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MNS Engineers

Cultural Resources Technical Report for the Seahawk Energy Storage System Project

Non-Confidential Version

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June 3, 2026

Cultural Resources Technical Report- Non-confidential Version

Version: Draft

New Leaf Energy
Seahawk Energy Storage Project
Santa Cruz, County California

June 3, 2026

Cultural Resources Technical Report- Non-Confidential Version Seahawk Energy Storage Project Santa Cruz, County, California

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Type of Study: Literature Search, Archaeological Pedestrian Survey, Architectural Reconnaissance Survey, and Architectural Resources Assessment

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USGS Quadrangles: Watsonville West¸ California

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Contents

1.0 Technical Cultural Resources Report for the Seahawk Energy Storage Project – Non-confidential Version

This non-confidential report contains the findings of a cultural resources assessment for the Seahawk Energy Storage Project (project), conducted by MNS Engineers, Inc. (MNS). The project is located at 90 Minto Road in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California and includes Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 051-101-77 and 051-101-78 (Figures 1 and 2). This cultural resources assessment was completed to file an Opt-In Application under Assembly Bill (AB) 205 with the California Energy Commission (CEC). Per the requirements of the CEC, the study was complied with Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) to identify archaeological, historical, or tribal resources in the project area. Cultural resources and tribal cultural resources consist of archaeological sites, features, structures, objects, sacred places which possess the criteria required for significance according to criteria outlined in Sections 21074 and 21084.2 of the PRC. This study includes a review of pertinent background literature including previous studies, aerial imagery, maps, a buried sites assessment, and the results of a systematic pedestrian surface survey and an intensive standing structures assessment.

MNS completed a systematic pedestrian cultural resource and tribal cultural resource survey and standing structures survey in November and December 2025. No previously recorded cultural resources were in the study area. Twenty-two properties with buildings and structures over 45 years old in the architectural survey area and one property in the project area were documented but deemed ineligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Thus, they are not historical resources for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Fourteen properties with buildings or structures over 45 years old were identified within the architectural survey area but could not be fully evaluated for listing in the CRHR. However, the proposed project would not directly impact these 14 properties and would have a less-than-significant or no visual impact on the setting of these properties as outlined in CEQA PRC § 21084.1, 14 CCR § 15064.5(3).

A moderate degree of prior ground disturbance was documented during the cultural resources survey, attributable to historic agricultural land use and 20th-century development. Identified disturbances include the installation of electrical transmission infrastructure, subsurface utilities, and associated access roads. The project area is underlain by soil units mapped as Watsonville loam and Pinto loam (WSS 2026). The Watsonville series consists of deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in alluvium. Watsonville soils are on old coastal terraces and valleys and have slopes of 0% to 50%. The mean annual precipitation is about 28 inches, and the mean annual air temperature is about 58°F (WSS 2026). The Pinto series consists of moderately well drained soils that are formed in material derived mainly from sedimentary alluvium (WSS 2026). Pinto soils are on marine terraces and old alluvial fans and have slopes of 0% to 15% (WSS 2026). The mean annual precipitation is about 28 inches, and the mean annual air temperature is about 57°F.

Geology is characterized as Pliocene to Holocene quaternary alluvium and marine deposits (California 2015). These deposits include, from oldest to youngest, the Purisima Formation, Aromas Red Sands Formation (Allen 1946) terrace deposits, alluvium, and dune sand (Muir 1972). Surface and buried archaeological site sensitivity modeling conducted for the study demonstrate that while the project area contains a high sensitivity for surface archaeological deposits, it contains a low sensitivity for buried archaeological sites. The archival research and pedestrian survey yielded negative results for either surface or buried archaeological sites, and neither are likely located within the project area. Thus, the project has little to no potential to impact significant subsurface archaeological resources.

The construction of the Seahawk battery terminal is not anticipated to adversely impact historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources, and there are no attested human remains located within project area. In the event cultural and historical resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the Construction Contractor shall temporarily halt or divert excavations within 50 meters (165 feet) of the find until it can be evaluated. All potentially significant archaeological deposits shall be evaluated to demonstrate whether the resource is eligible for inclusion on the CRHR, even if discovered during construction. If cultural

and historical resources are encountered, they shall be evaluated and mitigated simultaneously in the timeliest practicable manner, allowing for recovery of materials and data by standard archaeological procedures. For prehistoric archaeological sites, this data recovery involves the hand-excavated recovery and non-destructive analysis of a small sample of the deposit. Historic resources shall also be sampled through hand excavation, though architectural features may require careful mechanical exposure and hand excavation. Procedures will be designed to adequately address treatment of cultural resources under CEQA guidelines (Article 5: Section 15064.5) should they be discovered during project activities.

Any previously undiscovered cultural and historic resources found during construction activities shall be recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) forms and evaluated for significance by a qualified archaeologist. Significant cultural resources consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, glass, ceramics, fossils, wood, or shell artifacts, or features including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If human remains are encountered, the California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that the County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately and no further disturbance will occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or their authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD will complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

2.0 Environmental Setting

The project area is in the Pajaro Valley within the Coast Ranges north of the city of Watsonville. The project area currently consists of approximately 47 acres of rural agricultural land centered on a hill west of College Lake. Soils in the project area are mapped as Watsonville loam and Pinto loam (United States Department of Agriculture 2026). The geology is characterized as Pliocene to Holocene quaternary alluvium and marine deposits (United States Department of Agriculture 2026). The average elevation is 105 feet above mean sea level. The Watsonville area exhibits a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and cooler, wetter winters. The area is an agricultural hub with diverse crops grown in the fertile lowlands. The natural hydrological system of the region is fed by local precipitation, seepage from the Pajaro River, and run-off of precipitation from the Soquel-Aptos area that drains southeastward into the Pajaro Valley. College Lake is a seasonal lake managed by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (Muir 1972).

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The project site supported raspberry crops on the southern and eastern portions of the property, strawberry crops on the northwestern portion of the property, and perimeter and internal dirt access roads. It was bordered by agricultural fields to the south, orchards and agricultural fields to the east, agricultural fields to the north, and a residential area to the west. The project site and surrounding land have been intensively

cultivated since at least 1993 (Brewer 2024). The project area was historically located within grasslands or wooded forest, which have changed radically due to introduced species in the last 200 years and historic cattle grazing and agricultural pursuits. Small seasonal wetlands could be found within these grasslands, ranging from a few square feet to several hundred acres. Biological surveys conducted for the project identified 27 plant species (consisting of six native and 21 nonnative species) and eleven different bird species.

3.0 Precolonial Context

Jones et al. (2007:134), in their synthesis of the archaeology of California, demonstrate that Greenwood's (1972) study at Diablo Canyon was the first on the central coast to combine ecological interpretations with an artifact defined cultural chronology. This was an important turning point for researchers of central coast archaeology, especially since the central coast was understood to lack a specific regional chronological context, instead being grouped either with the more defined schemes of the San Fransico Bay Area to the north, or to the Santa Barbra bight to the south (Jones et al. 2007:134). Building upon Greenwood's research (1972), as well as more hyper local chronological sequences previously developed for the Santa Cruz/Southern Santa Clara Valley, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, San Simeon Reef (Northern San Luis Obispo Coast), Morro Bay, Pecho Coast, Pismo Beach/Nipomo Mesa, and other adjacent interior regions, Jones et al. (2007:134), divided the precolonial past into a six part chronological system described in further detail below.

3.1 Paleo-Indian Period (pre-8000 cal B.C.)

The Paleo-Indian Period on the central coast is attested solely by the presence of isolated fluted projectile points (Jones et al. 2007:134), all that lack specific dating of the artifact itself. These points have been identified in Nipomo (Bertrando 2004:135; Gibson 1996; Jones et al. 2007; Mills et al. 2005) and at CA-SLO-1429 near Santa Margarita (Gibson 1996; Jones et al. 2007). These isolated artifacts are interpreted to reflect occupation of the region between 13,000 – 10,000 years in the past (Jones et al. 2007:134). Assertions of pre-Holocene associations of flaked stone eccentric crescents are not supported by the archaeological record of the region, as CA-MNT-229 in Monterey possess crescents from context dated to 6000 -4500 cal B.C. (Hylkema 1998; Jones and Jones 1992; Jones et al. 2007), and other crescents found at CA-SCR-177, in Scott's Valley, lack reliable dating information (Jones et al. 2007).

3.2 Millingstone Period (8000 – 3500 cal B.C.)

The Millingstone Period is better attested on the central coast than the preceding Paleo-Indian Period (Jones et al. 2007:135). The period is characterized by large quantities of well formed, "handstones and/or millingslabs, crude core and cobble-core tools, and less abundant flake tools and large side-notched projectile points" (Jones et al. 2007:135). Millingstone sites have been identified in a diverse suite of environments and habitats, ranging from open rocky coasts, estuaries, and nearshore interior valleys (Jones et al. 2007:136-137). Many Millingstone residential sites also contain marine shell in appreciable numbers, indicating that the coastal environment was also being utilized along with the perceived greater reliance on botanical subsistence sources as indicated by the uptick in grinding and milling technologies (Jones et al. 2007:137). Both of the oldest attested Millingstone sites, Cross Creek (CA-SLO-1797) and Diablo Canyon (CA-SLO-2), contain evidence of reliance on the coastline for subsistence, indicating the relationship between inhabitants and the coastline were entrenched and occurring early on during the Millingstone Period (Jones et al. 2007:137).

Generally speaking, and despite the indication given by the name of the period, faunal remains from Millingstone sites indicate a broad-spectrum subsistence pattern focused on hunting a wide array of shellfish, fish, birds, and other mammals (Jones et al. 2007:137). Vertebrate remains specifically showcase the importance of deer, pelagic birds, and rabbits in the diet of Millingstone populations (Jones et al. 2007:135). At Cross Creek (CA-SLO-1797), which is the earliest attested interior site that dates to this period, there is very little to no evidence of the reliance of vertebrates, instead, the site indicates a heavy reliance on shellfish and seeds and other botanically based subsistence sources (Jones et al. 2007:137). Overall, during Millingstone, fishbone is relatively underrepresented compared to subsequent periods, with densities ranging from 3 to 129

NISP/m^3 (Jones et al. 2007:137). At CA-SCR-60, Newsome et al. (2004) used isotopic data derived from Millingstone aged human internments to reveal an individual's diet comprised 70% to-84% marine sourced calories.

3.3 Early Period (3500 - 600 cal B.C.)

The Ealy Period is the first component of what is understood as an overarching material cultural paradigm referred to as the Hunting Culture (Jones et al. 2007; Rogers 1929). Identification of this paradigm's range extends into the Middle Late Transition Period described later. In terms of material culture, the transition from the Millingstone Period to the Early Period is characterized by an influx or increase in the number of large side-notched projectile points found in archaeological deposits beginning around 3500 cal B.C. On the coast, these are often found in associations with dense midden deposits, while in the interior, where soil acidity tends to preclude good preservation of faunal materials, middens are almost exclusively made of the square-side notched projectile points, other bifaces, and the first appearance of the contracting stem and Rossi squared stemmed projectile points (Jones et al. 2007:138). Handstone, milling slabs, and pitted stones that first appeared in the Millingstone retain their place within the archaeological deposits of the Early Period but are also joined by the earliest adoption of mortar and pestle technology in the region (Jones et al. 2007:138).

Cobble-core tools become less frequent and line fishing is seemingly exclusively represented by bipointed bone gorges (Jones et al. 2007:138). Class L rectangular *Callianax* sp. shell beads are a hallmark of the Early Period on the Central Coast (Jones et al. 2007:135). Breschini and Haversat (2002) have called for the start of the Early Period to be adjusted back to 4000 cal B.C, and for the period to be divided into a Phase I component and a Phase II component (Jones et al. 2007:138). They (Breschini and Haversat 2002) base this determination on a recognized pattern of a retention of Millingstone technological profiles during the Phase I component, and a shift to the Phase II component after 2000 cal B.C., where Early Period deposits are marked by high amounts of stemmed projectile points, the appearance of mortar and pestle technology, and wider spread distribution of the Class L *Callianax* sp. shell beads. Previous research of a mortuary complex at CA-MNT-391 demonstrates a mortuary preference for flexed positions and the inclusion of grave goods such as projectile points, fish gorges, and shell beads (Jones et al. 2007:138).

3.4 Middle Period (600 cal B.C. – 1000 cal A.D.)

The subsequent Middle Period, in a somewhat similar fashion as the transition from the Millingstone to the Early Period, witnessed the retention of the tried and trusted artifacts from the Early Period, such as contracting stem projectile points, but also the abandonment of the production and use of square stemmed and large side-notched projectile points (Jones et al. 2007:138). The preferred Class L rectangular *Callianax* sp. shell beads are replaced in preference by G2 saucer beads (Jones et al. 2007:138), however groundstone technology from the Early Period is also retained, only with a greater reliance on pestles (Jones et al. 2007:138). While, as demonstrated at Swordfish Cave (CA-SBA-50), bedrock mortars may date to as early 1385 cal B.C. in the Early Period, they are well attested at CA-SLO-5 on the coast of San Luis Obispo County between cal A.D. 710 – 1100. Jones and Lewbow (2015) maintain the overall age of bedrock mortars encompasses the late Early, Middle, Middle-Late Transition, and Late/Early Historic periods in this region. It is generally accepted though, that the Middle Period at the very least saw widespread adoption and diffusion of bedrock mortar technology and practices, likely occurring by no later than cal A.D. 500 (Jones and Lebow 2015).

Circular shell fishhooks are thought to emerge and be indicative of Middle Period occupations on the central coast (Jones et al. 2007:139). Pitted stones and grooved stone net weights are commonly found in Middle Period middens, and bone bird flutes are, if not commonly, sometimes recovered as funerary items from mortuary contexts (Jones et al. 2007:139). Flexed burial positions continue to be the norm, and in addition to the bird bone flutes, funerary items in Middle Period burial contexts include bone tubes and G2 *Callianax* sp. shell beads (Jones et al. 2007:139). Beginning towards the terminus of the Middle Period, the arrival of small leaf-shaped projectile points in the archaeological record signals the arrival of bow and arrow technology, however, the prevalence of contracting stem *atlatl* or dart points into the Late Period likely means that the bow and arrow was used to a lesser degree, or at least concurrently with the spear and dart points for over a millennia (Jones et al. 2007:139).

3.5 Middle-Late Transition Period (1000 – 1250 cal A.D.)

The Middle-Late Transition Period was a time of dramatic changes in the assemblages and settlement patterns that occurred on a regional level, though to varying degrees, starting sometime after cal A.D. 1000 (Jones et al. 2007:139). Identified changes in the material culture recovered from sites that date to this period, include the appearance of large numbers of arrow points, the disappearance of most stemmed points, and variations in the type of shell beads found. How and when this transition occurred appears to be variable, but mostly fall within the 250-year period between 1000 and 1250 cal A.D. (Jones et al. 2007:139). On the central coast, the Middle-late Transition is well represented at CA-SLO-9, which dates between cal A.D. 900 and 1280 (Jones et al. 2007:139). The deposit contained numerous contracting-stemmed projectile points, small leaf shaped arrow points, expediently produced notched fishing line sinkers, circular shell fishhooks, and G2 *Callianax* sp. shell beads (Jones et al. 2007:139).

3.6 Late Period 1250 cal A.D. - 1769)

The Late Period marks a significant shift in material culture, which has been interpreted as both further evidence of the tumultuous and dynamic changes that occurred during the preceding Middle-Late Transition Period, as well as the emergence of a new paradigm, starting around 1250 cal A.D., that subsumed the Hunting Culture (Jones et al. 2007:140). Late Period assemblages deviate from the identified facets of the Hunting Culture by the prevalence and wide-spread distribution of Desert side-notched and triangular shaped Cottonwood arrow points, small bifacial bead drills, bedrock mortars, hopper mortars, Class E (lipped) and K (cupped) *Callianax* sp. shell beads, steatite disk beads (Jones et al. 2007:140). Beads in general are more common, and according to Jones et al. (2007:140), most Late Period sites contain several bead drills and bead manufacturing debris, which they interpret as evidence of low-level or small scale bead production being widespread during this period, which differs from the Santa Barbara Channel region, where bead production during this Period was pervasive and on an industrial scale (Jones et al. 2007:140).

Circular shellfish hooks are still in use during the Late Period, and the persistence in the use of spear or dart points is attested by the presence, albeit in lesser numbers than preceding period, of contracting stem projectile points. Jones et al. (2007: 140) contend that the Late Period is marked by a proliferation of new sites, as sites dating from the Middle Period and before are abandoned and not reoccupied during the Late Period, baring exceptions for residential bases near estuaries that predate the Late Period. Jones et al. (2007:140) generally agree that occupational preferences shift to the interior, with many sites containing small middens and adjacent to bedrock mortars features. A unique site and/or feature type referred to as abalone pavements and within the central coast region are exclusive to portions of the Monterey coastline, first emerge during this period (Jones et al. 2007:140).

4.0 Ethnohistoric Setting

The project area and vicinity are within the ethnographic boundaries of the *Costanoan, Ohlone, Popeloutchom, Amah Mutsun, Awaswas*, and *Rumsen* amongst other subgroups. In this section of the report, we will refer to this wide set of diverse people that inhabited the region as *Ohlone*. By 1000 A.D., the predecessors of the *Ohlone* likely emerged and/or migrated into the Monterey Bay Area eventually occupying the region from the northern terminus of San Francico Bay region to Point Sur on the Big Sur coastline (Kroeber 1925; Levy 1978; Tanner et al. 2025). Other Ethnographic groups bordering *Ohlone* territory included the *Yokuts* to the east, *Esselen* and *Salinan* to the south, *Tamien* and *Muwekma* to the north, and the *Miwoks* even further on the north and eastern boundaries (NLD 2025).

4.1 *Ohlone*

As early as Sebastian Vizcaonno's 1602 expedition to Monterey, Spanish colonizers reaching the central coast region of Santra Cruz and the general Monterey Bay area began to encounter Native *Ohlone* people. These indigenous people occupied areas of the present-day San Francisco Peninsula, the East Bay, south

to the Santa Clara Valley, through Santa Cruz, Monterey, and inland to San Juan Bautista. These areas contain diverse habitats including different marine ecological zones, meadows and grasslands, chaparrals, redwood and other woodland forests, as well as coastal shrubs and scrub. The *Ohlone* spoke a *Costanoan* language, which belongs to the *Utian* family of the larger *Penutian* language stock. The *Costanoan* language is organized by linguistical anthropologists into eight different attested dialects (Levy 1978). Interpretation of available linguistical data suggests that the *Ohlone* migrated to the region sometime near 500 A.D. (Levy 1978:486). However, contrary perspectives maintain that the linguistical data suggests a much earlier migration, as far back as the Early Period in 3,000 B.C. (Whistler 1977). The estimates for the total *Ohlone* population within the area during the time prior to European contact vary between 7,000 to 11,000 individuals (Cook 1943; Heizer 1974; Kroeber 1925; Levy 1978). Examining Mission records, Milliken (1995) noted Spanish accounts which described encountering native villages or settlements in this region every few miles, with *Ohlone* villages thought to contain up to several hundred inhabitants, usually not exceeding five hundred people.

Like many other Native Californians, the onset of the Mission Period resulted in irrevocable suffering and catastrophic societal changes for the *Ohlone*. During the Mission Period, the Spanish actively suppressed *Ohlone* customs and expressions of their indigenous culture through violence and coercion. In addition to the overt pressure on the population inflicted by the Spanish, European diseases plagued Native populations. By the 1830's the population estimates presented above of approximately 10,000 *Ohlone* were thought to plummet to as little as 2,000 (Cook 1943). *Ohlone* culture persisted however, and vestiges of their knowledge, lifeways, and culture survive to this day. Interestingly, the Spanish accounts themselves are valuable tools that provide a window in which we can view and reconstruct *Ohlone* behavior during the Mission Period. Additionally, 19th, 20th, and early 21st century anthropological research, archaeological investigations, Native American studies, and ethnographies have helped illuminate the *Ohlone's* past (Bean 1994; Broadbent 1972; Kroeber 1925; Levy 1978; Milliken 1995).

Ohlone society was organized within a network of autonomous hamlets and villages (Levy 1978) that Kroeber (1925) referred to as triblets. These triblets served as the primary unit of political organization, and were each led by a chief, whose power was typically inherited through patrilineal descent, from father to son, however there are accounts of female chiefs existing as well (Levy 1978). The triblet itself was built upon a hierarchal system of locations, with a primary, typically somewhat sedentary, residential center surrounded by satellites of resource procurement and task specific locations. Triblets were occupied on a seasonal round, with the *Ohlone* moving to different triblet centers during times of peak resource supply in each area. During winter months, *Ohlone* families often coalesced together and relied on stored good gathered throughout the previous year. Similar to other California Native peoples, the *Ohlone* wore necklaces of Olivella, and other, shells and abalone pendants, and are attested to have conducted body modification and ornamentation in the form of pierced ears and nasal septum. Woven and braided plant fibers were worn by women along with furs and hides, and men were known to possess beards and grow their hair long (Levy 1978:493; Milliken 1995:18). During ceremonies, rituals, and time of warfare, *Ohlone* applied dyes to their body and adorned themselves with feathers and shells.

While the *Ohlone* enjoyed a varied diet, ethnographic accounts documented that the acorn served as an important and nutritious food source (Beechy 1968; Bickel 1981; Broadbent 1972; King 1974; Milliken 1995). The acorns were gathered from numerous oak species including California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and Tanbark oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*). *Ohlone* hunted large terrestrial game mammals such as deer, pronghorn, and tule elk (Baumhoff 1963) which served as important sources of protein. As part of their regular management of the environment, the *Ohlone*, practiced controlled burning of densely vegetated areas. These fires cleared lands of the dense vegetation cover which in turn increased the productivity of plant biomass and facilitated the refresh of new growth that attracted browsing animals. Rabbits were hunted in large, communal drives and captured in nets or snares. Other small game, such as squirrel, ground squirrel, woodrat, and even other rodents were as well hunted and captured (Levy 1978:491). Insects such as caterpillars, grubs, larvae, and grasshoppers were also collected and eaten.

The *Ohlone* are known for their impressively large shell mounds that are found in coastal areas of their ancestral territories. These shell mounds highlight the important role of marine resources, especially shellfish, served in the *Ohlone* subsistence system. Types of shellfish resources consumed by the *Ohlone* include mussels (*Mytilus* spp.), abalone, (*Haliotis* spp.), and various clam, oyster, and scallop species. Numerous varieties of fish from both marine and freshwater sources were captured with shell and bone

fishhooks, spears, and nets (Broadbent 1972; Levy 1978). In addition, sea mammals such as sea lions, seals, and sea otters were hunted (Baumhoff 1963:17). *Ohlone* also used small rafts made from Tule reeds for the gathering of marine and freshwater derived resources.

Little concrete information on *Ohlone* spirituality has been documented by ethnographers, although anthropologist's overall assessment is that their worldview was likely similar to the Salinan and Yokut peoples to the south and east of *Ohlone* territory (Kroeber 1925:470-473; Levy 1978:489-490). Shamans held high status positions within the *Ohlone* social structure, communing with the spirit realm and possessing magical powers. Shamans also served as medical practitioners and spiritual healers who treated disease and could diagnose ailments through ritual and spells (Levy 1978:489). Some ethnographers (Baumhoff 1963; Kroeber 1925; Milliken 1995) maintain that the *Ohlone* peoples were practitioners of the *Kuksu* religious cult. *Kuksu* was prevalent among numerous indigenous peoples of northern and central California prior to and continuing into the colonial period (e.g., *Pomo*, *Patwin*, *Maidu*, and *Miwok*). The *Kuksu* religion was known for its rituals, ceremonial dances, ritual items, and generally flagrant regalia. Elaborate hats of headgear made of tule and decorated with sticks and feathers are a commonly identified facet of the *Kuksu* religious cult, which may have been replicated in anthropomorphic abalone pendants, which are often found in mortuary contexts.

4.2 Ethnohistorical to Contemporary *Ohlone* Community

The first documented interaction between the Spanish and the *Ohlone* was in 1602-03 during the voyage of Sebastian Vizcaino. As discussed briefly above, the subsequent Mission period (1776–1834) was a time of tremendous suffering and interruption of traditional indigenous customs and way of life. As their social, economic, and political systems broke apart due to the pressures brought on by the Spanish colonizers, the *Ohlone* became increasingly dependent and ingrained into the mission system. Divorced from their age-old subsistence and settlement patterns, *Ohlone* people witnessed both acute and long-term degradation and loss of their self-determination and identity. Disparate Native peoples from California and even Mexico were moved between and gathered in different Missions, resulting in a mixing of people from distinct tribal groups.

Beginning in 1834, with the waning of the Catholic Church's power and prestige in the Spanish New World, due to the new policy of the recently formed Mexican government of secularization of the Mission System, migrations and a large-scale system-wide exodus of Native peoples out of the Mission owned lands occurred. *Ohlone* were not afforded many opportunities for land ownership via Mexican land grants of the post 1834-era, with most living as tenant workers or semi-mobile laborers providing much desired labor for the newly forming rancherias. With the arrival of the American Period in the mid-19th century, the *Ohlone* did not see their situation improved. Throughout the remaining 19th and into the 20th centuries, Native peoples of California, due to real threats of violence, murder, and general bigotry, as well as lack of access to social benefits and resources, lived on the outskirts (both in terms of geographical location and abstractly in a communal/societal sense of American life). Often forced to assimilate and removed from lands they had settled, sometimes via forced indoctrination as children in "Indian boarding schools", much of the *Ohlone*'s ethnicity and cultural past became obscured.

The present day *Ohlone* community is made up of different groups, all of which, to date, lack federal recognition status. This status is legally binding and is an affirmation of the US government's recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-governance. The status comes with many benefits, none of which the *Ohlone* has been able to access. Despite the limitations and lack of access to resources that accompany a lack of federally recognized status, *Ohlone* people possess an inherent public interest in the understanding, documentation, and preservation of their heritage and material culture. Today, the *Ohlone* are active community members, and often participate and serve as stakeholders and stewards of the environment in Natural and Cultural Resource reviews and compliance services.

5.0 Historic Setting

5.1 California History

The first attested European to reach the California coastline was Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, who reached the region in 1542 A.D. Cabrillo's expedition was aimed at exploring the territory for potential Spanish

settlements. Sebastián Vizcaíno was likely the first European to explore present-day Monterey and/or Santa Cruz County during his subsequent expedition in 1602 -1603 A.D. This was followed by the Portola expedition of 1769 A.D., which traveled through Santa Cruz County and modern-day Watsonville on its way to San Fransico Bay. Portola traveled through what would be called the Pajaro Valley but was unable to relocate Monterey Bay. It was the Portola expedition that gave the Pajaro River its name, "*El Río del Pajaro*," or "the bird river," after the expedition members witnessed local native inhabitants with a stuffed idol of a bird.

5. 2 Mission Period (1769 to 1822 A.D.)

Building upon the momentum and information derived from the Portola expedition, the Spanish began in earnest to establish a system of Missions in Alta California dispersed between the modern-day Mexican border and San Fransico Bay. Under Spanish rule, and in addition to numerus outposts or *Asistencias,* twenty-two individual Spanish Missions were founded in Alta California (Brewer 2024; Hoover et al. 2002; Koch 1973; Lehmann 2000) . Local inhabitants of the Santa Cruz region were forced off their ancestral lands and were violently and coercively ushered into the Mission system. During this period, California natives served as the labor source and economic lever that drove the missionization of California. Many local *Aptos* or *Cajastaca* natives of the Pajaro Valley found themselves within the sphere of influence of Mission Santa Cruz, which was established in 1791 and completed in 1794. There they worked and lived with other nearby native groups including the *Uypi Sayanta*, *Chitactac*, as well as natives from other parts of Alta California and even as far south as modern-day mainland and Baja Mexico. While some European settlers, and even Native Americans received Spanish land grants during the Mission Period, the practice of transferring mission lands to private individuals saw its peak during the subsequent Mexican-Rancho Period.

5.3 Mexican-Rancho Period (1822 to 1848 A.D.)

Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and the Mexican government quickly enacted policy changes affecting many aspects of colonial life, including the secularization of the Mission system. Reappropriating large tracts of land that had formerly belonged to the Missions, and by extension the Catholic Church, the Mexican government transferred ownership to private individuals and families, including some instances of grants being issued to Native Americans. These land transfers coincided with a burgeoning trade of cattle hides and tallow, timber harvesting, and crop farming, all industries that benefited from the influx of labor and economic opportunity brought on by the policies of secularization. The project area is located within the former *Rancho Los Corralitos*, which was a 15,440-acre Mexican-era Land Grant. The grant was issued in 1823 by Governor Luis Antonio Argüello and was followed by a confirmatory grant in 1844 by Governor Manuel Micheltorena to José Amesti. *Los Corralitos* translates to "the little corrals" in Spanish. The grant extended along Corralitos Creek north of Watsonville and encompassed present-day communities of Corralitos and Amesti.

5.4 American Period (1848 A.D. to present)

The Mexican American war, ended with the 1848 Treaty of Hidalgo, ceded Alta California to the United States government. This event, quickly followed with the news of gold sparking a rush starting in the same year, brought remarkable changes to California. The early American Period was somewhat chaotic, with large influxes of migration stretching the abilities of local municipalities and communities, triggering land disputes between the existing residents and the homesteaders, miners, hunters, amongst other American migrants into the area. Cattle, as well as other ranching animals such as sheep and goats continued to dominate the agricultural economy of the central coast region into the late 1880s, however, the nutrient rich soils and ideal Mediterranean climate were ripe for the diversification and adoption of new agricultural products such as apples, berries, nuts, and grains.

Like many other places in California, the history of a given area is often organized into the times before and after the construction of or linking of a community with the ever-growing railroad system. The first railroad in the vicinity of the project area arrived in 1876. Prior to this time the area was sparsely occupied by farms and ranches. The rails connected Santa Cruz with the southern farming community of Gilroy, a route which ran through present-day Watsonville. The railroad was the mechanism by which raw materials were exported out of the natural resource-rich rural agriculture and forests of raw timber, as well as the way manufactured and imported goods were brought into the area. The rails also facilitated the movement of

large numbers of people, and in a relatively quick manner, both for settling in the region permanently as well as for short-term tourism.

After the railroad's arrival, the Pajaro Valley continued to grow as an agricultural center, fueled by immigrant labor, including Filipinos who often faced hostile racial discrimination. In 1930, racial tensions in peaked with the Watsonville Riots where Filipinos were attacked by mob of white Americans living in the area. As the 20th century progressed, Filipinos remained resilient and continued to live and work in the Pajaro Valley. After the close of World War II, food canneries in the area, such as Green Giant, highlighted the region's continuing role in producing food for the nation. By the 1990's, the Pajaro Valley was also a hub for producing frozen food. Today, the Pajaro Valley Joint Unified School District estimates the population of the valley to be approximately 95,000, and the community continues to be a center for agriculture.

5.5 Watsonville

After the end of the Mexican American War in 1848, the area that would become the City of Watsonville witnessed a large influx of migrations from Europe as well as the American East Coast. Two early European settlers, D.S. Greogry and John H. Watson laid out the first town grid in 1852, which was shortly followed by rapid residential and commercial development (Overmeyer 2015). The burgeoning community was incorporated as a town in 1868, and named after one of its founders, John H. Watson. In 1903 voters adopted a new charter and the town become known as the City of Watsonville. Like other areas of the Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz County and the region at large, the arrival of the railroad brought major changes to the area. The City was the site of an infamous 1930s race riot stoked by mobs of white Americans that attacked Filipino American farmworkers, resulting in at least one fatality (Showalter 1989), despite that Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino farmworkers had been farming the region since the late 1800's and early 1900's. At least partly due to the Japanese American Interment during World War II, many Asian Americans of the region lost their property and were forced out of the area. Today, the area remains a hub for agriculture, with many Mexican and Hispanic workers providing labor for the farms.

5.6 Amesti

The nearby community of Amesti is a small community with less than 3,000 residents. The community bears the name of Jose Amesti, a Basque settler, Spanish bureaucrat and politician, and the grantee of the *Rancho Los Corralitos* land grant. Jose Amesti passed away in 1855, after which his land was split in two, with half being left to his widow, Prudenciana, and the other half split amongst his four daughters. Before she passed away in 1879, Prudenciana provided 150 acres of land for a new orphanage as well as land for the Amesti School, near her adobe home. The community has historically comprised mostly agricultural workers and their families. Most of the residences in the town were built between 1970 and 1999, but some existing residences and structures were built between 1940 and 1969. The nearby Amesti Adobe in Corralitos was demolished in 1907.

5.7 Freedom

Another nearby community called Freedom has a population of almost 4,000 residents today. The community traces its roots back at least to the 1860s when it was called Whiskey Hill (Branson-Potts 2025). Whiskey Hill consisted of a series of shacks and bars that served liquor to the local working population of farmers, cattlemen, traders, timber workers, etc. (Branson-Potts 2025). The community was reportedly a wild and dangerous place, where rowdy crowds drank to excess and violence was not uncommon (Branson-Potts 2025). The town appeared to have a carnival flare, and was known as a host location for animal fights including bears and bull fights (Branson-Potts 2025). In 1877, after the community's population had grown and the local inhabitants wanted to forge a change in the nature of their home, the name was changed from Whiskey Hill to Freedom (Branson-Potts 2025). The name change was also likely associated with the United States Centennial which had occurred in 1876 (Clark 2008). Today, there is a Freedom Elementary School, a Freedom Branch Library, and the famous KPIG-FM radio station is licensed to Freedom, California.

5.8 Study Area History

A review of the Plat Map of *Rancho de los Corralitos* shows where the current project area was located in the rancho. A review of historic maps from 1914 to1947 depict Minto Road, but do not show any structures

within or near the project area. A historic aerial image from 1935 depicts the project area and shows no structures visible within the project area. There are two ranch complexes visible to the north across Minto Road outside the project area, as well as a third ranch on the southeastern portion but outside the project area. Beginning with the 1948 aerial photograph, two facets of the landscape that exist today are visible in the project area; the existing Orchard is visible, covering much of the project area, and the existing structures/ranch complex located on the western side of the project area are visible. A review of subsequent aerial photographs from 1952, 1956, 1963, 1964, 1968, 1975, and 1981 demonstrate the project area has undergone little change since the 1948 aerial photograph was taken.

6.0 Resources Inventory Methods and Results

6.1 Literature Record Search

MNS conducted a literature search with the CHRIS to determine whether any archaeological, historical, and/or cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project area, as well as whether any previous cultural resources studies have been conducted in the project area. Additionally, the CHRIS provided records of all previously recorded cultural resources and previously conducted studies within a 1-mile radius of the project area. The results of the CHRIS search were returned on November 19, 2025 (NWIC File No.: 25-0672). In addition to the CHRIS records, archival searches of the archaeological and historical records, national and state databases, and historic maps were conducted and included the following sources:

- NRHP: listed properties
- CRHR: listed resources
- Historic Property Data File for Santa Cruz County
- Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility
- Built Environment Resources Directory
- California Inventory of Historical Resources

According to the CHRIS search results, there are no previously recorded cultural resources located within the project area, and there are seventeen previously recorded cultural resources located within a 1-mile radius (Table 1). The majority of these resources (65%) are recorded as historic-era structures or buildings, 24% are precolonial sites, and 12% are recorded as multicomponent, containing both a precolonial and a historic-era component.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within a 1-mile Radius of the project area

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Age
P-44-000049	CA-SCR-000044/H	Site	Prehistoric, Historic
P-44-000108	CA-SCR-000104/H	Site	Prehistoric, Historic
P-44-000117	CA-SCR-000113	Site	Prehistoric
P-44-000153	CA-SCR-000150	Site	Prehistoric
P-44-000161	CA-SCR-000158	Site	Prehistoric
P-44-000327	CA-SCR-000295	Site	Prehistoric
P-44-000400	-	Building	Historic
P-44-000408	CA-SCR-000335H	Structure, Other	Historic
P-44-000708	-	Building	Historic
P-44-000709	-	Building	Historic

Primary Number	Trinomial	Resource Type	Age
P-44-000981	-	Building	Historic
P-44-000984	-	Building	Historic
P-44-001153	-	Structure	Historic
P-44-001154	-	Building	Historic
P-44-001155	-	Building, Structure	Historic
P-44-001156	-	Structure	Historic
P-44-001238	-	Structure	Historic

According to the CHRIS search results, four previous studies have been conducted within the project area (Table 2), and an additional 46 studies have been conducted within a 1-mile radius of the project area (Table 3). The studies previously conducted within the project area consist of archaeological and architectural historical Phase I Cultural Resource Inventories conducted between 1990 and 2014. The studies previously conducted within a 1-mile buffer of the project area consist of archaeological and architectural historical Phase I Cultural Resource Inventories, Phase II Cultural Resource Evaluations, Phase III Cultural Resource Data Recoveries, Cultural Resource Monitoring Reports, as well as Cultural Resource planning documents.

Table 2. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Studies within the project area

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-011495	Preliminary Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Assessor's Parcel Number 51-062-04, Freedom, Santa Cruz County, California	Anna Runnings and Trudy Haversat	1990	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-030661	Collocation ("CO") Submission Packet, FCC Form 621, Green Valley Substation, SF-05191A	Lorna Billat	2005	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-039867	Archaeological Survey Report for the PG&E Santa Cruz 115 kV Reinforcement project, Santa Cruz County, California	Allika Ruby and Cindy Baker	2012	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-039867a	Addendum to Archaeological Survey Report for the PGG&E Santa Cruz 115 kV Reinforcement project, Santa Cruz County, California	Allika Ruby	2013	Archaeological, Field study
S-043578	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance of APN 051-101-20, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Mary Doane and Gary S. Breschini	2014	Archaeological, Field study

Table 3. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Studies within a 1-mile Radius of the project area

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-003753	Archaeological Impact Evaluation, the Amesti Road Sewer project of the Freedom Sanitation District, Santa Cruz County, California	William Roop	1975	Archaeological, Field study
S-003761	Preliminary Archaeological Reconniassance of proposed Pajaro Valley Public Cemetery District expansion, Santa Cruz County, California	Joseph W. Morris	1976	Archaeological, Field study
S-003782	Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Aquatic Park	Toni Carrell	1975	Archaeological, Field study
S-003800	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance, Green Valley Road, Corralitos Crk to Holohan Rd., FAS 1270	Mary Ellen Farley and Rob Edwards	1974	Archaeological, Field study
S-003802	Preliminary Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Pinto Lake and Schwan Lake Parks, Santa Cruz County, California	Martin H. Heicksen	1974	Archaeological, Field study
S-003804	An archeological reconnaissance at the site of the proposed Brookside Medical Clinic development (letter report)	John M. Fritz	1976	Archaeological, Field study
S-003878	Archaeological Reconnaissance, Pinto Lake County Park, Santa Cruz County, California	Thomas L. Jackson	1977	Archaeological, Field study
S-004016	An Assessment of the Cultural Resources of the Lower Pajaro River Basin, California, with Selected Preliminary Field Study	Rob Edwards, Mary Ellen Farley, and Chester King	1974	Archaeological, Field study, Other research
S-004056	Archaeological Evaluation of CA-SCR-158, Pinto Lake County Park, Santa Cruz County, California	Judith Bergthold, Gary S. Breschini, and Trudy Haversat	1980	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study
S-004056a	Edge Unit Analysis of the Lithic Assemblage from CA-SCR-158, Santa Cruz County, California	Maryanne Fazio Fox		Archaeological, Other research
S-004056b	Archaeological Evaluation of CA-SCR-158, Pinto Lake County Park, Santa Cruz County, California	Judith Bergthold, Gary S. Breschini, and Trudy Haversat	1980	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-004056c	In Harmony with the Earth, Heritage Resource Significance Among the *Ohlone*	Charles R. Smith		Archaeological, Other research
S-004097	CA-SCR-44: Salvage Excavation at Pajaro Valley Catholic Cemetery Site	Karl Gurke and Joe Morris	1974	Archaeological, Excavation
S-008675	An archaeological evaluation of the proposed cemetery development on East Lake Avenue in Watsonville, California (letter report)	Stephen A. Dietz	1976	Archaeological, Excavation
S-010057	Results of Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance with Recommendations for Cultural Resource Management, Upper Green Valley Road Proposed School Site, Pajaro Valley Unified School District APN 50-141-07,-10,-14 North of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Larry Bourdeau	1988	Archaeological, Field study
S-010220	Results of Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance with Recommendations for Cultural Resource Management, St. Francis Middle School Site, APN 51-501-08, East Lake Avenue and College Road, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Larry Bourdeau	1988	Archaeological, Field study
S-010547	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance, Cottage and Holohan Roads Left Turn Lane project, County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department	Rob Edwards and Charlotte A. Simpson-Smith	1988	Archaeological, Field study
S-010642	Preliminary Archaeological Report and Cultural Resources Management Plan for Two Proposed School Sites, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Gary S. Breschini and Trudy Haversat	1989	Archaeological, Evaluation, Excavation, Field study
S-011441	Archaeological Investigations at CA-SCR-44, Northeast of	Gary S. Breschini, Trudy Haversat, B. Bowser, R.E. Hughes, P.E. Langenwalter,	1989	Archaeological, Excavation, Other research

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
	Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	T.M. Origer, M.F. Rondeau, V.L. Rondeau, and A.L. Runnings		
S-013654	Report of Archaeological Survey, Proposed Dicicco Road and Barn, 110 Whiting Road, Watsonville, CA	Thomas L. Jackson and Jeffrey T. Hall	1992	Archaeological, Field study
S-018978	Cultural Resource Evaluation of the 499 Green Valley Road project in the County of Santa Clara	Robert Cartier, Lynne Eckert, and Jon Reddington	1996	Archaeological, Field study
S-021513	Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment & Mitigation Plan for Assessor's Parcel Number 051-501-016, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Gary S. Breschini and Mary Doane	1999	Archaeological, Field study
S-021513a	St. Francis School Site, APN 051-501-016, Watsonville (letter report)	Gary S. Breschini	1999	Archaeological, Excavation
S-021513b	Archaeological Mitigation Plan for the Proposed St. Francis Central Coast High School, on Assessor's Parcel Number 51-501-016, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Gary S. Breschini, Mary Doane, Larry Bourdeau, and Janet P. Eidsness	2000	Archaeological, Management/planning
S-021513c	Report on Archaeological Monitoring for the St. Frances Central Coast High School, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Gary Breschini	2002	Archaeological, Monitoring
S-021513d	Archaeological monitoring during soil testing for proposed ballfield at St. Francis School project	Gary S. Breschini	2004	Archaeological, Monitoring
S-021513e	St. Francis High School softball fields (letter report)	Gary S. Breschini	2005	Archaeological, Management/planning
S-021513f	Archaeological monitoring of construction trenching at St Francis High School site	Gary S. Breschini	2006	Archaeological, Monitoring
S-022093	Cultural Resource Assessment, Pajaro River Reconnaissance Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District, Pajaro River Flood Control project, 1996		1996	Archaeological, Field study
S-023008	Report on Native American Consultation and Coordination for the	Janet P. Eidsness	2000	Archaeological, Field study

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
	Proposed St. Francis Central Coast High School project in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California			
S-023309	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance of Assessor's Parcel Number 048-041-46 & -47, Freedom, Santa Cruz County, California	Mary Doane and Trudy Haversat	2000	Archaeological, Field study
S-023310	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance of a Portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 051-441-12, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Mary Doane and Trudy Haversat	2000	Archaeological, Field study
S-023583	AC 2869B, Archaeological Monitoring for the PVPCD Retaining Wall (letter report)	Mary Doane	2001	Archaeological, Monitoring
S-024153	Cultural Resource Evaluation for the Pinto Lake County Park project in the County of Santa Cruz	Robert Cartier	2000	Archaeological, Field study
S-025521	Extended Phase I Testing and Construction Monitoring Within the Caltrans Right-of Way at Archaeological Site CA-SCR-44/H (SRC-152-2.20/2.55)	William R. Hildebrandt and Jeff Rosenthal	2002	Archaeological, Excavation, Monitoring
S-025521a	Addendum Extended Phase I Testing and Construction Monitoring Within the Caltrans Right-of-Way at Archaeological Site CA-SCR-44/H (SRC-152-2.20/2.55)	Risa Huetter and William R. Hildebrandt	2002	Archaeological, Monitoring
S-027282	Historic Property Survey Report (Negative), Bridge Replacement project, Paulsen-Whiting Road, near Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California: 05-CRUZ-Paulsen-Whiting Road/Bridge No. 38C-0003, EA 21701-CU10	George McKale	2003	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-027282a	Negative Archaeological Survey Report, DPD-EP-25 (Rev .2/83), Paulsen-Whiting Road, Santa Cruz county, California	Neal Kaptain	2002	Archaeological, Field study

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-027282b	Bridge Inventory; Native American Representatives Consultation; Paulsen_Whiting Road Bridge Replacement, Santa Cruz County (correspondence)	Neal Kaptain	2001	Management/planning
S-029773	Equipment Shelter, Endoscopy Center/ SF-10330B, 243 Green Valley Road, Freedom, CA.	Erika Thal	2005	Archaeological, Field study
S-033090	Collocation ("CO") Submission Packet, FCC Form 621, T-Mobile PG&E Green Valley Sub, SF-15112	Carolyn Losee	2007	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-038257	PG&E Green Valley 2101 Blitz project (letter report)	Allika Ruby	2011	Archaeological, Field study
S-038430	Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 5 Rural Highways, Santa Cruz County, California, Highways 1, 9, 17, 35, 129, 152, and 236. Volume I - Report.	Patricia Mikkelsen, Laura Leach-Palm, Jennifer Hatch, Elizabeth Kellenbach, and Jerome King	2001	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-038548	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance for APN 051-331-58, Near Watsonville, Santa Cruz, California	Mary Doane and Gary Breschini	2011	Archaeological, Field study
S-040310	New Tower Submission Packet; Green Valley Road & Minto Road; CC3739; Near 90 Minto Road, Watsonville	Lorna Billat	2011	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-042667	Cultural Resources Investigation for AT&T Mobility CCU3739 "PG&E Watsonville Green Valley Rd. & Minto Rd." 90 Minto Road, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California 95076 (letter report)	Carolyn Losee	2013	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-043578	Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance of APN 051-101-20, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Mary Doane and Gary S. Breschini	2014	Archaeological, Field study

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-045727	Cultural Resources Constraints Report, Green Valley-Llagas, 115kV Wood Pole Replacements PG&E, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, California	Leroy Laurie	2014	Archaeological, Field study
S-046733	Historic Resources Compliance Report for the State Route 152/Holohan Road/College Road Intersection Improvement project, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California; 05-SCR-152, PM 1.85-2.15, EA 05-0T770, project No. 05-0002-0046	Christopher McMorris and Allika Ruby	2015	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Management/planning
S-046733a	Archaeological Survey Report and Extended Phase I Study for the State Route 152 Holohan Road/College Road Intersection Improvement project in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California; 05-SCR-152, PM 1.85-2.15, EA 05-0T770, project No. 05-0002-0046	Allika Ruby	2015	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study, Other research
S-046733b	Historical Resources Evaluation Report, Holohan Road/ College Road and State Route 152 Intersection Improvement project, Santa Cruz County, California; 05-SCR-152, PM 1.85-2.15, EA 05-0T770	Leslie Trew and Christopher McMorris	2015	Architectural/historical, Evaluation, Field study
S-051014	Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Freedom County Sanitation District Sewer Rehabilitation project, Santa Cruz County, California	Douglas Ross	2018	Archaeological, Field study
S-051014a	EPA_2019_0626_001, Section 106 Compliance for the Freedom County Sanitation District, Freedom County Sewer Rehabilitation project, Santa Cruz County, Clean Water State Revolving Fund project No. 8423-110 (your letter of June 13, 2019)	Julianne Polanco and Wendy Pierce	2019	OHP Correspondence

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-051077	Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed Construction at APN 051-411-20, Watsonville, California	Stella D'Oro	2018	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study
S-052957	An Archaeological Survey Report for the Pajaro Fuel Reduction project, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Benjamin Harris	2018	Archaeological, Field study
S-053567	Extended Phase I Investigation for the Corralitos Creek ADA project, Santa Cruz County, California, SCR-152, PM 1.9-20.0, EA 05-1F6200, E-FIS 05-1400-0039	Philip Kaijankoski	2019	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study
S-053567a	Archaeological Survey Report for the Corralitos Creek ADA project, Santa Cruz County, California, SCR-152, PM 1.9-20.0, EA 05-1F6200, E-FIS 05-1400-0039	Barb Siskin, Philip Kaijankoski, and Montse Osterlye	2019	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-054133	Cultural Resource Evaluation of Six Areas Proposed for Annexation to the City of Watsonville	Robert Cartier	2005	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-054477	Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the 2020 Salsipuedes Creek Culvert Replacement project	John P. Schlagheck, Fallin Steffen, and Kathryn Haley	2020	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study
S-055803	Cultural Resources Assessment Report, College Lake Integrated Resources Management project, City Of Watsonville And Unincorporated Santa Cruz County, California	Candace Ehringer, Chris Lockwood, Max Loder, and Fatima Clark	2020	Archaeological, Architectural/historical, Field study, Monitoring
S-055803a	College Lake Integrated Resources Management project, Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum	Candace Ehringer, Fatima Clark, and Ashleigh Sims	2022	Archaeological, Field study
S-055803b	Monitoring and Discover Plan, College Lake Integrated Management project, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California	Candace Ehringer	2022	Archaeological, Management/planning

NWIC Report Number	Report Title	Authors	Year	Report Type
S-055803c	Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management project, City of Watsonville and Unincorporated Santa Cruz County, California	Ashleigh Sims and Heidi Koenig	2023	Archaeological, Field study
S-055803d	College Lake Integrated Resources Management project, Cultural Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Program	Ashleigh Sims	2023	Archaeological, Management/planning, Monitoring
S-055803e	Continuing Consultation for the College Lake Integrated Management project, Santa Cruz County; COE_2022_1010_001	Julianne Polanco	2023	OHP Correspondence
S-055815	Historic Watsonville	Kenneth H. Cardwell	1976	Architectural/historical, Field study
S-057305	Cultural Resources Inventory for the USACE's Pajaro Levee Right Bank Emergency Repairs	Stephanie Sahinoglu and Ruzel Ednalino	2024	Archaeological, Excavation, Field study
S-058637	Cultural Resources Assessment for the Green Valley Road Multi-Use Trail, Santa Cruz County, California (letter report)	John P. Schlagheck	2023	Archaeological, Field study

6.1.1 Native American Consultation

MNS contacted the NAHC requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) for traditional cultural resources within or near the study area on October 10, 2025. This also included a contact list for Native American groups and individuals associated with the project area to conduct preliminary outreach and document any pertinent information and solicit comments about the proposed project as well as any Native American cultural resources or tribal cultural resources that might be present within or near the project area. MNS contacted all individuals/groups by letter and email on October 24, 2025, and November 19, 20025. On December 2, 2025, follow-up phone calls were made to contacts who had not yet responded to the project letters.

The results of the SLF search returned by the NAHC were received on October 20, 2025, and were positive for Native American cultural resources in or near the project area. The record search conducted at the CHRIS NWIC did not possess data associated with Native American Tribal Cultural Resources or Tribal Cultural Place (TCP) within the project area. The NAHC provided contact information for 13 tribal members and organizations affiliated with the region that may possess information on the potential for Native American cultural resources. These identified stakeholders were contacted by letter and email on October 23, 2025. These were followed by emails and phone calls on December 2, 20025. Reponses to the outreach efforts, letters and emails are described in confidential Appendix E of the confidential version of the report.

6.1.2 Historical Societies

On December 2 and 3, 2025, MNS contacted the following institutions to request information about cultural resources in the study area. The results are provided in Section 6.4.

- Santa Cruz County Railroad Museum
- Santa Cruz County Archaeological Society
- Pajaro Valley Historical Association
- Santa Cruz County Museum of Art and History
- Santa Cruz County Museum of Natural History
- Agricultural History project Center and Museum
- Aptos History Museum

On December 3rd, the Santa Cruz County Archaeological Society and the Aptos Museum responded that they did not possess any information about the project area. The archive of the Parajo Valley Historical Association was reviewed for documentation on the properties with buildings and structures over 45 years old within the architectural survey area. Key documents reviewed at the archive include Santa Cruz County Atlases published in 1929, 1941, and 1945; a U.S. Department of the Interior Soil Erosion Map of the area published in 1934; and Watsonville City Directories from the 1910s to 2011. The names of previous owners and occupants of the properties were compiled from these documents.

In addition to the Parajo Valley Historical Association Archive, the following repositories were reviewed for information on developed properties within the architectural survey area:

- Building permit records from 1956 to 1985 provided by the Santa Cruz County Planning Division;
- Building permit records from 1985 to the present accessed through the Santa Cruz County Community Development and Infrastructure Department's online permit history portal;
- Year built data and current property owner names on file at the Santa Cruz County Assessor's Office;
- Property deeds on file at the Santa Cruz County Recorder's Office;
- Local history books, previous county historic resources surveys, and Watsonville City Directories housed at the California Agricultural Workers' History Center at the Watsonville Library;
- Digitized newspapers accessed through the Watsonville Library's Watsonville Historical Newspaper Archive and Newspapers.com;
- Genealogical records accessed through Ancestry.com;
- Other digital archives including the Online Archive of California, Internet Archive, David Rumsey Map Collection; United States Geological Survey (USGS) EarthExplorer; and the UCSB Aerial Photograph Collection.

6.1.3 Historical Map and Aerial Imagery Review

MNS staff reviewed the following additional historical maps and aerial photographs.

- 1840 *Los Corralitos*, *Diseño* 174, GLO No. 218, Santa Cruz County, Drawn by Jacob Snyder, Courtesy of Berkely Library Digital Collections
- 1860 Plat Map of *Rancho de los Corralitos*, Courtesy of Berkely Library Digital Collections
- 1912 Capitola, CA (HTMC, 1960 ed. 1:62,500) USGS topographic quadrangle map
- 1940 Capitola, CA (HTMC, 1940 ed. 1:62,500) USGS topographic quadrangle map
- 2018 Watsonville East, CA (1:24,000) USGS topographic quadrangle map (USGS 2025)
- 2018 Watsonville East, CA (1:24,000) USGS topographic quadrangle map (USGS 2025)
- Historic aerial image from Flight C-3300A, Frame 26, January 1, 1935. Courtesy of the University

of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Library Geospatial Collection

- Historic aerial image from Flight CDF5, Frame 3-101, April 1, 1948. Courtesy of the UCSB Library Geospatial Collection
- Historic aerial image from Frame 13-46, July 21, 1952. Courtesy of the USGS
- Historic aerial image from Flight CJA, Frame 2-R-26, January 1, 1956. Courtesy of the UCSB Library Geospatial Collection
- Historic aerial image from Flight CAS-SCR, Frame 2-45, June 24, 1963. Courtesy of the USGS
- Historic aerial image from Flight HA-YB, Frame 55, July 31, 1964. Courtesy of the UCSB Library Geospatial Collection
- Historic aerial image from Frame 2-107, June 13, 1968. Courtesy of the USGS
- Historic aerial image from Flight CAS-W-74-7, Frame 1-39, April 11, 1975. Courtesy of the UCSB Library Geospatial Collection
- Historic aerial image from Flight GS-VEZR, Frame 3-157, April 30, 1981. Courtesy of the USGS
- Google Earth Imagery 2025 and 2026

The project area is located within the eastern margins of the *Rancho Los Corralitos*. The 1840 *Diseño* of *Ranch Los Corralitos* depicts a body water that is referred to today as College Lake, and the current project area is located near what was the western bank of the lake. No structures or other noteworthy aspects of the landscape are demarcated near the project area on the 1840 *Diseño of Ranch Los Corralitos* (Figure 3). On the 1860 Survey BLM GLO survey plat map for *Rancho de los Corralitos*, the project area was located west of the eastern boundaries of the Rancho, near an area labeled *Laguna Grande* (Figure 4). No structures or other noteworthy aspects of the landscape are demarcated near the project area on the 1860 Survey BLM GLO survey plat map for *Rancho de los Corralitos*. On the1912 Capitola, CA (HTMC, 1960 ed. 1:62,500) USGS topographic quadrangle map, the project area is visible with a road running through the middle, and there is one structure located outside of the project area to the east, two structures located outside to the south, and one structure located outside to the west. No structures are visible within the project area on the 1912 Capitola, CA (HTMC, 1960 ed. 1:62,500) USGS topographic quadrangle map.

The 1940 Capitola, CA (HTMC, 1940 ed. 1:62,500) USGS topographic quadrangle map shows the residential neighborhood to the west of the project area has undergone a significant degree of development since 1912. The Amesto School is labeled on the map and is visible to the far south of the project area, as is College Lake and Pinto Lake to the east and west respectively. The road that runs through the project area on the 1912 map is visible on the 1940 map, as well as the structure(s) at 90 Minto Road that are located within the western portion of the project area. In addition to the archival maps described above, historic aerial photography was reviewed for information concerning previous historic-era land use of the project area and vicinity. An aerial photograph from 1935 corroborates the development of the residential neighborhood to the west of the project area that occurred between 1912 and the 1940's (Figure 5). The general vicinity of the project area in 1935 consists of open fallow areas, College Lake, Pinto Lake, as well as acres of active croplands, but there are no structures located within the project area. The 1948 aerial image demonstrates that the area remains relatively unchanged since the 1935 aerial photograph was taken, however the structure(s) at 90 Minto Road within the project area are now visible in the 1948 aerial (Figure 6). Subsequent aerial imagery from 1952, 1956, 1963, 1964, 1968, 1975, and 1981 was consulted and demonstrates the more modern development of the project area and vicinity over the last 75 years (Figures 7 -13).

6.1.3 Archaeological and Architectural Survey Methods and Results

MNS conducted a pedestrian archaeological and architectural survey on November 14, 2025. In adherence to the AB 205 Opt-In Application guidelines, archaeological resources pedestrian surveys must be conducted on the entirety of the project site extending to no less than 200 feet around the project site. New cultural resource and tribal cultural resource surveys are required to be completed if survey records of the project area are more than 5 years old. MNS archaeologist Reilly Murphy conducted pedestrian surveys in transects that did not exceed 15 meters wide and ensured the entire project area, as well as a 200-foot buffer on areas of land that MNS was granted access to by the respective property owners, was surveyed. The

architectural survey was inclusive of the project area and a buffer up to 0.5-mile around the project area, according to the AB 205 Opt-In Application guidelines, for historic architecture field surveys in rural areas.

Provenience data such as project area and site locations were tracked using GPS digital devices, USGS 7.5” topographic maps, and established DPR site record forms. GIS data was uploaded to the digital devices for efficient assessment of crew location relative to known resources, natural features, and the project boundaries. The ground was closely examined for evidence of the presence of cultural resources. If cultural resources were identified during the pedestrian survey, survey crew members halted and recorded and documented all cultural resources within the vicinity. GPS location point data was processed in the MNS office, and the post-processed GPS data will be used in conjunction with topography and natural features to determine, if any, site boundaries and create DPR sketch maps. Artifacts were not collected during this inventory effort but would be recorded with notes and photography.

The OHP Instructions for Recording Historical Resources (1995) defines a site as the location of a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity. A district is defined as possessing significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The term "structure" is used to distinguish buildings that are functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter. Archival research completed for the project area demonstrated previous disturbance to the entire survey area from use for agriculture. Expectations of finding surface archaeological resources within the project area during the field survey were low to moderate. The survey results are presented in Section 6.5.

In accordance with the AB 205 Opt-In Application guidelines for rural areas, an architectural survey was completed within the project area and within a broader architectural survey area, which encompasses a hybrid buffer that extends up to 0.5 mile around the project area. In areas more densely developed with residences and a PG&E substation, the buffer extends to one parcel adjacent to the project area. This developed area is primarily located north and west of the project area. The buffer extends to 0.5 miles in areas that contain farms, orchards, county infrastructure, or undeveloped land to the east and south of the project area. The developed agricultural properties encompass small groupings of buildings and structures located within large expanses of cultivated fields or orchards.

Prior to the survey, each parcel located in the architectural survey area was reviewed for buildings or structures over 45 years old. Parcel maps and construction dates were obtained from the Santa Cruz County Assessor’s Office. In instances where year-built data was not on file at the county, aerial photographs dating to 1935 were reviewed to obtain approximate construction dates. Table 4 includes the 37 properties with buildings or structures over 45 years old with the study area. Of the 37 properties, only the orchard and associated buildings and structures at 90 Minto Road (APNs 051-101-77, 051-101-78) are located within the project area. All 37 properties were recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms and evaluated for eligibility for listing in the CRHR.

Table 4. Buildings or structures over 45 years old with the study area

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates
051-101-30	no address	farm with buildings	by 1935
051-101-31	no address	orchard with buildings	by 1935
050-251-20	1-3 Amesti Road	duplex	1963
050-261-50	2 Amesti Road	single-family residence	1979
051-082-01	109 Behler Road	multi-family residence (senior living facility)	1949
050-261-47	7 Cowles Road	single-family residence	1979
051-081-08	111 Dick Phelps Road	single-family residence	1950

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates
051-082-08	114 Dick Phelps Road	single-family residence	1949
050-261-49	407 Green Valley Road	single-family residence	1979
050-261-48	409 Green Valley Road	single-family residence	1978
051-101-80	410 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, ca. 2001-2022
051-101-65	444 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1933
050-201-41	445 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1912, 1930
051-101-53	155 Grimmer Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, 1948
051-101-59	198-202 Grimmer Road	Santa Cruz County Roy Wilson Maintenance Yard	by 1963, ca. 1969-2019
051-101-24	118 Holohan Road A	farm with buildings	ca. 1900-1935
051-081-07	102 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1930
051-081-06	104 Meidl Avenue	two single-family residences	1929-1930
051-081-05	108 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1930
051-081-16	118 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence with second unit	1954
051-081-15	120 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1929
051-081-02	48 Minto Road	single-family residence	1927
051-091-03	75 Minto Road	PG&E Green Valley Substation	1947-2019
051-091-02	76 Minto Road	single-family residence	1948
051-091-01	78 Minto Road	farm with buildings	by 1968, 1980
051-101-77, 051-101-78	90 Minto Road	orchard with buildings	ca. 1948 - 2003
051-101-20	200 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1923, ca. 2001
051-101-22	280 Minto Road	farm with buildings	by 1935
051-411-08	73 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1963-1964
051-411-23	79 Paulsen Road	single-family residence	1949
051-022-01	101 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1942, ca. 1975-2001, ca. 2021
051-022-06	101 Paulsen Road A	single-family residence	ca. 1948-1952
051-022-04	107 Paulsen Road B	two single-family residences	1923, 1957
051-012-31	141 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1980
051-012-30	143 Paulsen Road	farm with multi-family residences (worker housing)	ca. 1975-1981

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates
051-651-02, 051-651-04	160-162 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1974-1975
051-101-50	208 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, ca. 2013-2015

The remaining thirteen developed properties within the architectural survey area contain buildings or structures that are less than 45 years old (Table 5). The construction dates and current condition of these 13 properties were verified during the architectural survey. No further documentation or evaluation for eligibility for listing in the CRHR is required for these properties for the purposes of CEQA.

Table 5. Buildings or structures that are less than 45 years old within the study area

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates of Buildings/Structures
051-64-401	130 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-17	134 Agate Drive	single-family residence	2000
051-644-16	138 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-15	142 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-14	146 Agate Drive	single-family residence	2000
051-644-13	150 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-12	154 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-11	158 Agate Drive	single-family residence	1999
051-644-10	162 Agate Drive	single-family residence	2000
051-101-79	342 Green Valley Road	wholesale nursery with buildings	2015
051-101-58	182 Holohan Road	farm with buildings	1990
051-101-29	220 Holohan Road	warehouses	1993
051-081-24	112 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	2003

A previous archaeological survey was completed for the project on August 1, 2024 (Brewer 2024). To comply with the provisions of the AB 205 Opt-in Clause, MNS completed an additional survey of the archaeological survey area, including the accessible portions of a 200-foot buffer around the project area. The survey area was conducted in the mostly flat orchard and crop fields in and around the project area. Farm crops and other agricultural related materials covered much of the area, but roads, trails, and spaces between the rows of crops allowed for access. Ground visibility ranged from fair to good, with 65% to 85% visible in areas with existing structures, staged materials, as well as more open areas with little or no vegetation or other obscured ground cover. Soils within the project area consisted of Pinto loam and Watsonville loam. The Pinto series consists of moderately well drained soils that are formed in material derived mainly from sedimentary alluvium. Pinto soils are on marine terraces and old alluvial fans and have slopes of 0% to 15%. The mean annual precipitation is about 28 inches, and the mean annual air

temperature is about 57° F. The Pinto loam soils within the study area were grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2). The Watsonville series consists of deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in alluvium. Watsonville soils are on old coastal terraces and valleys and have slopes of 0% to 50%. The mean annual precipitation is about 28 inches, and the mean annual air temperature is about 58°F. The Watsonville loam within the study area were dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) loam, very dark brown (10YR 2/2). No archaeological resources were identified within the study area.

The architectural survey area was documented in a field survey completed on December 10, 11, and 18, 2025. As stated previously, 37 properties in the architectural survey were identified as containing buildings or structures over 45 years old (Table 6). Of the 37 properties, only an orchard and associated buildings and structures at 90 Minto Road (APNs 051-101-77, 051-101-78) are located within the project area. Each façade of the buildings and structures at this property were comprehensively documented and photographed. The remaining 36 properties were photographed during a reconnaissance-level survey from the public right-of-way (ROW). Buildings and structures at 14 of the 36 properties were partially obscured from view due to the presence of fencing or dense vegetation or due to their distance from the ROW.

Physical descriptions were prepared for all 37 architectural properties and are included in the DPR 523 forms. The physical descriptions document the current design, architectural style, construction material, and visible alterations to the buildings and structures. The descriptions also note additional buildings or structures that appear in aerial photographs but are not visible from the public ROW. The 37 properties with buildings or structures over 45 years old have been evaluated for listing in the CRHR. Detailed evaluations for each property are located on the DPR 523 forms.

Based on the analysis conducted for this report, 23 of the 37 properties, including the orchard at 90 Minto Road within the project area, are recommended as ineligible for listing in CRHR due to a lack of significance under the four criteria. They are not associated with significant events in local, state, or national history (Criterion 1); are not associated with significant persons (Criterion 2); are not associated with a master architect or builder and do not possess significant architectural designs or methods of construction (Criterion 3); and do not have the potential to yield information important to history (Criterion 4). They have been assigned CHR Status Code 6Z (found ineligible for CRHR through a survey evaluation), and they are not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA.

Table 6. Results of architectural survey

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility
051-101-30	no address	farm with buildings	by 1935	Ineligible
051-101-31	no address	orchard with buildings	by 1935	Ineligible
050-251-20	1-3 Amesti Road	duplex	1963	Ineligible
050-261-50	2 Amesti Road	single-family residence	1979	Ineligible
051-082-01	109 Behler Road	multi-family residence (senior living facility)	1949	Ineligible
050-261-47	7 Cowles Road	single-family residence	1979	Ineligible
051-081-08	111 Dick Phelps Road	single-family residence	1950	Ineligible
051-082-08	114 Dick Phelps Road	single-family residence	1949	Ineligible

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility
050-261-49	407 Green Valley Road	single-family residence	1979	Ineligible
050-261-48	409 Green Valley Road	single-family residence	1978	Ineligible
051-101-80	410 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, ca. 2001-2022	Ineligible
051-101-65	444 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1933	Ineligible
050-201-41	445 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1912, 1930	Ineligible
051-101-53	155 Grimmer Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, 1948	Ineligible
051-101-59	198-202 Grimmer Road	Santa Cruz County Roy Wilson Maintenance Yard	by 1963, ca. 1969-2019	Ineligible
051-101-24	118 Holohan Road A	farm with buildings	ca. 1900-1935	Ineligible
051-081-07	102 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1930	Ineligible
051-081-06	104 Meidl Avenue	two single-family residences	1929-1930	Ineligible
051-081-05	108 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1930	Ineligible
051-081-16	118 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence with second unit	1954	Ineligible
051-081-15	120 Meidl Avenue	single-family residence	1929	Ineligible
051-081-02	48 Minto Road	single-family residence	1927	Ineligible
051-091-03	75 Minto Road	PG&E Green Valley Substation	1947-2019	Ineligible
051-091-02	76 Minto Road	single-family residence	1948	Ineligible
051-091-01	78 Minto Road	farm with buildings	by 1968, 1980	Ineligible
051-101-77, 051-101-78	90 Minto Road	orchard with buildings	ca. 1948 - 2003	Ineligible
051-101-20	200 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1923, ca. 2001	Ineligible
051-101-22	280 Minto Road	farm with buildings	by 1935	Ineligible
051-411-08	73 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1963-1964	Ineligible

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility
051-411-23	79 Paulsen Road	single-family residence	1949	Ineligible
051-022-01	101 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1942, ca. 1975-2001, ca. 2021	Ineligible
051-022-06	101 Paulsen Road A	single-family residence	ca. 1948-1952	Ineligible
051-022-04	107 Paulsen Road B	two single-family residences	1923, 1957	Ineligible
051-012-31	141 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1980	Ineligible
051-012-30	143 Paulsen Road	farm with multi-family residences (worker housing)	ca. 1975-1981	Ineligible
051-651-02, 051-651-04	160-162 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1974-1975	Ineligible
051-101-50	208 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	by 1935, ca. 2013-2015	Ineligible

The remaining 14 properties are not associated with significant events in local, state, or national history (Criterion 1); are not associated with significant persons (Criterion 2); are not associated with a master architect or builder (Criterion 3); and do not have the potential to yield important information to history (Criterion 4). However, the buildings and structures at these properties are partially blocked from view by fencing or dense vegetation, or they are set back far from the public ROW. While they could not be fully documented during the reconnaissance-level survey, the visible portion of the majority of the buildings and structures do not appear to possess significant architectural designs or methods of construction (Criterion 3). An exception is the property at 118 Holohan Road A (APN 051-101-24), which has a large early twentieth century Craftsman residence that may be significant for its architectural design (Criterion 3). A subsequent intensive-level survey would need to be completed to fully evaluate its design and integrity. These 14 resources have been assigned CHR Status Code 7R (identified in a reconnaissance-level survey)(Table 7).

Table 7. Additional identified properties

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility
051-101-30	no address	farm with buildings	by 1935	Likely ineligible
051-101-31	no address	orchard with buildings	by 1935	Likely ineligible
051-101-65	444 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1933	Likely ineligible
051-101-53	155 Grimmer Road	farm with buildings	by 1935-1948	Likely ineligible

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility
051-101-24	118 Holohan Road A	farm with buildings	ca. 1900-1935	Likely eligible under Criteria 3
051-081-06	104 Meidl Avenue	two single-family residences	1929-1930	Likely ineligible
051-081-02	48 Minto Road	single-family residence	1927	Likely ineligible
051-091-01	78 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1961	Likely ineligible
051-101-20	200 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1923	Likely ineligible
051-101-22	280 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1937	Likely ineligible
051-022-06	101 Paulsen Road A	single-family residence	1925	Likely ineligible
051-022-04	107 Paulsen Road B	single-family residence	1923, 1957	Likely ineligible
051-012-31	141 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1980	Likely ineligible
051-651-02, 051-651-04	160-162 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1974-1975	Likely ineligible

Archaeological site sensitivity or settlement patten modeling typically considers an area's distance to freshwater sources and slope of the ground surface as the two major variables utilized to define an area's relative sensitivity to contain archaeological sites (Meyer 2000, 2011). These variables are used to populate sensitivity polygons that demarcate the relative sensitivity boundaries of a given area's potential to contain archaeological sites within finite categories (Meyer 2000, 2011). While models differ in practice, often, areas within 200 meters of a perennial water source and those that exhibit flat accessible landforms with a 2% or less sloped surface are categorized as possessing the highest sensitivity to contain an archaeological site. The farther away from a perennial water source, as well as the greater the slope, renders an area less sensitive to containing archaeological sites. While these two aspects are the typical variables utilized, other data sets can be incorporated to enrich the model and provide higher accuracy. These variables include distance to bordering or converging ecotones, natural features of the landscapes such as caves, the confluence of large rivers or creeks, or other resource's specific locations for sources of flaked and ground stone materials, botanical resources, or terrestrial and marine resources (Meyer 2000, 2011).

Once an area's overall sensitivity to contain archaeological sites is determined through modeling, that model can be used to construct a subsequent model that investigates and categories an area's sensitivity to contain buried archaeological sites (Meyer 2000, 2011). Buried archaeological sites are those that have been buried by natural or anthropogenic processes. Naturally buried archaeological sites are buried by natural processes such as sediment and alluvial deposition from floods or other hydrological events as well as by other geological processes such as colluvial deposition or earthquakes. Anthropogenic processes include in fill developments, urban development, highway construction, or other depositional events produced by human activities. Buried site sensitivity models first consider an area's general sensitivity to contain archaeological resources, sometimes referred to as shallow or surface site sensitivity, as outlined in the modeling description in the preceding paragraph (Meyer 2000, 2011). The surface site sensitivity is then analyzed against the geologic age of the landform it is located upon. Since not all landform types and ages contain archaeological sites, or at least possess the same sensitivity to contain sites, buried archaeological site models typically utilize the most highly sensitive defined category for surface or shallow archaeological sites for further investigation for the potential for buried archaeological sites.

Pre-Holocene aged landforms within areas defined to be highly sensitive for surface archaeological sites are considered to possess the lowest or low sensitivity to contain buried archaeological sites (Meyer 2000, 2011). This is due to the recognition that human occupation in the area is thought to first occur, at the earliest, during the terminal Pleistocene, which means there are less archaeological sites in general than the subsequent Holocene epoch. Additionally, if the age of the landform predates the Holocene epoch, then there are no Holocene aged soils available to bury the archeological site. Early Holocene aged landforms

similarly possess lowest or low sensitivity to contain buried archaeological sites. While human occupation of the general vicinity of the project area during the Early Holocene is plausible, there is likely still only a low-density population of early humans living in the region. Additionally, there are no Middle or Late Holocene aged soils to bury archaeological sites that may be present on Early Holocene aged landforms.

Following this practice and continuing through geological time and increasing in relative buried sensitivity, Middle Holocene aged landforms that are located within areas defined to be highly sensitive for surface archaeological sites are considered to possess a moderate sensitivity to contain buried archaeological sites (Meyer 2000, 2011). Lastly, Late Holocene and/or recent historic-aged landforms that are within areas defined to be highly sensitive for surface archaeological sites are considered to possess high or the highest sensitivity to also contain buried archaeological sites (Meyer 2000, 2011). This determination is predicated upon the recognition that precolonial native populations reached their peak during the Late Holocene, and therefore there is likely to be more sites in general than the preceding periods. Additionally, Late Holocene and especially more recent Historic-era aged landforms could overlay archaeological sites that could date to any of the previously identified epochs, maximizing the potential that not only could an archaeological site exist during at sometime during the Holocene Epoch, but there is the potential soil development or deposition over the Middle Holocene, Late Holocene, and Historic Period that is available to bury the site.

The project area is located within 200 meters of a water source (College Lake) and on a landform that exhibits less than 2% slope and is therefore highly sensitive to containing archaeological sites on the ground surface. However, the landform is documented to be a Pleistocene-Aged landform and therefore is categorized as having a low or the lowest sensitivity to contain buried archaeological resources. A previous buried site assessment was completed for the project area in 2020 (Ehringer et al. 2020:89), and came to similar conclusions, categorizing the current project area as possessing a “High Sensitivity for Shallow Cultural Resources/Low Sensitivity for Deep Cultural Resources”.

7.0 Regulatory Setting

All methods and practices utilized within the cultural resources inventory and evaluation efforts for this study adhered to the guidelines and requirements outlined with

- CEQA Guidelines (2002)
- OHP (1995)

Evaluation criteria considered for the cultural resources impact analysis are detailed below. Adopted standards of significance for cultural resources are provided in the CEQA Guidelines (2002). Adverse effects on cultural resources occur if a significant resource is materially impaired through the following: physically altering, damaging, or destroying all or part of a resource; altering characteristics of the surrounding environment that contribute to the resource’s significance; or introducing visual or audible elements that are out of character with the property or that alter its setting (Tanner et al. 2025) .

7.1 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14), define cultural resources as unique archaeological resources (see Public Resources Code [PRC] section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5[c][3]) and historical resources, encompassing both structures and historic archaeological deposits (see PRC section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5[a], [c][1]). Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), enacted in 2014, CEQA requires lead agencies to consider potential impacts to tribal cultural resources. This Cultural Resources assessment was undertaken to comply with CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Sections 15000–15387) and PRC Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2 and 21084.1.

Per the CEQA Guidelines, impacts to cultural resources may be considered potentially significant if the project would result in any of the following:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

A cultural resource is considered to be historically significant if it meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852), which includes the following:

- Criteria 1: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
- Criteria 2: Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or
- Criteria 3: 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
- Criteria 4: Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

An important criteria concerning a resource's eligibility for listing in the CRHR is the assessed integrity of the resource. Under CEQA, resources that are listed on or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR must also possess sufficient historic integrity as a prerequisite for significance. Considerations of integrity includes assessment of the characteristics that existed during the resource period of significance, including retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and whether the resource retains these aspects of integrity.

CEQA Guidelines define a significant impact on archaeological and historical resources as project impacts that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. A substantial adverse change in the significance of a resource could occur if there are physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance to historical resources would be materially impaired. The significance of a resource is "materially impaired" where a project:

- Demolition or material alteration in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in, the CRHR, a local register, as defined in Section 15064.5.

7.2 California Register of Historical Resources

As provided in PRC Section 5020.4, The State Historical Resources Commission designed a program for use by state and local agencies, private groups and citizens to identify, evaluate, register and protect California's historical resources. The Register is the authoritative guide to the state's significant historical and archeological resources. The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archeological and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding and affords certain protections under the CEQA. The effects of designation are as follows:

- Limited protection: Environmental review may be required under CEQA if property is threatened by a project. Contact your local planning agency for more information.
- Local building inspector must grant code alternatives provided under State Historical Building Code.
- Local assessor may enter into contract with property owner for property tax reduction (Mills Act).
- Owner may place his or her own plaque or marker at the site of the resource.

The CRHR automatically includes all California properties already listed in the NRHP. It also includes those formally determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP (Categories 1 and 2 in the State Inventory of Historical Resources). The CRHR requires that a resource can usually be considered for historical

significance after it reaches 50 years of age. The CRHR may also include other types of historical resources that meet the criteria for eligibility, including the following:

- Individual historic resources
- Resources that contribute to a historic district
- Resources identified as significant in historic resource survey

CEQA Section 15064.5(b)(3) states that a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards) will be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historical resource.

7.3 Assembly Bill 52

AB 52 requires public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project that is subject to the CEQA. However, tribes must request formal notification and subsequent consultation. The law was passed in 2014 and outlines conditions and requirements for considering impacts to tribal cultural resources. Tribal cultural resources may include sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are listed or determined to be eligible for listing on the CRHR, included in a local register of historical resources, or a resource determined by the lead CEQA agency. The CEC, as the lead agency, will be conducting consultation with California Native American tribes as required under AB 52.

7.4 Local Policies

The County of Santa Cruz General Plan outlines the County's strategy for growth and development. The plan serves as a guide or roadmap for the lands under County purview, providing policy guidance and setting County goals. The project area is included in the Pajaro Valley Planning Area of the County of Santa Cruz General Plan (Santa Cruz County 2024). The project area is within an area zoned for agricultural use. The County of Santa Cruz General Plan recognizes the importance of preserving its historic and cultural resources and includes policies to promote the identification and protection of the cultural heritage of Santa Cruz County, including Native American cultural resources, archaeological sites, and historical resources. The provisions that pertain to cultural resources from the general plan include ARC-8.1.1 - ARC-8.2.7.

Policies in section ARC-8.2 Historic Resources outlines the County's agenda to protect and where possible restore buildings, sites and districts of historic significance to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the community.

ARC-8.2.1 Historic Preservation Program. Maintain, update, and strengthen, where appropriate, the County Historic Resource Preservation ordinance with the assistance of the Historic Resources Commission in accordance with the State Office of Historic Preservation.

ARC-8.2.2 Historic Resources Inventory. Maintain and update a County Historic Resources Inventory to describe those historic structures, objects, properties, sites, and districts which have been designated by the Board of Supervisors for protection of their heritage values.

ARC-8.2.3 Development Activities. For development activities on property containing historic resources, require protection, enhancement, and/or preservation of the historic, cultural, architectural, engineering, or aesthetic values of the resource consistent with regulations in the Historic Preservation ordinance as determined by the Historic Resources Commission.

ARC-8.2.4 Historic Resources Commission Review. Require that applicants for development proposals on property containing a designated historic resource submit plans for the protection and preservation of

the historic resource values to the Historic Resources Commission for its review and approval; require an evaluation and report by a professional historian or a cultural resources consultant when required by the Commission. To expedite the review process, allow minor alterations to be reviewed by trained County Staff.

ARC-8.2.5 Encourage Protection of Historic Structures. Encourage and support public and private efforts to protect and restore historic structures and to continue their use as an integral part of the community. See also Policy PPF-2.3.2: Cultural and Historical Resources.

ARC-8.2.6 Maintain Designation as a Certified Local Government. Support existing and further develop local historic resource program in order to maintain the California State Department of Parks and Recreation's designation of Santa Cruz County as a Certified Local Government.

ARC-8.2.7 Historic Resource Property Maintenance. Encourage the maintenance and upkeep of historic resources to avoid the need for major rehabilitation and to reduce the risks of demolition, loss through fire or neglect, or impacts from natural disasters.

ARC-8.2.8 Environmental Review. Environmental review shall be required for any project with the potential to significantly impact historic resources.

The County of Santa Cruz General Plan also includes implementation strategies for historic resources, which include the following:

ARC-8.2a Continue to sponsor investigative research to identify new historic resources and maintain and update an inventory of historic structures, objects, sites, and districts of significance to Santa Cruz County. Seek funding for updating the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Inventory, prioritizing surveys in areas that have not been updated recently. (Responsibility: Historical Resources Commission, Board of Supervisors, Community Development and Infrastructure Department (CDID))

ARC-8.2b Update information on the Planning Department website regarding resources and incentives available to property owners to maintain and improve historic properties, including existing Zoning incentives, the California Historic Building Code, grants, and tax incentives. (Responsibility: CDID)

ARC-8.2c Encourage educational programs on historic resources, including educational programs regarding historic and cultural resources in the County Parks system. (Responsibility: CDID; Historic Resources Commission; local historic museums; Parks Department) See also policies BE-3.4.6; Heritage Tourism and PPF-2.3.3: Interpretive Programs.

ARC-8.2d Nominate County historic resources to appropriate registries such as the California or National Register. (Responsibility: Historic Resources Commission, CDID)

ARC-8.2e Attempt to include appropriate historic resources in the public domain through donations or through purchase as part of open space and other programs. (Responsibility: Historic Resources Commission, CDID, Board of Supervisors) See also Policy PPF-2.3.2: Cultural and Historical Resources.

ARC-8.2f Investigate sources of funding for private and public historic restoration and make such information available to the public. (Responsibility: Historic Resources Commission, County Historic Museums, CDID, County Administrative Office)

ARC-8.2g Apply the State Historic Building Code to County designated historic buildings, (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

ARC-8.2h Consider applying for grant funds and updating the County Historic Context Statement to provide a more complete context with which to evaluate the significance of historic properties and assist in identifying properties that may qualify for listing on the Historic Resources Inventory. (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors)

ARC-8.2i Consider adoption of the Mills Act, to grant local property tax subsidies to recognized historic structures to encourage rehabilitation. (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission, Board of Supervisors)

ARC-8.2j Inventory County-owned properties of historic significance and develop plans for their protection, restoration, or adaptive reuse. (Responsibility: CDID; Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources)

ARC-8.2k Where possible, provide incentives to property owners to foster historic preservation. Maintain and consider revising County zoning regulations to include allowances for facade easements, favorable tax assessments such as taxing at pre-rehabilitation values, parking reductions, transfer of development rights, expanded and greater flexibility for uses allowed, density bonuses, and design assistance. Study the zoning of historic buildings to guard against economic incentives to demolish said buildings for more intense development, and to develop incentives for retaining and maintaining historic resources. (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission, Board of Supervisors)

ARC-8.2l Participate in grants-in-aid programs as they become available to help finance restoration projects and stimulate the economic vitality of historic neighborhoods. (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission, County Administrative Office)

ARC-8.2m Maintain deed recordation of properties listed in the County Historic Resources Inventory to ensure that knowledge of the historic status of the property is known to all parties at the time of the sale. (Responsibility: CDID, Office of the Recorder)

ARC-8.2n Provide on-going training of Planning and Building Staff in the knowledge and use of the California Historic Building Code. (Responsibility: CDID)

ARC-8.2o Consider designation of historic districts in areas such as Soquel Village, Boulder Creek Churches Hill, Pasatiempo and Aptos Village, where community support exists for such designations. Provide design guidelines to ensure compatible infill by setting standards for elements such as height, scale, and roof line for new construction and additions. (Responsibility: CDID, Historic Resources Commission)

ARC-8.2p Support local museums and other local organizations involved in historic preservation to increase community awareness and appreciation of the value and importance of historic preservation. (Responsibility: Historic Resources Commission. CDID; Parks Department)

ARC-8.2q Continue the review of proposed applications for demolition of any structure more than 50 years old that has not been previously surveyed for historic significance, and require a historic report prepared by a qualified historic consultant for structures that may have the potential to qualify as a historic resource as determined by County Planning staff. (Responsibility: CDID).

8.0 Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources Impact Assessment

This Cultural Resources assessment has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or tribal cultural resources are located within the project area or will be impacted by the project. As defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b), a project would result in a significant adverse impact on the environment if it directly or indirectly alters in an adverse manner those characteristics that convey a resource's historical significance. As summarized above, 23 of the 37 properties with buildings or structures over 45 within the survey area, including the orchard at 90 Minto Road within the project area, are recommended as ineligible

for listing in CRHR due to a lack of significance under the four criteria. Thus, they are not historical resources under CEQA.

The remaining 14 properties could not be fully evaluated for listing in the CRHR because the architectural design and method of construction of the buildings and structures could not be completely assessed from the public ROW (Table 8). They are not, however, associated with significant events in local, state, or national history (Criterion 1); are not associated with significant persons (Criterion 2); are not associated with a master architect or builder (Criterion 3); and do not have the potential to yield information important to history (Criterion 4). Only the large early 20th century Craftsman residence at 118 Holohan Road A (APN 051-101-24) may be potentially significant for its architectural design (Criterion 3). The status of these properties as historical resources under CEQA remains undetermined.

Table 8. Cultural Resources impacts assessment

APN	Address	Property Name/Type	Construction Dates	CRHR Eligibility	Impact Assessment
051-101-30	no address	farm with buildings	by 1935	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-31	no address	orchard with buildings	by 1935	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-65	444 Green Valley Road	farm with buildings	1933	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-53	155 Grimmer Road	farm with buildings	by 1935-1948	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-24	118 Holohan Road A	farm with buildings	ca. 1900-1935	Likely eligible under Criteria 3	No Impact
051-081-06	104 Meidl Avenue	two single-family residences	1929-1930	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-081-02	48 Minto Road	single-family residence	1927	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-091-01	78 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1961	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-20	200 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1923	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-101-22	280 Minto Road	farm with buildings	1937	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-022-06	101 Paulsen Road A	single-family residence	1925	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-022-04	107 Paulsen Road B	single-family residence	1923, 1957	Likely ineligible	No Impact

051-012-31	141 Paulsen Road	farm with buildings	1980	Likely ineligible	No Impact
051-651-02, 051-651-04	160-162 Paulsen Road	two single-family residences	1974-1975	Likely ineligible	No Impact

Should any of the 14 properties be subject to an intensive survey and found to be a historical resource under CEQA at a future date, they would not be directly impacted by the proposed project. They are located outside the project area and thus, they would not be physically altered by the proposed BESS and the associated gen-tie.

The proposed project also would not result in a substantial adverse change in the setting of the properties. The properties located closest to the project area include the single-family residence at 48 Minto Road and the farm at 78 Minto Road, which are located on the south side of Minto Road to the west, and the residences at 160-162 Paulsen Road and the farms at 200 and 280 Minto Road, which are located northeast of the project area. However, the proposed project would not introduce new construction that would adversely impact the setting of these properties. The height and scale of the proposed BESS and associated gen-tie would be similar to existing buildings and infrastructure within the project area and within the PG&E Green Valley Substation located immediately northwest of the project area. The battery containers would be approximately 10 feet in height and would be surrounded by fences and sound walls up to 14 feet high. Power line transmission poles may be required for interconnection to the PG&E substation and would be up to 50 feet high. The height of the proposed battery containers, fencing, and sound walls would be similar to the height of the existing one-story buildings and structures, which include a single-family residence, garage, office building, and large barn, within the orchard at 90 Minto Road. The power line transmission poles, if required, would be lower-in-height than an existing 83-foot-tall steel lattice transmission tower and a ca. 2011 92-foot-tall monopole housing wireless telecommunication equipment situated within the fenced boundary of the PG&E substation.

The proposed battery containers, fencing, and sound walls would not be visible from the remaining 9 properties situated between 0.15 to 0.5 miles away from the project area. These properties include the Craftsman residence at 118 Holohan Road A and properties along Paulson, Green Valley, and Grimmer roads and Meidl Avenue. Portions of the existing transmission towers and monopole at the PG&E substation are visible from these properties. The height and design of new power line transmission poles, however, would be similar to existing substation infrastructure. Thus, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on these 14 properties.

9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

MNS has completed this technical report consisting of background research, tribal outreach, pedestrian survey, and built environment evaluation for the project. Prior to the CEC Opt-In Application, a previous Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory was conducted for the project (Brewer 2024). The studies have demonstrated that no known archaeological resources, including human remains, or tribal resources, are located within the project area. Twenty-three properties with buildings and structures over 45 years old in architectural survey area, including the property at 90 Minto Road within the project area, were documented and were found to be ineligible for listing in the CRHR. Thus, they are not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. Fourteen properties with buildings or structures over 45 years old were identified within the architectural survey area but could not be fully evaluated for listing in the CRHR. However, the proposed project would not directly impact these 14 properties and would have a less-than-significant or no visual impact on the setting of these properties. The construction of the BESS and the associated gen-tie is not anticipated to adversely impact historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources.

The construction of the Seahawk BESS is not anticipated to adversely impact historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources. In the event cultural resources, including historical resources, are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the Construction Contractor shall temporarily halt or divert excavations within 50 meters (165 feet) of the find until it can be evaluated. All potentially significant archaeological deposits shall be evaluated to demonstrate whether the resource is eligible for inclusion on the CRHR, even if discovered during construction. If cultural resources, including historical resources, are encountered, they shall be evaluated and mitigated simultaneously in the timeliest practicable manner, allowing for recovery of materials and data by standard archaeological procedures. For prehistoric archaeological sites, this data recovery involves the hand-excavated recovery and non-destructive analysis of a small sample of the deposit. Historic resources shall also be sampled through hand excavation, though architectural features may require careful mechanical exposure and hand excavation. Procedures will be designed to adequately address treatment of cultural resources under CEQA guidelines (Article 5: Section 15064.5) should they be discovered during project activities. Additionally, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be demarcated around the built environment historic resources associated with 90 Minto Road for avoidance by the project. The ESA will aid in ensuring there are no inadvertent impacts to the built environment historic resources associated with 90 Minto Road.

Any previously undiscovered cultural resources, including historic resources, found during construction activities shall be recorded on appropriate DPR forms and evaluated for significance by a qualified Archaeologist. Significant cultural resources consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, glass, ceramics, fossils, wood, or shell artifacts, or features including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If human remains are found during construction, project officials are required by the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5) to contact the Santa Cruz County Coroner. If the coroner determines that the find is Native American, they must contact the NAHC. The NAHC, as required by PRC Section 5097.98, determines and notifies the MLD with a request to inspect the burial and make recommendations.

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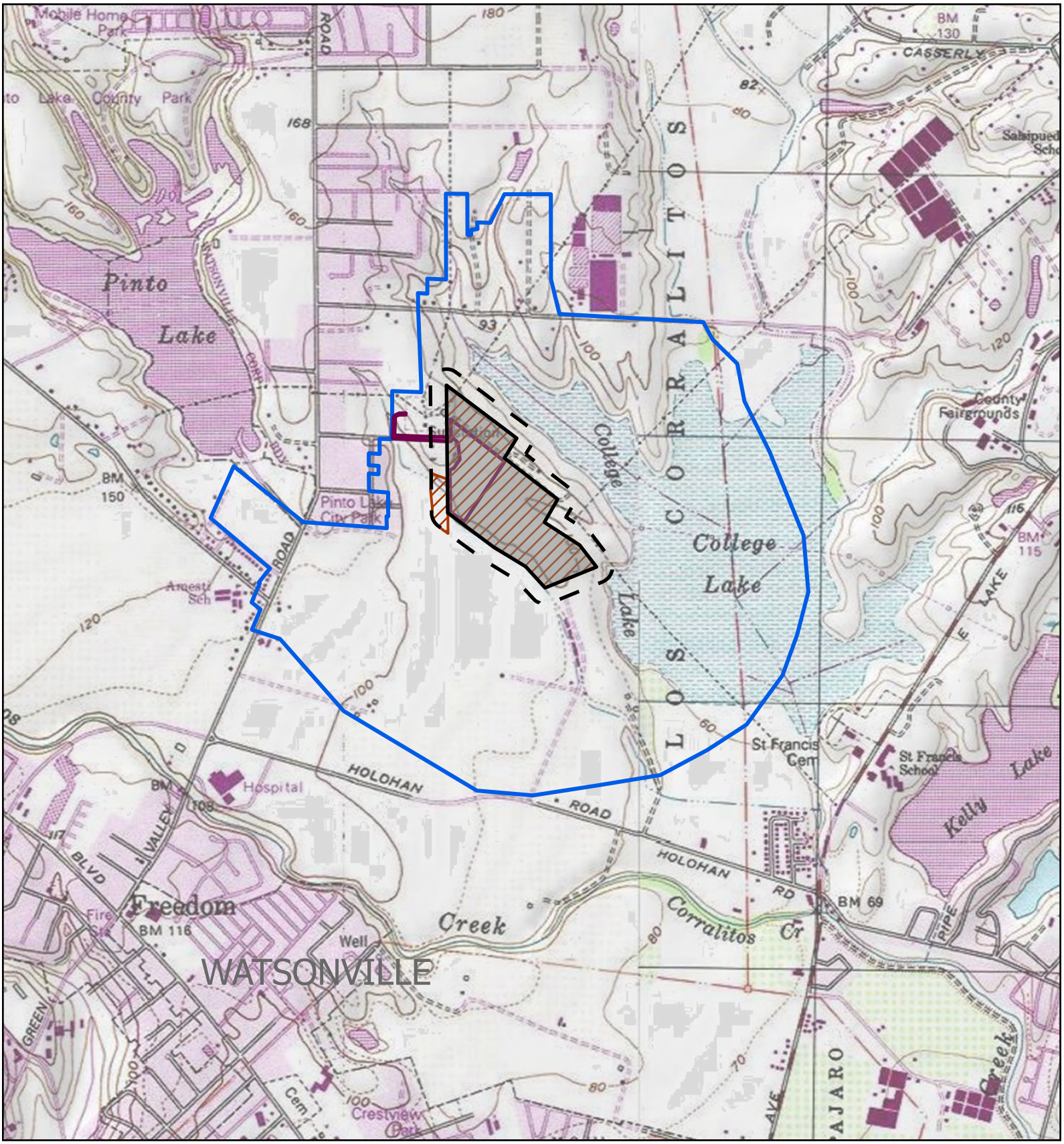
Appendix A Report Figures and Maps



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 1

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

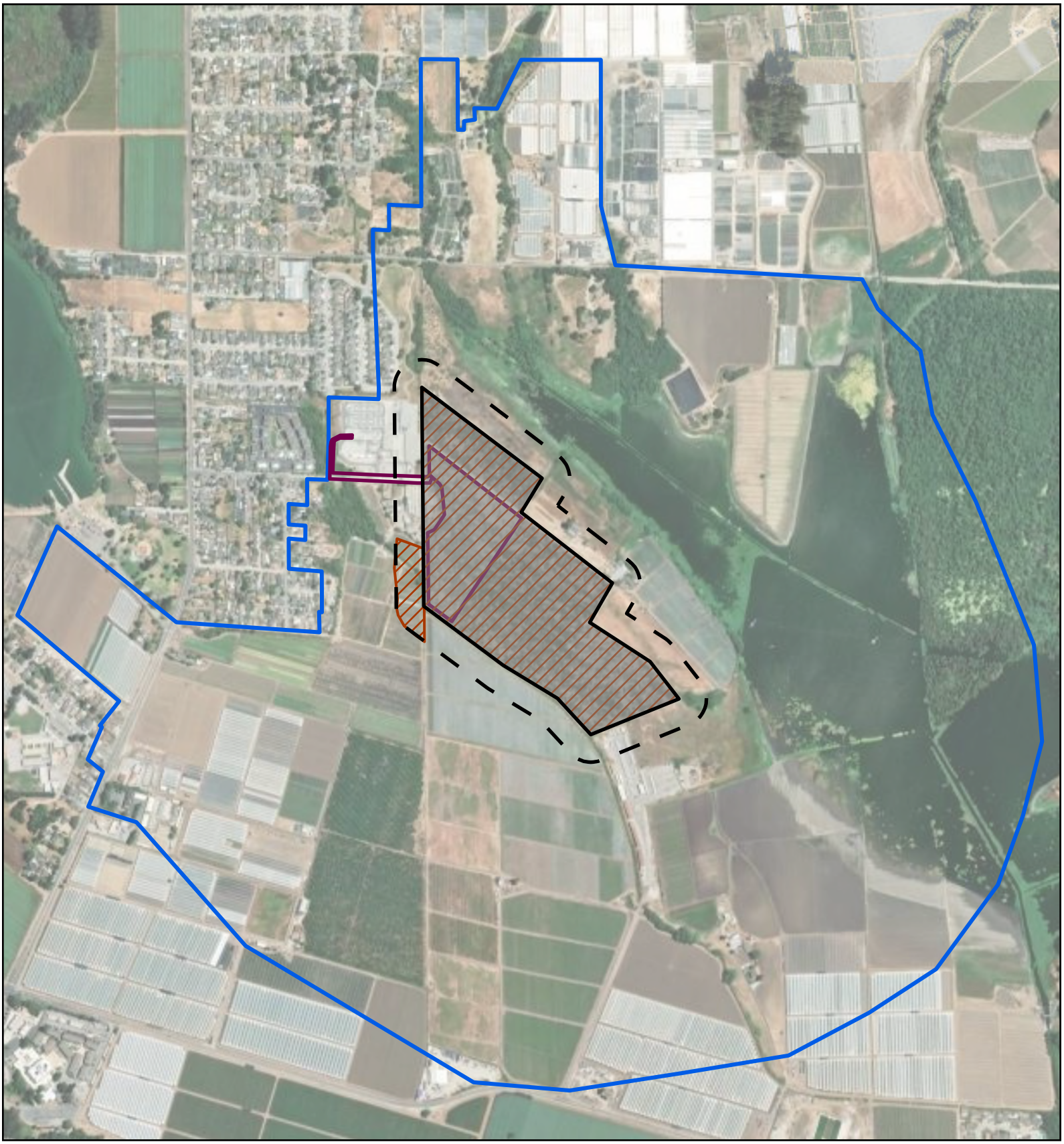
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA AND STUDY AREA ON MODERN AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 2

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS

NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON 1840 LOS CORRALITOS, DISENO 174, GLO NO. 218

FIGURE 3

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

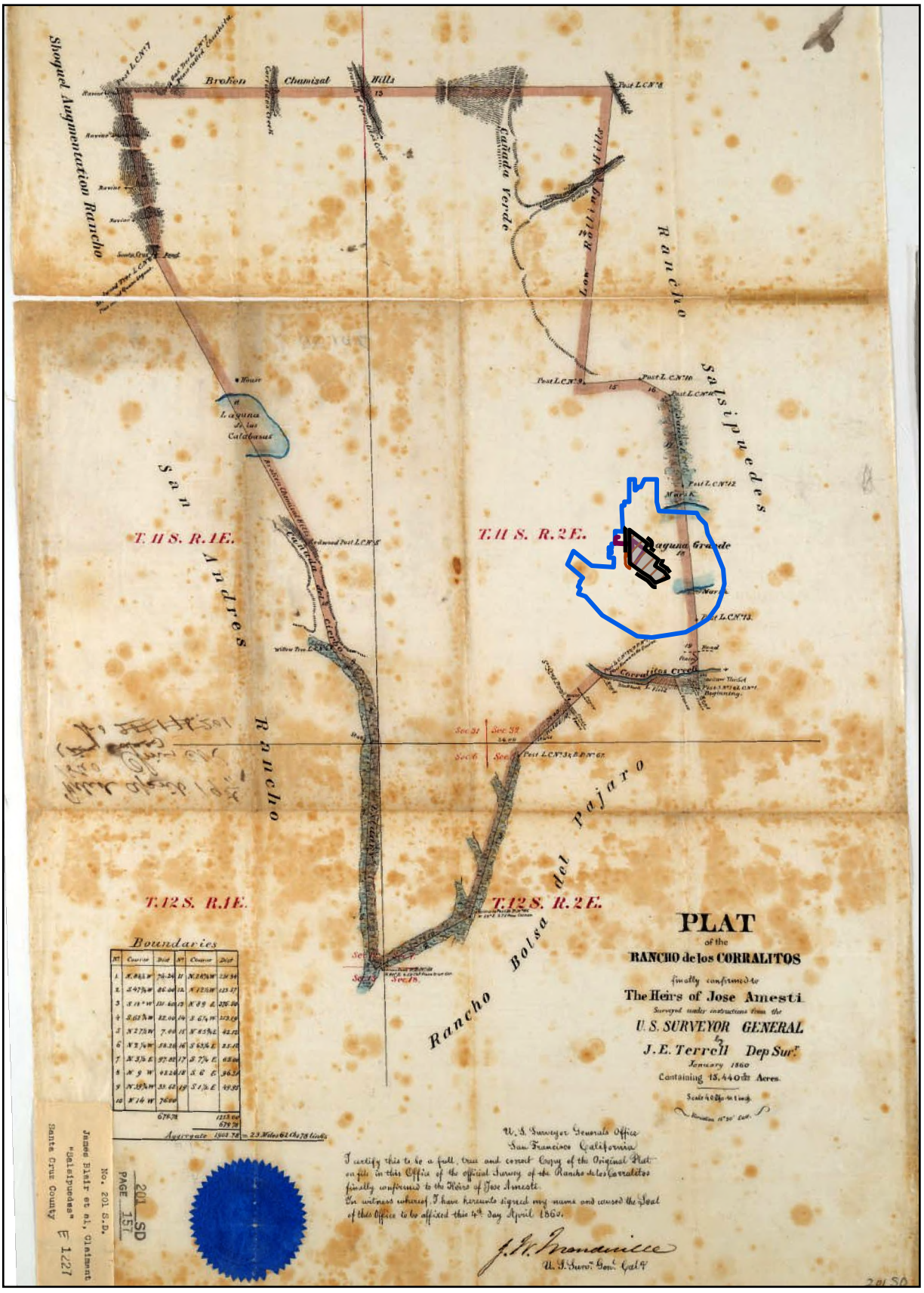
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 5,000 10,000 Feet

0 1 2 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON 1860 PLAT MAP OF RANCHO DE LOS CORRALITOS

FIGURE 4

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

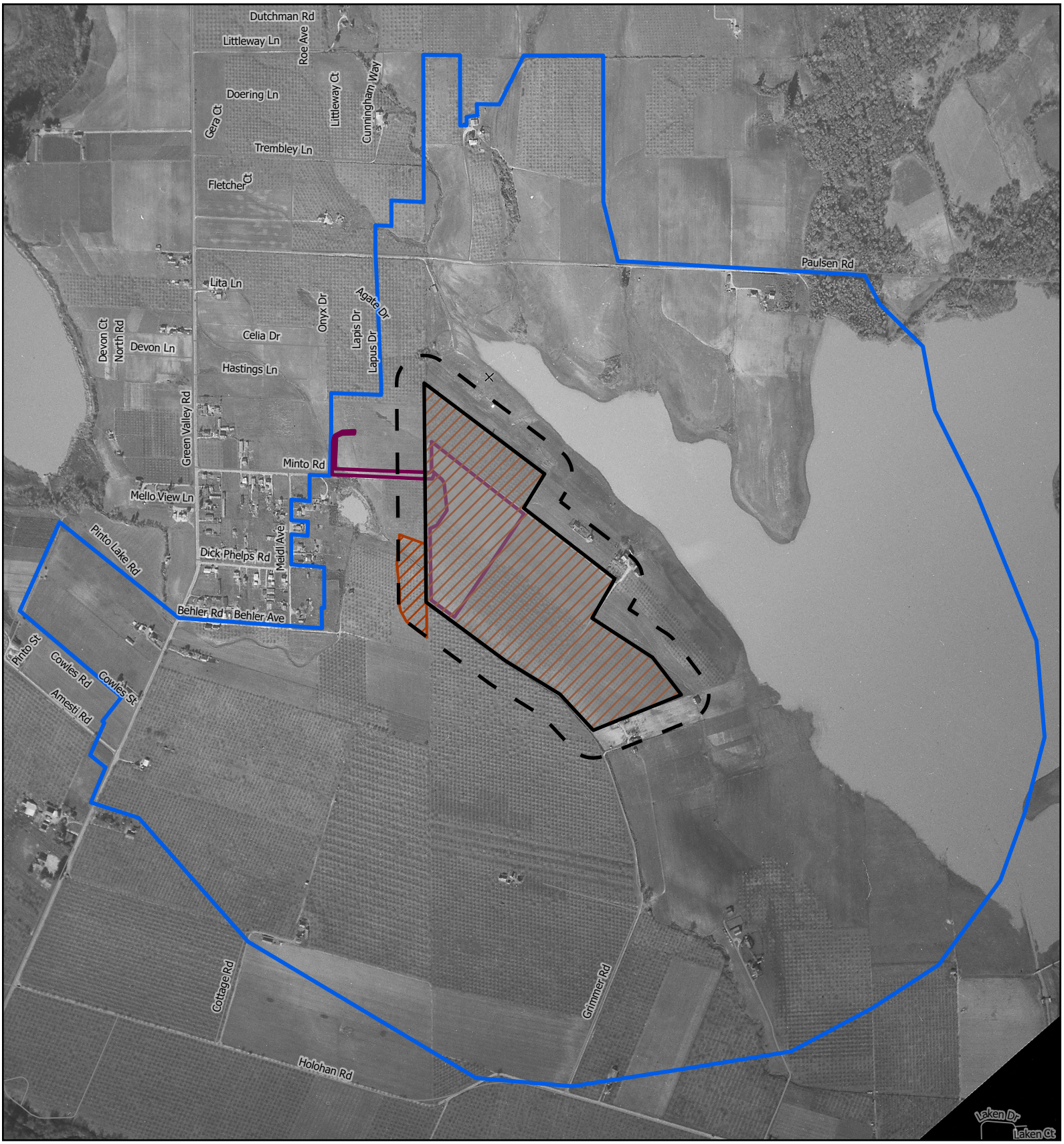
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 5,000 10,000 Feet

0 1 2 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON 1935 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 5

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

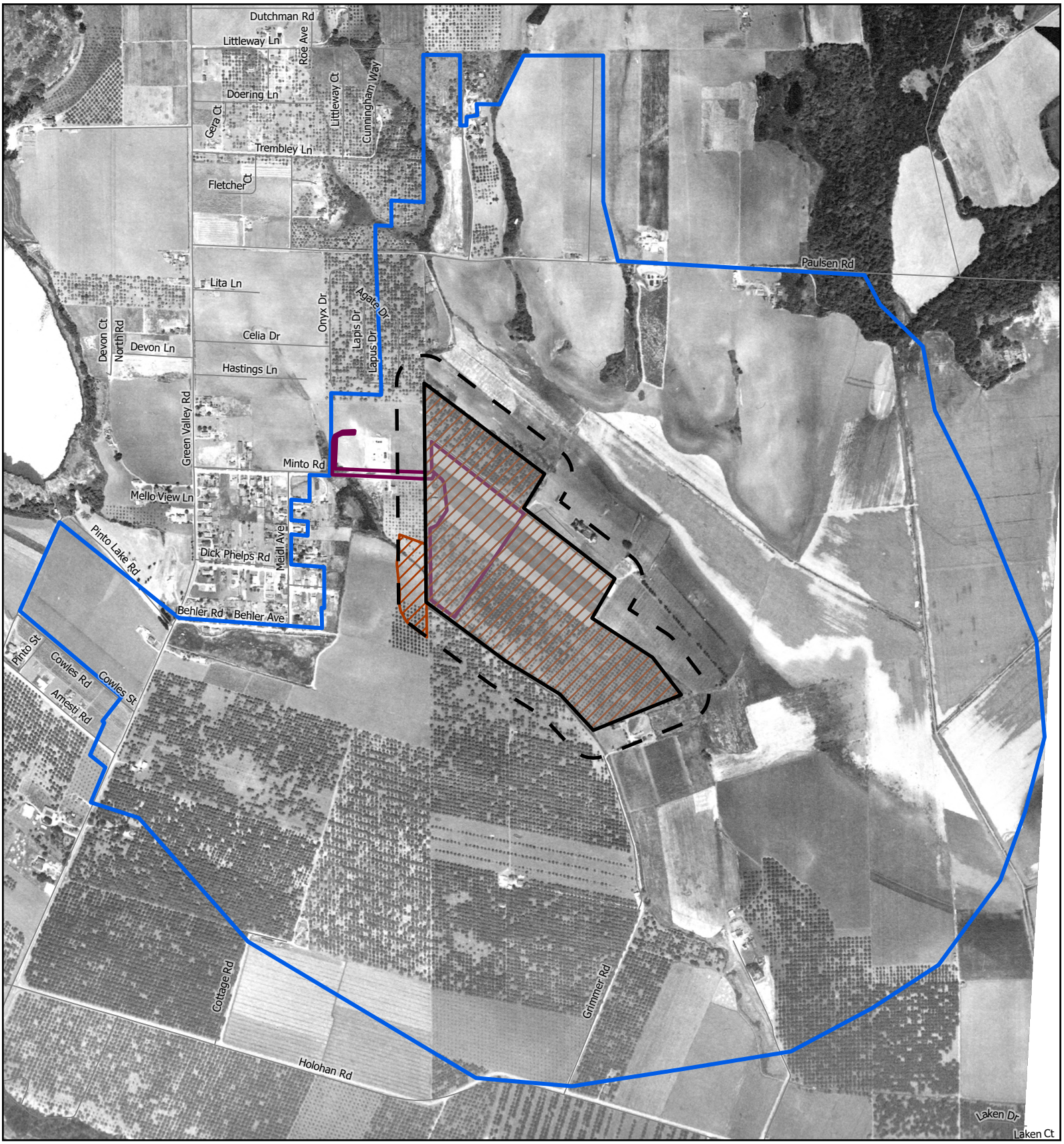
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON 1948 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 6

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

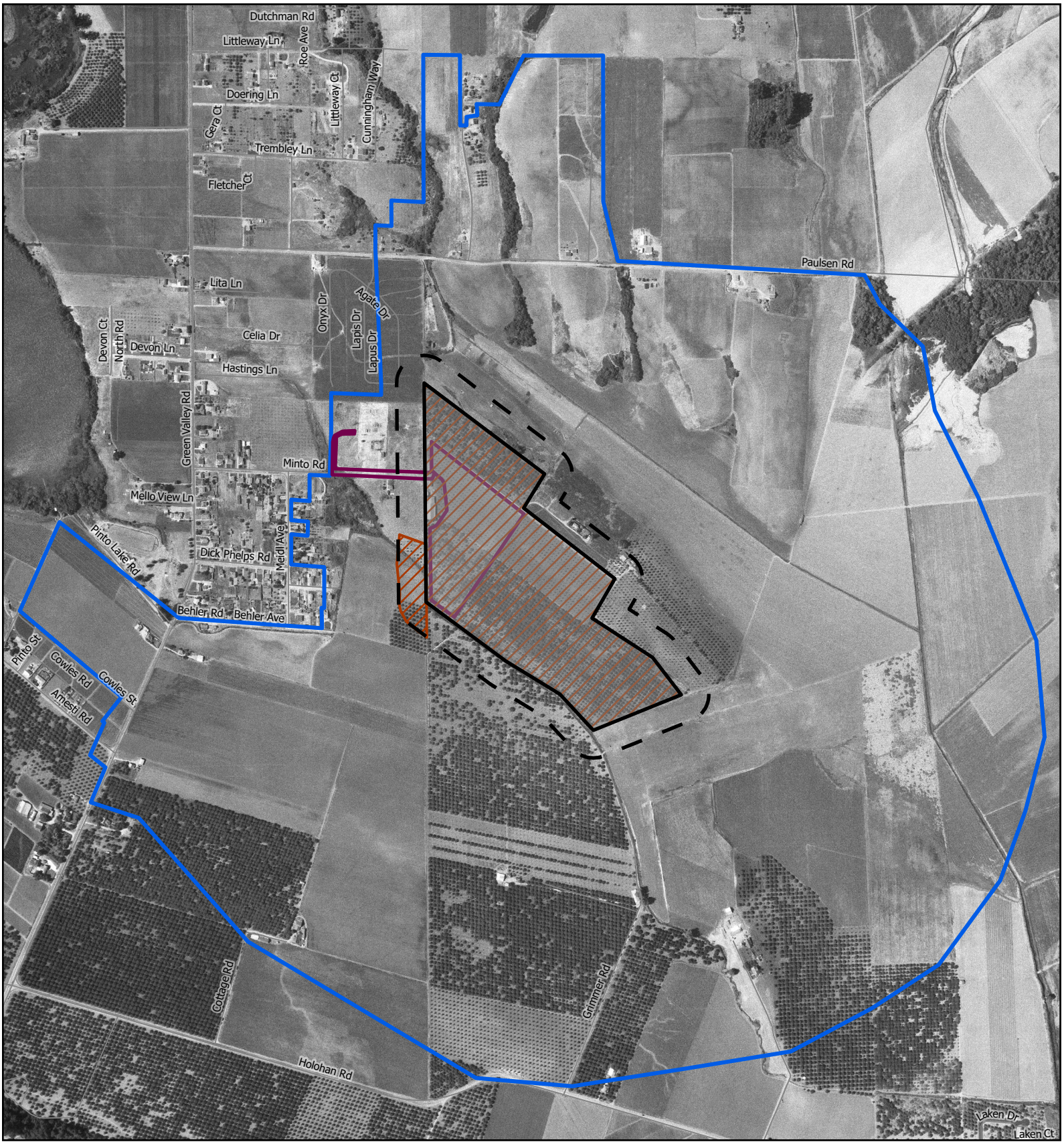
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1952 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 7

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS

NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1956 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 8

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS

NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON 1963 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 9

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS

NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1964 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 10

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS

NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1968 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 11

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

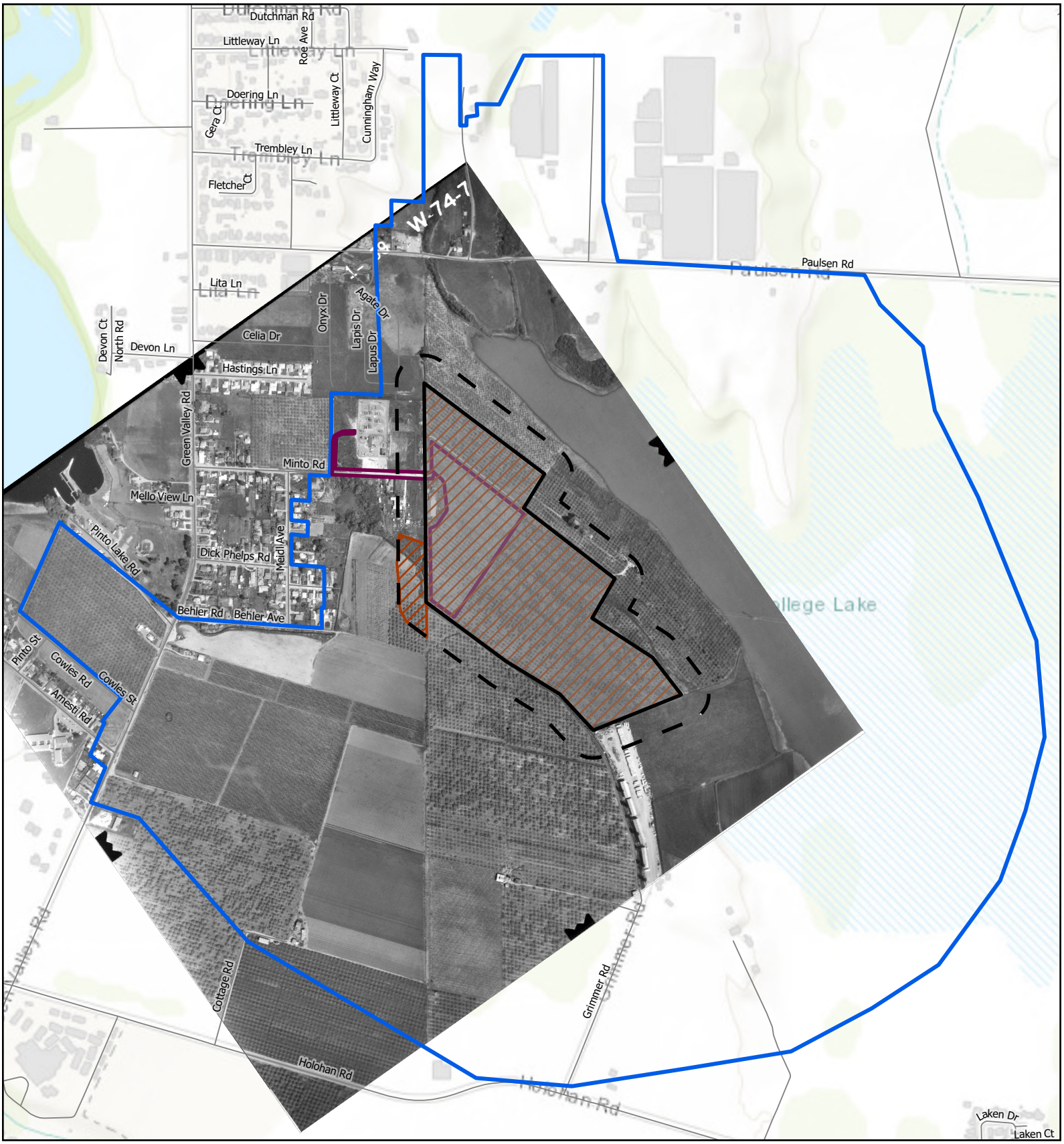
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1975 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 12

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

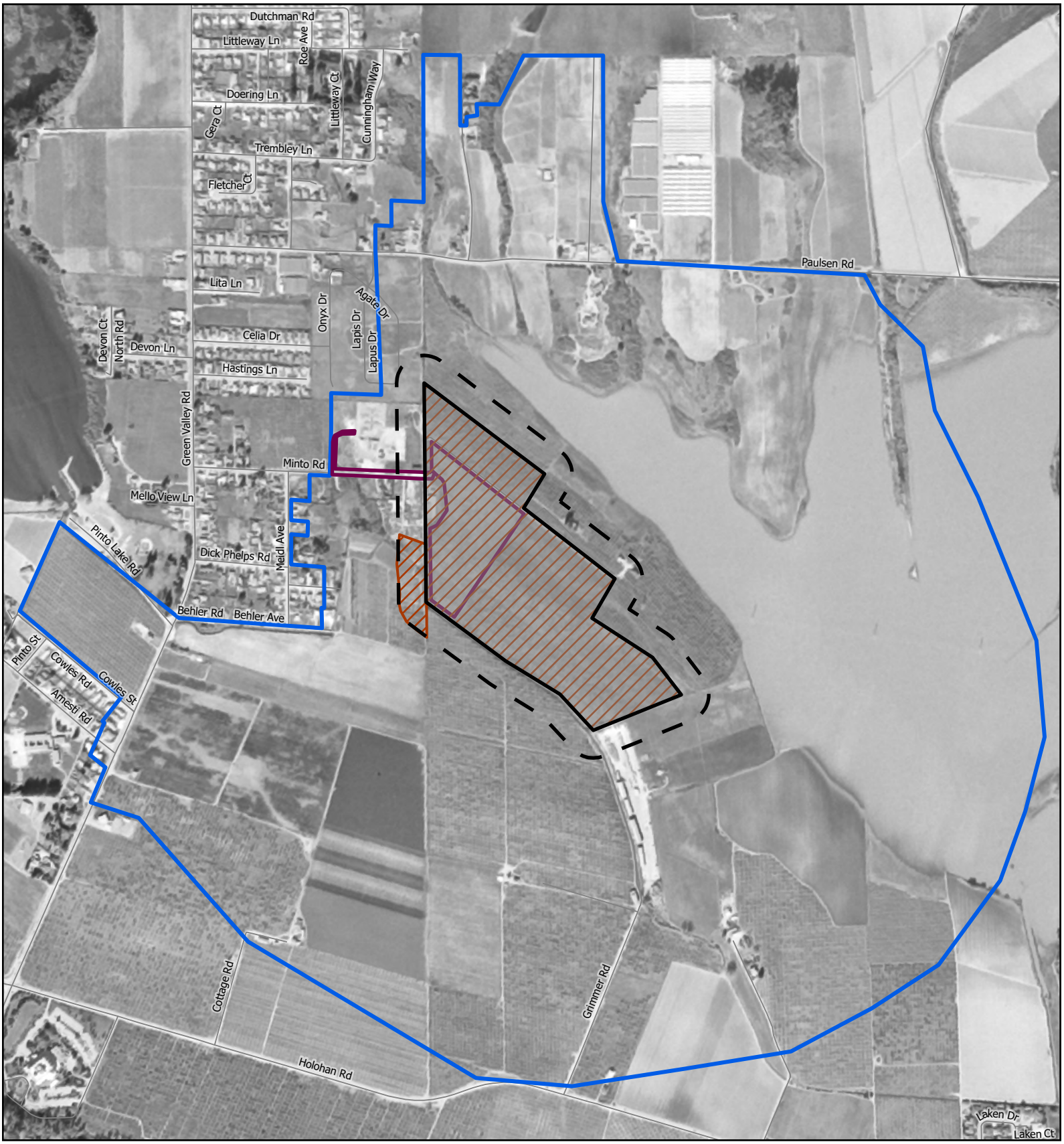
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS



NEWLEAF SEAHAWK BATTERY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA ON
1981 HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY

FIGURE 13

PROJECT BOUNDARY

200 FT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUFFER

BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE

BESS SITE PLAN & GEN-TIE TO PA

0 500 1,000 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

MNS