



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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February 12, 2021

In reply refer to: COE_2021_0106_004

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Eduardo T. DeMesa
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3489

RE: Section 106 consultation for the Rancho Miramonte Estates, San Bernardino County

Dear Eduardo DeMesa:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is initiating consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. By letter received on January 07, 2021, the COE is seeking comments on their determination of eligibility and finding of effect for the above-referenced undertaking. The COE submitted the following document to support their finding of effect:

- *Phase I Cultural Survey Report; Paleontological Resource Assessment; edgewater Communities; Chino, California* (Michael Brandman Associates 2007)
- *Phase II Cultural Resources Testing and Evaluation; Edgewater Communities; Chino, California* (Michael Brandman Associates 2007a)
- *Rancho Miramonte Riparian Habitat Restoration Project; Phase I and II Cultural Resources Assessment* (ESA 2018)
- *Historic Property Survey Report; Proposed Rancho Miramonte Project, Chino, CA* (Urbana Preservation & Planning, LLC 2020)
- *Previous Consultation Letters* (USACE 2020, Polanco 2020)

The COE is issuing a permit for an easement exchange in support of the construction of 273-acre residential and commercial development located in the Prado Dam Inundation Area south of Chino Corona Road, west of Mill Creek, and east of Cucamonga Avenue, south of the community of Chino in San Bernardino County. Project activities include the creation of a new flowage easement of 114.38 acres and involves grading and excavating the proposed new flowage easement; the construction of approximately 823 single and

multi-family housing units; approximately 158.5 acres of residential, commercial, and neighborhood park development; approximately 8.6 acres for parks and recreation; 6.79 miles of multi-purpose trails; and approximately 67 acres of habitat restoration and preservation; and the demolition of all existing built environment improvements in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the 273 acre project site, encompassing all areas of construction, access, and staging. Efforts to identify historic properties include a records search, pedestrian survey, and Native American outreach.

The applicant's consultant requested a Sacred Lands File search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in 2006 returning negative results. The consultant contacted Native American entities listed by the NAHC, and through this coordination process, the Gabrieliño-Tongva Tribe (Kizh Nation) monitored excavations to inform evaluations of archaeological sites in the APE in 2007 (MBA 2007a). The COE requested a Sacred Lands File search from the NAHC in 2020 returning negative results. The COE contacted Native American entities listed by the NAHC as having cultural ties to the project area. The COE received a response from the Kizh Nation requesting Native American monitoring during ground disturbance in previously undisturbed areas. The COE has incorporated the requirement for both archaeological and Native American monitoring as permit conditions. The COE received no further responses.

Efforts to identify historic properties resulted in seven possible historic properties in the APE. P-36-13408/409, P-36-13410, P-36-13391, and CA-SBR-12613/H are related to historic era farming and ranching; CA-SBR-2845 and CA-SBR-12752 are prehistoric archeological site; and CA-SBR-12613H/P-36-13627/P-33-1668/P-30-179857 is the Southern Sierras Power Company "O" Transmission Line/SCE Transmission Line.

The COE states that prehistoric site CA-SBR-2845 and the "O" Transmission line CA-SBR-12613H have previously been determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with SHPO concurrence on September 09, 2020.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), the COE has determined P-36-13408/409, P-36-13410, P-36-13391, and CA-SBR-12613/H are not eligible for the National Register. **I concur.**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), the COE has determined P-36-12752 is not eligible for the National Register. **I concur.**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), the COE has determined CA-SBR-12573H/P-36-013412, the Fuqua Ditch is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A as a rare surviving example of early water resource management feature and its association with the earliest development of agriculture in the region with a period of significance from 1883 to 1950. This property in the project area where it will not be effected by project activities and is separated from those activities by Mill Creek and a riparian buffer-zone. While SHPO does not concur on the eligibility of CA-SBR-12573, as not enough information has been provided to firmly establish the property's eligibility. The SHPO would not be opposed to assuming the property eligible

under Criterion A with a period of significance from 1883 to 1950, for the purposes of this project only.

The COE has concluded as no project activities will occur in the vicinity of CA-SBR-12573H/P-36-013412, issuing a permit would have no adverse effect on historic properties and has requested my review and comment on their finding of effect for the proposed undertaking. After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, **I do not object** to a finding of *no adverse effect to historic properties* for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(c)(1).

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the COE may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. If you require further information, contact Elizabeth Hodges of my staff at (916) 445-7017 or Elizabeth.Hodges@parks.ca.gov or Natalie Lindquist at (916) 445-7014 or natalie.lindquist@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer