



October 2, 2024

Anne Girtz
Senior Engineer
West Yost Associates
6800 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 150
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Subject: Cultural Resource Study for the Graton CSD Sewer Repair & Rehabilitation Project, Graton, Sonoma County, California (LSA Project No. 20241654)

Dear Mr. Johnston:

LSA prepared this study to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and implement California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 15000 et seq. The Town of Graton (Town) requires that the Graton CSD Sewer Repair & Rehabilitation Project (Project) be in compliance with CEQA; Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13 (Environmental Quality), Chapters 2.6, Section 21083.2 (Archaeological Resources) and 2.6, Section 21084.1 (Historical Resources); and the *State CEQA Guidelines*, CCR Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5 (Determining the Significance of Impacts on Historical and Unique Archaeological Resources).

LSA Archaeologist/Cultural Resources Analyst Kendra Kolar, M.A., conducted the background research, and Christopher Morgan, M.A., prepared the technical report. The methods and results of these tasks are described in this report, and recommendations are provided based on the findings.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proposed Project is located in Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21 of Township 7 North, Range 9 West, Mount Diablo Base Line Meridian, as depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Camp Meeker and Sebastopol, California*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1 - Attachment B). The Project consists of an existing sewer pipe alignment buried under paved roadways and public rights-of-way in Graton, Sonoma County. The approximately 4.3 miles of existing underground sewer pipeline that comprises the Project is predominantly bounded on the west by Ross Road, just beyond Green Valley Road to the northwest, Gravenstein Highway to the east, and Edison Road on the south (Figure 2 – Attachment B).

Project Description

The Project includes various replacement and repairs to the existing wastewater collection system including, repairs at one existing lift station, replacement of one existing lift station, repairs of approximately 3.6 miles of existing sewer pipelines and associated manholes, replacement of approximately 0.70 miles of existing sewer pipelines and associated manholes, rehabilitation at the existing headworks influent channel, and installing approximately 0.33 miles of redundant pipeline adjacent to an existing sewer line for additional reliability of the system (refer to Figure 2). The repairs or replacement of existing pipelines would require excavation to a depth of between 5 and

10 feet below ground surface (varies based on pipeline location). The new 8-inch PVC or HDPE redundant pipeline would be installed parallel to the existing 8-inch force main which serves the District's primary lift station. Currently, the District's lift station #1 only has one force main and no bypassing capability which does not allow that force main to be taken out of service for inspection or repairs, or to bypass the force main in case of a break. Installation the new pipeline would require excavation to a depth of 5 feet below ground surface. Lift station #2 is in poor condition and requires full replacement. The existing headworks influent channel is in poor condition and requires application of a rehabilitation liner to extend the life of concrete elements.

The majority of construction would occur on existing paved roadways that are within public rights-of-way or on a bike path within the Town of Graton, with no tree removal or vegetation clearing required. Some additional construction would occur within the footprint of the WWTP. Construction activities would result in the disturbance of approximately 13,000 cubic yards of soil. Excavated soil would be placed along the trench alignment and replaced as each section is repaired. The existing pipelines that require repairs are believed to be asbestos cement (AC) material, based on best available information. AC pipeline would be replaced with 6, 8, and 12-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes, with no increase in capacity. The Project would also include repaving of the existing roads and bike path to restore them to preconstruction conditions. Land uses in the vicinity of the Project site primarily include residential, agricultural, industrial, and commercial uses. The Project construction period is dependent on available grant funding from the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund grant. The soonest construction would begin is in the Spring of 2026. The total construction period would occur over a 12-to-21-months.

Project Setting

The Project sits at approximately 104 feet (ft) above mean sea level south of the Russian River and is flanked to the east by the Mayacamas Mountains. Published geologic data identify Tertiary deposits (T) underlying the majority of the Project site that date to the late Miocene and late Pliocene (Delattre and Koehler 2008). However, Quaternary terrace deposits (Qt), which range from the late Pleistocene through the Holocene, are present along the channel of Atascadero Creek (Delattre and Koehler 2008), which a small portion of the northwest corner of the Project overlaps.

The Project is located east and to the south of a network of stream channels, creeks, and small tributaries related to the Russian River north of the town of Graton. The closest waterway is Atascadero Creek, which lies west of the Project.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

LSA conducted background research consisting of a records search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), a review of historical maps and aerial photographs, a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and a review of published geological information to gauge buried site sensitivity. The results of these tasks are summarized below and are used to assess the potential for undiscovered archaeological deposits within the Project site.

Northwest Information Center Records Search

A cultural resources records search was conducted on June 28, 2024, by staff at the NWIC of the California Historical Resources Information System to identify previous archaeological site records and cultural resource studies within the Project site and vicinity. The NWIC, an affiliate of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official State repository of cultural resources records and reports for Sonoma County. The search encompassed the Project and a surrounding 0.25-mile radius (NWIC Records Search File No. 23-1765).

The results of the record search indicate that 14 previous cultural resources studies (S-001913, S-006153, S-010757, S-011222, S-011344, S-011871, S-014521, S-015629, S-018584, S-019684, S-021100, S-021458, S-035275, and S-053823) were conducted, all of which included pedestrian surveys that overlapped portions of the Project site. Thirty other previous cultural resources studies included portions of the 0.25-mile search radius outside the Project site. No cultural resources have been recorded within the Project boundaries; however, four resources have been recorded within 0.25 mile of the Project site (see Attachment C). These resources include one informal resource (C-802), a report by a landowner of a prehistoric artifact (a pestle), remnants of historic ranch structures (P-49-000040), and two prehistoric artifact scatters (P-49-000643 and P-49-002514). With the exception of the historic resource (recorded at the southern end of the search radius), the prehistoric resources were all recorded in the northwest corner of the search radius but remain outside the Project area.

Historical Map and Photograph Review

On July 25, 2024, LSA Archaeologist Christopher Morgan reviewed online historic-period aerial photographs (HistoricAerials.com [accessed July 25, 2024]) and maps (ngmdb.usgs.gov [accessed July 25, 2024]). The results are presented in Table A.

Table A: Historical Map and Aerial Photograph Review

Map/Photograph	Results
1935 <i>Sebastopol</i> USGS topographic quadrangle (1:48,000)	The town of Graton appears on the map with development of some structures and what appears to be Ross Road (one of the primary roads on the Project site), along with some of the other roads associated with the Project site.
1942 <i>Sebastopol</i> USGS topographic quadrangle (1:64,500)	Several new structures added to the town site; little to no change is apparent.
1952/1953 aerial photographs	The town continues to develop slowly, and the appearance of Graton Road can be seen along with the expansion of several other residential roads. The early formation of a residential neighborhood can be seen within the Project site area. The east area of the Project site to Gravenstein Highway consists of farmland and orchards.
1954 <i>Sebastopol</i> USGS topographic quadrangle (1:24,000)	Further expansion of the town toward Gravenstein Highway to the east. Oak Grove School appears on the map; however, much of the Project site area remains agricultural land.
1968 aerial photograph	Continued gradual development. Much of the residential area within the Project site remains the same, but orchards still occupy the east portion of the Project site.
1971 aerial photograph	There is no change from the previous photograph.

Table A: Historical Map and Aerial Photograph Review

Map/Photograph	Results
1983 aerial photograph	The orchards where the Project site is located have started to disappear and have developed into residential areas.
1993 aerial photograph	No substantial change from the previous photograph.
2005 aerial photograph	Same as previous, with increased residential development in the east portion of the Project site.
2009 through 2020 aerial photographs	Gradual increases in development throughout the area, but overall, not much substantial change within the Project site.

Source 1: United States Geological Survey (various dates).

Source 2: NETR Online/Historicaerials.com (accessed July 25, 2024).

USGS = United States Geological Survey

NAHC Sacred Lands File Search

LSA submitted a request to the NAHC to search the SLF for Native American cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed Project. The NAHC maintains the SLF database and is the official State repository of Native American sacred site location records in California.

Cameron Vela, NAHC Cultural Resources Analyst, responded to the SLF search request on June 12, 2024, stating that the results were negative and there were no known Native American cultural resources in the Project site (Attachment D). The respondent noted, however, that “the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area.” A list was provided of Native American individuals to contact for additional information regarding the potential for cultural resources in the Project site.

LSA understands that the Town of Graton is responsible for conducting Native American consultation, per Assembly Bill 52, for this Project.

Geoarchaeological Review

Fundamentally, there is an inverse relationship between landform age and the potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits. Pleistocene-age landforms (2.5 million years to ca. 11,500 cal B.P.) pre-date human occupation of the region; archaeological deposits on these landforms, if present, would be located at or near the surface. In contrast, landforms that formed during the Holocene (ca. 11,500 years ago to the present) may contain buried surfaces (paleosols) that would have been available in the past for human habitation (Meyer and Rosenthal 2007).

Geoarchaeological studies in neighboring regions identify landform age, type, and position in the landscape, as well as surface relief, as important criteria for assessing the potential for buried archaeological deposits. In their geoarchaeological study and sensitivity model for nine San Francisco Bay area counties, Meyer and Rosenthal (2007) identified Holocene-age landforms as having a general potential for containing buried pre-contact archaeological deposits. They further determined that pre-contact archaeological sites tend to be situated at the base of hills near sources of water, on stream terraces, and buried beneath a few inches to several feet of alluvial soils.

As discussed earlier in this report, the majority of the Project site lies within an area of Tertiary deposits (specifically the Wilson Grove [Twg] Formation [Delattre and Koehler 2008]), which date to the Miocene (ca. 23 million to 5.3 million years ago) and Pliocene (ca. 5.3 million to 2.5 million years ago) epochs, predating human habitation. The presence of terrace deposits formed during the Pleistocene and Holocene are mapped within the Project site, albeit only in the northwest corner to the west of Ross Road (Figure 2). According to the criteria identified in neighboring regional geoarchaeological studies, this portion of the Project site does have general potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits based on the age of the underlying landform. However, in this case, sensitivity is diminished given the scope of work slated for the northwest corner of the Project site, which consists of repairing the existing pipeline in place, in a previously disturbed context (construction fill), with no excavation of native soils.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological resources were identified within the Project site during the course of this study. Background research indicated that development of the Project site began as early as the 1930s according to available maps of the area. By 1983, much of the Project site had been developed to its current level. As mentioned in the project description, the Project is an existing sewer pipe alignment buried under paved roads in a developed area of the town. No observable portions of the Project site were available at the time of this study; therefore, no field survey was conducted. Much of the existing pipeline is to be repaired in place (Figure 2), with a short section along Ross Road to be replaced all together alongside the existing alignment. This portion of the Project lies within a geological area that predates human habitation (i.e., tertiary deposits). Intact archaeological deposits would not be encountered within this portion of the Project site.

Pleistocene- to Holocene-age terrace deposits are mapped within the northwest portion of the Project site, which have a general potential to contain buried pre-contact archaeological deposits. However, the proposed plan for this section of the Project is to repair the existing pipeline in place in a previously excavated context, limiting the potential for the presence of intact archaeological deposits.

Recommendations

It is possible that Project-related construction could encounter subsurface isolated archaeological resources in the northwest portion of the Project site. However, this potential is limited and does not warrant archaeological monitoring of ground-disturbing activities. However, LSA recommends that: (1) construction personnel receive archaeological sensitivity training; and (2) if potential archaeological materials are discovered, an archaeologist be contacted to assess the age and evaluate the significance of the find.

No additional investigation is recommended at this time given the diminished sensitivity for pre-contact archaeological deposits. Recommendations are provided below should unanticipated pre-contact or historic-period materials be encountered during construction activities.

Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Deposits

The following procedures should be followed in the event that archaeological deposits are identified during Project activities and an archaeologist is not present on the site:

If deposits of pre-contact or historical archaeological materials are encountered during project activities, all work within 25 feet of the discovery should be redirected and the qualified archaeologist should assess the situation, consult with agencies as appropriate, and make recommendations for the treatment of the discovery. Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials. Archaeological materials can include flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, and choppers) or obsidian, chert, basalt, or quartzite toolmaking debris; bone tools; culturally darkened soil (i.e., midden soil often containing heat-affected rock, ash and charcoal, shellfish remains, bones, and other cultural materials); and stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, and handstones). Pre-contact archaeological sites often contain human remains. Historic-period materials can include wood, stone, concrete, or adobe footings, walls, and other structural remains; debris-filled wells or privies; and deposits of wood, glass, ceramics, metal, and other refuse.

It is recommended that impacts to archaeological cultural resources be avoided by project activities. If such deposits cannot be avoided, the Applicant should, in consultation with the Town of Graton and (if applicable) local California tribal groups, evaluate the significance of the find under CEQA. If the find is determined to qualify as a historical resource (PRC §21084.1) or a unique archaeological resource (PRC §21083.2), impacts to the deposit will need to be avoided or such impacts must be treated. If treatment is required, a plan should be developed in consultation with the Applicant and the Town to mitigate, avoid, or minimize impacts to cultural resources. Treatments may consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, systematic recovery and analysis of archaeological deposits; recording the resource; preparing a report of findings; accessioning recovered archaeological materials at an appropriate curation facility; and community outreach. All reports produced as part of the evaluation and treatment of cultural resources identified during the Project shall be submitted to the Town for review and comment. All final documents should be submitted to the NWIC.

Accidental Discovery of Human Remains

In the event that human remains are encountered at any time during Project work, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC §5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner would notify the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC would determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) per PRC §5097.98. With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The MLD's recommendations may include scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials, preservation of Native American human remains and associated items in place, relinquishment of

Native American human remains and associated items to the descendants for treatment, or any other culturally appropriate treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Christopher Morgan, M.A.
Field Archaeologist

- Attachments:
- A: References Cited
 - B: Project Figures
 - Figure 1: Project Location and Regional Vicinity
 - Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of Project Site
 - C: NWIC Records Search Results
 - D: NAHC SLF Results

ATTACHMENT A

REFERENCES CITED

Delattre, M.P., and R.D. Koehler

- 2008 *Geologic Map of the Sebastopol 7.5 Quadrangle, Sonoma County, California: A digital database*. 1:24,000. National Geologic Map Database. Electronic document. Website: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/mapview/?center=-122.828,38.439&zoom=13> (accessed July 2024).

Meyer, Jack, and Jeffrey Rosenthal

- 2007 *Geoarchaeological Overview of the Nine Bay Area Counties in Caltrans District 4*. Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., Davis, California.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- 2024 Web Soil Survey. Electronic document. Website: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx> (accessed July 2024).

NETRONLINE

- 2024 Historic Aerials. Electronic document. Website: <https://historicaerials.com/viewer#> (accessed July 2024).

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1935 *Sebastopol, California*, 1:48,000 topographic quadrangle. USGS, Washington, D.C.
1942 *Sebastopol, California*, 1:62,500 topographic quadrangle. USGS, Washington, D.C.
1954 *Sebastopol, California*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. USGS, Washington, D.C.

ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location and Regional Vicinity

Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of Project Site

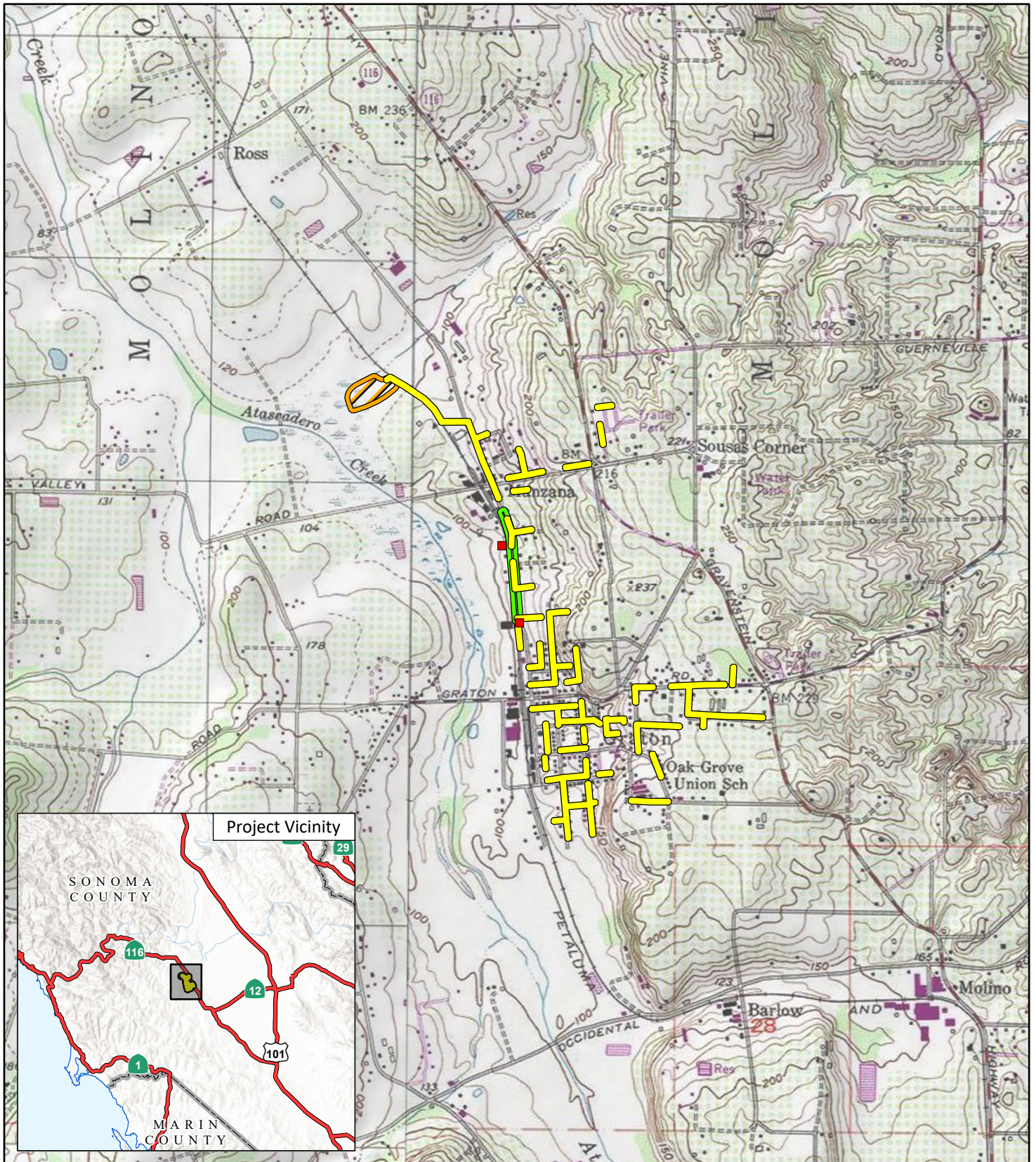




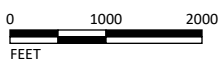


FIGURE 1

LSA

Project Site

-  Repair Sections of Existing Sewer Pipeline
-  Proposed New Sewer Pipeline
-  Existing Graton Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant
-  Existing Lift Station



SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Camp Meeker (1971) and Sebastopol (1980), CA

I:\20241654\GIS\Pro\Graton Community Services District, Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation Project\Graton Community Services District, Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation Project.aprx (6/7/2024)

Graton Community Services District,
Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation Project
Project Location and Regional Vicinity

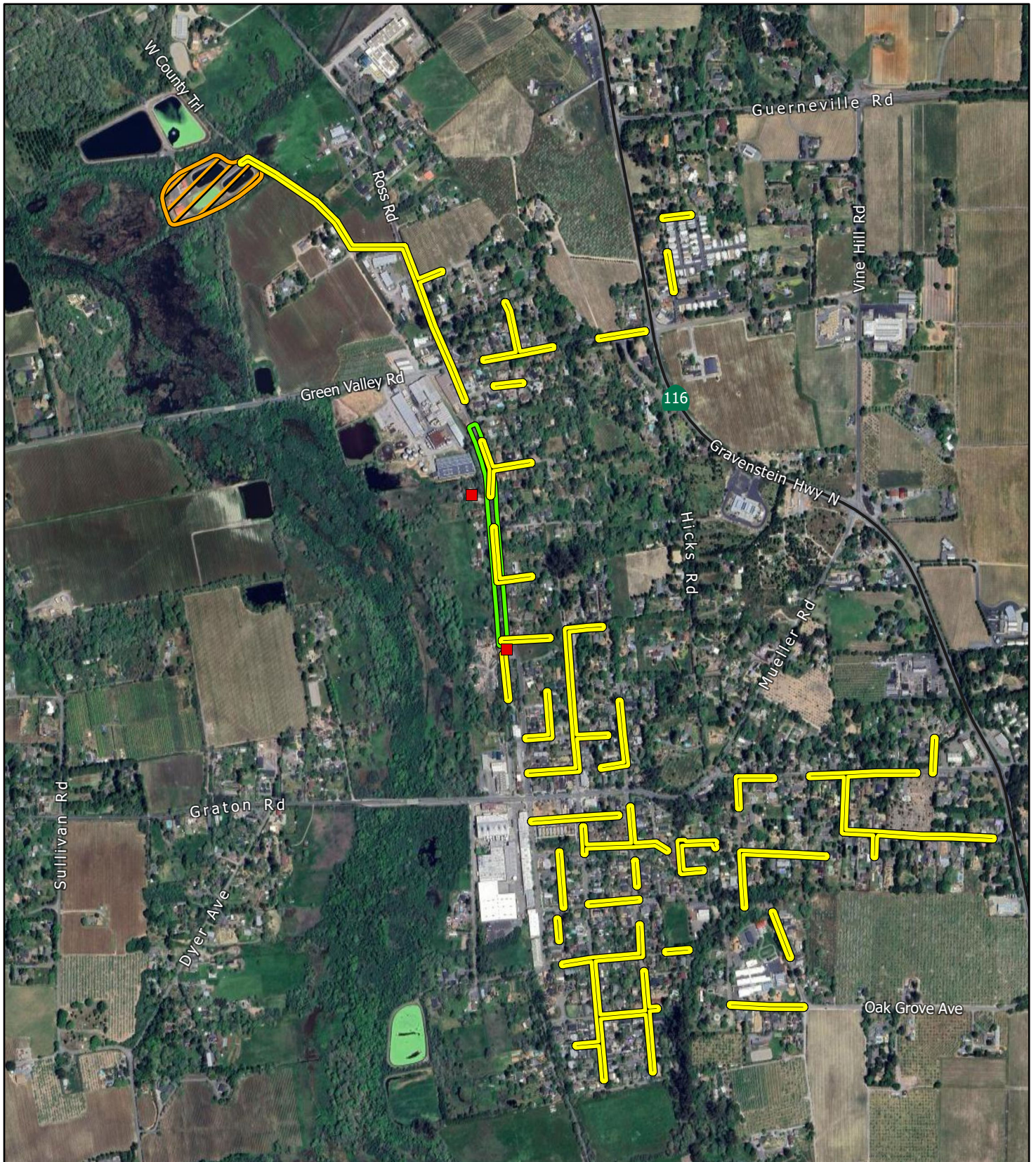




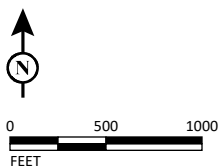


FIGURE 2

LSA

-  Repair Sections of Existing Sewer Pipeline
-  Proposed New Sewer Pipeline
-  Existing Graton Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant
-  Existing Lift Station



SOURCE: Google Maps (2023)

*Graton Community Services District,
Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation Project
Aerial Photograph of Project Site*

ATTACHMENT C

NWIC RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES
INFORMATION
SYSTEM



ALAMEDA
COLUSA
CONTRA COSTA
DEL NORTE

HUMBOLDT
LAKE
MARIN
MENDOCINO
MONTEREY
NAPA
SAN BENITO

SAN FRANCISCO
SAN MATEO
SANTA CLARA
SANTA CRUZ
SOLANO
SONOMA
YOLO

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<https://nwic.sonoma.edu>

6/28/2024

NWIC File No.: 23-1765

Kendra Kolar
LSA Associates, Inc.
157 Park Place
Richmond, CA 94801

Re: Graton CSD Sewer Repair & Rehabilitation Project (LSA#20241654)

The Northwest Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Camp Meeker and Sebastopol USGS 7.5' quad(s). The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a ¼ mile radius:

Resources within project area:	0
Resources within ¼ mi. radius:	4: C-802, P-49-000040, P-49-000643, P-49-002514
Reports within project area:	14: S-001913, S-006153, S-010757, S-011222, S-011344, S-011871, S-014521, S-015629, S-018584, S-019684, S-021100, S-021458, S-035275, S-053823
Reports within ¼ mi. radius:	30: See report details

- Resource Database Printout (list):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Database Printout (details):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Digital Database Records:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (list):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Database Printout (details):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Digital Database Records:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Resource Record Copies:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Report Copies:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- OHP Built Environment Resources Directory:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Caltrans Bridge Survey:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Ethnographic Information:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Historical Literature:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Historical Maps:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- Local Inventories:** enclosed not requested nothing listed
- GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:** enclosed not requested nothing listed

Shipwreck Inventory:

enclosed not requested nothing listed

*Notes:

** Current versions of these resources are available on-line:

Caltrans Bridge Survey: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Soil Survey: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/surveylist/soils/survey/state/?stateId=CA>

Shipwreck Inventory: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Shipwrecks.html>

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Sincerely,



Lindsey Willoughby
Researcher

ATTACHMENT D

NAHC SLF RESULTS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 12, 2024

Kendra Kolar
LSA

Via Email to: kendra.kolar@lsa.net

Re: Graton CSD Sewer Repair & Rehabilitation Project, Sonoma County

Dear Ms. Kolar:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF 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.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. 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. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment



CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Laurena Bolden
Serrano

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of
Luiseño Indians

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Raymond C.
Hitchcock**
Miwok, Nisenan

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