

COYOTE & FOX

E N T E R P R I S E S

May 20, 2015

Mr. Patrick Jones
Jones Fort
1600 E. Cypress Ave.
Redding, California 96002

Dear Patrick:

Enclosed are two copies of the archaeological survey report for your proposed shooting sports center, one of which should be delivered to Kent Hector at the Planning Division/Shasta County Department of Resource Management. I have also sent a copy of the report to Kevin Butler at Butler Engineering.

Also enclosed in my invoice for services. If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you for contacting me relative to this project.

Sincerely,

Trudy Vaughan
Trudy Vaughan

Enclosures

✓ cc: Butler Engineering Group

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE
FOR THE HIGH PLAINS SHOOTING SPORTS CENTER (APN 060-010-016),
SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

PREPARED FOR: Patrick Jones
Jones Fort
1600 East Cypress Ave.
Anderson, California 96002

PREPARED BY: Trudy Vaughan
Coyote & Fox Enterprises
12272 Roca Lane
Redding, California 96003

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FOR THE HIGH PLAINS SHOOTING SPORTS CENTER (APN 060-010-016),
SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

An archaeological reconnaissance was conducted in May 2015 on approximately 160 acres east of Anderson and south of Millville in Shasta County, California (Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map). The reconnaissance was completed at the request of the property owner Patrick Jones. He was advised by the Planning Division of the Shasta County Department of Resource Management that an archaeological survey was required for approval to develop a shooting range on this property. This project constitutes an undertaking which could adversely affect cultural resources which might be located within the project area; and, thus, the archaeological survey was conducted in order to locate and evaluate any cultural resources, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The archaeological work described in this report was completed by Coyote & Fox Enterprises of Redding (CFE). CFE is an archaeological consulting firm which has conducted work throughout northern California since 1983. Fieldwork was completed by this author, CFE Principal, and by CFE Technician Charles Crackel; and all procedures followed the guidelines of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation and are in conformity with accepted professional standards.

As a result of this survey, no archaeological sites were identified, but five isolated artifacts were noted. These are not considered significant cultural resources. This report satisfies the cultural resource requirements for this project under CEQA, with the stipulation that the clause in the final section of this report be included as a condition of project approval.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

The project area is located at 7474 Leopard Drive which is north of Dersch Road approximately nine miles east of Interstate 5 in Anderson and approximately four miles south of Millville. This is in Township 31 North, Range 3 West, the SW¹/₄ of Section 36, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian (Figure 2: Project Location Map). As shown in Figure 3, Mr. Jones is proposing to develop a shooting sports center on this 159.6-acre parcel.

The majority of the project area is in gently rolling terrain that ranges in elevation from approximately 580 feet to 620 feet above mean sea level. Along the east side, a steep slope drops to an elevation of 520 feet on Bear Creek, a permanent stream which flows southerly. Vegetation consists primarily of scattered grasses, annuals, and forbs, with a few scattered blue oaks on the upper plain. Along the east slope and in the Bear Creek gorge is a dense overstory of blue oak, live oak, and grey pine, with an understory of buckeye, ceanothus, poison oak, and numerous riparian species. The area has been previously impacted by grazing, vegetation clearing, fences, and several dirt roads.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Prior to fieldwork, a review of archaeological records was conducted at the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Chico (NE/CHRIS) (IC File #W15-75). This review covered maps and records for archaeological sites in this portion of Shasta County and also the following documents: *National Register of Historic Places - Listed Properties and Determined Eligible Properties* (1990 and supplements through 12/14 by National Park Service), the *California Register of Historical Resources* (2002), *California Points of Historical Interest* (1992), *California Historical Landmarks* (1996), and the NE/CHRIS Historic Property Data File for Shasta County. The latter two documents indicate that the Dersch Homestead has been identified as California Historic Landmark #120. This is located approximately 1/3 mile south of the southeast corner of the current project parcel (see Historical Background below).

NE/CHRIS records show that the project area has not previously been surveyed for cultural resources, and no archaeological sites have been previously recorded or noted within the area or immediately adjacent. The only archaeological survey which was previously conducted within a one-mile radius of this project area was completed in 1993 just to the southeast of this parcel, and two prehistoric lithic scatters were recorded as a result of that survey on the east side of Bear Creek (Vaughan 1993). Another recorded site in the area is a segment of historic stone wall south of Dersch Road and west of Bear Creek.

The project area lies within the ethnographic territory of the Central Yana. Several references discuss the culture of these people (Johnson 1978, Kroeber 1976, Merriam 1967, Sapir and Spier 1943, and Waterman 1918), and the following is excerpted from these sources. At the time of Euroamerican contact, the Upper Sacramento River Valley and eastern foothills of the Southern Cascade Range were occupied by the Yana peoples. Their lands extended east of Cow Creek from the Pit River in the north to Rock Creek in the south. As with many other California groups, the Yana practiced a seasonal round in order to acquire sufficient quantities of foodstuffs. There was a relative abundance of food from September through November when salmon, deer, acorns, buckeye, and other food resources were available. A wide variety of plant foods was collected, with acorns being the most important, and those of the black oak being favored. In contrast, during the hot summer months, few if any food items were available below the 2,500 foot elevation.

To supplement the various vegetal resources eaten, insects, earthworms, water birds, and small mammals such as rabbits were included in the diet. Deer, however, was the most significant source of animal protein. The Yana hunted deer either individually or in communal hunts, using decoys and bow and arrow. On these communal hunts, the whole village frequently would journey to the woods and set up camp. While the men hunted, the women and children stayed behind in temporary brush shelters.

There are no known direct descendants of the ethnographic Yana living today, but there are numerous members of the Wintu and Pit River ethnographic groups living in Shasta County who claim some Yana ancestry. These people continue to conduct traditional ceremonies and teach their children the traditional ways.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The route of the historic Nobles Emigrant Trail generally follows the current alignment of Dersch Road through this area. In 1852, William H. Noble found a pass near Manzanita Lake in present-day Lassen National Park and, with \$2,000 backing from businessmen in the town of Shasta, made the pass negotiable for wagons. The trail linked the Applegate Trail in Nevada to the northern Sacramento Valley and ended at Fort Reading beside Cow Creek. This route became the most popular and most heavily traveled route through the mountains to the northern goldfields; and it was considered the best road through the Sierra Nevada because it was well supplied with grass, water, and wood the entire length, and it cut several days travel from the previously-used Lassen Trail. Use of the trail decreased considerably when the railroad came through the Sacramento Valley to Redding in 1872, but its use continued until circa 1900 (Smith 1999:160).

The Dersch homestead, approximately 1/3 mile south of this project parcel, was originally Baker's Place, a well-known stopping place along the Nobles Trail. George and Marie Dersch purchased the ranch in 1860 and farmed the approximately 160 acres. Hostilities developed between the Native Americans and the Euroamerican settlers; and in 1864, two nearby ranches were raided by the Indians and women were killed. These incidents resulted in the Millville Resolutions which publicly announced the intent of the settlers "to exterminate or expel every Indian found in the area." The Millville Volunteers were organized, and this group killed "hundreds" of Indians in retaliation for the murders of the women (Smith 1999:152).

In 1866, 15 Indians raided the Dersch ranch while Mr. Dersch was away. Mrs. Dersch, age 35, was killed as she ran to the pear orchard, but the children and Mr. Dersch's blind brother hid in the orchard and were not harmed. Following this incident, the Millville Volunteers reorganized under the command of Captain John Boyes; and Supervisor Demarcus Lack Sr. raised money to "defray the expenses of the volunteers while they hunted and killed Indians" (Smith 1999:128).

Research in records of the federal General Land Office (GLO 2015) shows that all of Section 36 was granted to the State of California in 1855, but by 1912, a Shasta County property map (Wiegel 1912) shows that all of this section was owned by Fred Dersch. The more recent owners of this project area have not been researched.

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

A pedestrian survey was conducted over the entire project area (159.6 acres) in systematic transects spaced at approximately 25 meter intervals, and the archaeological coverage is shown in Figure 2. Visibility of native soil was considered good. The grasses were relatively thin, even within the Bear Creek canyon, and mineral soil could be easily viewed over at least 90% of the parcel. This inspection is considered to have been thorough enough to have located any archaeological sites that may be present within the study area.

As a result of this survey, no archaeological sites were identified, but five isolated artifacts were noted. These are listed below, four of prehistoric origin and one of historic origin, and their locations are shown in Figure 4. These cultural resources show evidence of human activity, but they lack the criteria under CEQA to be formally recorded as archaeological sites because of the limited quantity of artifacts at each location.

- (1) One core of cryptocrystalline silicate material measuring 75 millimeters (mm) x 80 mm x 50 mm.
- (2) One obsidian flake with cortex.
- (3) One basalt flake with cortex.
- (4) A piece of heavy-gauge sheet metal measuring 26" x 30", with six threaded holes along one edge. The age of this piece is not known, but it is, quite likely, historic and was probably some sort of cover on a piece of equipment.
- (5) One basalt flake.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This isolated artifacts are not considered to be significant cultural resources; and this report satisfies the cultural resource requirements for this project under CEQA, with the stipulation that the following clause be included as a condition of project approval:

If any other archaeological discoveries (human skeletal remains, culturally modified lithic materials, structural features, or historic artifacts) are encountered during ground disturbing activities, all such activities should halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery, and a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to determine the nature of the find, evaluate its significance, and, if necessary, suggest preservation or mitigation measures.

A copy of this report has been sent to NE/CHRIS to provide documentation that this area has received an archaeological reconnaissance.

REFERENCES CITED

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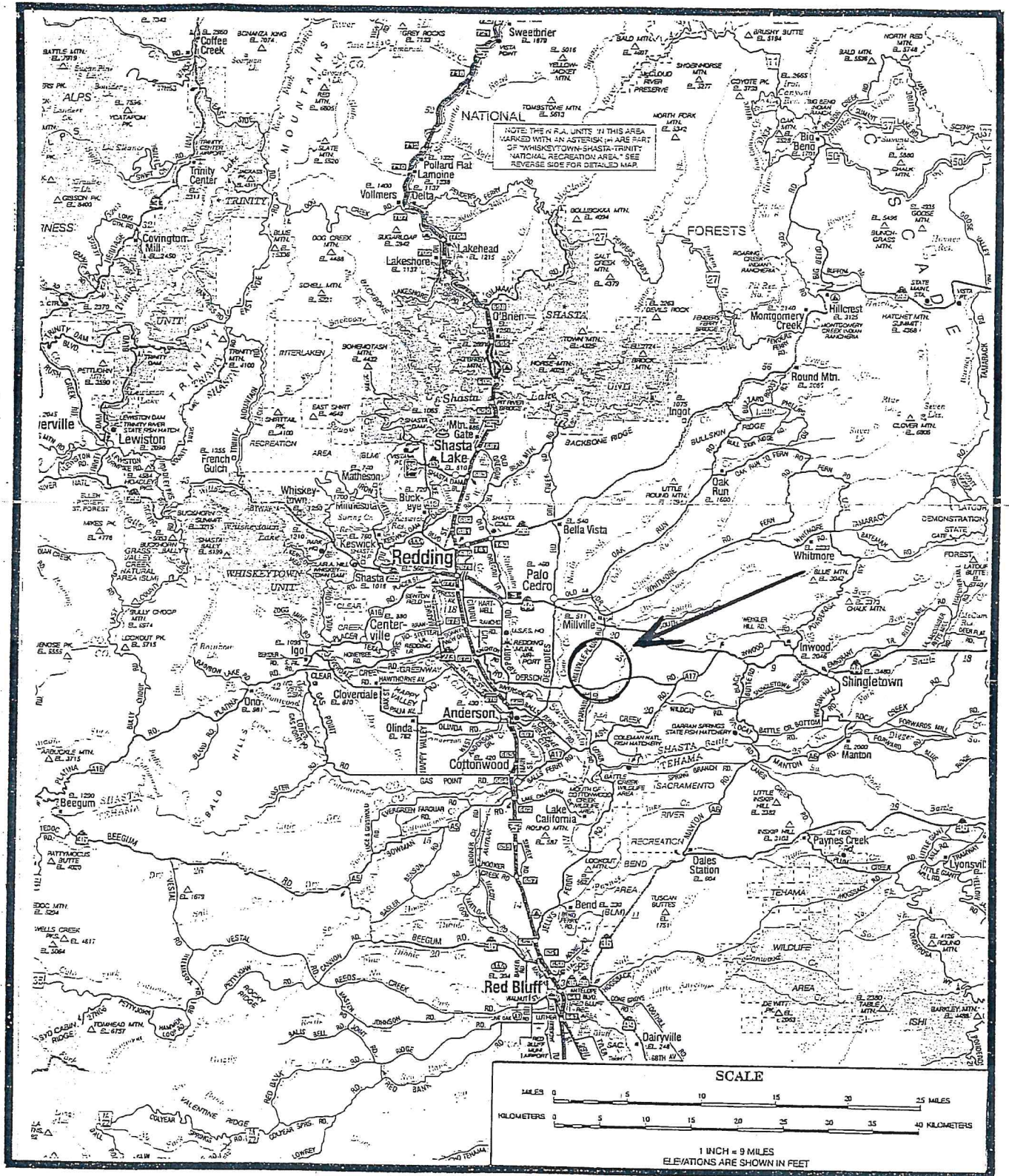


FIGURE 1: Project Vicinity Map

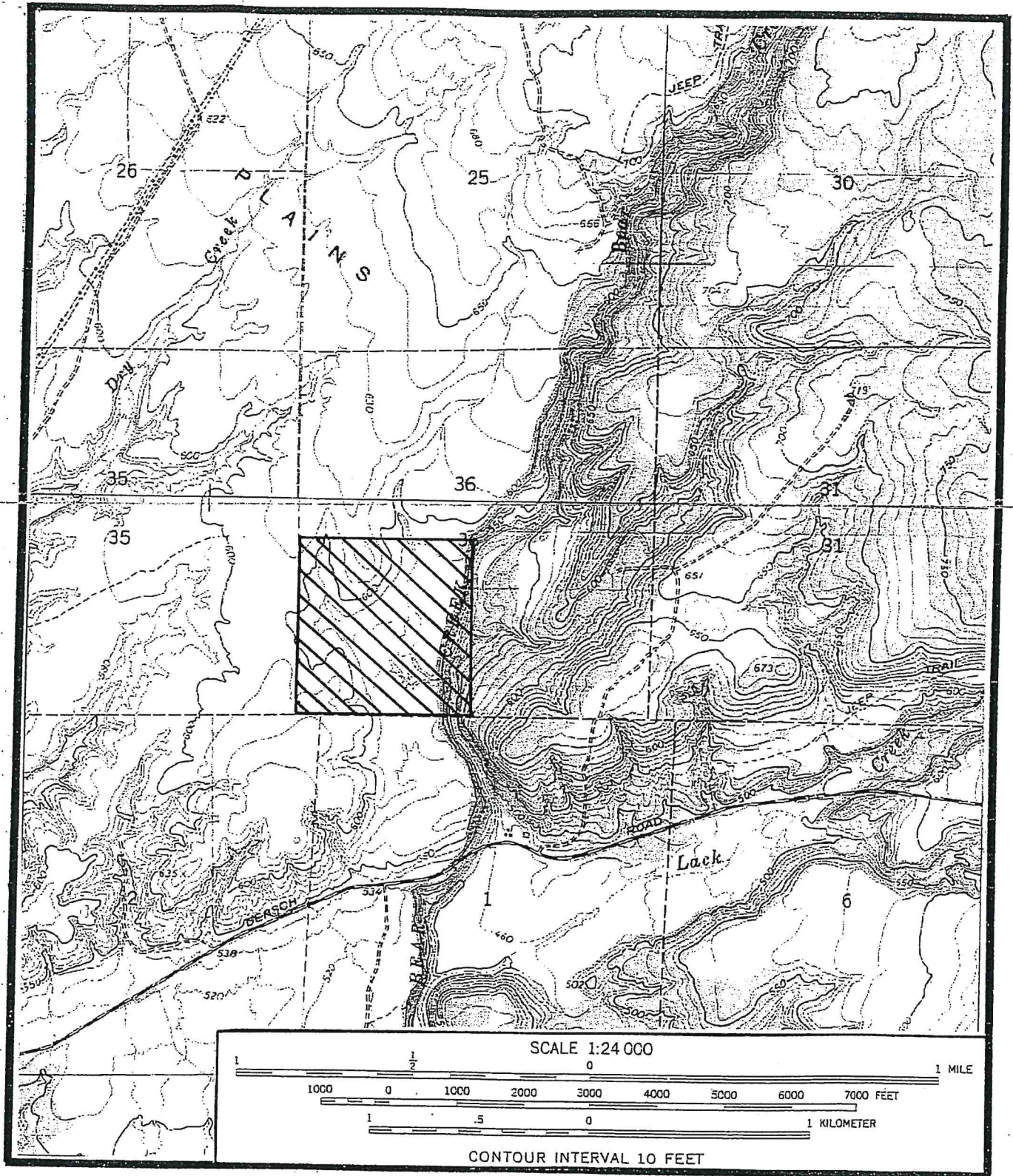
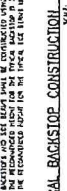
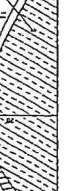
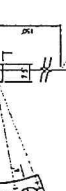
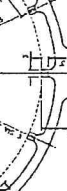
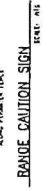
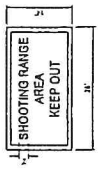
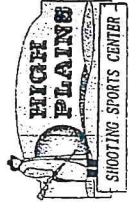
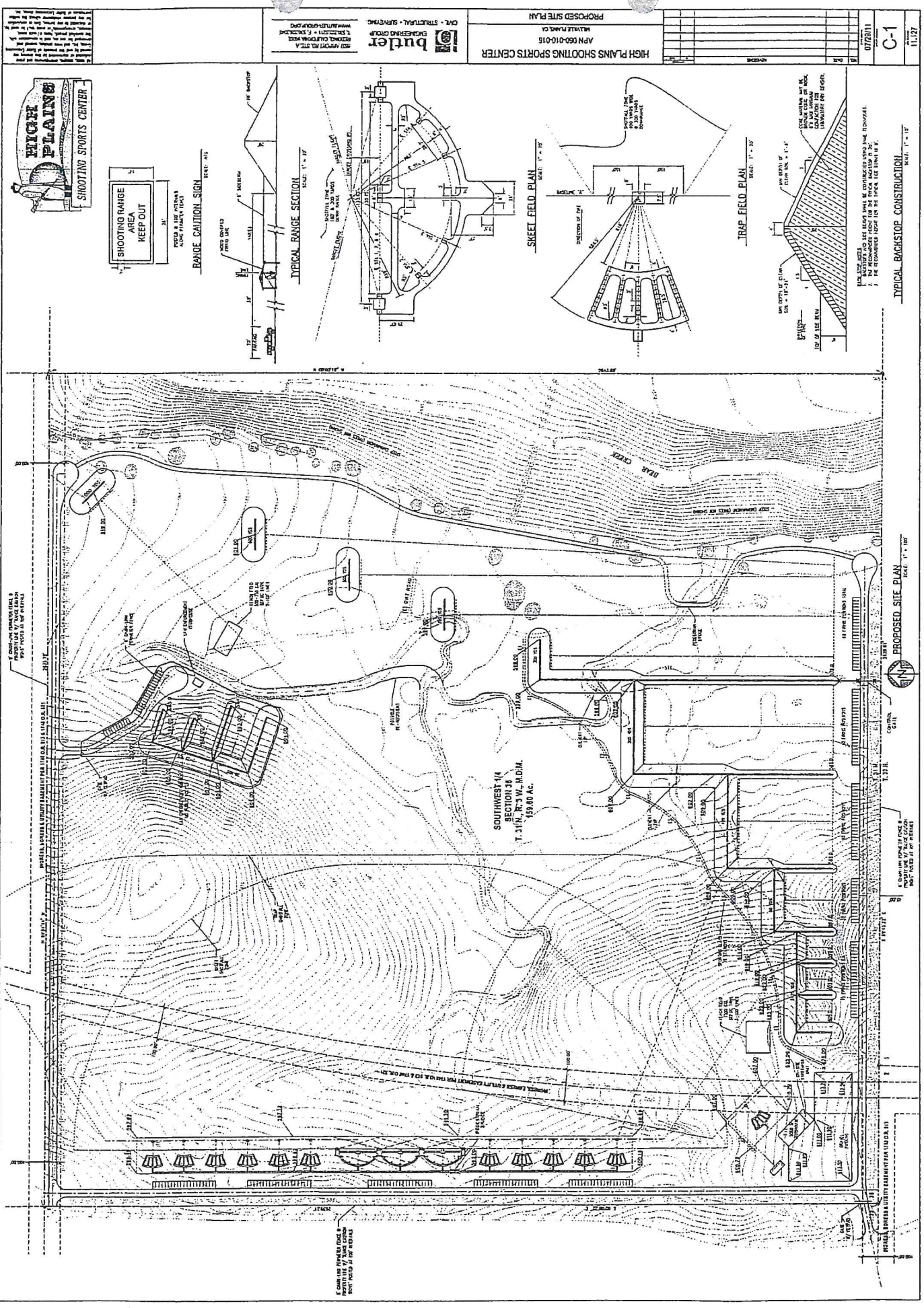


FIGURE 2: Project Location Map and Archaeological Coverage
 USGS Balls Ferry, Calif., 7.5' (1965)



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FIGURE 3

Figure 4: Cultural Resource Location Map

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