



FEMA

September 16, 2005

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Cambria Stormwater System and Pump Station, San Luis Obispo County,
FEMA-1046-DR-CA, HMGP # 1046-157-1003

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the enclosed technical report and summarize the results of an archaeological field review of lands potentially affected by a project proposed in San Luis Obispo County, California. San Luis Obispo County (County) proposes to implement a flood mitigation project in the town of Cambria. Construction would consist of installing a detention basin to collect runoff in the hills surrounding Cambria's West Village, a gravity storm drain system to collect runoff at high elevations in the hills surrounding the village, and a pump station to collect runoff from the existing storm drainage system. The County has applied to FEMA through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for assistance with this flood control project. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund the project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, as part of the recovery from the flooding that occurred in 1995, which was a Presidentially declared disaster (FEMA-DR-1046-CA).

The enclosed report was prepared by URS Corporation (URS), as a consultant to FEMA, to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the Programmatic Agreement (PA) among FEMA, the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), OES, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In summary, a field review of the project area (conducted on July 6, 2005, by URS) was supplemented by a cultural resources records review conducted at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System. In addition to the literature review, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted for a review of its Sacred Lands File as well as a list of Native American groups and individuals it believes should be contacted. The Sacred Lands File search was negative. FEMA sent letters to those groups and individuals listed by the NAHC. To date no responses have been received. The results of the literature review and field survey indicate that there are no archeological or historic built environment sites within, or adjacent to, the project area.

FEMA requests an expedited consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(g).

Project Description

The proposed project is located in Cambria, approximately 35 miles northwest of the City of San Luis Obispo and 30 miles west of the City of Paso Robles (see Figure 1 in the enclosed report). Cambria is divided into two village districts, the East Village and the West Village. The proposed project is located near the West Village. A fill berm created for the construction of Highway 1 in the 1960s separated the West Village portion of the historic floodplain from the main channel of Santa Rosa Creek, resulting in flooding in the West Village under certain storm conditions. The proposed project would reduce the risk of flooding from Santa Rosa Creek in the West Village.

The proposed project consists of three main components: a detention basin upstream of the end of Sheffield Street; a gravity storm drain system to collect runoff at high elevations in the hills surrounding the West Village; and a pump station to collect runoff from the existing storm drainage system. Project areas for all three components are shown in Figure 2 in the enclosed report.

The detention basin would be constructed upstream from the end of Sheffield Street to detain runoff before it enters the West Village. Figure 2 in the enclosed report shows the proposed location of the detention basin. The basin would be constructed in the vicinity of an existing natural channel and would consist of an earthen berm approximately 40 feet long and 8 feet high lying perpendicular to the existing channel. The berm would be constructed approximately 100 feet upstream from the end of Sheffield Street. A dirt access road would be built adjacent to the existing natural channel from the end of Sheffield Street up to the berm and would be approximately 10 feet wide.

The gravity storm drain system includes installation of storm water drainage pipes and drainage inlets in the road right-of-ways along Sheffield Street, Cornwall Street, Hillcrest Drive, Sunbury Avenue, and Croyden Lane. Along Sheffield Street, a 54-inch-diameter concrete pipe would be installed below and towards the street centerline of an existing concrete drainage channel. The new drainage pipe would run from the proposed detention basin to an existing 30-inch-diameter culvert under Highway 1. The other streets would have variable sizes of pipes installed under the street along with drainage inlets to capture and divert storm water runoff away from the West Village. Pipe sizes and locations are shown in Figure 2 in the enclosed report.

The pump station would consist of an enclosed concrete structure and a holding pond. It would be located adjacent to Highway 1 at the north end of the West Village as depicted in Figure 2 in the enclosed report. In addition, a new pipe would be constructed underneath Highway 1 from the pump station to an outlet with a flap gate on the west side of Highway 1 on the bank of Santa Rosa Creek. Approximately 15 cubic yards of rip-rap would be placed in an area about 10 feet wide and 30 feet long around the outlet of the new pipe to reduce flow energies and erosion at the outfall. Finally, approximately 900 feet of an existing dirt drainage ditch between the West Village and Highway 1 would be enlarged to a width of approximately 15 feet to carry flows from the western end of Sheffield Street to the pump station.

FEMA, in accordance with revised implementing regulations of the NHPA (May 18, 1999) found at 36 CFR 800.3(a), has determined that the proposed project is an undertaking.

Area of Potential Effects (APE) Determination

The APE for this project includes all areas of proposed construction activity and ancillary activities such as construction staging, as shown in Figure 2 of the enclosed report. The APE includes:

- areas along Sunbury Avenue, Cornwall Street, and Hillcrest Drive to accommodate storm water pipes and drainage inlets in the road rights-of-way;
- the length of Sheffield Street, from the proposed location of the detention basin to the intersection with Cornwall Street;
- an area along Croyden Lane to accommodate storm water pipes and drainage inlets in the road right-of-way;
- an area adjacent to Highway 1 at the north end of the West Village for the pump station; and
- the proposed discharge locations on Santa Rosa creek west of Highway 1.

Pursuant to the revised implementing regulations of the NHPA found at 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), FEMA seeks your concurrence with its determination of the APE.

Literature Review

Pursuant to the revised implementing regulations of the NHPA found at 36 CFR 800.4(a)(2), the project area was subject to a cultural resources literature review. The enclosed report provides a complete description of the literature review.

Natural Setting

The enclosed report provides a complete description of the natural setting.

Prehistory, Ethnohistory, and History

The enclosed report provides a complete description of the prehistory, ethnohistory, and history of the project area.

Cultural Resources Inventory Methods and Results

Mr. Brian W. Hatoff of URS, qualified as an archaeologist under the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, served as Principal Investigator for the cultural resources survey conducted in July 2005. The enclosed report provides a complete description of survey methods and results.

Findings and Conclusions

The results of the archaeological survey were negative for cultural resources within all areas surveyed. The proposed detention basin will be constructed upslope from the terminus of Sheffield Road. A dirt access road will be constructed to the base of the detention basin. The route of the dirt

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road was subjected to a pedestrian survey. No evidence of cultural materials or archaeological deposits was present in the exposed surfaces. The location of the detention basin itself is within a steep walled drainage that is currently covered in poison oak and blackberry plants. Although the area of the detention basin was not available for survey, the potential for archaeological deposits to be present within this location is low. The narrow and steep drainage is subject to significant overflow during storm events and would be periodically scoured by such high-energy events. The drainage sidewalls immediately below the location of the proposed detention basin berm were also inspected, and there was no evidence of subsurface deposits in these exposures. All other portions of the APE have been previously disturbed by development. No historic built environment features were found within the APE.

Pursuant to the revised implementing regulations of the NHPA found at 36 CFR 800.11(d), this letter and enclosed report provides a description of the undertaking, an APE determination, relevant maps, and a description of the steps FEMA has taken under Section 800.4(b) to identify historic properties. As described above, no properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were identified through a literature review or pedestrian survey of the project area. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to have any effect on historic properties.

There is always the possibility that previously recorded or previously unidentified archaeological resources could be discovered during project construction. In accordance with Stipulation X of the PA, FEMA will require the County to stop work in the event of an unexpected discovery and will comply with the steps outlined in Stipulation X.

In accordance with Stipulation VII of the PA, FEMA has conducted the Standard Project Review. FEMA made a determination of "no historic properties affected" and, in accordance with the PA, is submitting for review the enclosed report supporting that determination. In accordance with Stipulation VII, FEMA may authorize funding for the project unless you object to this determination within 21 days of your receipt of this documentation.

If you have questions, you can contact me at (510) 627-7284 or Mr. Hatoff at (510) 874-3195.

Sincerely,



Alessandro Amaglio, AIA
Environmental Officer

Enclosure

cc: Dennis Castrillo, OES
Marcia Rentschler, OES
Dean Benedix, County
Bonnie Yoshida, CCIC