

APPENDIX E

ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT MATERIAL



holman & ASSOCIATES
Archaeological Consultants
"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

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9 April 2015

Judy Shanley
David J. Powers & Associates
871 The Alameda, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95126

Re: Results of an archaeological literature search for 14-127 VTA I-680 Corridor Project, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Judy:

This letter report consists of a Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency (VTA) constraints project for a corridor study of I-680 from the US 101/I-280 interchange north to the Santa Clara County line just north of Dixon Landing Road a distance of approx. 10 miles (Map 1).

On 10 February 2015, a records search was conducted by Holman & Associates' Leigh Jordan at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information system (NWIC), an adjunct to Sonoma State University located in Rohnert Park (File No. 14-1036). All recorded cultural resource records in or within a 250-foot radius to the project area were reviewed.

There are no recorded resources in the proposed project footprint in the NWIC files. There is, however, one known resource within the 250-foot radius, P-43-432, the José Higuera Adobe, which consists of a rebuilt adobe constructed in 1828, a wood-frame residence, modern bathrooms, landscape features, and the archaeological remains of the original adobe still existing under the current adobe (Map 1A; Krase 1999:1, 3). The Higuera Adobe is listed in the State Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Property Directory with an evaluation of 6Y, a designation that indicates that it was determined ineligible for the National Register (NR) by consensus through Section 106 process but that it was not evaluated for possible listing on the California Register or a local listing. Although Krase provided the argument for its NR status based on a significant loss of integrity, in the 1999 DPR 523 resource record, she stated that using CEQA criteria she determined that the José Higuera Adobe is "a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA" (Krase 1999:2). Krase continued by saying that if the buried remains of the original adobe structures (CA-SCL-429/H) were available for evaluation, applying Criteria D of the National Register might result in the archaeological component of this resource being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Krase 1999:2).

Given the paucity of recorded prehistoric resources within the project area and designated radius, a wider radius was applied to provide data that would elaborate on Native American settlement patterns for the 14-127 VTA I-680 Corridor Project. There is one known prehistoric resource located just beyond the 250-foot project radius at the northern end of the project area, P-43-56/CA-SCL-37 (D.W.L. 1951). In 1951, the deposit consisted of mortars, pestles, arrowheads, beads, fire-cracked rock, and human remains. This site was located on a terrace adjacent to a creek situated above the flood plain and at the valley floor/foothill interface. In Santa Clara County, prehistoric resources are located in just such settings as well as on the valley floor adjacent to creeks, rivers, wetlands, and other freshwater sources.

California Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Property Data File combines several state and federal inventories, including the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, California Historic landmarks, and Points of Historic Interest (CA-DPR 1976; CA-OHP 2011). This inventory lists the following resources within the project's 250-foot radius:

823 Wessex Place, José Higuera Adobe (See P-43-432 above; Map 1A)

NRS Code 6Y (Determined ineligible for NR by consensus through Section 106 Process – not evaluated for CR or Local Listing)

1252 N Park Victoria Drive (Map 1A)

NRS Code 6Y (Determined ineligible for NR by consensus through Section 106 Process – not evaluated for CR or Local Listing)

The California Inventory of Historic Resources lists no resources located in the VTA I-680 Corridor project area or within the 250-foot radius. In addition to these state and federal inventories the following local listings of historic resources were consulted: the City of Milpitas Cultural Resources Register; City of San Jose Historic Resources Inventory; San Jose Designated historic city Landmarks; and the San Jose District and Conservation Areas. Although no buildings were identified within the VTA I-680 Freeway, the research identified the following listed cultural resources within the 250-radius:

City of Milpitas Cultural Resources Register

José Higuera Adobe, 823 Wessex Place, Milpitas (See P-43-432 above; Map 1A)

City of San Jose Historic Inventory

13100 Berryessa Road, San Jose, the 1920 Vincent Nola Residence (Eligible for California Register, and Structure of Merit, Map 1C);

1171 N. Capitol Avenue, the circa 1927 San Jose, Berryessa Elementary School (City Landmark Site/Structure, Map 1C); and

647 S. King Road, San Jose, Prusch Park (Identified Site/Structure, Map 1D).

San Jose Landmarks

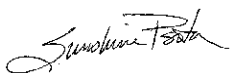
1171 N. Capitol Avenue, San Jose, Berryessa Elementary School, File HS85-28 (Map 1C)

According to Google Earth's Historical Imagery (2015), all of the buildings and structures at 13100 Berryessa Road in San Jose were demolished sometime between June 2013 and February 2014.

The California Department of Transportation's California Bridge Inventory listing for State and Local Agency Bridges was consulted to provide evaluations of the numerous bridges and overcrossings involved in the VTA I-680 Corridor Project. All bridge and overcrossing structures in the VTA constraints area and within the 250-foot radius were determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or Category 5 (Caltrans 2015).

In summary no cultural resources were identified within I-680 freeway and no cultural resources that are historic properties (those listed on or eligible to the National Register) were noted.

Sincerely,



Leigh Jordan with Sunshine Psota

References

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA-DPR)

1976 *California Inventory of Historic Resources*. Department of Park and Recreation, Sacramento.

California State Office of Historic preservation (CA-OHP)

2012 *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Santa Clara County, Updated to 5 April 2012*. Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

2015 California Department of Transportation, California Bridge Inventory, Historical Significance—State and Local Bridges.

City of Milpitas

2015 Milpitas Cultural Resources Register.

City of San Jose

2015a San Jose District and Conservation Areas.

2015b City of San Jose Historic Inventory.

2015c San Jose Districts and Conservation Areas.

D.W.L.

1951 Archaeological Record for P-43-37/CA-SCL-37, University of California Record on file at the Northwest Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

Google Earth

2015 Historical Imagery, aerial photos of 13100 Berryessa Road, San Jose. Accessed 9 April 2015.

Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, and Ethel Grace Rensch

1966 *Historic Spots in California (Third Edition)*. Stanford University Press, Stanford.

Krase, Elizabeth

1999 Archaeological Record for P-43-432/ CA-SCL-429/H. On file at the Northwest Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. (Sanborn Insurance Maps/Company)

1884 *Insurance Map of San José, California*. Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., New York.

Thompson & West

1876 *Historic Atlas Map of Santa Clara County*. Thompson & West, San Francisco.