April 22, 2009

Clarence Atwell, Chairperson
Tachi Yokut Tribe
P. O. Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245

Dear Chairperson Atwell,

I am a cultural resources specialist with the California Energy Commission. I recently spoke with you on the telephone regarding modifications that GWF Energy LLC is proposing to make at their Henrietta Peaker Plant, located southwest of Lemoore (please see attached map). This letter is to provide you with additional information about this proposed project and to request that you contact me if you have concerns about possible Native American cultural resources that could be affected by this project.

GWF is proposing to alter existing equipment and to add additional equipment to increase power output from 95 megawatts to 120 megawatts. The proposed modifications would largely be restricted to the already disturbed 7 acres of the present power plant site, but a new storm water retention basin would be excavated on approximately 3 acres to the east of the present fenced plant site.

Before the current power plant was built, Santa Rosa Rancheria representatives visited the plant site and consulted with GWF’s archaeologist about their concerns for possible Native American cultural resources on the site. During their visit, the Rancheria representatives found two fragments from ground stone objects on the plant site. Consequently, Native American monitoring of construction was required, and Santa Rosa Rancheria’s Cultural Resources Director, Lalo Franco, served as Native American monitor during the construction of the current plant. One additional fragment from a ground stone object was found near where the plant’s natural gas line was installed, but nothing was found during excavations on the plant site itself.

Please contact me (phone: (916) 654-4840; email: bbastian@energy.state.ca.us) if you want additional information or wish to express concerns about the potential impacts of this proposed project on Native American cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Beverly E. Bastian
Planner II, Biological and Cultural Resources Unit
Environmental Protection Office