Appendix D: Cultural Resources Assessment
Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment
Walters Road West Commercial Project
Suisun City, Solano County, California

Denverton, California, USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle Map
Section 32, Township 5 North, Range 1 West
20.8-Acre Study Area

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the City of Suisun City, Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) conducted a cultural resource investigation that included record search reviews and a field survey of the proposed Walters Road West Commercial Project (Project Area) located east of the City of Suisun City in Solano County, California (Exhibit 1). The proposed use of the Project Area is for commercial development.

The purpose of this report is to identify the presence/absence of any potentially significant cultural resources located within the Project Area, and, if significant resources would be impacted by the proposed project, to propose recommendations for mitigation. Completion of this investigation fulfills the protocols associated with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Published California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) procedures for cultural resource surveys and the Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR) reporting format were followed.

This report is organized into sections and appendices, which are summarized below:

- Section 1 introduction of project and project components
- Section 2 provides environmental and cultural settings
- Section 3 overview of regulatory framework
- Section 4 provides cultural resource survey methods and record search results
- Section 5 summarizes the project and provides management recommendations
- Section 6 presents the reference list
- Section 7 contains the project certification
- Appendix A provides personnel qualifications
- Appendix B provides NAHC and NWIC documents
- Appendix C provides Project Area photographs

On June 2, 2006, Senior Project Archaeologist, Carrie D. Wills (Appendix A), conducted a reconnaissance-level field survey to determine the presence/absence of cultural resources within the Project Area and determine if previously recorded cultural resources were extant within the Project Area. No prehistoric or historic resources were discovered during the survey. Because of the lack of historic and prehistoric resources within the Project Area, no additional cultural resource work is recommended.

A record search request of the Sacred Lands File was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on May 31, 2006. The NAHC response received by MBA on August 31, 2006,
Exhibit 1: Regional Location Map
noted that the search failed to indicate the presence of any known sacred sites within the Project Area (Appendix B1). Under certain conditions, the City of Suisun City may be required to undertake Native American consultations to fulfill processes associated with California Government Codes 65092; 65351; 65352; 65352.3; 65352.4; 65352.5, and 65560, formerly known as SB18. This document can assist the County in that effort should it be required.

A record search was conducted by staff at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), Rohnert Park, and a response was sent to MBA on June 1, 2006. The results indicated that, while no previously recorded cultural sites are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the Project Area, four archaeological studies have been conducted within the 0.25-mile radius. Two of these cultural studies were conducted within the Project Area (Appendix B2).
SECTION 1:
INTRODUCTION

The Project Area is located in the County of Solano, California, approximately 3 miles east of the City of Suisun City, north of State Route 12 (SR-12), and southeast of Interstate 80 (Exhibit 1). The Project is located in Section 32 of Township 5 North, Range 1 West of the Denverton, California, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (Exhibit 2). Specifically, it is located south of Peterson Road, west of Walters Road, and north of SR-12 (Exhibit 3). The Project Area is an approximately 21-acre parcel that consists of undeveloped non-native grassland, with housing developments to the north and south of the Project Area. General land use in the vicinity of the Project Area consists of open space and developments to the north, south, and east.

This report was prepared as an assessment of the potential impacts to cultural resources related to proposed commercial development.

MBA conducted cultural resource record reviews and a reconnaissance field survey for the proposed Project. A record search was conducted by staff at the NWIC, Rohnert Park, and a response was sent to MBA on June 1, 2006. The record search results indicated that no previously recorded sites are within a 0.25-mile radius of the Project Area (NWIC File #05-1168). However, there have been four studies conducted within a 0.25-mile radius of the Project Area and two included portions of the Project Area.

A record search of the NAHC’s Sacred Lands file was requested on May 31, 2006. Results of this search were received on August 31, 2006, and noted that the record search failed to indicate the presence of known sacred sites within the Project Area; however, the NAHC provided a list of tribal members that may have information concerning the Project Area. If it is deemed necessary at some future juncture, these tribal members may be contacted for information about the Project Area. Under certain conditions, Solano County may be required to undertake Native American consultations to fulfill processes associated with California Government Codes 65092; 65351; 65352; 65352.3; 65352.4; 65352.5, and 65560 (formerly known as SB18). This document can assist the County in that effort should it be required.

On June 2, 2006, a reconnaissance field survey including all visible ground surface was conducted utilizing transects of 20 meters or less depending on vegetation density and/or other obstructions. No prehistoric or historic resources were observed during the survey within the Project Area.
Source: USGS Fairfield North, Elmira, Denver (1980) Fairfield South (1978) 7.5' DRG.

Exhibit 2
Project Location Map
Project Area

Source: Google Earth

Exhibit 3
Local Vicinity Aerial Map
1.1 - RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GOALS

The goal of this study was to determine if cultural resources are located within the Project Area and to address potential impacts, if appropriate. The study consisted of four distinct efforts:

1. Review of previous cultural resource studies within 0.25-mile of the Project Area.
2. Review of response from NAHC.
3. Pedestrian field survey of the Project Area.
4. Determination if any further studies or actions are needed.
SECTION 2:
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

2.1 - ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1.1 - Geology
In terms of geology, the rivers and creeks flowing out of the Sierra Nevada Mountains have created steep alluvial fans in the eastern portions of the Sacramento Valley. These fans represent one of several major topographic features in the region. Located within the flat, grassland region of the Sacramento Delta, the local terrain is characterized by adjacent wetland regions and Suisun Bay to the southwest. The Project Area itself is flat with an elevation ranging from 10 to 20 feet above mean sea level.

2.1.2 - Climate
The topography of the Sacramento Valley area is diverse and includes mountain ranges, vast valley ecological systems, and riverine and woodland habitats. The weather in the Sacramento Valley is affected by topography and varies widely year round. Summer temperatures can range from 80 to 100 plus degrees Fahrenheit in various inland locations. During the winter, heavy rains are common and a single storm may drop as much as 3 inches of rain in an hour. Winter temperatures are relatively cool, 50 to 70 degrees. An average of 17 inches of rain falls per year in the local region.

2.1.3 - Flora and Fauna
The vegetation surrounding the Project Area consists primarily of non-native grassland, with intermittent occurrences of wetland vegetation generally associated with vernal pools south of the Project Area. Prior to European settlement, vast numbers of mammals, waterfowl, fish, and birds occupied the Sacramento Valley region. Typical to the region were species of deer, numerous small rodents, and various types of fish from nearby creeks and the Sacramento River. Today the vegetation provides habitat for a large number of bird species including red-winged blackbirds, cattle egret, ravens, killdeer, and mourning doves, among others. Local mammals include black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, and small rodents.

2.2 - CULTURAL SETTING
Following is a brief overview of the prehistory, ethnography, and historic background, providing a context in which to understand the background and relevance of sites found in the general area of the
Project. This section is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the current resources available but rather serves as a generalized overview.

Further details can be found in ethnographic studies, mission records, and major published sources including Beardsley (1948), Bennyhoff (1950), Fredrickson (1973 and 1974), Kroeber (1925), Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984), and Moratto (1984).

2.3 - PREHISTORY

Early archaeological investigations in central California were conducted at sites located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. The first published account documents investigations in the Lodi and Stockton area (Schenck and Dawson 1929). The content of initial archaeological reports was typically descriptive narratives with more systematic approaches sponsored by Sacramento Junior College in the 1930s. At the same time, University of California, Berkeley excavated several sites in the lower Sacramento Valley and Delta region that resulted in recognition of archaeological site patterns based on variations of inter-site assemblages. Research from the 1930s identified temporal periods in central California prehistory and provided an initial chronological sequence (Lillard and Purves 1936; Lillard et al. 1939). In 1939, Lillard noted that each cultural period led directly to the next and that influences spread from the Delta region to other regions in central California (Lillard et al. 1939). In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Beardsley documented similarities in artifacts between sites in the San Francisco Bay region and the Delta and refined his findings into a cultural model that ultimately became know as the Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS) which proposed a uniform, linear sequence of cultural succession (Beardsley 1948 and 1954). The CCTS system was challenged by Gerow whose work looked at radiocarbon dating to show that Early and Middle Horizon sites were not subsequent developments but rather, at least partially, contemporaneous (Gerow 1954 and 1974; Gerow and Force 1968).

To address some of the flaws in the CCTS system, in 1973 Fredrickson introduced a revision that incorporated a system of spatial and cultural integrative units. Fredrickson separated cultural, temporal, and spatial units from each other and assigned them to six chronological periods:

- Paleo Indian (10000 to 6000 B.C.)
- Lower, Middle and Upper Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
- Emergent Upper and Lower (A.D. 500 to 1800)
The suggested temporal ranges are similar to earlier horizons, which are broad cultural units that can be arranged in a temporal sequence (Moratto 1984). In addition, Fredrickson defined several patterns, which are a general way of life shared within a specific geographical region. These patterns include:

- Early Horizon or Windmiller Pattern (3000 to 1000 B.C.)
- Middle Horizon or Berkeley Pattern (1000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
- Late Horizon or Augustine Pattern (A.D. 500 to historic period)

Brief descriptions of these temporal ranges and their unique characteristics follow.

2.3.1 - Early Horizon or Windmiller Pattern (3000 to 1000 B.C.)
Characterized by the Windmiller Pattern, the Early Horizon was centered in the Cosumnes district of the Delta and had an emphasis on hunting rather than gathering as evidenced by the abundance of projectile points in relation to plant processing tools. Additionally, atlatl, dart, and spear technologies typically included stemmed projectile points of slate and chert but little obsidian. The large variety of projectile point types and faunal remains suggest exploitation of numerous types of terrestrial and aquatic species (Bennyhoff 1950; Ragir 1972). Burials occurred in cemeteries and intra-village graves and were typically ventrally extended; although, some dorsal extensions are known, with westerly orientation, and a high number of grave goods. Trade networks focused on acquisition of ornamental and ceremonial objects in finished form rather than raw material. The presence of artifacts made of exotic materials such as quartz, obsidian, and shell indicate an extensive trade network that possibly represents the arrival of Utian populations into central California. Also indicative of this period are rectangular Haliotis and Olivella shell beads, and usually perforated charmstones.

2.3.2 - Middle Horizon or Berkeley Pattern (1000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
The Middle Horizon is characterized by the Berkeley Pattern, which displays considerable changes from the Early Horizon. This period exhibited a strong milling technology represented by minimally shaped cobble mortars and pestles, although metates and manos were still used. Dart and atlatl technologies during this period were characterized by non-stemmed projectile points made primarily of obsidian. Fredrickson (1973) suggests that the Berkeley Pattern marked the eastward expansion of Miwok groups from the San Francisco Bay Area. In comparison to the Early Horizon, there is a higher proportion of grinding implements at this time implying an emphasis on plant resources rather than hunting. Typical burials occurred within the village with flexed positions, variable cardinal orientation, and some cremations. As noted by Lillard, the practice of spreading ground ochre over the burial was common at this time (Lillard et al. 1939). Grave goods during this period are generally sparse and typically include only utilitarian items and a few ornamental objects. However,
occasionally objects, such as charmstones, quartz crystals, and bone whistles, are present that suggest the religious or ceremonial significance of the individual (Hughes 1994). During this period, larger populations are suggested by the number and depth of sites in comparison to the Windmiller Pattern. According to Fredrickson (1973), the Berkeley Pattern reflects gradual expansion or assimilation of different populations rather than sudden population replacement as well as a gradual shift in economic emphasis.

2.3.3 - Late Horizon or Augustine Pattern (A.D. 500 to Historic Period)

The Late Horizon is characterized in the Augustine Pattern, which represents a shift in the general subsistence pattern. Changes include the introduction of bow and arrow technology, and most importantly, acorns become the predominant food resource. Trade systems expanded and included raw resources as well as finished products. There are more baked clay artifacts and extensive use of Haliotis ornaments of many elaborate shapes and forms. Burial patterns retained the use of flexed burials with variable orientation but there was a lesser use of ocher and widespread evidence of cremation (Moratto 1984). Judging from the number and types of grave goods associated with the two types of burials, cremation seems to be reserved for higher status individuals whereas other individuals were buried in flexed positions. Johnson (1978) suggests that the Augustine Pattern represents expansion of the Wintuan population from the north, which resulted in combining new traits with those established during the Berkeley Pattern.

Central California research has expanded from an emphasis on defining chronological and cultural units to a more comprehensive look at settlement and subsistence systems. This shift is illustrated in the early use of burials to identify mortuary assemblages to the more recent research using osteological data to determine the health of prehistoric populations (Dickel et al. 1984). Although there continues to be debate over a single model or sequence for central California, the general framework consisting of three temporal/cultural units is generally accepted although the identification of regional and local variation is a major goal of current archaeological research.

2.3.4 - Regional Investigations

The majority of previous investigations in the lower Sacramento Valley have been conducted east of the Sacramento River, typically along the Cosumnes River. Two investigations that focused on the lower Sacramento Valley are CA-SAC-133 (Bouey and Waechter 1992) and CA-SAC-16 (Derr 1983), among others. Pertinent to the proposed project is CA-SOL-363 (Rosenthal and White 1994) located in Dixon, which documented 15 features and 39 burials. The assemblage included projectile points, primarily lanceolate forms, manufactured from obsidian found in Napa Valley, which are typically associated with the Berkeley Pattern. The predominate type of shell beads were Olivella, Class F2a, F2b, F3b, G5, and C3, which were attributed to the Intermediate Phase of the Middle
Period. The lack of Augustine Pattern components is indicated by the absence of Olivella Class M shell beads and clamshell disk beads (Rosenthal and White 1994). The paucity of milling tools in relation to projectile points suggests that subsistence strategies relied on hunting rather than vegetal resources. The analyzed faunal remains indicated that the site was used seasonally as a winter camp. Consistent with Berkeley Pattern burial practices, burials at the site were flexed with variable cardinal orientation. No cremations were reported at the site.

2.4 - ETHNOGRAPHY

At the time of European contact, the project vicinity was occupied by the Patwin tribe of California Native Americans. The Patwin occupied the southwest Sacramento Valley from the town of Princeton, north of Colusa, south to San Pablo and Suisun bays, and from the lower hills of the eastern North Coast Ranges to the Sacramento River. Patwin territory extended approximately 40 miles east to west and 90 miles north to south. Based primarily on linguistic variation, the Patwin are the most southern division of the Wintuan population, who are members of the Penutian linguistic stock. Distinction is made between the Hill and River Patwin. Hill Patwin had villages located in valleys along the hills of the Vaca Mountains and Coast Ranges with populations concentrated in Indian, Bear, Capay, Cortina, Long, and Napa valleys. In general, the River Patwin occupied the west banks of the lower Sacramento River below the Feather River as well as the lower reaches of Cache and Putah creeks in the Sacramento Valley (Cook 1976; Johnson 1978). The Hill Patwin village closest to the Project Area is ethnographically known as Tolenas (Johnson 1978).

The Patwin political organization was centered on the tribelet, which consisted of a primary village with smaller satellite villages governed by a head chief. Tribelets were autonomous and differed from each other with minor cultural variations. The economic and ceremonial activities of each village were administered by a chief whose position was typically passed on patrilineally although some chiefs were chosen by village elders. The chief administered subsistence ventures, such as hunting and gathering expeditions, and served as the primary resource distributor (McKern 1922; Johnson 1978).

The Patwin subsistence base varied seasonally and included gathering seeds and plant resources on the plains, netting migratory waterfowl in the tule marshes, and netting salmon and other fish in the rivers and streams. Acorns were a staple in the Patwin diet and were obtained from communally owned hill and valley oak groves (Johnson 1978). The Patwin typically stored the acorns in granaries as insurance against famine in poor harvest years. Ethnographic reports indicate the Patwin obtained large game such as deer, tule elk, and antelope, by using nets or shooting with bows and arrows. Fish resources were of particular importance to the River Patwin and included perch, sturgeon, salmon,
sucker, trout, and pike as well as other riverine species, such as mussels and turtles, which were caught with bone fishhooks, as well as nets, weirs, and seines (Johnson 1978).

The Patwin trade system included various resources that were exchanged with Wappo, Nomlake, and Southeastern Pomo, and the Hill Patwin. The River Patwin obtained obsidian from sources to the west and east. Initially, finished shell beads were obtained from coastal tribes but later the River Patwin traded for whole shells from the Pacific Coast and produced the beads themselves (Johnson 1978). Relationships with nearby tribes as well as other Patwin tribelets were not always friendly. Johnson notes that relations were strained especially with Napa Valley groups and that the provocations primarily consisted of poaching with the subsequent retaliations consisting of organized battles on individuals or groups or surprise attacks on villages (Johnson 1978).

Patwin mortuary practices included burials in cemeteries located at one end of the village, possessions of the deceased being buried along with them and at some locations property was burned near the grave. Typically, only people who died or were killed away from the village were cremated (Johnson 1978). Johnson notes that according to a Hill Patwin informant “the River people [Patwin] set a corpse upright, then pushed the head down, broke the back, wrapped the body in a skin, and put it in the grave” (Johnson 1978). In addition, long burial ropes constructed of hemp were wrapped around the deceased and the River Patwin utilized temporary containers made of tule reeds (Johnson 1978).

2.5 - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.5.1 - Spanish and Mexican California

Spanish exploration into the Central Valley dates back to the late 1700s and Spanish mission records indicate that by 1800 Patwin inhabitants were being taken to Mission Dolores and that Mission Sonoma, built in 1823, was baptizing Patwin tribal members until secularization of the missions in 1833 (Johnson 1978). Many Native Americans were not willing converts and there are numerous accounts of neophytes fleeing the missions. When the Spanish tried to return them to the missions a series of “Indian Wars” broke out (Johnson 1978). During this period, Native American populations were declining rapidly due to an influx of Euro-American diseases. In 1832, a party of trappers from the Hudson’s Bay Company, led by John Work, traveled down the Sacramento River unintentionally spreading a malaria epidemic to Native Californians. Four years later, a smallpox epidemic decimated local populations and it is estimated that up to 75 percent of the Patwin died (Cook 1955).

The Mexican Period, 1821 to 1848, was marked by secularization of the missions and division of their lands among the Californios as land grants termed ranchos. The large rancho lands were often worked by Native Americans who were used as forced labor. During the 1830s and 1840s, Patwin
territory was usurped by both Mexican and Euro-Americans who secured title to the land through the lenient policies of the Mexican government (Johnson 1978).

2.5.2 - California Gold Rush

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold at Coloma in modern-day El Dorado County that started a gold rush into the region that forever altered the course of California’s history. The arrival of thousands of gold seekers in the territory contributed to the exploration and settlement of the entire state. By late 1848, approximately four out of five men in California were gold miners (Robinson 1948).

The gold rush originated along the reaches of the American River and other tributaries to the Sacramento River and Hangtown, present day Placerville, became the closest town offering mining supplies and other necessities for the miners in El Dorado County. Subsequent gold was found in the tributaries to the San Joaquin, which flowed north to join the Sacramento River in the great delta east of San Francisco Bay. The Mokelumne River formed the boundary between two areas, the upper gold fields known as the Northern Mines and those below the Mokelumne known as the Southern Mines. Other strikes occurred in the northwest regions of California around the Trinity, Klamath, and Salmon rivers.

As mining spread, mining techniques changed. Initially, miners relied on gold panning in a shallow pan until the heavier, gold-bearing materials fell to the bottom while the water and lighter sand spilled out over the rim. This technique was displaced by simple mining machines like the wooden “rocker” into which pails of water were emptied and processed at one time. The gold in and around stream beds was soon exhausted, and hard-rock mining took over, digging shafts up to 40 feet deep with horizontal tunnels radiating from these shafts in search of subterranean veins of gold-bearing quartz (VSFWM 2006).

Hydraulic mining was used on local hillsides with gold-bearing gravel left from now-vanished streambeds. Streams and rivers were diverted from their original courses to provide water for primitive high-pressure hoses that washed down the gravel from a hillside. However, in a short time, the bed of the Sacramento River was raised several feet by tons of debris coming down from the hills, drinking water was polluted, and the danger of flooding was imminent; the Sacramento courts banned hydraulic mining thus saving the city. By 1864, California’s gold rush had essentially ended. The rich surface and river placers were largely exhausted and the miners either returned to their homelands or stayed to start new lives in California. When the gold rush was over, people in towns
such as Jackson, Placerville, and Sonora turned to other means of commerce such as ranching, agriculture, and timber production (Beck and Haase 1974).

With the decline of gold mining, agriculture and ranching came to the forefront in the state’s economy. California’s natural resources and moderate climate proved well suited for cultivation of a variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and grains.

2.5.3 - Solano County

The Project is within Solano County, which is one of California’s original counties and retains its original boundaries. The first county seat was in Benicia but moved to Fairfield in 1858. Early settlers into the county cultivated fruits and vegetables for local consumption and grains were grown on a larger scale for export. Dry farm crops such as wheat and oats used for cattle fodder proved profitable in the area despite limited irrigation. Initially, all products were transported via the waterways but with the completion of California Pacific Railroad, goods were transported by rail (Rawls and Bean 1993).

Fruit and nut crops were particularly successful in the project vicinity and by 1910, Solano-Yolo Land and Water Company proposed dam and irrigation systems to support these crops. However, by 1930, government standards resulted in sales and abandonment of orchards with subsequent fruit workers strikes and riots resulting in the 1934-1935 closure of the peach and cherry shipping industry (RootsWeb 2006). The fruit and nut industry slowly turned around and was aided by the formation of the Solano Irrigation District in 1948. Solano County continued to grow over the years with the addition of Travis Air Force Base, new industrial parks, and a resurgence of fruit processing and packing warehouses.
SECTION 3: REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Government agencies, including federal, state, local agencies, have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that may be affected by projects regulated, funded, or undertaken by the agency. Federal and state laws that govern the preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, state, regional, and local significance include National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and CEQA. In addition, laws specific to work conducted on federal lands includes the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the American Antiquities Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The following CEQA criteria were used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts on cultural resources for the Project. An impact would be considered significant if it would adversely affect a resource eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CR), or if it is identified as a unique archaeological resource.

3.1 - STATE PROCESS

The following narrative has been summarized from the OHP website (OHP 2005):

An archeological site may be considered an historical resource if it is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California (PRC Section 5020.1(j)) or if it meets the criteria for listing on the CR (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 4850).

The most recent amendments to the CEQA guidelines direct lead agencies to first evaluate an archeological site to determine if it meets the criteria for listing in the CR. If an archeological site is an historical resource, in that it is listed or eligible for listing in the CR, potential adverse impacts to it must be considered (PRC Section 21084.1 and 21083.2(l)). If an archeological site is considered not to be an historical resource, but meets the definition of a “unique archeological resource” as defined in PRC Section 21083.2, then it would be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section.

With reference to PRC Section 21083.2, each site found within the Project Area will be evaluated to determine if it is a unique archaeological resource. A unique archaeological resource is described as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without
merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

As used in this report, “non-unique archaeological resource” means an archaeological artifact, object, or site that does not meet the criteria for eligibility for listing on the CR, as noted in subdivision (g) of PRC Section 21083.2. A “non-unique archaeological resource” requires no further consideration, other than simple recording of its components and features. Isolated artifacts are typically considered non-unique archaeological resources. Historic structures that have had their superstructures demolished or removed can be considered historic archaeological sites and are evaluated following the processes used for prehistoric sites. Finally, OHP recognizes an age threshold of 45 years. Cultural resources built less than 45 years ago may qualify for consideration, but only under the most extraordinary circumstances.

CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 Section 15064.5 is associated with determining the significance of impacts to archeological and historical resources. Here, the term historical resource includes the following:

1. A resource listed in, or determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the CR (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.).
2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the PRC Section 5024.1(g) requirements, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript, which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered a historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant if the resource meets the
criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1; Title 14 CCR Section 4852) including the following:

A. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;

B. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Typically, archaeological sites exhibiting significant features qualify for the CR under Criterion D because such features have information important to the prehistory of California. Note that a resource not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

3.1.1 - Threshold of Significance

If a project will have a significant impact on a cultural resource, several steps must be taken to determine if the cultural resource is a unique archaeological resource under CEQA. If analysis and/or testing determine that, the resource is a unique archaeological resource and therefore subject to mitigation prior to development, a threshold of significance should be developed prior to testing. The threshold of significance is a point where the qualities of significance are defined and the resource is determined to be a unique. A significant impact is regarded as the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the resource will be reduced to a point that it no longer meets the significance criteria. Should analysis indicate that project development would destroy the unique elements of a resource; the resource must be mitigated for under CEQA regulations.
SECTION 4: RECORD SEARCH AND FIELD SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

4.1 - RECORD SEARCH RESULTS

On June 1, 2006, an archival records search was conducted by staff at the NWIC, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California (NWIC File No. 05-1168; Appendix B). The record search included the Project Area and a 0.25-mile radius outside the Project Area boundaries. The record search included current inventories of the NRHP, the CR, and the California Inventory of Historical Resources (CIHR). In addition, the Office of Historic Properties Directory for Solano County was reviewed to determine the existence of previously documented local historical resources. Four historic maps, 1853 General Land Office (GLO) Plat Map, 1861 Rancho Tolenas Plat Map, 1872 Map of Solano County, and 1908 USGS Antioch quadrangle map, were examined to locate any historic resources within the Project Area. None of the historic maps show any development within the Project Area. The record search indicated that four studies (NWIC #S-16744, 5167, 12752, and 12743) have been conducted within 0.25 mile of the Project Area. Two of the studies (S-16744 and 5167) included portions of the Project Area, mainly the southern half of the Project Area and a linear strip parallel to Peterson Road. The two remaining studies are within 0.25-mile. None of the four surveys resulted in recordation of any cultural resource sites.

No cultural resources are listed on the NRHP, the CR, or local directories within the record search radius.

4.2 - SACRED LANDS RECORD SEARCH RESULTS

On May 31, 2006, MBA sent a request to the NAHC to obtain information related to known Native American sacred sites within the Project Area. A response was received from NAHC on August 31, 2006 indicating that a search of the Sacred Land File failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate Project Area. A list was provided with five Native American contacts that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the Project Area. If at a later date it is deemed appropriate, these Native Americans will be contacted for information about the Project Area.

4.3 - FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

On June 2, 2006, Senior Project Archaeologist, Carrie D. Wills, conducted a pedestrian survey of the proposed Project Area located south of Peterson Road, east of SR-12, and west of Walters Road.
(Appendix C: Photograph 1). The Project Area consists of level ground covered with tall, grassy vegetation, which obscured the ground surface and reduced ground surface visibility to near 0 percent (Appendix C: Photograph 2). It was thought that perhaps there would be better visibility in the central portion of the Project Area but once in the center, it was discovered that the dense vegetation covered the entire Project Area (Appendix C: Photograph 3). At random intervals a trowel was used to scrap away the vegetation to see if any resources were present; none of the scrapings revealed any resources.

4.4 - FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

No prehistoric or historic resources were discovered during the pedestrian survey of the Project Area. The presence of dense vegetation prevented a detailed examination of the Project Area; however, the pedestrian survey was supplemented by random sampling below the vegetation. The lack of any cultural resources encountered within any of the previous four surveys conducted within the 0.25-mile records search radius, corroborates these findings.
SECTION 5: SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 - RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with CEQA, MBA assessed the effects of development at the Project located east of the City of Suisun City, Solano County, California. The results of the cultural resource record search and pedestrian field survey indicate that no prehistoric or historic resources have been previously recorded within the Project Area nor were any prehistoric or historic resources discovered during the field survey. In addition, a record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the Project Area and the immediate surroundings.

Since no resources have been previously recorded within a 0.25-mile radius of the Project Area and no cultural resources were discovered during the field survey, no further archaeological work is recommended for the Project Area.

5.1.1 - Discovery of Previously Unknown Resources

Although no resources were discovered within the Project Area, there is always the possibility for previously unknown, buried resources to be uncovered during Project development. In the event that buried cultural resources are discovered during construction, operations shall stop immediately in the vicinity of the find and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to determine whether the resource requires further study. Cultural resources could consist of, but are not limited to, stone artifacts, bone, wood, shell, or features, including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction within the Project Area should be recorded on appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms and evaluated for significance in terms of CEQA criteria. If significant resources are discovered, a formal evaluation using CEQA criteria will be conducted to determine if further study, test excavations, or data recovery procedures are necessary.

5.1.2 - Accidental Discovery of Human Remains

Ground-disturbing activities may uncover previously unknown human remains. Should this occur Federal laws and Standards apply including NAGPRA and its regulations found at 43 CFR 10.

In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, PRC § 5097.98 must be followed. In this instance, once project-related earthmoving begins and if there is accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, the following steps shall be taken:
1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the Solano County Coroner is contacted to determine if the remains are Native American and if an investigation of the cause of death is required. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner shall contact the NAHC within 24 hours, and the NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the “most likely descendant” (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The MLD may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98, or

2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity either in accordance with the recommendations of the most likely descendant or on the Project Area in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance:
   - The NAHC is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.
   - The descendant identified fails to make a recommendation; or
   - The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendant, and the mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.
SECTION 6:
REFERENCES


Northwest Information Center (NWIC). Rohnert Park. File Number 05-1169.


SECTION 7:
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: October 9, 2006  Signed: Carrie Wills, M.A., RPA
Carrie Wills, M.A., RPA
Michael Brandman Associates
Irvine, CA
Appendix A:
Personnel Qualifications
Appendix B:
Cultural Resource Compliance Documents
B-1: Sacred Lands Record Search
August 31, 2006

Carrie Wills
Michael Brandman Associates

Sent by Fax: 925-830-2715
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Proposed Walmart, Solano County

Dear Ms. Wills:

A record search of the sacred lands file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4038.

Sincerely,

Debbie Pilas-Treadway
Environmental Specialist III
Native American Contacts
Solano County
August 30, 2006

Cortina Band of Indians
Elaine Patterson, Chairperson
PO Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987
corranch@inreach.com
(530) 473-3274 - Voice
(530) 473-3190 - Voice
(530) 473-3301 - Fax

Wintun Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1839
Wintun (Patwin)
Williams, CA 95987
corwepa@hotmail.com
(530) 473-3318
(530) 473-3319
(530) 473-3320 - Fax

Cortina Band of Indians
Bill Combs, Vice Chairperson
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Williams, CA 95987
(530) 473-3274 - Voice
(530) 473-3190 - Voice
(530) 473-3301 - Fax

Rumsey Indian Rancheria of Wintun
Marshall McKay, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Wintun (Patwin)
Brooks, CA 95606
(530) 796-3400
(530) 796-2143 Fax

Rumsey Indian Rancheria of Wintun
Kesner Flores, Cultural Resources Specialist
5433-K, Clayton Road, #133
Wintun / Patwin
Clayton, CA 94517
cainagpra@hotmail.com
925-586-8919

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5087.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.96 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Walmart, Solano County.
B-2: Northwest Information Center Record Search Results
MEMO

Date: 1 June 2006

To: Carrie D. Wills, Michael Brandman Associates, Bishop Ranch 3, 2633 Camino Ramon, Suite 460, San Ramon, CA 94583.

From: Lisa Hagel

Re: Wal-Mart, Suisun Project; NWIC File No.: 05-1168

**Denverton & Fairfield South 7.5**

Sites in or within 1/4 mile radius of the project area: There were no recorded sites within the project area or within ¼ mile of the project.

Studies in or within 1/4 mile radius of the project area: S-16744 & 5167 are within the project area. S-12752 & 12743 are within ¼ mile. Enclosed are bibliographic references for the reports. The study locations are plotted on your map.

OHP Historic Property Directory: Copied the indices for Suisun City.

California Inventory of Historical Resources: There were no listings in the project vicinity.

**Historic Maps:**

- 1853 GLO Plat Map, T5N /R1W: Copied the pertinent section of the map.
- 1861 Rancho Tolenas Plat Map: Nothing is shown in the vicinity of the project.
- 1872 J.S. Henning (surveyor), Map of Solano County, California: Copied the pertinent section of the map.
- 1908 USGS Antioch Quadrangle: Copied the pertinent section of the map.
August 31, 2006

Carrie Wills
Michael Brandman Associates

Sent by Fax: 925-830-2715
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Proposed Walmart, Solano County

Dear Ms. Wills:

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This list is current only as of the date of this document.
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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Walmart, Solano County.
Appendix C: Project Area Photographs
Photograph 1: Project Area west of Walters Road, facing northwest.

Photograph 2: Overview showing grassy vegetation, facing west.
Photograph 3: Taken from central Project Area, facing southwest.