps.

The available aerial imagery is consistent with the topographic maps, but do document the construction of the MID substation during the 200s. The project footprint appears as an orchard on the earliest available image from 1957, with Calribel Road and the irrigation lateral clearly visible. In the 1967 aerial image, the western portion of the project footprint appears to have been converted into open fields, but no additional changes are evident. The 1984 map shows the entire project footprint as agricultural fields with the only additional change being the presence of the aforementioned trailer park on the west side of the irrigation ditch. The first major development within the project footprint appears in 2009, at which time the MID Claribel substation first appears in the northern portion of the project footprint. At this time, the proposed location for the installation of the generators appears to have been graded. Subsequent images show no appreciable changes within the project footprint.

Based on the available historic documentation, the project footprint appears to be entirely disturbed, first by agricultural activity, then by construction of the MID Claribel substation. Depending on the depth of disturbance which occurred during construction of the MID Claribel substation, undisturbed subsurface soils may be present in the area. However, given the lack of natural resources or topographic features in the immediate vicinity, the area appears to have low archaeological sensitivity.

### **Field Visit**

Survey:  No  Yes

An intensive pedestrian survey of the all accessible portions of project footprint was conducted on November 10, 2022, by Dudek Archaeologist Walter Tovar-Saldana. The survey involved walking in closely-spaced transects (less than 10 meters apart) and scanning the ground for cultural resources in all portions of the project footprint outside the Claribel substation fence. Surface visibility was variable. Visibility in the undeveloped eastern portion of the project footprint was excellent (approximately 95%, with a small amount of vegetation), but visibility was very low (less than 25%) within the southern portion of the project footprint, which is currently being used for agriculture. Exposed soils consisted of brown, sandy-clay loam. Photographs were taken to document the existing conditions within the project footprint (Figure 3).

Newly recorded resources: The intensive-level pedestrian survey of the project did not identify any surficial evidence of previously unidentified archaeological resources.

### **Results and Recommendations**

The results of the cultural resource inventory efforts are based on CCalC records search results, a review of historic topographic maps and aerial photos, and an intensive pedestrian survey. One cultural resource was identified as a result of these efforts.

Eight previous cultural resource investigations intersect the project footprint, however portions of the project have not been subject to previous archaeological survey. No resources are recorded within the project footprint.

Record search results did indicate that there are two listed/eligible linear resources adjacent to the proposed project site. These linear resources include the San Joaquin Pipeline (P-50-000074 and P-39-004860), which is listed in the California Register and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A/1, for its association with development of San Francisco city water, which influences and allowed city growth and C/3, for its demonstration of innovative engineering and technology. The other linear resource is the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Lateral No. 6, which was recommended eligible under NRHP/CRHR A/1: for its association with the settlement and agricultural development of Stanislaus County. However, though these resources are adjacent to the proposed project site, no physical changes to these resources or to the character-defining features which support their eligibility/listing in the national and state registers would be affected by the project. Moreover the listed resource segments are multiple miles in length and as such, the introduction of a new building or structure at one point along their length will not affect the ability of the resource to convey overall significance.

Intensive pedestrian survey of the entire project footprint for the current study did not identify any additional cultural resources. Nearly the entirety of the project footprint is previously disturbed by construction of the MID Claribel Substation or agricultural activity. While ground disturbance related to the project may extend into previously undisturbed soils, there is low potential for archaeological resources in the area.

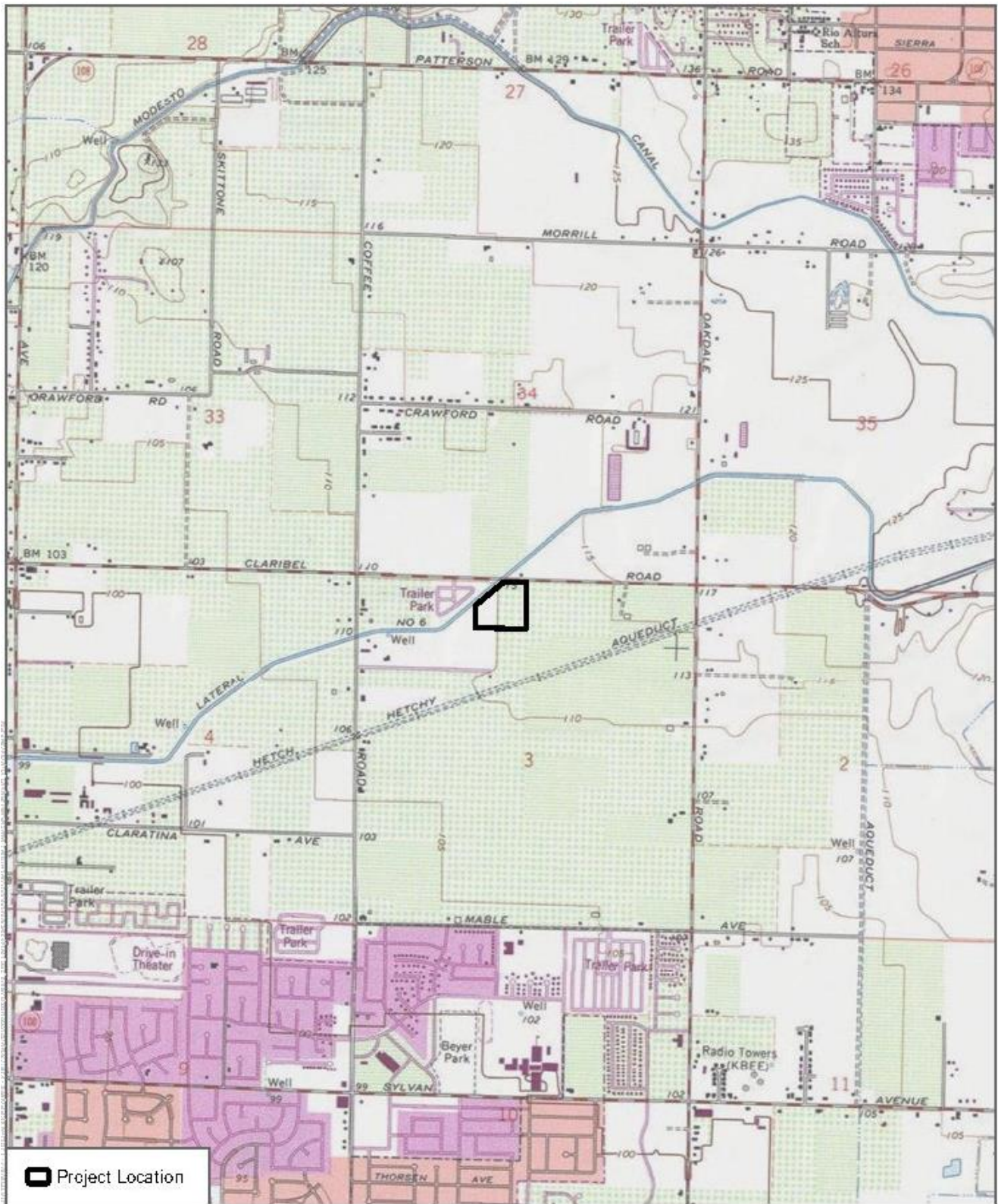
The project activities described within the footprint covered by this memo may be considered cleared for cultural resources under CEQA. Should any of the above project plans be modified to include work not reviewed in this memo, additional studies will be required.

If other cultural resources are discovered while engaging in project activities, all work will temporarily cease until the findings can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist and an appropriate course of action can be determined. Should human remains be uncovered, all work must stop immediately and the County coroner must be contacted pursuant to California Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5(b).

## **References Cited**

NETR. 2022. Historic Aerial Photographs and Topographic maps of Project Site, dating from 1916-2020. Accessed December 8, 2022.  
<https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.





SOURCE: USGS 7.5-minute Series Riverbank Quadrangle

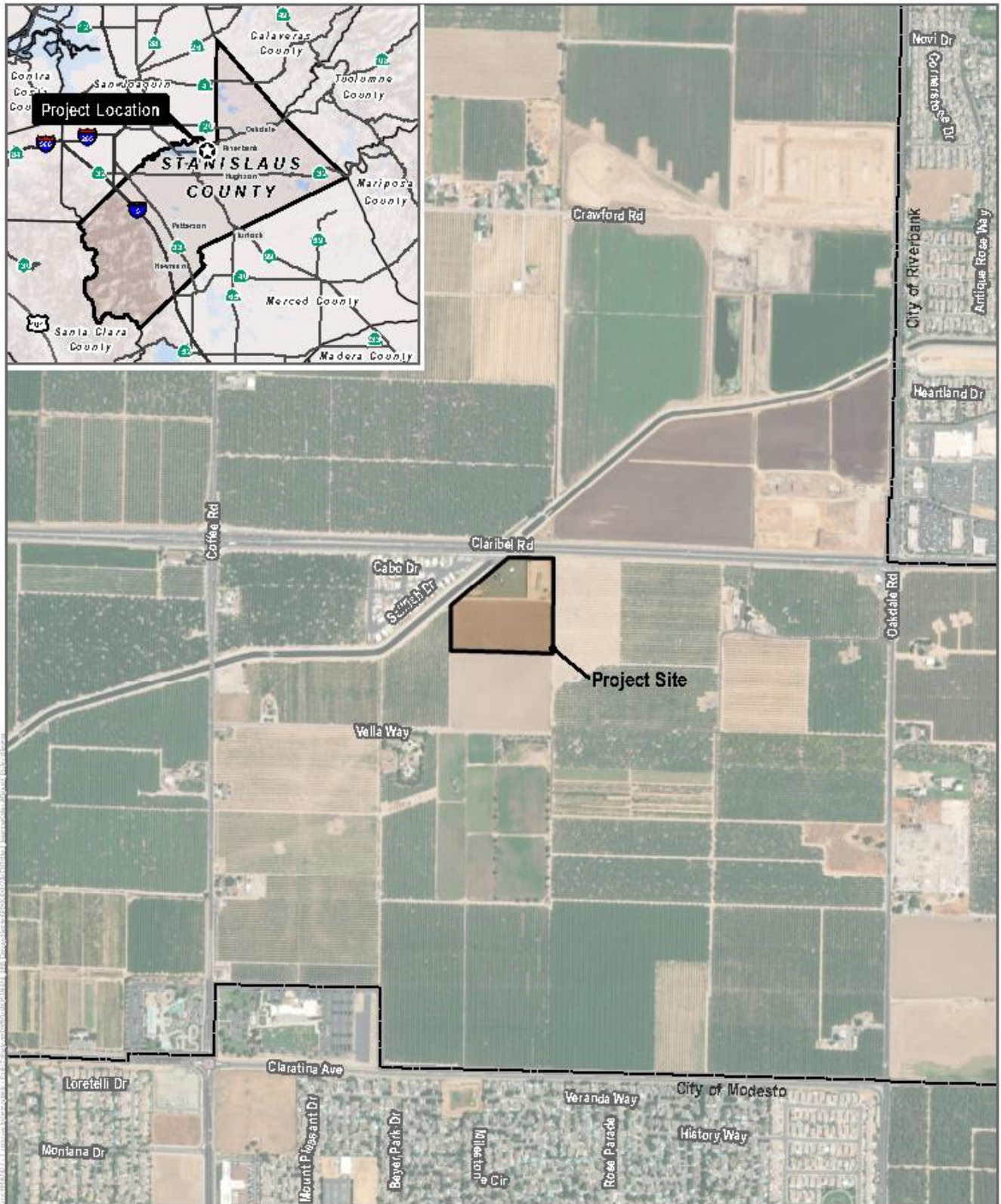
FIGURE 1

Project Location



Department of Water Resources - Strategic Reliability Reserve Environmental Review - Modesto Claribel Substation





SOURCE: DWR 2022; ESRI World Imagery 2021

FIGURE 2  
Project Site



Department of Water Resources - Strategic Reliability Reserve Environmental Review - Modesto-Claribel Substation



**Figure 3. Overview of Proposed Generator Installation Area. View to the east.**



# **Attachment A**

## Confidential Records Search Results



# **Attachment B**

Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List





**Native American Heritage Commission  
Tribal Consultation List  
Stanislaus County  
12/9/2022**

**Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk  
Indians**

Gloria Grimes, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 899  
West Point, CA, 95255  
Phone: (209) 419 - 5675  
calaverasband.miwukindians@gmail.com

Mi-wuk

**North Valley Yokuts Tribe**

Katherine Perez, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 717  
Linden, CA, 95236  
Phone: (209) 887 - 3415  
canutes@verizon.net

Costanoan  
Northern Valley  
Yokut

**North Valley Yokuts Tribe**

Timothy Perez,  
P.O. Box 717  
Linden, CA, 95236  
Phone: (209) 662 - 2788  
huskanam@gmail.com

Costanoan  
Northern Valley  
Yokut

**Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation**

Sandra Chapman, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 186  
Mariposa, CA, 95338  
Phone: (559) 580 - 7871  
sandra47roy@gmail.com

Miwok  
Northern Valley  
Yokut  
Paiute

**Tule River Indian Tribe**

Neil Peyron, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 589  
Porterville, CA, 93258  
Phone: (559) 781 - 4271  
Fax: (559) 781-4610  
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Yokut

**Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom  
Valley Band**

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson  
1179 Rock Haven Ct.  
Salinas, CA, 93906  
Phone: (831) 443 - 9702  
kwood8934@aol.com

Foothill Yokut  
Mono

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 consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed DWR SRR Energy – Modesto Site Project, Stanislaus County.

<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Contact(s)</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Letter Sent Date</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Follow-up</u>
Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians	Gloria Grimes	Chairperson	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022
North Valley Yokuts Tribe	Katherine Perez	Chairperson	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022
	Timothy Perez	None provided	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022
Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation	Sandra Chapman	Chairperson	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022
Tule River Indian Tribe	Neil Peyron	Chairperson	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022
Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band	Kenneth Woodrow	Chairperson	12/16/2022	Pending	email sent 12/20/2022