

Peter M. Jensen

Archaeological • Historical • Cultural Resource Management Studies

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March 31, 2004

Nevada City Engineering, Inc.

Attention: Ken Baker

505 Coyote Street, Suite B
Nevada City, California 95959

Subject: *Archaeological Survey, c. 30-acre DeHart Trust Parcel Split Project, Nevada County, California.*

Dear Mr. Baker:

Per request, Jensen & Associates conducted a variable-intensity, complete coverage archaeological inventory survey of the above referenced property, which consists of a single parcel totaling approximately 30 acres bisected by Oak Springs Road and located approximately 1/4 mile west of Indian Springs Road, south of State Route 20, in Nevada County, California. Lands affected are located within a portion of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 5 of Township 15 North, Range 7 East, as shown on the USGS Rough and Ready, California, 7.5' series quad (see attached *Project Location and Archaeological Survey Area Map*).

According to agency definitions, proposed further development of this property constitutes an "undertaking" which could adversely affect various types of resources located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which consists of the 30-acre land area itself. Evaluation of effects to such resources must be undertaken in conformity with Nevada County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines, as amended October 1998).

As part of the CEQA requirements, an archaeological records search was conducted by the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento (NCIC File No. NEV-04-29, dated March 18, 2004). Information Center records indicate the following existing conditions for the 30-acre land area:

- None of the property has been subjected to formal archaeological survey. A few archaeological surveys have been conducted within the general project vicinity, however none of these previous investigations appears to overlap with the present project property.

ENCL #5

- No prehistoric or historic-period sites or features have been documented within or near the project area. The Pet Hill Ditch appears on the 1949 USGS quad map as bisecting the project area from north to south.
- In view of moderate to potentially high archaeological sensitivity of at least portions of this area for cultural resources, the Information Center recommended a pedestrian survey prior to approval of any ground disturbing activities or changes in land use.

In addition to the official Nevada County archaeological records maintained by the North Central Information Center, the following documents were reviewed in an effort to recover all relevant cultural data:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1988, Supplements to 12/03).
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 2003).
- The California Register of Historical Resources (State of California 2003).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).

With this information in hand, Archaeologist Sean M. Jensen proceeded to the project site on Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, 2004, and completed a pedestrian field survey by walking non-systematic transects back and forth across the project area, with transect spacing maintained at c. 15-30-meter intervals. Property boundaries were easily determined on the basis of Bell Lane which forms the western property boundary, Oak Springs Road which bisects the property north-south, and fencing along the northeast, southeast, and east property lines.

The project area has been impacted by a variety of activities, including especially contemporary residential and ranching use. Impacts associated with these activities include tree and brush removal, excavation of the Pet Hill Ditch (a contemporary irrigation canal owned and operated by Nevada Irrigation District [N.I.D.]), excavation of a stock pond, construction of roads (Bell Lane and Oak Springs Road, both (partially) paved roads), placement of utilities, and construction of a residential structure and associated outbuildings and landscape modifications.

All of the features observed within the property, with the exception of the Pet Hill Ditch, were created after 1988, with most of the modifications occurring after 1998. The age of the ditch is unknown. However, the ditch does appear on the 1949 USGS quad map, although N.I.D., is known to have modified and excavated new ditches in this part of the county during the middle of the 20th Century. In the present case, the Pet Hill Ditch is subjected to continuous, annual maintenance and modifications, and does not retain original historic integrity with respect to design and workmanship. Based on these considerations, this ditch is not considered a cultural resource or potential cultural resource per CEQA, and warrants no further work or consideration.

Specific findings from the pedestrian field survey are as follows:

Prehistoric Resources: No evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation was observed during the survey. These negative results may be at least partially explained by the prior extensive and intensive impacts to which virtually all of the project area has been subjected, and to the absence of a permanent source of surface water within or immediately adjacent to the property.

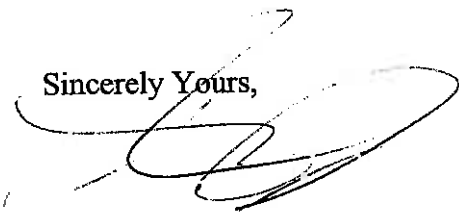
Historic Resources: No evidence of demonstrably historic-period refuse disposal or homesteading was observed within the property. As with prehistoric sites, the absence of this resource type may be partially explained by past disturbance within the property.

In view of the negative results achieved during both the records search and pedestrian survey, it seems reasonable to conclude that further development of this land area will not affect archaeological or historic sites deemed significant or potentially significant per CEQA, although the following general provision remains appropriate:

The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that significant unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development or construction activities. In such a situation, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

In view of the negative findings of the records search and pedestrian field survey, the present letter is intended as a Final Report for this project. If you, the County or other review agencies have any questions concerning our survey findings or recommendations, please don't hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

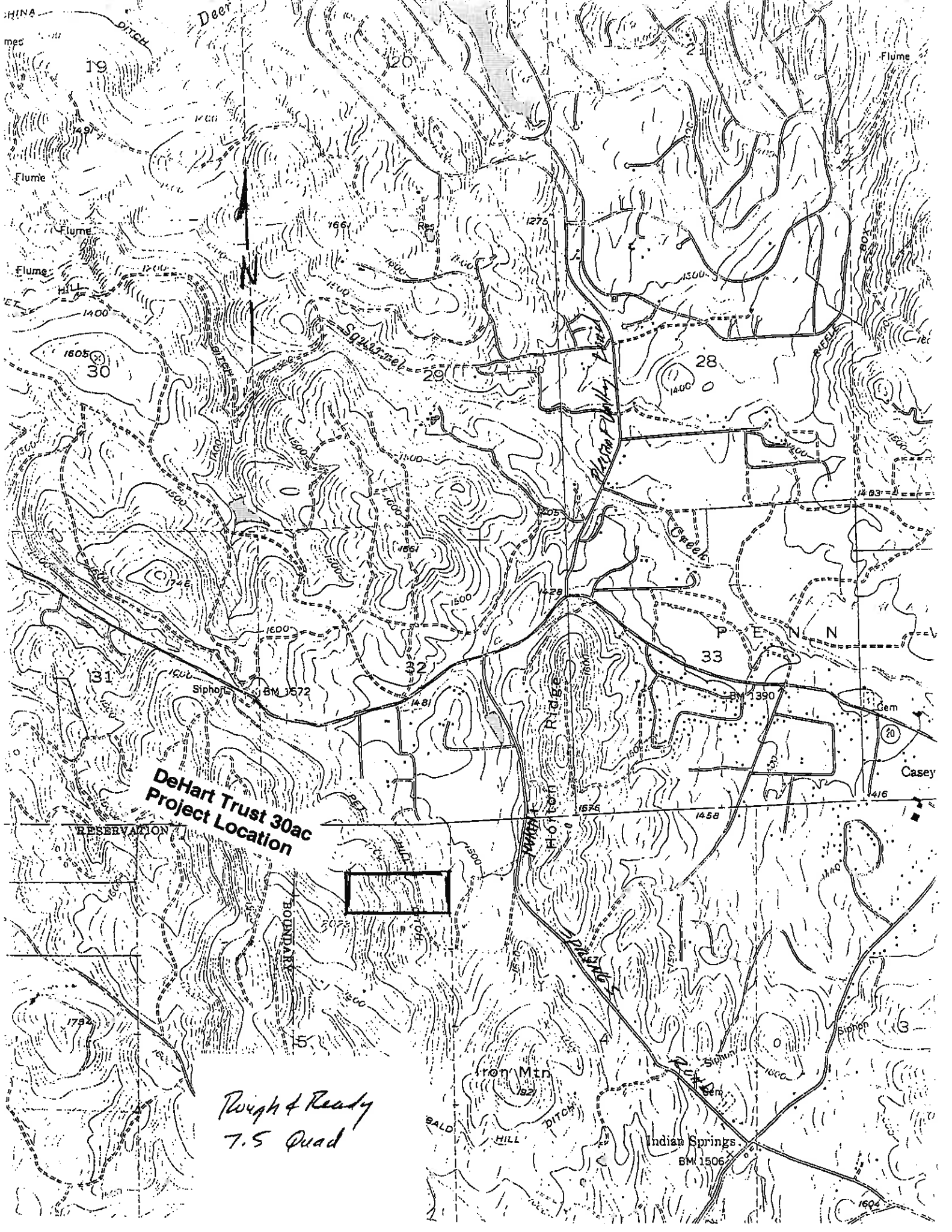
Sincerely Yours,



Peter M. Jensen, Ph.D.

KEYWORDS *for Information Center Use:*

Inventory Survey, Nevada County, 30-acres, USGS Rough and Ready, California, 7.5' Series Quad., CEQA. No Prehistoric or Historic Properties.



**DeHart Trust 30ac
Project Location**

*Rough & Ready
7.5 Quad*

Indian Springs
BM 1506

NORTH CENTRAL INFORMATION CENTER

CSU-SACRAMENTO - 6000 J STREET, ADAMS BLDG. #103, SACRAMENTO, CA 95819-6100
916-278-6217 FAX 916-278-5162

Summary of Results for Records Search

March 18, 2004

NCIC File No.: NEV-04-29

To: Peter Jensen
P.O. Box 194
Durham, CA 95938-0194

From: Sally Torpy, Researcher

Project: AP 51-410-05, 30 acres:
T15N/R7E Section 5, Rough & Ready Quad, Nevada County

- Sites Within Radius: Nothing Found
- Studies Within/Adjacent to Radius:
NCIC # 3251 (Sampson 1982)
Title page and survey map enclosed.
- OHP Historic Property Directory (HPD): Nothing Listed
- NCIC Historic Resources Map: 1949 showed the Pet Hill Ditch
- California Inventory of historical Resources (1976): Nothing Listed
- California Historical Landmarks (1996): Nothing Listed
- Points of Historical Interest (1992): Nothing Listed

As indicated on the attached agreement form, the charge for this record search is **\$120.00**. Payment instructions are included at the bottom of the form. Please sign where indicated and return the **YELLOW** copy with your payment. Thank you for using our services. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call 916/278-6217.