
**F-6: Cultural Resources Survey for
the Four Alternative Routes**

**Cultural Resources Survey for
Four Alternative Routes for the
Center Joint Unified School District
Location, PG&E Line 407 Project,
Placer County, California**

By:
Eric Wohlgemuth

January 2009

Submitted to:

Mark Cassady
TRC
80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 200
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Prepared for:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
2730 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95833



FAR WESTERN ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, INC.
2727 Del Rio Place, Suite A, Davis, California, 95618
<http://www.farwestern.com> 530-756-3941

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This document is an addendum to a cultural resources study of Line 407, an approximately 25.5-mile-long gas distribution pipeline that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) plans to construct to connect existing lines near the town of Yolo and Fiddymont Road at the western edge of the city of Roseville. The proposed pipeline would pass through portions of Yolo, Sacramento, Sutter, and Placer counties.

Due to plans by the Center Joint Unified School District to construct a school in southwestern Placer County, PG&E is now considering alternative pipeline routes to provide a buffer around the prospective school site, or to deeply bury it along the originally proposed route to mitigate potential hazards. In this document, Far Western assesses cultural resources of four pipeline route alternatives in Township 11N, Range 5E, Section 32, north of Base Line Road, east of Brewer Road, and west of Country Acres Road.

The Line 407 project is subject to provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq., revised 2005). Line 407 would cross a number of watercourses and may require a Section 404 permit, qualifying it as a federal undertaking. If so, it would also be subject to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800), which requires that proponents of federal undertakings address potential effects to historic properties.

To meet the requirements of both CEQA and Section 106, TRC contracted with Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. Our study included an archival records search, field inventory, Native American consultation, and assessment of the potential for buried archaeological deposits. The methods and results of the study are documented in this report and summarized here for management purposes. A small area west of Brewer Road could not be surveyed due to lack of landowner permission to access.

The records search and field survey identified five cultural resources within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE). A bridge (P-31-002683) was previously determined not eligible to the National Register. One historic-age structure (P-31-002684) was previously recommended not eligible to the National Register or California Register. These require no further management consideration. Two rural roads (P-31-003306 and -003308) and the mapped location of the Eagle Hotel (P-31-003307) have not been evaluated for their National or California Register eligibility. Impacts to the three unevaluated cultural resources should be avoided wherever possible. Where avoidance of unevaluated resources is not feasible, these resources will need to be evaluated for their National or California Register eligibility.

If project plans are unable to avoid the small area which could not be surveyed due to lack of access, then this area must be surveyed prior to project construction. If project impacts are excluded from this area, then no additional survey there will be necessary. Additional survey may be required if the project plans change to include other areas not already inventoried.

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INTRODUCTION

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is planning to construct the Line 407 Pipeline Project, a 30-inch gas pipeline across the Central Valley in Yolo, Sutter, Sacramento, and Placer counties. Far Western completed the cultural resources inventory for the pipeline in 2007 (Wohlgemuth 2008). Due to plans by the Center Joint Unified School District to construct a school in southwestern Placer County, PG&E is now considering alternative pipeline routes to provide a buffer around the prospective school site, or to deeply bury it along the originally proposed route to mitigate potential hazards. In this document, Far Western assesses cultural resources of four pipeline route alternatives in Township 11N, Range 5E, Sections 31-33, north of Base Line Road, east of Brewer Road, and west of Country Acres Road (Figure 1).

As part of the larger pipeline project, the current project is subject to provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq., revised 2005), which requires the project proponents to consider potential effects to important cultural resources from installation of the natural gas pipeline. Important cultural resources under CEQA are those eligible or potentially eligible to the California Register of Historical Resources, as outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code.

The larger project will cross the Sacramento River and a matrix of streams, canals, and irrigation ditches, and may need an Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Nationwide Permit to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The possible need for a federal permit may bring the proposed project under the purview of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 of the NHPA has similar requirements to CEQA, with significant cultural resources defined as those eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. This document has been prepared to meet both CEQA and Section 106 standards.

To meet these requirements, TRC contracted with Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., for a cultural resources study, which includes a records search, field inventory, Native American consultation, and assessment of the potential for buried archaeological deposits. A prior document described the methods and results of a cultural resources inventory for the Line 407 portion of the project, which extends from near the town of Yolo in Yolo County, east to Fiddymont Road near the western boundary of the city of Roseville in Placer County (Wohlgemuth 2008).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Four alternative pipeline routes in Sections 31-33 are considered for the current project (Figure 2). Alternative I follows the originally planned route along the north side of Base Line Road, and is being considered for use via Horizontal Directional Drilling, which would bury the pipe deep enough to mitigate any hazards related to pipeline construction or operation. Alternative J runs east-west, parallel to and north of Base Line Road. It runs on the north side of property lines along the backyards of a series of residences on the east end. Alternative K also runs east-west and parallel to Base Line Road, 750 feet north of Alternative J. Alternative L follows existing field edges and roads north of Alternative K. Additional corridors run north-south along Brewer and Country Acres roads. In all, the corridors total approximately five linear miles.

Project effects are similar to those of the larger Line 406/407 project. The extent of vertical impact will typically be to a depth of eight feet (2.4 meters), but may range up to 11 feet (3.4 meters) in a trench four feet (1.2 meters) wide. Thus the project's vertical Area of Potential Effects (APE) is 11 feet below surface. Alternative I, the directional drilling alternative, would be substantially deeper (exact depth of impact is not presently known).

Construction of the 30-inch pipeline segments will require a 100-foot- (30.5-meter-) wide construction right-of-way. A 50-foot (15.2-meter) permanent easement is required for operation and maintenance of the pipeline. In order to encompass all potential right-of-way adjustments and extra work spaces, a horizontal APE of 150 feet (46 meters) for cultural resources was established, with 75 feet (23 meters) on either side of centerline along the project pipeline alternatives, and 150 feet along each side of both Brewer and Country Acres roads.

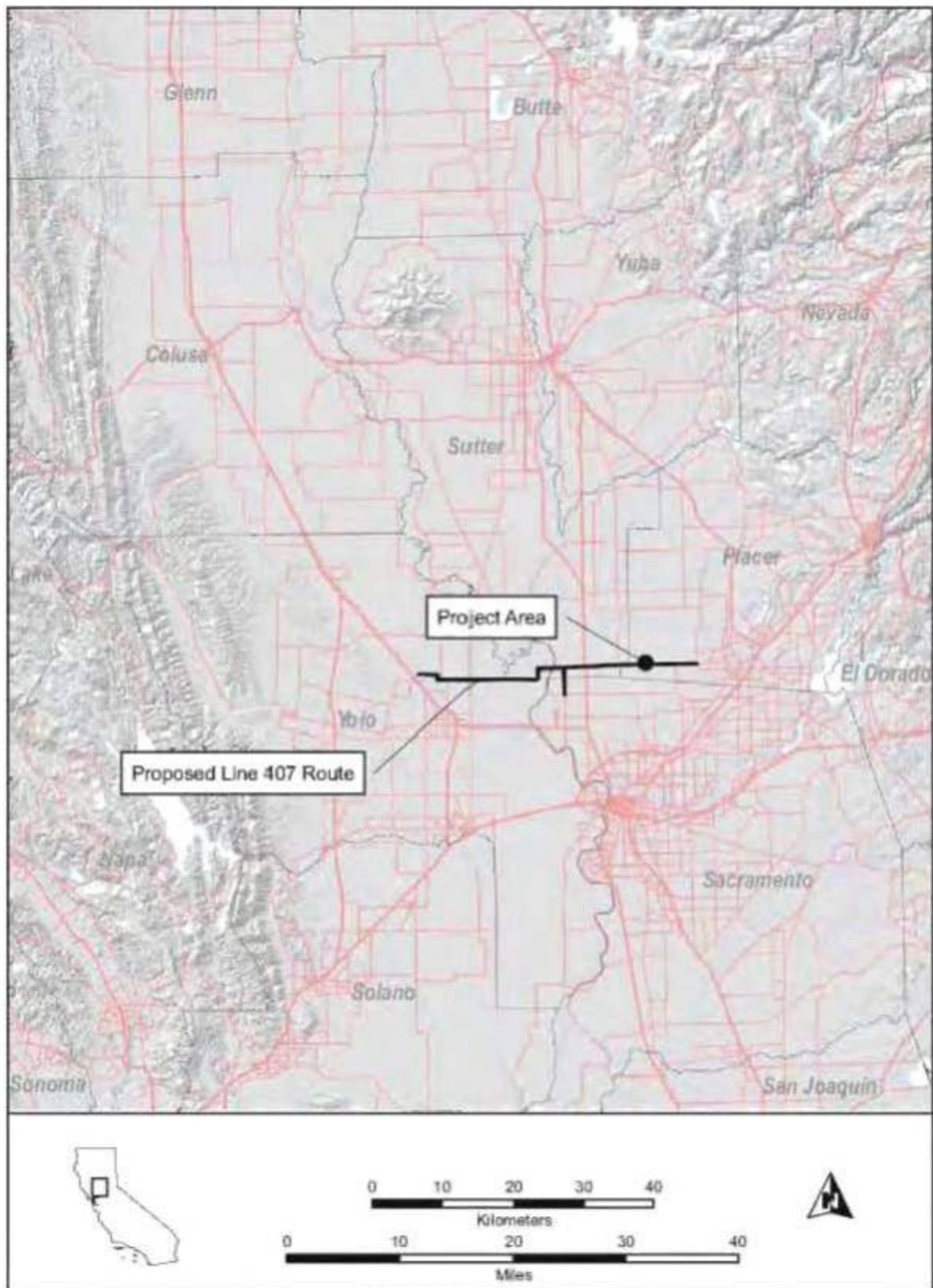


Figure 1. Project Vicinity.

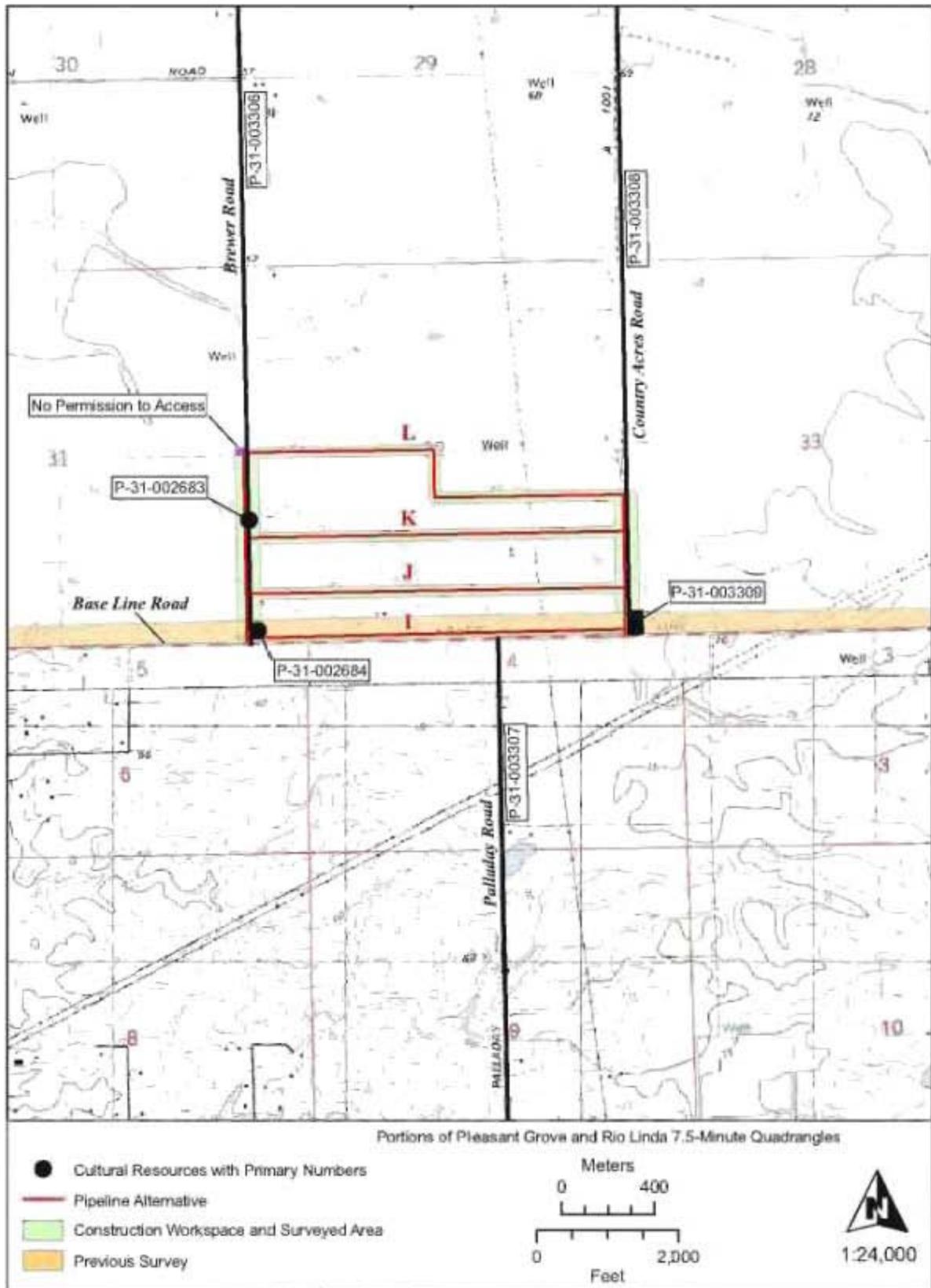


Figure 2. Surveyed Areas and Cultural Resources.

PROJECT ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL FOR BURIED SITES

The current project area is located in nearly level plains that rim the outer edge of the Sacramento Valley. Elevation ranges from 55-70 feet (17-21 meters) above sea level. Vegetation is annual grasses and forbs, now mostly introduced Eurasian weeds. Trees are limited to rare cottonwoods or willows along the single, very small creek in the western part of the project area. Few plant and animal resources formerly used by Native Americans are present, and it is a poor place for hunter-gatherers to live. The area lacks key resources such as acorns, pine or bay nuts, berries, and fish, offering only dispersed large and small game, as well as some potential for edible roots and small seeds. Historic use of the area was largely for grazing, and as a transportation corridor. More than half of the project area has recently been converted to rice fields, with the rest used for dispersed grazing and housing.

Soils in this vicinity are old, Pleistocene-age loams and sandy loams (Wohlgemuth 2008:6, 9). These include the Cometa, Cometa-Ramona, Alamo Fiddyment, and San Joaquin-Cometa soil series. All are very shallow and have well-developed B-horizons, and all share a very low potential for buried soils where archaeological sites might be present. The small creek in the project area carries a very light sediment load, and has not produced any adjacent younger alluvial terraces which could contain buried soils. The absence of such terraces, coupled with the poor resources of the area, suggests there is virtually no potential for buried prehistoric archaeological sites in the project area.

METHODS AND RESULTS

The cultural resources study entailed archival research to determine whether any portion of the proposed project corridor had already been surveyed for cultural resources, and whether any such resources had been recorded. It also included consultation with the local Native American community, plus field survey and the preparation of this report.

RECORDS SEARCH

The North Central Information Center, California State University, Sacramento, provided an in-house records search on January 12, 2009. The records search addressed an area within one-quarter mile of the project area. Appendix A contains a list of maps and sources consulted.

The records search showed only one prior survey within the boundaries of the current project area (Appendix A). This survey was conducted for the larger Line 407 project corridor (Wohlgemuth 2008). It met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for intensive cultural resources inventory, and extended 300 feet (90 meters) north of Base Line Road. This portion of the project area along Base Line Road, which includes Alternative I, was not resurveyed for this addendum study.

The records search also identified six previously documented cultural resources within the one-quarter-mile buffer, all of them identified as historic-period sites and features. One, Palladay Road, lies south of Base Line Road and falls outside the current project APE. Of the five resources within the APE (see Figure 2), a small bridge on Brewer Road (P-31-002683) has been determined ineligible to the National Register of Historic Places (Caltrans 2008). A structure at the northeast corner of Base Line and Brewer roads (P-31-002684) has been recommended by historic archaeologist Mary Maniery as not eligible to the National Register (Wohlgemuth 2008:43), though no formal determination has been made. Two rural roads (Brewer and Country Acres, P-31-003306 and -003308, respectively) and an historic-period hotel site at the northeast corner of Base Line and Country Acres roads (the Eagle Hotel, P-31-003309) have not been evaluated for their eligibility to the National Register (Wohlgemuth 2008:43). The Eagle Hotel also has the potential for buried archaeological features dating to the mid-nineteenth century, and remains a sensitive location.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

In July 2006, Far Western contacted the Native American Heritage Commission to request a check of their Sacred Lands files for any resources within the Line 407 project area east of the Sacramento River, and a list of individuals with ties to the project area (Appendix C). A response was received from the Heritage Commission October 11, 2006, stating that no sacred lands were located within this area, and providing a list of individuals to contact. The current project description and map, and a letter eliciting concerns and issues, were mailed to the suggested contacts for Placer County on January 16, 2009. Far Western made follow-up phone calls January 23, 2009. No comments were received. A summary of consultation history and responses can be found in Appendix B.

SURVEY METHODS

Fieldwork was carried out January 13, 2009 by Eric Wohlgemuth, Ph.D., assisted by Laura Brink, B.A. A second visit was made January 14, 2009 to assess the age of three built features (see Survey Findings, below). The survey corridor was 75 feet (23 meters) on each side of centerline for each alternative route, and 150 feet (46 meters) either side of potential pipeline routes along Brewer and Country Acres roads. Personnel carried small-scale aerial photographs annotated with the survey corridor, and had available records and maps of all previously recorded resources, plus all necessary recording equipment. The crew walked transects 20 meters (66 feet) apart. In areas with poor visibility surveyors made spot-checks approximately every 25 meters (82 feet), by clearing vegetation in a small area to expose soil, and by carefully inspecting rodent back dirt. The survey crew kept notes of survey conditions and resources encountered.

Locations of previously recorded or potential resources within the survey corridor were re-visited to determine whether cultural remains were still present. In all cases, either existing documentation was adequate or the resource had been previously evaluated, so no resource records were updated.

A small area could not be surveyed west of Brewer Road at the western end of Alternative L due to lack of landowner permission to access (see Figure 2).

SURVEY FINDINGS

Far Western found no previously undocumented cultural resources in the survey area. An apparently historic barn and tack room constructed on 80 acres east of Brewer Road was actually built in the 1970s and 1980s by owner John Piches (personal communication 2009). Detailed photographs of a concrete cattle hoof dip trough and a corral complex, at separate locations along Alternative J, were shown to historic archaeologist Mary Maniery, M.A., who determined they are recent rather than historic. None of the three built features is old enough to be considered an historic resource.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The three previously recorded historic-period cultural resources in the APE should be avoided during all phases of project construction. These are Brewer and Country Acres roads, and the location of the Eagle Hotel at the northeast corner of Base Line and Country Acres roads. If avoidance is not feasible, these resources will need to be evaluated for their National or California register eligibility by a qualified historical archaeologist, historian, or architectural historian. For the mapped location of P-31-003309 (the Eagle Hotel), we recommend test excavations by an historical archaeologist for the presence of buried historic-period features; alternatively, project trenching should be monitored by an historical archaeologist.

No further management is recommended for the bridge (P-31-002683) or structure (P-31-002684), determined or recommended not eligible to the National Register, respectively. There is virtually no potential for buried prehistoric archaeological sites not visible from the surface. No other testing or project trench monitoring for buried resources is recommended.

If project plans are unable to avoid the small area which could not be surveyed due to lack of access, then this area must be surveyed prior to project construction. If project impacts are excluded from this area, then no

additional survey there is necessary. Additional survey may be required if project plans change to include other areas not already inventoried.

REFERENCES CITED

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- 2008 *Structure Maintenance and Investigations: Historical Significance-Local Agency Bridges*. Caltrans Home Page. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/hs_local.pdf. Updated April 2008. Accessed January 2009.

Wohlgemuth, Eric

- 2008 *Cultural Resources Survey for the PG&E Line 407 Project, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo Counties, California*. On file, California Historical Resource Information System, North Central Information Center, California State University, Sacramento.

APPENDIX A
RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

- Determination of Eligibility (2008): Placer County listing included
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976): Nothing listed
- California State Historical Landmarks (1996): Nothing listed
- Points of Historic Interest (1992): Nothing listed
- CalTrans Historic Bridge Inventory (1987, 2000, 2006): Nothing listed
- GLO/Historic Maps:

1855 GLO Plat:

for T 11N/R 5E

USGS Sheets/Quadrangles:

1901 Fair Oaks quadrangle

US ARMY Corps of Engineers Sheets:

1953 Pleasant Grove

Thank you for using our services. An invoice/confidentiality agreement is enclosed; please sign and return with your payment.

North Central Information Center Resource Detail Record: P-31-002683

Identifying Information

Primary No.: P-31-002683

HRI No.:

Trinomial

Name:

Other IDs: Other: REF-33-H

Other: Bridge 19C0104

Attributes

Resource Type: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

Age: Prehistoric Protohistoric Historic Unknown

Information Base: Surface survey Surface collection Testing Excavation Analysis Other Unknown

Collections: No

Disclosure: Not for publication

Attribute Codes: HP19 Bridge

Cross-refs:

Recording Events

Date	Recorder(s)	Affiliation	Notes
4/8/2002	Amanda Blosser & Andy Walters	JRP Historical Consulting Services	

Associated Documents

S-number	Year	Title
S-007130	2002	Roseville Energy Facility Cultural Resources

Notes

Location Info

County: Placer

USGS 7.5' Quads: PLEASANT GROVE

PLSS:

Address: Address

City

Assessor's parcel no.

Brewer Road

UTMs:

Management status

Database Record Metadata

Date User

Entered: 11/13/2006 jay

Last Modified: 4/10/2007 sally

IC Actions: Date User

11/13/2006

Action taken

Added additional primary numbers listed in old Library database

North Central Information Center Resource Detail Record: P-31-002684

Identifying Information

Primary No.: P-31-002684

HRI No.:

Trinomial:

Name:

Other IDs: Other: REF-32-H

Other: 9110 Baseline Road

Attributes

Resource Type: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

Age: Prehistoric Protohistoric Historic Unknown

Information Base: Surface survey Surface collection Testing Excavation Analysis Other Unknown

Collections: No

Disclosure: Not for publication

Attribute Codes: HP02 Single family property

Cross-refs:

Recording Events

Date	Recorder(s)	Affiliation	Notes
4/8/2002	Amanda Blosser & And7 Walters	JRP Historical Consulting Services	
6/21/2007	Maniery	PAR	update

Associated Documents

S-number	Year	Title
S-007130	2002	Roseville Energy Facility Cultural Resources

Notes

Location Info

County: Placer

USGS 7.5' Quads: PLEASANT GROVE

PLSS:

Address: Address

9110 Baseline Road

City

Assessor's parcel no.

UTMs:

Management status

Database Record Metadata

Date User

Entered: 11/13/2006 jay

Last Modified: 2/6/2008 wilson

IC Actions: Date User Action taken

11/13/2006 Added additional primary numbers listed in old Library database