

Department of Water Resources

**Cultural Resources Inventory Report and NRHP and CRHR  
Evaluation of the Decker Island South Levee and the Decker Island  
Farm for the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project,  
Solano County, California**



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## **Contents**

Summary of Findings.....	3
Project Purpose and Description.....	4
Project Location.....	4
Undertaking.....	4
Area of Potential Effect (APE)/Permit Area.....	4
Construction at the Northern APE.....	4
Construction at the southern APE.....	4
Literature Review.....	5
Records Search.....	5
Other Literature.....	5
Background.....	6
Ethnographic Setting.....	6
Plains Miwok.....	6
Patwin.....	6
Prehistory.....	7
History.....	8
Early Exploration and Settlement.....	8
Agriculture and Water.....	8
Historical Context for Site and Levee Evaluations.....	9
Ownership of Decker Island.....	9
Decker Island and Horseshoe Bend.....	11
Current Land Uses.....	12
Survey Methods and Results.....	12
Potential for Subsurface Archaeological Remains.....	12
Native American Coordination and Tribal Cultural Resources.....	13
Other Interested Party Coordination.....	14
Survey Results and Evaluation.....	14
Description of the Decker Island Southeastern Levee.....	15
Evaluation Recommendations for the Decker Island Southeastern Levee.....	15

Assessment of Integrity .....	16
Description of the Decker Island Homestead and Farm .....	16
Evaluation Recommendations for the Decker Island Farm .....	17
Assessment of Integrity .....	18
Assessment of Effects/Impacts .....	18
Findings.....	18
Recommendation of Effect .....	18
Unidentified Cultural Materials .....	18
Professional Qualifications .....	19
References Cited .....	20

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2- Detailed Aerial Map of APE North

Figure 3- Detailed Aerial Map of APE South

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1- NCIC Record Search File # 14-0841 and Site Records

Attachment 2- Native American Correspondence

Attachment 3- Historical Society Correspondence

## **Summary of Findings**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program (FRP) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

The Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project is located on Decker Island in Solano County, California approximately five miles to the southwest of the town of Rio Vista. The project area is within the Jersey Island 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle in Township 3 North, Range 2 East, in an unsectioned area (Figure 1).

Since the Project would affect waters of the United States, DWR must meet requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and therefore, is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This report has been prepared in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended. It is also been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Area of Potential Effects (APE)/Permit Area for the Project includes two areas on parcel APN No. 0090-210-140 (Figures 2 and 3). The existing rock dam in the southern APE will be removed and berms will be reconfigured in that area. At the northern APE location there will be a levee breach for a length of 120 feet at the top and 60 feet at the bottom and the spoils will be spread out over the upland area nearby. The levee will be removed to the natural ground level.

A records search for the Decker Island APE was conducted by the staff of the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System, Sonoma State University on May 12, 2016. The search encompassed a ¼-mile radius around the restoration parcel. The record search reported no recorded cultural resources in the project area. The search also reported two cultural resource surveys had been conducted on the island, one in the project area (Seldomridge and Smith-Madsen 1976) and one on the adjacent parcel (Derr 1994).

A pedestrian survey of the project area was conducted by DWR archaeologists Wendy Pierce, Monica Nolte, and Margaret Kress on June 23, 2015. Two cultural resources were found and documented, one is the levee, and the other is the remnants of a late 19th century/early 20th century farming operation. The levee is the only resource in the APE. No prehistoric archaeological sites were found, nor is the parcel thought to be sensitive for buried archaeological sites. The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation sent representatives to visit the site on July 6, 2016 and no tribal cultural resources were identified.

An evaluation of the levee was undertaken by Ms. Pierce. Based on the survey results and archival research, the levee does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). DWR finds the Project will have no impact to historical, archaeological, tribal cultural or paleontological resources under CEQA and DWR recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected (36 CFR 800.4 [d] [1]) under Section 106 of NHPA.



## **Project Purpose and Description**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program (FRP) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

## **Project Location**

The Project is located on the northeastern edge of Decker Island in Solano County, California, in the Lower Sacramento River watershed. The Project is in an unsectioned portion of Township 3 North, Range 2 East of the Mount Diablo Meridian, in the “Jersey Island, CA” 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

## **Undertaking**

Because the Project would affect waters of the United States, the project proponent must meet requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and therefore, is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District. This report has been prepared in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended. It is also been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

## **Area of Potential Effect (APE)/Permit Area**

The APE/Permit Area for the Project includes two areas, a northern APE and southern APE (Figures 1 and 3). The southern area includes the removal of the existing culvert and rock weir and reconfiguring existing berms. The northern APE includes degrading a section of levee to natural flood plain level and spreading spoils on the uplands. The access road between the southern and northern APEs is located along the south edge of the adjacent parcel north of the project area. For construction methods in each area see below.

### **Construction at the Northern APE**

The northern APE area includes the levee breach for a length of 120 feet at the top and 60 feet at the bottom down to the natural flood plain elevation and a spoiling area (Figure 2). Excavation of the levee lowering site would be done in two stages. Stage 1 of excavation would lower the levee to 6.8 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) by removing approximately 700 cubic yards of fill from the top of the levee. Some of this levee fill material would be used to stabilize access to the southern breach, some may be used to create access crossings for the berms, and the rest would be spread in the upland area. Stage 2 of excavation would involve removing the remaining fill above site elevations (4.9 feet NGVD), still holding back the tidal waters, to the upland area. Upon completion, this section of levee would be lowered and smoothed to match the grade on the interior of the Project site. Low ground pressure equipment would most likely be required for construction of this Project feature.

### **Construction at the southern APE**

There is a rock weir in the existing channel and three berms running parallel to the southwest levee/breach location (Figure 3). The culvert and rock weir would be removed along with a section of the

adjoining levee to the west to create a breach approximately 130 feet wide at the top and approximately 40 feet wide at the bottom. The breach will contain a bench area at 4 feet NGVD which approximately matches exterior marsh plain elevations.

The berm closest to the breach (Berm 1) will be lowered to match adjacent marsh plain elevations. The remaining two berms (Berms 2 and 3) will be reconfigured. The berms would be accessed by using an existing road on the neighboring property. Two temporary earthen crossings would be built over the existing channel for equipment to access the berms. Fill material for the crossings would come from the levee degrade in the northern APE or from the southern breach excavation. Each crossing would contain a culvert to allow water to continue to pass through the crossing. Equipment, such as a low ground pressure excavator, would be used to excavate fill from the berm down to marsh plain elevations. Berm 1 excavated material will be moved to the upland areas of the site as the entire berm will be graded to marsh plain elevations. Excavated material from Berms 2 and 3 would be placed on top of the remaining berm and be used to create higher marsh habitat mounds where they would not impede water flow. Excess excavated berm material may be used to fill or block a shallow swale along the southern portion of the wetlands making it level with the marsh plain. Once berms have been modified, the access crossings would be removed, the area would be returned to preconstruction elevations, and the fill would be spread in upland areas in the northern APE. The temporary crossing culverts would be removed from the island.

The levee breach will be made from the land side. The Project is situated on an island in the Delta across Horseshoe bend from the northern tip of Sherman Island. The viewshed is limited to boaters on Horseshoe Bend and the residences and farms across the river.

## **Literature Review**

### **Records Search**

A records search for the APE was conducted on May 12, 2016 by the staff of the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at Sonoma State University (Attachment 1). The search encompassed a ¼-mile radius around the project area. The record search reported no cultural resources in the APE or within a quarter mile of the APE. The search also reported two cultural resource surveys have been conducted on the island (Seldomridge and Smith-Madsen 1976 and Derr 1994). The 1994 survey area covered the adjacent sand mining parcel only.

In addition to the archaeological site location maps maintained at the NWIC, the following documents were reviewed: *Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility* (2012a), *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (1976), *Directory of properties in the Historic Property Data File for Yolo County* (2012b).

### **Other Literature**

In addition to the CHRIS search, DWR archaeologist Wendy Pierce also reviewed the USGS Historical Topographic Map Collection (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=262:1:0>), an 1890 Official Map of Solano County from the Library of Congress (Eager 1890), an 1877 Map of Solano County (Thompson and West 1877), and the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC) for information on Decker Island, the Ancestry.com website, and the Title Report for the property.

## **Background**

### **Ethnographic Setting**

The project area falls within the western edge of traditional Plains Miwok (also Me-wuk) territory (Levy 1978), but may also overlap into traditional Patwin territory (Johnson 1978).

#### **Plains Miwok**

The eastern Miwok, and more specifically the Plains Miwok, inhabited the lower reaches of the Mokelumne and Cosumnes Rivers, and the banks of the Sacramento River from Rio Vista to Freeport (Levy 1978:398). The Plains Miwok village comprised various structures including houses constructed of poles arranged in a conical framework with a thatch of brush, grasses, or tule matting. Semi-subterranean, earth-covered dwellings served as winter homes. Also within the Miwok settlement were assembly houses, sweathouses, acorn granaries, menstrual huts, and conical grinding huts over bedrock mortars (Levy 1978:408–409).

Subsistence relied on hunting, gathering, and fishing for wild foods. Fishing was very important for the Plains Miwok and salmon was the most important fish. Sturgeon and lampreys were also important meat sources ethnographically. Elk, antelope, and rabbits were important resources; although, beavers, grey squirrels, ground squirrels, and woodrats were also eaten. Plant foods, especially acorns, were dietary staples, and smaller seeds from plants such as various species in the aster family, grasses, red maids, farewell to spring, and buttercup. Corms, bulbs, and roots and tubers were also consumed although these are not specifically reported for the Plains Miwok.

The Plains Miwok were organized politically into tribelets. The tribelet represented an independent, sovereign nation that defined and defended a territory. The tribelet chief, usually a hereditary position, served as the voice of legal and political authority in the tribelet (Levy 1978:410). One of these tribelets, known as Anizumne, is a Plains Miwok ethnographic village mentioned in early mission records and other sources. It was reportedly located on the western side of the Sacramento River just north of Rio Vista (Levy 1978 Figure 1).

#### **Patwin**

Patwin is a division of the Wintun language stock belongs to the Penutian language family (Kroeber 1925). The word Patwin means “people” in the local Wintun dialect. It is used by ethnographers to refer to the southernmost group of Wintun while “Nomlaki” refers to the central Wintun and “Wintu” can also refer specifically to the northernmost group of Wintun. The Patwin occupied most of Yolo and Solano Counties, residing in large villages along the Sacramento River, Cache Creek, and Putah Creek. The villages clustered around these perennial waterways.

The basic Wintun political unit was referred to by ethnographers as a “tribelet”. Each tribelet consisted of a central village and could include several smaller villages as well. The headman resided in a major village, resolved minor disputes among community members, presided over ceremonial events, and made important economic decisions such as when to hold a group hunt. The position of tribelet headman was patrilineally inherited among the Patwin. Patwin villages were comprised of a cluster of family dwellings, a larger dance house placed a little bit north or south of the residences, and a sweat house located just east

or west of the dance house. A separate hut for menstruating women was placed at the opposite side of the village from the dance house (Johnson 1978). All four were semi-subterranean earth covered structures that were circular or oval in shape, although in the summer people might sleep outside or in temporary open brush structures.

As they lived along rivers, fish, waterfowl, and other river resources made up a large part of the Patwin diet. Fish would be caught using nets, trapped in weirs, or harpooned. Ducks were attracted using tule duck decoys then taken with nets. Deer and rabbits could be hunted by individuals or as part of a community event. Acorns were also a very important staple and favorable oak groves were controlled by the tribelet. Occasionally a tribelet might purchase gathering rights for a particular oak grove from a neighboring tribelet. Seed gathering areas were used by particular families and included sunflower, filaree, clover, and wild oats (Johnson 1978; Kroeber 1976).

## **Prehistory**

Evidence of occupation in the Sacramento Valley is rare prior to approximately 3,500 years ago. Early finds in the Sacramento Valley include an isolated chipped stone crescent (an artifact characteristic of early Holocene age sites) found near Orland, and a deeply buried prehistoric occupation site dated to between 5,600 and 9,000 years ago that was uncovered 12 to 22 feet below the streets of Sacramento (Lopez 2012; Rosenthal et al. 2007:151). White's (2003) recent work near Colusa also revealed dates of up to 4,385 years before present. The extremely sparse evidence for very early dates of occupation is likely due to the frequent flooding the valley endures and the resulting sedimentation (Elsasser 1978; Moratto 2004; Wallace 1978).

Distinctive lowland and upland adaptive patterns emerge after 4,500 cal BP (Rosenthal et al. 2007). The Central Valley was characterized by a complex socio-economic strategy focused on riverine and marsh resources and on an elaborate material culture. Notable attributes include dart points (large, square-stemmed, and contracting-stemmed forms); mortars and pestles; use of acorns and pine nuts; new fishing technologies (gorges, composite bone hooks, and spears); numerous fish remains; basketry and cordage; ceramic items; diverse personal accoutrements of stone, bone and shell; and large burial areas.

The earliest part of the late Holocene in the Delta is called the Windmill Pattern. It is associated with sophisticated material culture and westward oriented, extended burials and appeared within the Central Valley and during the Early Period of the San Francisco Bay-Delta region. Windmill sites are clearly concentrated on low rises or knolls within the floodplains of major perennial water courses. These occupations were quite sedentary and often included burials within formal cemeteries regularly accompanied by grave associated goods. The subsistence economy was focused on fishing, hunting, and gathering. Moratto (1984) suggests the Delta was used for winter villages and that Windmill groups traveled to the foothills for summer and that is why such a large percentage of burials at Delta sites occurred in winter. Rosenthal et al. (2007:153) suggest the period witnessed increasing residential stability within the Central Valley along river corridors.

Berkeley Pattern sites are distributed more widely than Windmill sites. They are typified by deep midden deposits suggesting a further decrease in mobility and a more sedentary pattern than has been identified for the previous period. The shell midden/mounds dated to this period are located near fresh or salt water and indicate exploitation of a variety of aquatic resources was relatively intensive. Mortars and

pestles are abundant indicating a strong reliance upon acorns as a staple food. Fishing technology is diversified and improved showing a greater emphasis on fish and possibly a broader range of targeted species. A well-developed bone industry, distinctive diagonal flaking of large concave base points, and certain bead and ornament types set the Berkeley Period apart from the earlier pattern. Burials are flexed and variable in orientation and some cremations are present. Grave goods are fewer.

The most recent pattern is the Augustine. It is characterized by a much larger number of sites spread widely over central California. It is distinguished by large populations that had well established trade networks, social stratification (as indicated by considerable variability in grave goods), elaborate ceremonialism, the mortuary practice of cremation, and the burning of offerings near flexed burials. Artifacts include shaped bowl mortars and pestles, bone awls for making coiled basketry, and small notched and sometimes serrated projectile points, markers of the bow and arrow transition.

## **History**

### **Early Exploration and Settlement**

The region around the project area was first influenced by the Spanish Missions which have baptism records for many Patwin and Plains Miwok. When the Spanish government fell to the Mexicans, large land grants were made in the interior regions of the Central Valley. In 1844, the Mexican government granted the Rancho Los Ulpinos, an area west of the Sacramento River around the vicinity of present day Rio Vista, to John Bidwell. After the American conquest of California, Bidwell sold parts of the grant to several people.

### **Agriculture and Water**

By 1848, when gold was discovered at Sutter's mill in Coloma, only a handful of people had settled in the Delta, but thousands of newcomers traveled Delta waterways on route to the foothill and mountain mines to the east. Some California newcomers decided that farming to feed the growing population of miners was a surer path to success. Farmers began to work land at the edge of the Delta along the natural levees of the major rivers. These early settlers built shoestring levees, by hand, atop the natural levees to withstand the highest tidal rises.

The Swampland Act of 1850 enabled groups of small landholders to establish districts to undertake Delta land reclamation. Speculative, large-scale land reclamation brought thousands of Chinese workers to the Delta. Their labor first enabled the construction of levees and then helped the islands created by such reclamation efforts yield abundant produce. (Garone 2011: 113; Thompson 1957: 198-202, 225.) From the 1860s through the 1880s, reclamation spread agriculture from alluvium lands upstream into the peat lands of the central Delta. With river access to a growing urban market in San Francisco, Delta agriculture boomed and crops were diversified. Over time, dairies, Bartlett pear orchards, and asparagus became important components of the Delta economy (Lokke and Simmons 1980: 223-224; Thompson 1957:139-44).

Reclaimed lands required constant and expensive maintenance and repair. Levees frequently failed and islands flooded. Sacramento and San Joaquin River beds were raised and choked by tailings from hydraulic mining in the Sierra Nevada, which was outlawed in the mid-1880s but had a longer lasting



impact on rivers. Technology helped landowners overcome some of these problems. The introduction of clamshell dredges in 1879 enabled the construction of increasingly larger and more secure levees. These dredges dug sediment from the river channel to build up the levees instead of digging up fertile topsoil from the islands as had been done previously. Modern pumps and the introduction of electricity allowed for more efficient and thorough draining of flooded islands. By the early twentieth century, the rise of industrial agriculture across the Delta increased pressure for state and federal action to protect and facilitate the region's agricultural economy through flood control efforts, transportation development, and large-scale water policy and development (Garone 2007: 155; Thompson 1957: 226-272).

## **Historical Context for Site and Levee Evaluations**

### **Ownership of Decker Island**

Decker Island was first surveyed between 1853 and 1862 by the Surveyor General's Office and the Survey was published in 1862 as "Township No. III North Range No. II East Mount Diablo Meridian Lot No. 37 Part of the Rancho de los Ulpinos". In 1877 John Decker (d1882) a native of New York, bought the parcel from the State of California (79.98 acres by patent of Swamp and Overflowed Lands #1163). John Decker was married to Esther Decker and they had several daughters, Catherine Nelson, Maggie Richardson, and Linnie or Tinnie Glindkamp. Both R.W. and William Hansen appear in John P Decker's probate papers (case 319 Sacramento Superior Court) as holding notes. They may have worked for Decker and been familiar with the island.

According to the Pacific Reporter (1907:200), the island was sold by the State again in 1885 to Catherine Nelson. However, this was probably Decker's daughter mentioned in the probate records. She may have inherited it from him. She appears in the Daily Union (Union) periodically between 1884 and 1896 for owing taxes on the island.

A notice to Quiet Title ran in the Union June 21, 1896. R. W. Hanson commenced a suit in Superior Court against the Nelsons for Decker Island. The island was transferred to Roscoe (Ross) W. Hansen (also spelled Hansen) in 1896 as reported by the Union in a notice titled "Real Estate Transfers". It states there was a land transfer from, "J.J. Bottget to R.W. Hansen-Survey No. 1071 known as Decker Island".

It appears the land dispute began shortly after Roscoe W. Hansen bought the island. A newspaper account of the land dispute from the San Francisco Call (1899) states that the island had been gradually forming in the river since 1855, and that it continued to grow west until it joined property on the west owned by Mr. Glassell, who occasionally grazed cattle on the land and had erected a few wire fences. The article reports that Decker Island was surveyed and sold to R. W. Hansen under the Swamp and Overflowed Land Act and that over four or five years Mr. Hansen, "regularly employed men to improve it". Mr. Hansen won the land dispute.

Roscoe (Ross) W. Hansen was born in 1857 in Maine to Levi and Abigail Hansen. Ross was one of 12 children born to the couple by 1870. Roscoe Willis Hansen (aka Ross W., Ron, and Hanson in various

records) (1857-1936) appears in the 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 U.S. Federal Censuses and there are documents from a set of important court cases spurred by litigation over Decker Island. Ross, William, their younger brother Levi Jr., and their father Levi Sr. came to California as recorded in the 1880 U.S. Census.

Roscoe W. Hansen owned the island from 1896 until at least the 1920s when he, his brother William, Mary Fisher their blind housekeeper, and Hue Thompson, an Irish hired hand, are recorded living on the island in the 1920 census. While the census reports he owned his own farm, he continued to live on the mainland until sometime after the 1910 census, probably because the island was subject to flooding until after the island was levied. Ross had a son Roscoe W. Hansen Jr. who was 12 and daughter Tillie M. Hansen who was 13 living with him in Rio Vista on the 1900 U.S. Census and a 17 year-old son named Alfred living with him in 1910. Alfred and Tillie do not show up in other records, but there is a Roscoe W. Hanson (variant spelling of Hansen) born in 1888 with a father born in Maine (like Ross Sr.) living in Alameda County on the 1920, 1930, and 1940 U.S. Censuses. Ross Hansen Sr. died in 1936, but his brother William may have continued farming there until his death in 1941. They are buried in the Rio Vista Masonic and Odd Fellow Cemetery. There is one more Hansen grave stone next to the brothers that is just marked "Hansen".

It is not known what happened to the island after the elder Hansens passed. The island appears to have been fallow in a 1957 aerial photograph, but farming equipment dating to the 30's and 40's are abundant.



**Photo 1.** In this 1957 aerial photo the land appears fallow. The barn is visible. There is potentially another structure depicted slightly north of the homestead area.

The next recorded owners of the island are Walter Wesley Light and Rose Marie Light who sold in 1962 to Edward A. Anderson. It is not known when the Lights acquired the land. The Lights appear in the 1940 census living on Ryer and Walter Light working as a paid worker on Gwerder Ranch on Grand Island. It

seems that if they owned Decker at that time, they would have been working their own farm. The Andersons actively farmed the island as shown in a 1964 aerial image which shows a patch on the barn roof, worked fields, and a new landing by the barn. In 1967 the property was bought by the Sacramento-Yolo Port district.



**Photo 2.** 1964 aerial showing active farming, patched roof, and a new landing by the barn.

### **Decker Island and Horseshoe Bend**

The first government survey of the project area was undertaken by the General Land Office (GLO) in 1862. Decker Island is not depicted on the 1862 GLO Survey Plat Map of Township 3 North, Range 2 East (USDI 1862). The land on both sides of the river is labeled “Swamp and Overflowed Land”. There is also no island depicted in the Sacramento River on The Thompson and West Map of Solano County 1877, just a marshy border along the Solano County side of the River. However, the State of California had the island surveyed in 1877. At that time it was 79.98 acres and was sold to John Decker by patent of Swamp and Overflowed Lands (#1163). In the 1890 version of the Official Map of Solano County, the area of Decker Island is depicted though not named and is adjacent to land owned by the “Heirs of Mrs. Lucie M. Glassell” (Eager 1890). Historic accounts of the legal disputes over ownership of the island caused details about its formation and evolution to be recorded in newspaper articles and legal case files.

Decker Island grew two times. The first time occurred somewhere between 1896 and 1905 when the island accreted land on its northwest side until it abutted the Montezuma Hills on the northwest. That is when the Glassells, landowner of the Montezuma Hills property, sued Ross Hansen claiming ownership of Decker since it now abutted their land. The Glassells lost the case.

Then shortly after, the United States bought the accreted property and Decker became a larger Island after the government decided to cut off Horseshoe Bend in order to straighten the Sacramento River. In 1907 the California Debris Commission requested \$400,000 from Congress to buy two large dredges to cut across land to the west of Decker Island to accommodate 600,000 cfs for flood prevention (Kelly 1998). By 1919, two dredgers, the *Sacramento* and the *San Joaquin* dredged through the swampland west of the parcel owned by Hansen, creating the wide straight shipping lane (U.S. War Department 1919). The original Decker Island parcel owned by Hansen was left as it was, but the area to the northwest of it became a spoils easement of the Federal government. Spoils from dredging the cut were placed there creating a parcel of much higher ground. The spoils on those parcels currently and historically have been mined for sand.

## **Current Land Uses**

The project area is situated on the southeast side of the island. The northwestern side of the island is mined for sand and the northern tip of the island is the Decker Island Wildlife Area (DIWA) which occupies 26 acres. The island is only accessible by boat. The project parcel is currently unused, although cattle from the northern property breach the barbed wire fence to graze on the project parcel. Several cattle were on the parcel during the survey and subsequent site visit.

## **Survey Methods and Results**

A pedestrian survey of the project area was conducted by DWR archaeologists Wendy Pierce, Monica Nolte, and Margaret Kress on June 23, 2015. Two cultural resources were found and documented; one is the levee, and the other is the remnants of a late 19th century/early 20th century farming operation. No Native American archaeological resources were found. Visibility at the time of the survey was good as the grass had been mowed or grazed down. A Fisher M-Scope metal detector was used to scan the subsurface for metallic signatures in the area of the homestead.

## **Potential for Subsurface Archaeological Remains**

There appears to be little potential for subsurface archaeological remains. According to the preliminary Geologic Map of the Lodi 30'x60' Quadrangle, California (Dawson 2009), the project site is composed of Delta Peat and Mud and the rest of the island is composed of "Artificial dredge fill (Historic) - Fill located adjacent to channels dredged for navigation". Natural levee deposits which are highly sensitive for archaeological sites are not present on the island according to this data.

The southern parcel which is the project APE, is the oldest portion of the island and was surveyed and designated swampland in 1877. An 1899 newspaper account in the San Francisco Call on the "Decker Island land dispute" stated the island began forming in the river in 1855 and had grown westward to the extent that it abutted the Montezuma hills. The accretions that built up on the island and caused it to grow northwestward probably resulted from the from mining activities upstream which washed huge amounts of sediment down the Sacramento River where the sediments deposited in the slower moving water of the Delta. These sediment deposits caused navigation problems for the shipping industry until hydraulic mining was outlawed by the Sawyer Decision in 1884. The California Debris Commission advocated the

Sacramento River be “straightened” in order to reduce flooding and aid navigation. The Horseshoe Bend cutoff was part of this plan presented to congress (US Congress 1916). The Sacramento River Channel was straightened and spoils were deposited on Decker, north of the project parcel by 1919, according to the United States War Department report (1919). The northwest portion of the island (not the APE) was formed by this historic-era dredging and spoiling. This is supported by old maps and government documents on dredging. If the newspaper account of late island formation is true, there would be no potential for any prehistoric archaeological remains on the island due to its recent origin.

There appears to be little potential for Native American village sites on the island, but it could have been used seasonally if it wasn’t too marshy. The historic-era homestead remains are on slightly higher ground which may also have supported seasonal camps. Historic-era farming equipment and building materials were encountered on the surface and some pieces of metal were shallowly or partially buried. Metal detector work did not pick up signatures except for a few shallowly buried pieces of sheet metal near the spot where the old homestead was thought to be.

## **Native American Coordination and Tribal Cultural Resources**

Ling-ru Chu, Environmental Scientist with DWR’s Fish Restoration Program sent letters on May 3, 2016 to Tribes on DWR’s AB 52 list for the project area, inviting them to consult on the environmental document. Tribes who received the AB 52 project notification are the Wilton Rancheria, the United Auburn Indian Community, and the Ione Band of Miwok Indians.

A Sacred Lands File Search and Contact List Request was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 18, 2016. On April 27, 2016 the NAHC reported that no sacred sites were recorded in the project area and provided an updated list of knowledgeable individuals in Solano County that included members of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the Cortina Band of Indians. DWR sent project notification letters to the Chairmen of each Tribe on May 2, 2016.

James Kinter, Tribal Secretary and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Yocha Dehe responded in a letter to DWR dated May 18, 2016. He stated the Yocha Dehe has cultural interest and authority in that area. They requested a copy of the cultural resources report for the Project and a project site visit. The person designated as the contact for the site visit was not able to be reached and Mr. James Sarmento was contacted on his behalf on June 21, 2016. The draft cultural report, aerial of the project site with draft project design, and APE map were sent to Mr. Sarmento by email on June 21, 2016. Mr. Sarmento and Mr. Laverne Bill met with Ms. Pierce and Ms. Chu of DWR and Ms. Van Klompenburg and Mr. Curtis of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a project site visit on July 6, 2016. Mr. Bill and Mr. Sarmento agreed that there were no tribal cultural resources and that the Project would have no impact to tribal cultural resources.

On June 13, 2016 DWR received a letter from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to be added to its official AB 52 list. An official AB 52 invitation to consult on the Project will be sent to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation along with a copy of the May 18, 2016 letter and a copy of the cultural report as requested.

Copies of all Native American correspondence can be found in Attachment 2.



## **Other Interested Party Coordination**

The Solano County Historical Society was sent a letter of inquiry on April 18, 2016 soliciting information on any known historic-era resources within the project area. No response to the letter of inquiry sent on April 18, 2016 was received from the Solano County Historical Society. Copies of all correspondence can be found in Attachment 3.

## **Survey Results and Evaluation**

The survey on June 23, 2015 resulted in the identification and recordation of two cultural resources on the Decker Island parcel. One is the Decker Island/Horseshoe Bend Levee, and the other is the remains of the Hansen homestead and farming debris. These are evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) below.

## **NRHP Criteria for Evaluation**

Historic significance is assessed by applying the NRHP criteria as defined by 36 CFR 60.4. Potential historic properties need to possess both significance and integrity to be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. If a property has historical significance, but does not retain sufficient integrity, the property will not be considered eligible for listing. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Properties eligible for the NRHP can be significant on a national, state, or local level and must meet at least one of the following historical significance criteria:

Criterion A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Criterion B: Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

Criterion C: Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D: Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Integrity is determined by applying the seven aspects of integrity to the historic resource: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A resource does not need to retain all seven aspects of integrity, but rather should retain those aspects that reflect the reasons that make it historically significant.

The criteria used to find resources eligible for listing in the CRHR (Criterion 1-4) are almost identical to Criterion A-D and resources that meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the NRHP are automatically CRHR eligible.

## **Description of the Decker Island Southeastern Levee**

It is believed that the levee was built before 1920 when the original buildings were still standing because there is a rectangular impression in the side of the levee where it appears levee fill was placed adjacent to one of the homestead buildings depicted on the 1910 map. The levee appears to have been constructed sometime after 1910 and before 1931. As stated above, they were most likely built between 1910 and 1920 and the Hansens began living on the island after the levee was built. It was apparently only able to be occupied seasonally before the levee was constructed.

The levee runs along the Horseshoe Bend side of Decker Island on the Sacramento River on the southeastern side of the island and is approximately 12 feet wide at the top, 135 feet wide at the bottom, and about 8-10 feet high. The length of the recorded segment is 8,274 feet long.

The levee is not depicted on the 1910 USGS Jersey topographic Quad sheet (surveyed 1906-1908). It first appears on the 1952 Jersey Island quad. The 1952 quad states “culture and drainage by USGS from aerial photographs taken in 1931”. If the levee is considered “culture” then it appears the levee was constructed sometime between 1910 and 1931, which was an active period for levee building in the Delta. The island was owned and farmed by Ross (Roscoe) W. Hansen from at least 1896 until sometime after 1920 when he, his brother, and two hired hands are recorded on the US Federal Census living on the island. According to the 1910 US Census, the Hansens were living on the mainland in Rio Vista Township, but reported as owning a farm. This lends credence to the case that the levee was not yet built at this time and the island had only been habitable on a seasonal basis before the parcel was leveed. The levee recorded on the location map is as it is depicted on the 1952 USGS topographic quad. There are two buildings depicted on the 1952 USGS quad map and there is a corresponding rectangular void in the levee toe at the spot where one of the buildings would have been indicating the levee was built after and around the earlier structure which is thought to be a homestead building. It is not known if the levee had been modified, or improved since its original construction.

## **Evaluation Recommendations for the Decker Island Southeastern Levee**

DWR applied the NRHP criteria for evaluation found in 36 CFR 60.4 to the Decker island southeast levee.

Under Criterion A, the Decker island levee is associated with small scale agriculture in the Delta, but was not an important part of the economy as it was very small.

The levee is not eligible under Criterion B as it is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, the levee does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master, or possess artistic value.

The levee does not appear eligible under Criterion D as it contains no potential to contribute important information about human history. No further information can be gained by studying this levee.

## **Assessment of Integrity**

The levee appears to retain good integrity and it does not appear to have been modified. The levee exists in the alignment it appears on the 1952 USGS Quad map and the rural setting remains fairly close to what it was when originally built.

## **Description of the Decker Island Homestead and Farm**

The earliest depiction of buildings on Decker Island are on the 1910 Jersey USGS Topographic quadrangle and are certainly related to the ownership and occupation of the island by Ross Hanson, his family, and hired workers. This map shows two buildings close together on the point, while the 1952 USGS Jersey Island quad shows the larger rectangular building (barn) and one building near the old landing. When the 1910 USGS map is overlaid onto the aerial, it is evident that the two buildings on the 1910 map are in the location where the depression was found in the levee (the old landing). The land that the large barn is on did not exist on the 1910 map and that land may have naturally accumulated or been added during the levee building.

Historic aerials from 1957 show only the large rectangular barn structure on the parcel ([www.historicaerials.com/](http://www.historicaerials.com/), Photo 1). No structures are depicted on the island in the 1978 edition of the Jersey Island quad sheet, and none were seen during a 2015 DWR survey of the southern parcel.

The ruins a barn that burned in the late 70s-80's was located during the pedestrian survey and about 800 feet north along the levee lies an area of domestic fruit and nut trees with a flat rectangular depression in the levee near what was probably the old landing and another close by among large cottonwoods. This area is proposed to be the remains of the Hansen homestead, the two buildings depicted on the 1910 map.

The Decker Island homestead consists of an area slightly higher than the interior of the island surrounded by several large cottonwood trees and a few domestic fruit and nut trees. There is a rectangular impression in the levee indicating a building stood there prior to the levee being built near the landing as shown in the 1910 USGS map. There was some sheet metal on the surface of the flat some shallowly buried at the edges of the depression. There is also a water pipe sticking out of the ground on the flat underneath the cottonwood trees that is probably the site of the second building. The domesticated fruit and nut trees (walnut, almond, fig, and pear) are to the south of the presumed house area. No other structural or domestic artifacts were found near the flats. It is assumed based on the sheet metal that the building near the landing was constructed of wood posts with metal roofing and siding like the barn. It may have been an older barn that was replaced by the larger rectangular barn on the point to the south. No remains other than the water pipes were evident at the nearby flat. Because it had piped water, it is proposed that the building by the cottonwoods was the main house location.

The remains of a larger rectangular barn that stood on the point of the island south of the homestead area is depicted in aerials from 1957 to 1978. The barn appears on the 1952 USGS map with culture from 1931 aerial. It remained standing until the late 1970s when it burned down. Large beams and galvanized metal siding and roofing were found along with irrigation pipes at the barn site. Near the barn is a standing, but charred coral constructed with round telephone pole sided posts. A metal cattle chute, farming equipment, and old vehicles are strewn along the levee to the south and north of the barn. On the levee south of the barn is a 1930s Dodge truck, a 1940's era Chevy truck, an unidentifiable vehicle

remnant, an engine with wooden ball bearings, and another piece of equipment that may have been steam powered. Near the barn in the coral area was a circa 1930/40s seed drill. On the levee between the barn and homestead are several other metal items related to farming including a hand cranked engine, a discer, a harvester, a Piper Speeddigger (patented in 1941), and two Stockton Ironworks wheels “LA52” 36” diameter, one with a differential attached.

The farm equipment appears to date to the later end of the Hansen occupation and into the timeframe of the post-Hansen ownership. The round posts at the corral area appear to be related to the cattle operation which may date mid-century and later. The Chevy truck and Piper speeddigger, date to the post Hansen time period.

## **Evaluation Recommendations for the Decker Island Farm**

Under Criterion A, the homestead and farm are not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Under Criterion B, Neither the Deckers or Hansens were significant persons in the past. Under Criterion C, the farm and homestead do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The homestead and farm, if significant for anything, would be under criterion D, for yielding, or the likelihood of yielding, information important in history.

It can be demonstrated by overlaying the 1910 map on the modern aerial, that the area assumed to be the homestead near the cottonwoods and fruit trees is the same area where two buildings are depicted on the 1910 map. These probably were built and used during the Hansen period (1896-1930s). The metal detector did not pick up much in the way of sub-surface remains, just a few pieces of shallowly buried sheet metal. This may indicate most of what had been there was swept away by flooding events or dismantled and discarded by a subsequent landowner. If a privy exists near the old building site, it might not contain the usual amount of domestic trash as the home was so near the river, much of the trash was probably discarded directly into the waterway.

It can't be determined if the old homestead building site has information important to history without sub-surface testing because it is unknown whether there is a sub-surface deposit. Based on the lack of artifacts on the surface, other than the large farming objects data potential appears lacking. However, if the river deposited sediment there, it may have buried and preserved artifacts more deeply than the metal detector could detect. It isn't possible to evaluate the homestead site for Criterion D without a test excavation. Because the Project will not be disturbing the site area or the farming equipment, excavation does not seem necessary at this time.

The barn appears to be a later addition to the property, built after the levee and before 1931. Most of the farm equipment found on the surface and in the barn area would not add much to our understanding of the Decker and Hansen periods of ownership because it seems to date later than the Hansens. The Decker Island homestead area which is older and would be directly traceable to the Hansens, and maybe John Decker, may be eligible to the National Register under Criterion D and the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 4; however, it cannot be determined without further work to assess the presence and quality of a sub-surface deposit.

## **Assessment of Integrity**

The integrity of the larger farm site is diminished by the use of the area for farming after the Hansens into the 1960s. Farming equipment and vehicles span a broad time range and it is difficult to associate the surface artifacts with the possible occupation periods. For example, the Piper Speedigger is circa 1940s, after the Hansens, but could have been brought to the island and used either by the Andersons in the 1960s or by an unknown farmer between the Hansens and Andersons. Likewise, the circa 1940s Chevrolet truck must have either been bought by William Hansen just before he died which seems unlikely, or brought to the island in the gap period by an unknown farmer, possibly the Lights.

The surficial nature of the farming artifacts, and the lack of association with the known occupants of the farm and farming periods are detriments to the sites integrity. However, if there is a buried deposit of domestic artifacts at the old homestead location dating to the initial period of Decker or Hansen occupation, there may be data potential that would be significant under Criterion D.

## **Assessment of Effects/Impacts**

The proposed project would not affect the historic-era farm site as the APE is both north and south of the site. The Project would degrade a small portion of the levee in the northern APE area, but the levee does not appear to be a historic property under the National Historic Preservation Act or a historical resource under CEQA.

## **Findings**

A segment of levee and historic-era homestead/farm site were found in the project area and recorded on appropriate DPR forms. Based on the literature review and survey results, the levee does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. The study is inconclusive about the eligibility of the old homestead area. Limited subsurface testing is recommend to determine if there are subsurface remains present dating to the Hansen or Decker periods. However, the site is not in the APE so it does not need to be formally evaluated for this project. DWR finds the Project will have no impacts to historical, archaeological, tribal cultural or paleontological resources under CEQA.

## **Recommendation of Effect**

Based on the literature review and survey results, DWR recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected (36 CFR 800.4 [d] [1]) under Section 106 of NHPA.

## **Unidentified Cultural Materials**

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work will be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits. If human remains are uncovered, all work must stop immediately and the County coroner must be contacted pursuant to California Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5(b).



## **Professional Qualifications**

The report was prepared by Wendy Pierce, DWR Associate Environmental Planner (Archeology). Ms. Pierce holds a B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology (Archaeology concentration), and has 20 years of archaeological experience in California and the Great Basin. She has been a supervisor on many projects in both field and laboratory settings, including principal investigator, field director, crew chief, lab coordinator, lab director, and analyst. She meets and exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications for Archaeology (48 FR 44738-44739).

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FIGURE 1

Project Vicinity Map

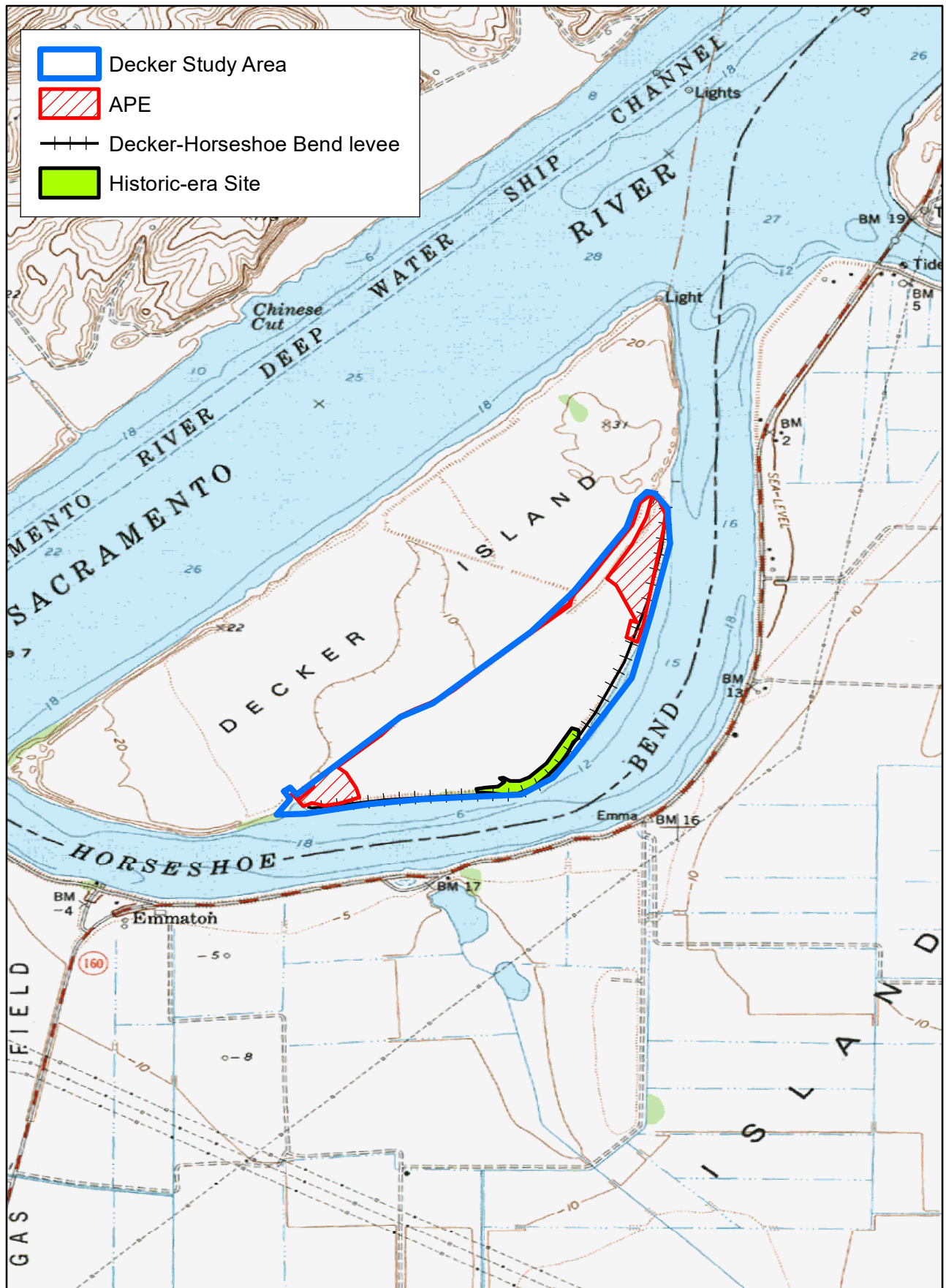


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP  
 DECKER ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT  
 JERSEY ISLAND 7.5' USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE  
 SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

1:24,000  
 0 0.125 0.25 0.5  
 Miles







FIGURE 2. DETAILED AERIAL MAP-NORTHERN APE  
DECKER ISLAND TIDAL HABITATAT RESTORATION PROJECT  
SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



1:3,000  
0 50 100 200  
Feet







FIGURE 3. DETAILED AERIAL MAP-SOUTHERN APE  
DECKER ISLAND TIDAL HABITATAT RESTORATION PROJECT  
SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



1:2,400  
0 50 100 200  
Feet



Department of Water Resources  
**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT**

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS**  
**AND**  
**NEW SITE RECORDS**



5/12/2016

NWIC File No.: 15-1517

Wendy Pierce  
CA Department of Water Resources  
3500 Industrial Blvd.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Re: Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project**

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

Resources within project area:	None listed
Resources within ¼ mi. radius:	None listed
Reports within project area:	S-11826, (S-5055, 17236: no printouts included for these two reports per instructions)
Reports within ¼ mi. radius:	None listed
Other Reports within records search radius:	S-848, 5208, 9462, 9795, 12790, 15529, 17835, 32596, 33600. These reports are classified as Other Reports; reports with little or no field work or missing maps. The electronic maps do not depict study areas for these reports, however a list of these reports has been provided. In addition, you have not been charged any fees associated with these studies.

**Resource Database Printout (list):**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Resource Database Printout (details):**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Resource Digital Database Records:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Report Database Printout (list):**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Report Database Printout (details):**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Report Digital Database Records:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Resource Record Copies:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Report Copies:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**OHP Historic Properties Directory:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

**Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:**

☐ enclosed ☐ not requested ☐ nothing listed

<b><u>CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Caltrans Bridge Survey:</u></b> **	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Ethnographic Information:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Historical Literature:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Historical Maps:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Local Inventories:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed
<b><u>Shipwreck Inventory:</u></b> **	<input type="checkbox"/> enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> not requested	<input type="checkbox"/> nothing listed

**\*Notes:**

- \*\* Current versions of these resources are available on-line:
- Caltrans Bridge Survey: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>
- Soil Survey: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/soilsurvey/California/california.html>
- Shipwreck Inventory: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Shipwrecks.html>

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

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

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

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

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

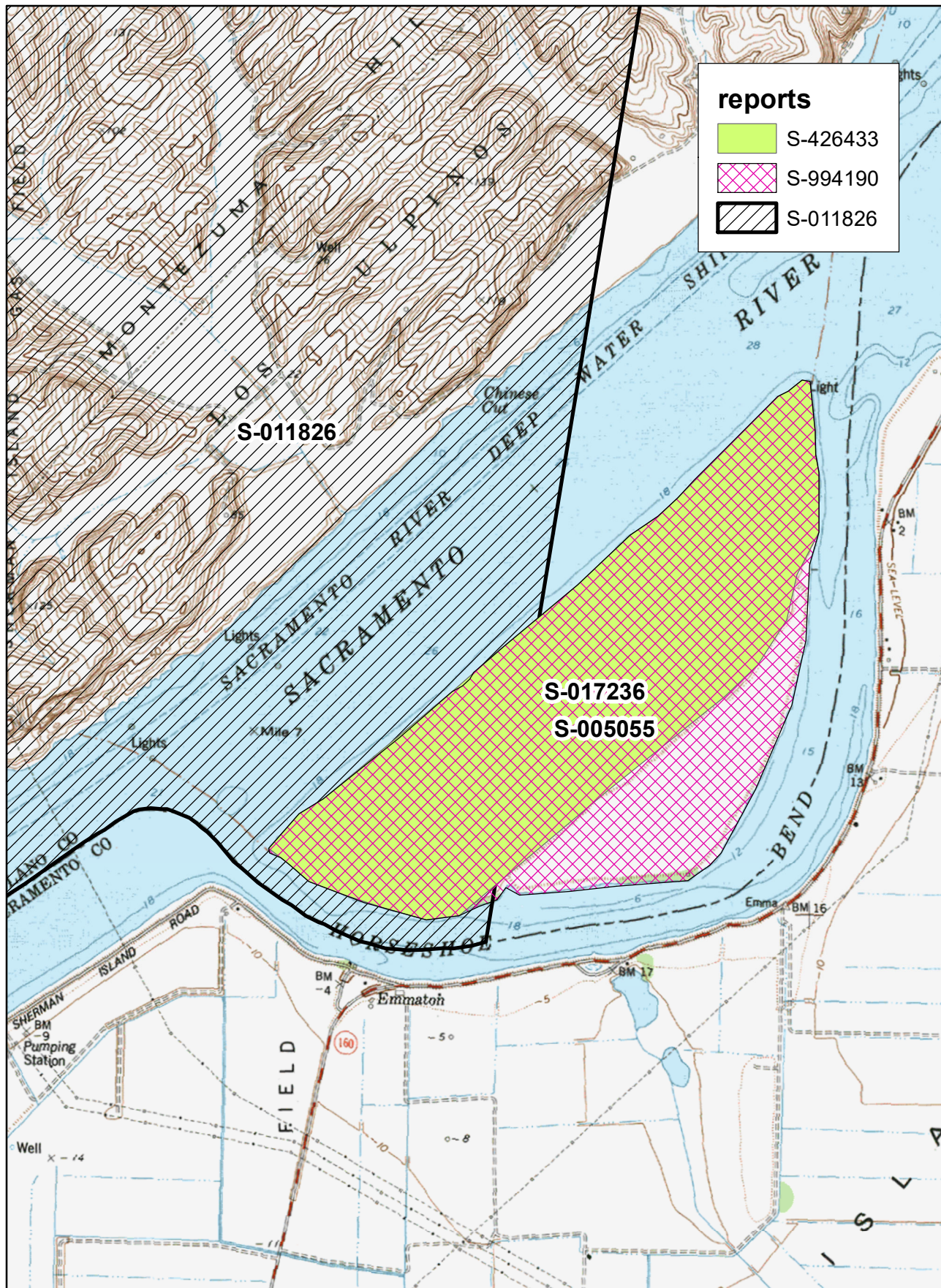
Sincerely,

*Annette Neal*

Researcher



# Records Search NWIC File #15-1517



0 0.25 0.5 1:24,000 1 Miles





State of California & The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code

Other  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Listings

Page 1 of 3 \*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Decker Island SE Levee

P1. Other Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_

\*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

\*a. County Solano and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Jersey Island Date \_\_\_\_\_ T 3N; R 2E; ☐ of ☐ of Sec Unsectioned; MDB.M.

c. Address NA City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S, 613084 mE/ 4217299 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, decimal degrees, etc., as appropriate)

Only accessible by boat. From Brannan Island SRA boat launch, head southwest down Three Mile Slough to the Sacramento River then stay to the east side of the river and go down Horseshoe Bend, Dock at Decker Island @ 121°42'34.378"W 38°5'48.001"N.

\*P3a. Description:

The resource is a levee running along the Horseshoe Bend side of Decker Island on the Sacramento River. The levee is approximately 8-10 feet tall and about 45 meters across. It does not appear on the 1910 USGS Jersey topographic Quad sheet. It does appear on the 1952 Jersey Island quad. The 1952 quad states "culture and drainage by USGS from aerial photographs taken in 1931". If the levee is considered "culture" then it appears the levee was constructed sometime between 1910 and 1931. The island was owned and farmed by Ross (Roscoe) W. Hansen from 1896 (possibly earlier) to at least 1920 when he, his brother, and two hired hands are recorded on the US Federal Census living on the island. Mr. Hansen died in 1936 and his brother in 1941. The levee recorded on the location map is as it is depicted on the 1952 USGS topographic quad.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP21 levee

\*P4. Resources Present: ☐ Building

☒ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐

Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: View to north east along levee crown toward homestead area

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:

California Department of Water Resources  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Wendy Pierce, Monica Nolte, and Margaret Kress of DWR, Division of

Environmental Services  
3500 Industrial Blvd., West Sacramento  
95691

\*P9. Date Recorded: June 23, 2015

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Pedestrian

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the  
Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration  
Project, Solano County, California

P5a.



\*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☒ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_

Page 2 of 3

Resource Name or #: Decker Island southeast levee

**L1. Historic and/or Common Name:** Decker Island levee-Horseshoe Bend side

**L2a. Portion**

**Described:** ☐ Entire Resource ☒ Segment ☐ Point Observation **Designation:**

**b. Location of point or segment:**

North end UTM 10S 613075 4217277 and south end 10S 611924 4215904. Levee bordering the river side of APN 009-0-210-140.

**L3. Description:** The levee is an earthen berm running along the river side of the parcel. It is approximately 8-10 feet tall and about 135 feet across and runs the length of the parcel along the water side.

**L4. Dimensions:** (In feet for historic features and meters for prehistoric features)

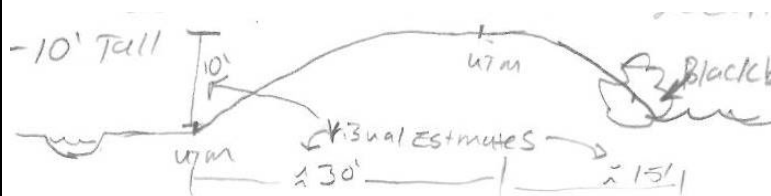
**a. Top Width** ~10-12 feet

**b. Bottom Width** ~45 feet

**c. Height or Depth** 8-10 feet

**d. Length of Segment** 2758  
meters

**L4e. Sketch of Cross-Section** (include scale)



**L5. Associated Resources:**

The island was farmed and the farm building and equipment were recorded as the Decker Island farm.

**L6. Setting:**

The levee is on the southeast side of the rural island which is used for grazing. The northwestern side of the island is a sand mining operation that mines the dredged spoils from the river cut. There are no buildings on the parcel.

**L7. Integrity Considerations:** Integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling are still intact. There may never have been an actual design and it is no longer associated with a farming operation; although, the island is still used for some grazing.

**L8a. Photograph, Map or Drawing**



**L8b. Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing:** Photo facing southwest along levee.

**L9. Remarks:** none

**L10. Form Prepared by:** Wendy Pierce  
Department of  
Water Resources  
3500 Industrial  
Blvd. West  
Sacramento, CA  
95691

**L11. Date:**  
4-15-16



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**LOCATION MAP**

Primary #:

HRI #:

Trinomial

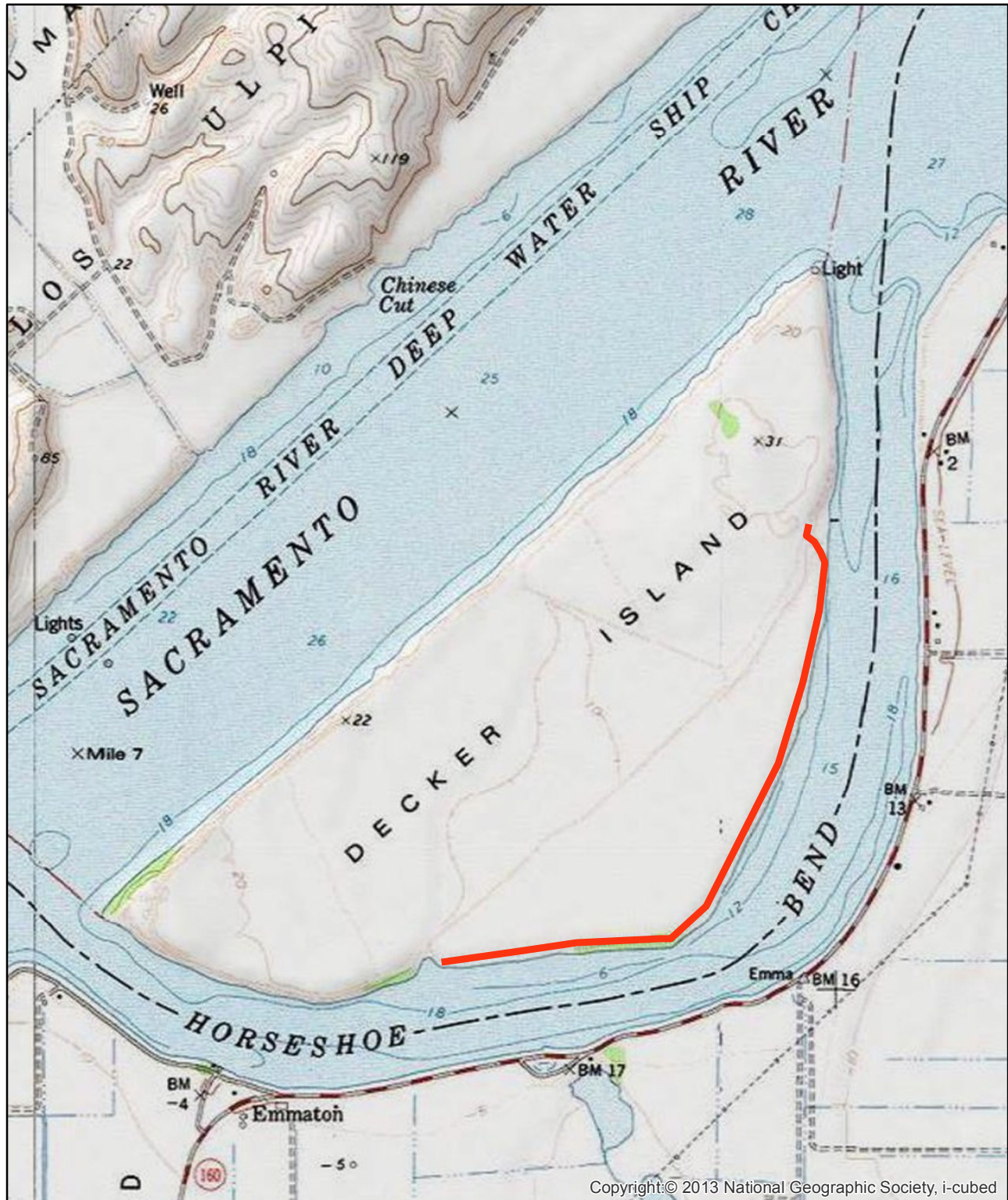
Page 3 of 3

Map Name: Jersey Island

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Decker Island south levee

\*Scale: 1:2400

\*Date of Map: \_\_\_\_\_



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State of California & The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 10 \*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Decker Island farm

P1. Other Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_

\*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

\*a. County Solano and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Jersey Island Date \_\_\_\_\_ T 3N; R 2E; \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of Sec \_\_\_\_\_; MD B.M.

c. Address NA City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN

e. Other Locational Data: APN 0090-210-140 The project site is only accessible by boat. Closest launch is from Brannan Island SRA. Go SW down Threemile Slough to the Sacramento River, then go SW down the river along Horseshoe Bend. There is a dock at the northernmost tip of the parcel.

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This resource is the remains of a farming operation and homestead on the island. There are two building loci, one is the burned remains of a barn on the point of the island (locus 1), and the other area is north of the point where the old homestead was located (locus 2). Remains at locus 1 include a burned down barn, coral, fence lines, old vehicles, and farm equipment. Locus 2 has two flats, domestic fruit and nut trees, mechanical farming equipment, a cement block with pipe, and metal pipes sticking out of the ground.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AH10, AH11, AH3, AH2

\*P4. Resources Present: ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☒ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo: Overview of farm machinery -view to NE  
6-23-2015

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:

Department of Water Resources  
1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

\*P8. Recorded by: Wendy Pierce, Monica Nolte, and Margaret Kress of DWR Division of Environmental Services

\*P9. Date Recorded: June 23, 2015

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Pedestrian

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")  
2015 Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project, Solano County, California. By Wendy Pierce

\*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD**

Primary #  
Trinomial

Page 2 of 10

\*Resource Name or #: Decker Island farm

\*A1. Dimensions: a. Length: m. ( ) × b. Width: m. ( )

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GIS

Method of Determination (Check any that apply.): ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☒ Vegetation ☐ Topography  
☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other (Explain):

Reliability of Determination: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low Explain: historic maps and aerial photos comport with on the ground distributions of features and artifacts.

Limitations (Check any that apply): ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☒ Vegetation ☒ Other (Explain): There is thick grape, blackberry, and other vegetation and marshy areas that blocked our access to the southernmost part of the site.

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: probably shallow.

\*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☒ Absent ☐ Possible ☐ Unknown (Explain): Unlikely, Hansens and Deckers are buried in cenetaries on mainland.

**\*A4. Features:**

Locus 1: Burned down barn-The corrugated metal roofed and sided barn appears on the 1952 USGS map with culture taken from 1931 aerials. This metal roofed and sided barn was apparently built before 1931 and stood on the island until it burned down sometime between 1978 and 1987. Directly to the west of the barn is a fenced coral area, with a cattle chute and beyond that are hulks of a 1941 Chevy truck, a circa 1930s Dodge truck, and some other farm machinery and unidentified vehicle remains. Two large wheels with "Stockton Iron Works" embossed on them were found near the barn. One appeared to have a differential attached to it.

Locus 2 on continuation sheet.

Continued on Page 3.

**\*A5. Cultural Constituents** (Describe and quantify artifacts, ecofacts, cultural residues, etc., not associated with features.):

Many pieces of farm equipment are strewn about the area including what appears to be a harvester, a John Deere grain drill circa 1930s or 40s, a discer, a mower, an engine with a hand crank, a "Piper speed digger" (patented 1941) tractor mounted post hole digger made by R. J. Piper Manufacturing Co. Princeton, Illinois.

**\*A6. Were Specimens Collected?** ☒ No ☐ Yes (If yes, attach Artifact Record or catalog and identify where specimens are curated.)

**\*A7. Site Condition:** ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor (Describe disturbances.):

**\*A8. Nearest Water** (Type, distance, and direction.): The Horseshoe Bend of the Sacramento River runs along the southeastern edge of the island.

**\*A9. Elevation:**

A10. Environmental Setting : Delta Island with marshy interior

A11. Historical Information:

**\*A12. Age:** ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☐ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945  
☒ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined Describe position in regional prehistoric chronology or factual historic dates if known:

A13. Interpretations: Homestead from era of Hansen or possibly Decker ownership. Hansens lived on the island, so probably theirs. Barn was built later, probably later in the Hansen occupation.

A14. Remarks: several of the farm artifacts appear to post-date the Hansen period of ownership.

A15. References: Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project, Pierce 2016

A16. Photographs: See continuation sheet

Original Media/Negatives Kept at:

**\*A17. Form Prepared by: Wendy Pierce**

**Date:** 7-1-16

**Affiliation and Address:** DWR 3500 Industrial Blvd. West Sacramento, CA 95691



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 3 of 10

Resource Name or #: Decker Island farm

\*A4. Features (continued from page 2):

Locus 2: Homestead remains- this area is depicted on the 1910 USGS map as two buildings. It is presumably the residence of Ross and William Hansen who are recorded in the 1910 and 1920 census as residing on and farming Decker Island. This area has two galvanized water pipes (GPS # 10) sticking up out of the ground in a flat. The area where the two pipes are is exactly where one of the buildings on the 1910 map is located. 137 feet to the south of the pipes along the levee is a rectangular flat (GPS # 22) with some sheet metal lying on the ground. Metal detection in this area only hit on shallowly buried sheet metal. No domestic artifacts were found. This flat protrudes into the levee indicating the structure that was here likely predated the levee. While this flat doesn't line up with second building on the 1910 map, it probably was an early structure related to the homestead, possibly a barn or separate residence. A pear, fig, almond, and English walnut are still growing on the flat near these features. There is also a low area in the levee near here which also corresponds to the 1910 USGS map. There may have been a landing at that spot on the river.

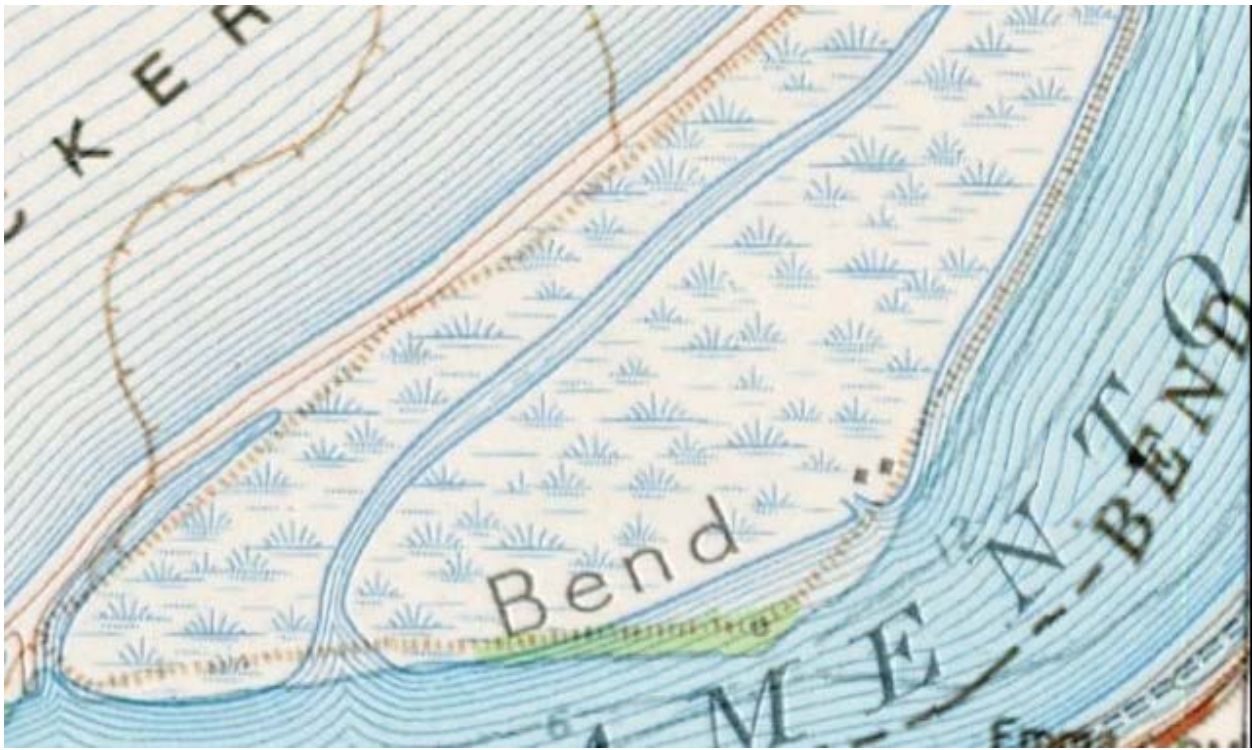
A16. Photo of pipes in the ground in cottonwood flat homestead area Locus 2.





## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 4 of 10



Overlay of 1910 USGS map onto 1978 USGS 7.5' topographic quad sheet showing buildings in Locus 2.



Depression in levee around old building flat.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 5 of 10

Photo of Building flat in levee at Locus 2. View north toward cottonwoods with pipes.



Photo of Locus 1 burned barn area. View to SSW.



Burned remains of barn structure.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 6 of 10



Farm equipment – hand cranked engine (bottom).



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 7 of 10



1930s-era Dodge Truck

Photo and GPS log

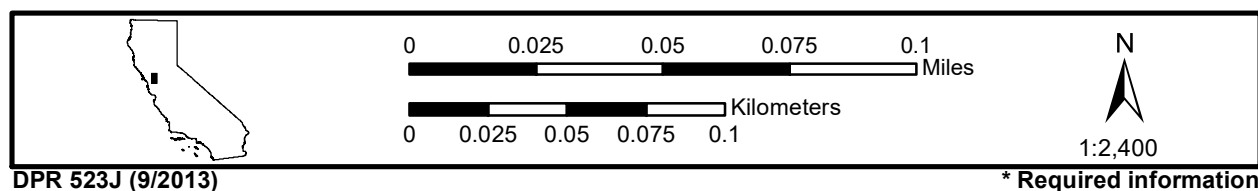
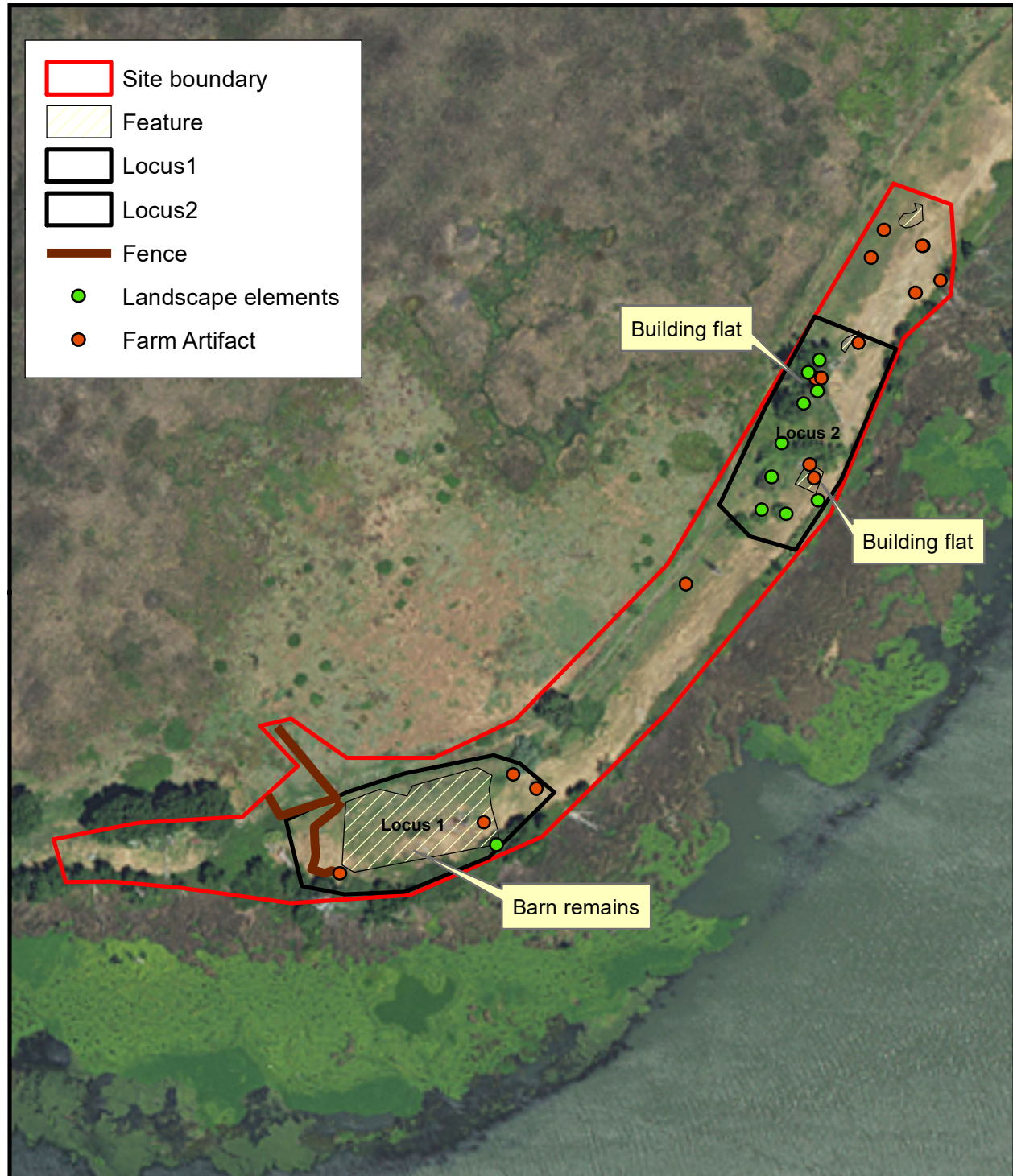
Frame	GPS#	Subject	view
1	1&2	round wood posts ~3' tall x 8.5" dia. w/wire nails. Harvester in background	SE
2	3	Farm equipment (mower?) #3 GPS point	NW
3	5	engine with hand crank #5 GPS	NW
4	5	engine with hand crank #5 GPS	SE
5	4	GPS # 4 rectangular bucket with elbows	NW
6	10	galvanized pipe with fitting on top ~2 1/4" diam	NW
7	13	2 more pipes close by-one with elbow says "STOCKHAM" on elbow	SE
	8	electric cable-no photo	
8	9	GPS 9 "PIPER SPEEDDIGGER"	
9		Rectangular depression in levee toe, possible foundation of structure	N ~20 deg
	6	Harvester on edge of levee	
10	19	GPS 19, low spot in levee possible landing area seen on 1952 aerial, view toward water	E

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Decker Island farm Page 8 of 10

11	19	GPS 19 facing Island and domestic trees	W
12	23	Sheet metal w/nail holes probably siding or roofing in NW corner of flat	
13	22	Monica @SE corner of flat. Cement block and vertical pipe in center of flat edge GPS 22 polygon	S
14	25	GPS 25 Discer	
15	26	corrugated galvanized Sheet metal accumulation under tree w of discer	N
16		pipe, large beam (8"X~7"), sheet metal scatter- area of large rectangular structure on 1952 aerial and 1954 USGS topo map	SSW
17	18	closeup of pipe at edge of structure remains	
18		metal wheel (pulley?) "STOCKTON IRON WORKS LA52" ~36" diameter	
19		metal wheel (pulley?) "STOCKTON IRON WORKS LA52" side view	
20		sheet metal siding still attached to charred beams. Wall or roof section	
21		another pulley (same size as previous one) with a differential attached	
22		another pulley (same size as previous one) with a differential attached	
23		machine part ~ 5 meters from pulley wheel w/ differential	
24		seed sower John Deer front view	
25		seed sower John Deer rear view	
26	30	cattle shoot by charred corral post	
27		post line of corral view to 350 deg	NNW
28		closeup of plate on sower settings for planting oats, barley, peas, and wheat	
29		view of corral fence from field. View toward levee	
30		close-up of Chevrolet 1941 pickup truck	
31		old truck and machine with stacks (steam engine?)	SE
32		second truck further south 31 Dodge flat bed?	SW
33		view of trucks from levee across blackberry and grape thicket	s
34		closer view of truck and steam machine from thicket	
35		vehicle front in thicket just over wire corral fence	
36		Decker Island levee view from toe to crest toward river	E
37		Decker Levee view to NE	
38		Decker Levee view to SW	
39		Photo toward Island interior from levee crown	
40		View N showing dry canal along levee base	





State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**LOCATION MAP**

Primary #:

HRI #:

Trinomial

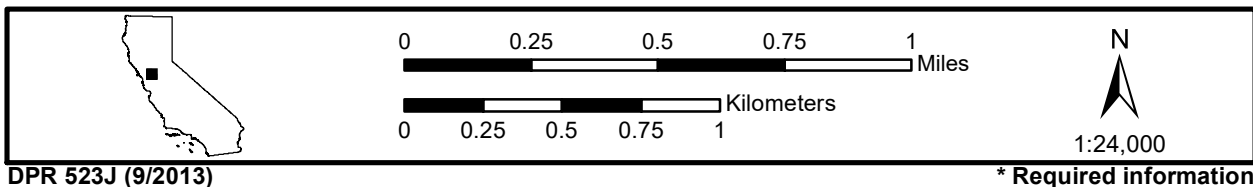
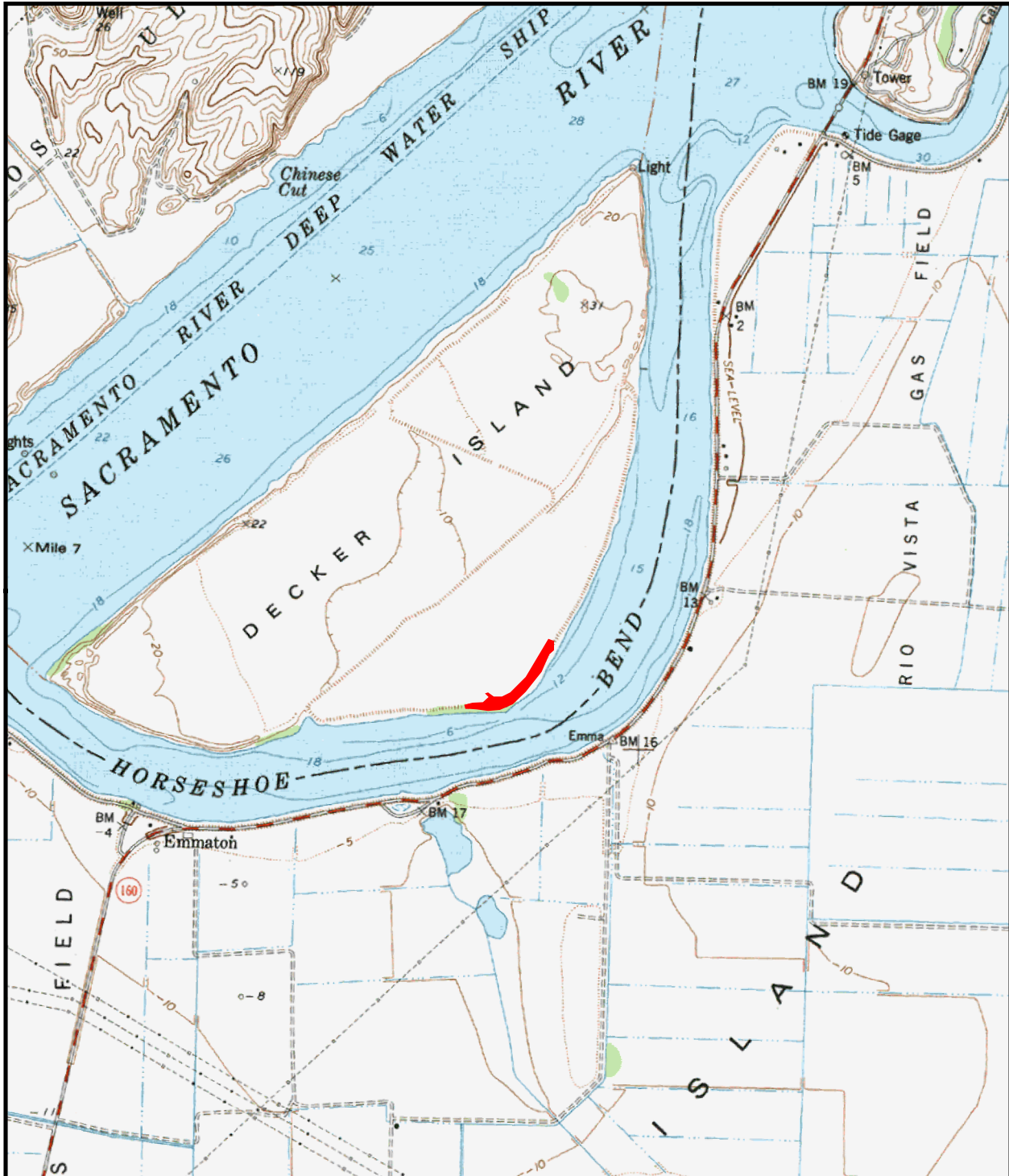
Page 10 of 10

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Decker Island Farm

\*map name: Jersey Island

Scale 1:24000

Date 7-1-16



Department of Water Resources  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT**

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE**



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



April 18, 2016

Ms. Debbie Pilas-Treadway  
Native American Heritage Commission  
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691-3826

Subject: Sacred Lands File and Native American Contact List Request for the  
Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project.

Dear Ms. Pilas-Treadway:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

The Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project is located on Decker Island in Solano County, California approximately five miles to the southwest of the town of Rio Vista. The project area is within the Jersey Island 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle in Township 3 North, Range 2 East, in an unsectioned area (Figure 1).

Please notify me if any sacred lands are recorded within or in close proximity to the depicted project areas. Early identification of sacred properties will ensure their consideration during the project planning phase. Please also provide an updated list of Native American contacts for the area. Your response may be sent to me at the address provided above, or you may fax the information to (916) 376-9692 or email me. Please contact me at (916) 376-9792 or at [Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding this request.

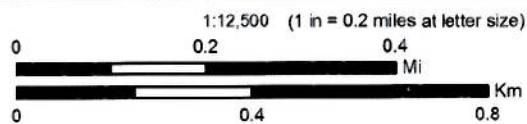
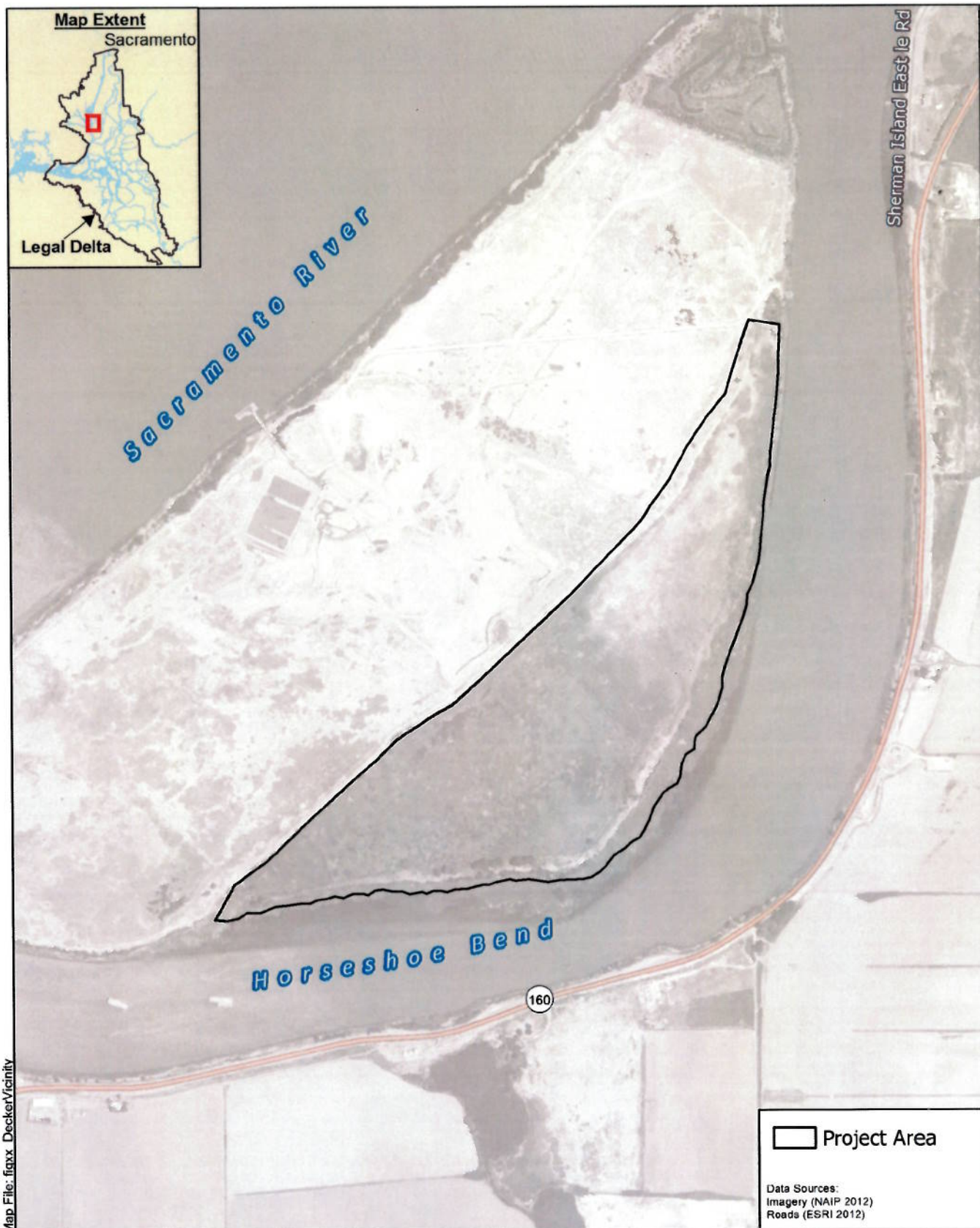
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Pierce".

Wendy Pierce  
Associate Environmental Planner-Archeology  
Office (916) 376-9792  
Fax (916) 376-9692  
[Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov)

Enclosures (1)





## Decker Island Site Vicinity

DECKER ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
(916) 373-3710  
Fax (916) 373-5471



April 27, 2016

Wendy Pierce  
Department of Water Resources

Sent by Email: wendy.pierce@water.ca.gov  
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project, Solano County

Dear Ms. Pierce:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) *Sacred Lands File* was completed for the area of potential project effect (APE) referenced above with negative results. Please note that the absence of specific site information in the *Sacred Lands File* does not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources in any APE.

I suggest you contact all of those listed, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. The list should provide a starting place to locate areas of potential adverse impact within the APE. By contacting all those on the list, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the NAHC requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact via email: Sharaya.souza@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sharaya Souza", is written over a horizontal line.

Sharaya Souza  
Staff Services Analyst

**Native American Contacts  
Solano County  
April 26, 2016**

Cortina Band of Indians  
Charlie Wright, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1630  
Williams, CA 95987  
(530) 473-3274 Office  
(530) 473-3301 Fax

Wintun / Patwin

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
Leland Kinter, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 18  
Brooks, CA 95606  
lkinter@yochadehe-nsn.gov  
(530) 796-3400  
(530) 796-2143 Fax

Wintun (Patwin)

This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project, Solano County.

## Native American Consultation Log: Decker Island Restoration



Individual Contacted	Affiliation	Date	phone/email	Contact Method	Contacted by	Topics Covered	Confidential Information Discussed*	Comments
Steve Hutchason	Wilton Rancheria	May 3, 2016		Letter	Dean Messer	Invitation to consult	No	Tribe invited to consult on project; letter sent certified mail, return receipt.
Steve Hutchason	Wilton Rancheria	May 3, 2016		Email	Ling Chu	Invitation to consult	No	cc via email as requested
Tribal Council	Wilton Rancheria	May 3, 2016		Email	Ling Chu	Invitation to consult	No	cc via email as requested
Gene Whitehouse	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California	May 3, 2016		Letter	Dean Messer	Invitation to consult	No	Tribe invited to consult on project; letter sent certified mail, return receipt.
Dean Messer	Chief, DES	June 28, 2016		Letter	Gene Whitehouse	Response to invitation to consult	no	DWR received letter that said UAIC would like to consult. Requested archaeological report and future environmental documents.
Marcos Guerrero (United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California)	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California	May 3, 2016		Letter	Dean Messer	Invitation to consult	No	Sent via regular US Mail as requested
Randy Yonamura	Ione Band of Miwok	May 3, 2016		Letter	Dean Messer	Invitation to consult	No	Tribe invited to consult on project; letter sent certified mail, return receipt.
Notices sent to Yocha Dehe and Cortina Band from NAHC list- not under AB 52								

## Native American Consultation Log: Decker Island Restoration



Individual Contacted	Affiliation	Date	phone/email	Contact Method	Contacted by	Topics Covered	Confidential Information Discussed*	Comments
Charlie Wright, Chairman	Cortina Band of Indians	May 2, 2016		Letter	Wendy Pierce/Jackie Wait	General Project Information	No	
Leland Kinter, Chairman	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	May 2, 2016		Letter	Wendy Pierce/Jackie Wait	General Project Information	No	
Dean Messer	DWR	May 18, 2016		Letter		Response to invitation to consult	No	Received letter May 18, 2016 from James Kinter THPO. Said Tribe is concerned project could impact undiscovered archaeological deposits. Requested to contact Anthony Flores for a site visit.
Anthony Flores	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 1, 2016		Email	Wendy Pierce	Schedual Meetings	no	emaied Anthony to schedule site vist, received an out of office reply
Anthony Flores	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 13, 2016		Email	Wendy Pierce	Schedual Meetings	no	copied James Sarmento on email
James Sarmento	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 21, 2016		Phone Call	Wendy Pierce	Schedual Meetings		left message about Decker Island site visit and can't reach AF
Wendy Pierce	DWR	June 21, 2016		Phone Call		General Project Information	No	James Sarmento called back and said Mr. Flores was out indefinately and he would take over the project. He had received the June 13th email. Said he would like a copy of the report and to receive an AB52 letter since they are now on our list as of June 13th. He ould schedule a site visit.
James Sarmento	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 21, 2016	<a href="mailto:jsarmento@yochadehe">jsarmento@yochadehe</a>	Email	Wendy Pierce	General Project Information	No	WP emailed the draft cultural report, APE map, and draft project design on an aerial.

## Native American Consultation Log: Decker Island Restoration



Individual Contacted	Affiliation	Date	phone/email	Contact Method	Contacted by	Topics Covered	Confidential Information Discussed*	Comments
James Sarmento	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 29, 2016	<a href="mailto:jsarmento@yochadehe">jsarmento@yochadehe</a>	Email	Wendy Pierce	Schedual Meetings	No	Emailed again asking about the site visit to Decker Island.
James Sarmento	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	June 29, 2016	510-723-0452	Phone Call	Wendy Pierce	Schedual Meetings	No	He said July 6 or 7th would work for him. WP said she would check with the group and let him know by email.
Wendy Pierce	DWR	June 30, 2016	<a href="mailto:jsarmento@yochadehe">jsarmento@yochadehe</a>	Email	James Sarmento	Other (see comments)	no	sent him information of what time and where to meet on July 6th for the Decker Island site visit.
Antonio Ruiz	Wilton Rancheria	June 30, 2016	<a href="mailto:Ling-ru.Chu">Ling-ru.Chu</a>	Email	Ling Chu	Other (see comments)	No	He asked for a copy of the cultural report
Ling Chu	DWR	June 30, 2016	<a href="mailto:aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov">aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov</a>	Email	Mr Anthony Ruiz	General Project Information	No	WP let Mr Ruiz know the report was not finsihed, but that we would send it to him soon.
Laverne Bill and James Sarmento	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	July 6, 2016		Meeting (single tribe represented )		Identify TCRs	no	Laverne Bill and James Sarento met with WP and Ling Chu of DWR, Gina VanKlompensburg, and Cutris Hagen of CDFW and walked the project footprint on Decker. Mr. bill and Mr. Sarmento said they did not see TCRs and didn't think any would be impacted by the project.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



May 3, 2016

Mr. Randy Yonamura  
Cultural Committee Chair  
Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California  
PO Box 699  
Bush Street, Suite 2  
Plymouth, CA 95669

Dear Mr. Yonamura,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proposing to construct the Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project. The proposed project includes several elements which would reestablish tidal connections to the historic marsh as well as enhance existing marsh habitat on the Project site. The project elements include:

- Lowering a section of northern levee to create high marsh habitat as well as allow high tide waters and flood flows to enter the site;
- reconfiguring existing cross berms to improve tidal connectivity between the breach and northern marsh plain and to create habitat mounds that may act as refugia; and
- removing the existing rock dam and culvert at the southern end of the parcel to open the site to full tidal action.

DWR is preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project which is located on the southeastern parcel of Decker Island in Solano County, California (Figure 1). DWR is also applying for a Clean Water Act permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) covers the southeastern parcel.

The project area is located on the Jersey Island 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle in Section 23 and an unsectioned portion of Township 3 North, Range 2 East (Figure 1). The parcel is 139.83 acres.

A cultural resources study including a record search and pedestrian survey was performed by DWR archaeologists for the Phase 1 environmental site assessment and erosion repair in 2014 and 2015. The record search stated there were no recorded cultural resources in the area and that two previous surveys had covered the entire island. DWR archaeologists covered the southern perimeter of the parcel on May 30, 2014 and went back to record the levee and historic-era resources on June 23, 2015. The interior of the parcel was unsurveyable because of marshy conditions.



The cultural resources study found the project area has very low sensitivity for Native American archaeological sites based on several lines of evidence. The geology of the parcel is mapped as Holocene delta mud (Qd<sub>hm</sub>) and defined as "sediment deposited at or near sea level in tidal marshes of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta". The parcel is mapped as marsh on the 1910 Jersey topographic quadrangle. It was mapped and sold as swampland by the State of California. Lastly, the 1899 San Francisco Call article on the "Decker Island land dispute" stated the island began forming in the river in 1855 and had grown westward to the extent that it abutted the Montezuma hills. If the account is true, there would be no potential for any prehistoric archaeological remains on the island due to its recent origin. While the island may have existed as a sandbar or low swampy island before the historic-era, it does not appear that it would have been suitable for use as a camp or cemetery.

If your tribe would like to participate in formal consultation with DWR, please notify the undersigned, in writing, within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this formal notice. Once DWR receives your written request, the undersigned will contact you within 30 calendar days from receipt of your written request, to begin the consultation process.

If DWR does not receive a written request within 30 calendar days, DWR will not begin the consultation process under Pub. Resources Code, section 21080.3.1. However, DWR is committed to consult with your tribe under the Natural Resources Agency's Final Tribal Consultation Policy adopted November 12, 2012 in response to Governor Brown's September 19, 2011 Executive Order B-10-11. Please note that this notification "...does not limit the ability of the Lone Band of Miwok Indians of California to submit information to DWR regarding the significance of the tribal cultural resources, the significance of the proposed project's impact on tribal cultural resources, or any appropriate measures to mitigate the impact." (Pub. Resources Code, section 21080.3.2, subd. (c)(1).)

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Ling Chu at 916-376-9826 or by email at [lcchu@water.ca.gov](mailto:lcchu@water.ca.gov). Please also feel free to contact me directly at 916-376-9700 or by email at [Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov](mailto:Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Dean F. Messer, Chief  
Division of Environmental Services



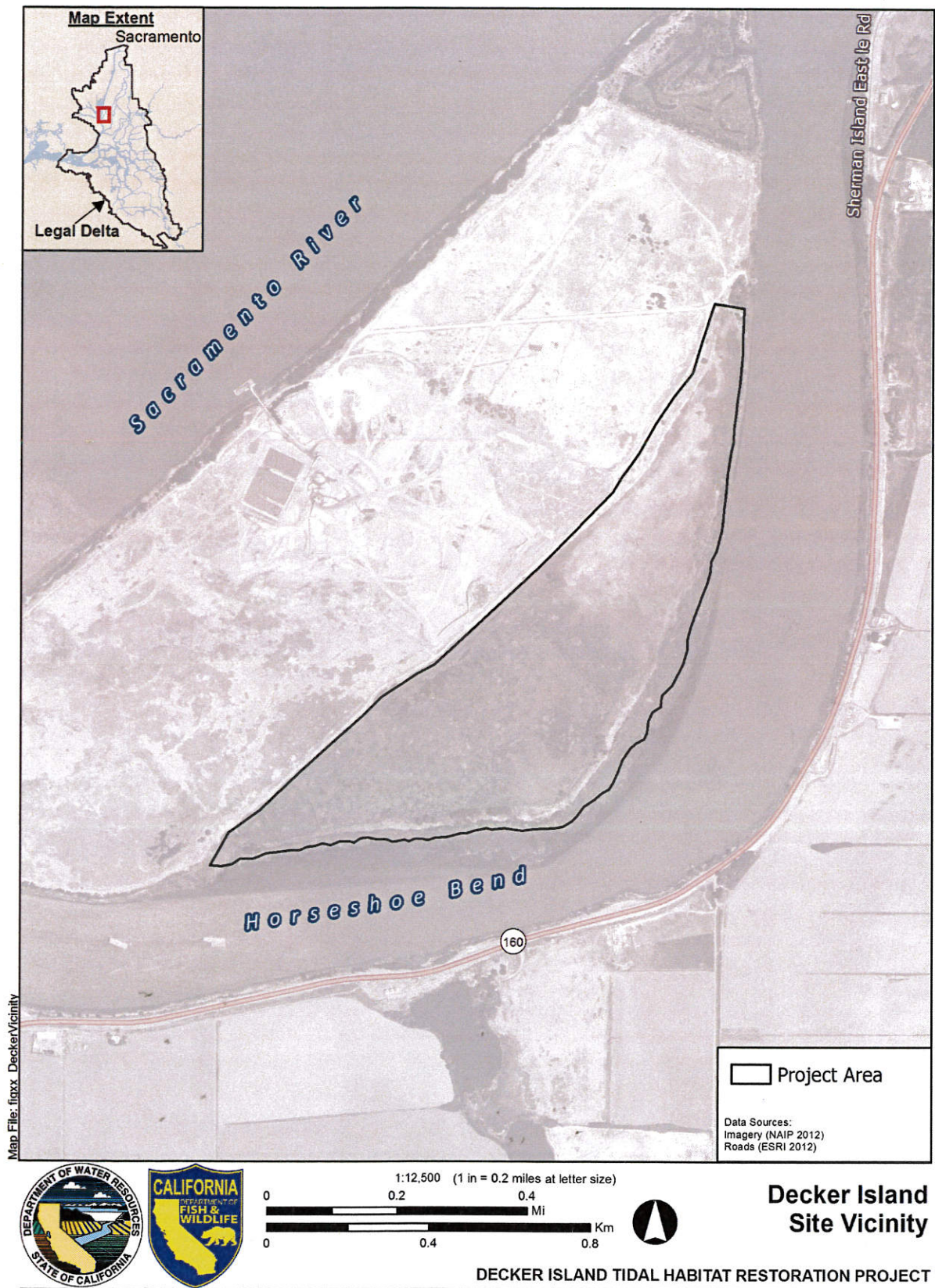


Figure 1. Decker Island

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



May 3, 2016

The Honorable Gene Whitehouse  
Chairman, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Chairman Whitehouse,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proposing to construct the Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project. The proposed project includes several elements which would reestablish tidal connections to the historic marsh as well as enhance existing marsh habitat on the Project site. The project elements include:

- Lowering a section of northern levee to create high marsh habitat as well as allow high tide waters and flood flows to enter the site;
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Honorable Gene Whitehouse

May 3, 2016

Page 2

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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Ling Chu at 916-376-9826 or by email at [lchu@water.ca.gov](mailto:lchu@water.ca.gov). Please also feel free to contact me directly at 916-376-9700 or by email at [Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov](mailto:Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Dean F. Messer, Chief  
Division of Environmental Services

cc:

THPO

Marcos Guerrero



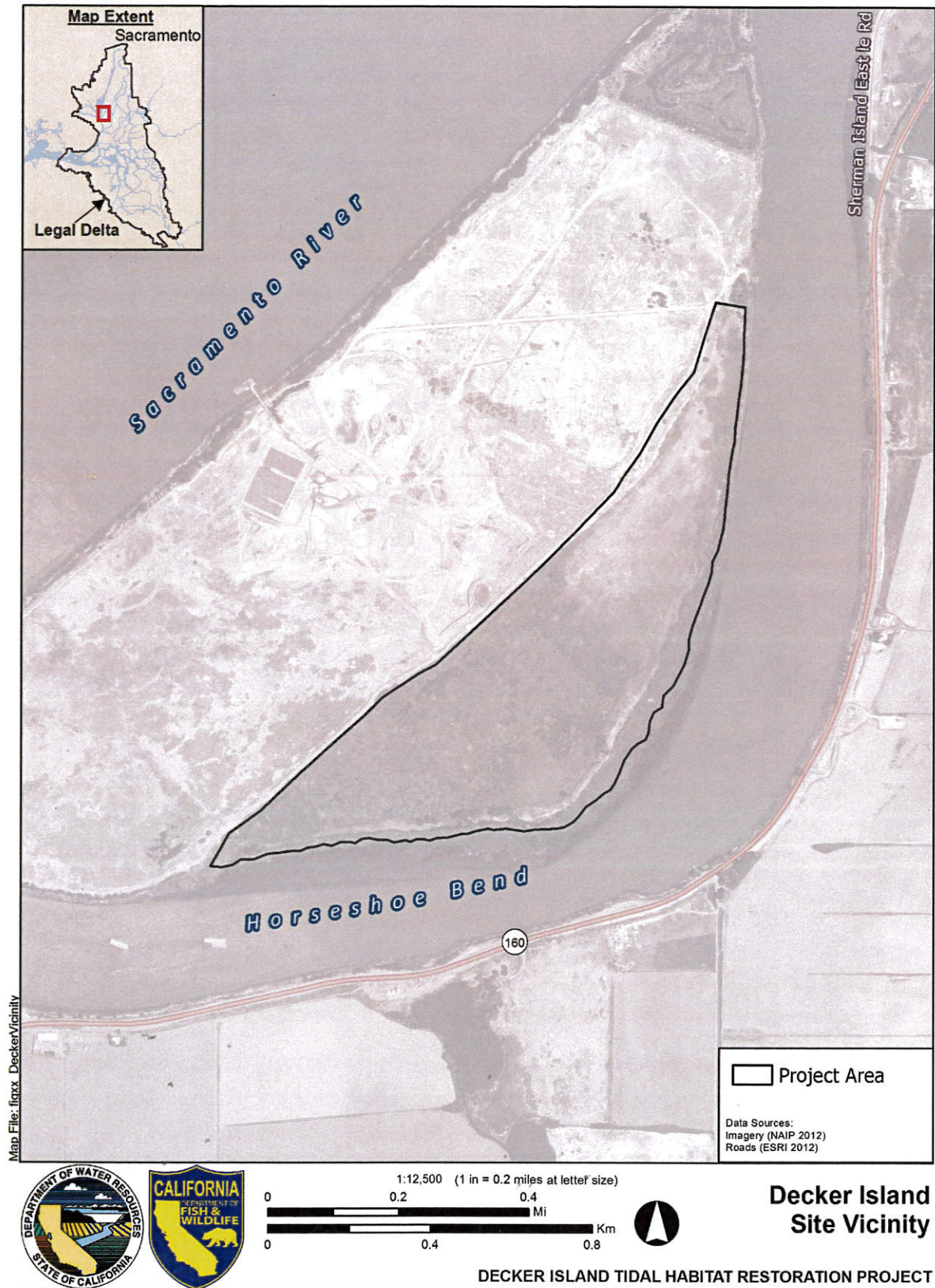


Figure 1. Decker Island

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



May 3, 2016

Mr. Steven Hutchason  
Executive Director  
Environmental Resources Department  
Wilton Rancheria  
9728 Kent Street  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Dear Mr. Hutchason,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proposing to construct the Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project. The proposed project includes several elements which would reestablish tidal connections to the historic marsh as well as enhance existing marsh habitat on the Project site. The project elements include:

- Lowering a section of northern levee to create high marsh habitat as well as allow high tide waters and flood flows to enter the site;
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Steven Hutchason

May 3, 2016

Page 2

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If your tribe would like to participate in formal consultation with DWR, please notify the undersigned, in writing, within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this formal notice. Once DWR receives your written request, the undersigned will contact you within 30 calendar days from receipt of your written request, to begin the consultation process.

If DWR does not receive a written request within 30 calendar days, DWR will not begin the consultation process under Pub. Resources Code, section 21080.3.1. However, DWR is committed to consult with your tribe under the Natural Resources Agency's Final Tribal Consultation Policy adopted November 12, 2012 in response to Governor Brown's September 19, 2011 Executive Order B-10-11. Please note that this notification "...does not limit the ability of Wilton Rancheria to submit information to DWR regarding the significance of the tribal cultural resources, the significance of the proposed project's impact on tribal cultural resources, or any appropriate measures to mitigate the impact." (Pub. Resources Code, section 21080.3.2, subd. (c)(1).)

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Ling Chu at 916-376-9826 or by email at [lcchu@water.ca.gov](mailto:lcchu@water.ca.gov). Please also feel free to contact me directly at 916-376-9700 or by email at [Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov](mailto:Dean.Messer@water.ca.gov).

Additionally, electronic copies of this letter were sent to [shutchason@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov](mailto:shutchason@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov) and [tribaloffice@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov](mailto:tribaloffice@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov) as requested.

Sincerely,



Dean F. Messer, Chief  
Division of Environmental Services



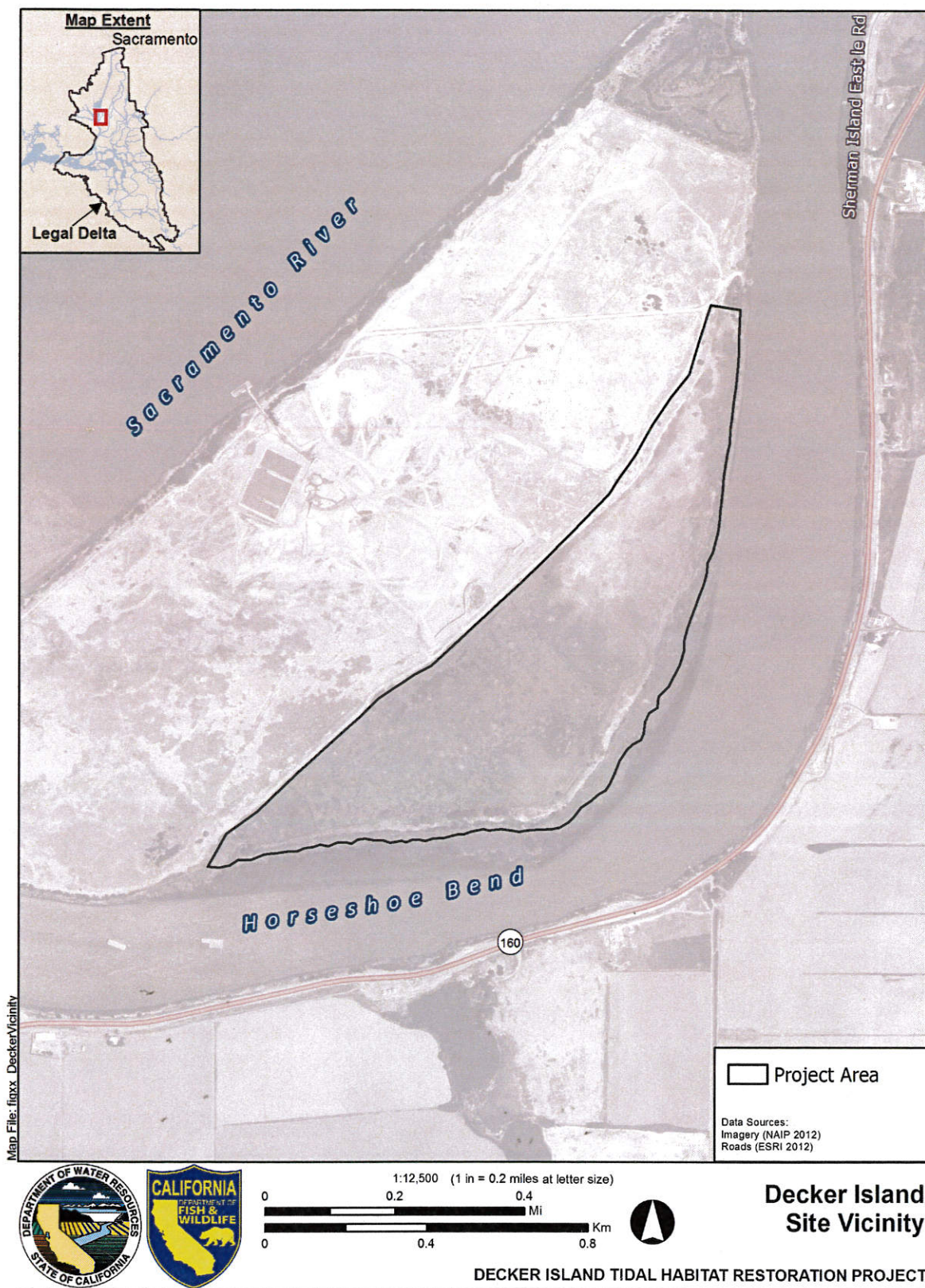


Figure 1. Decker Island



## SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
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## 1. Article Addressed to:

Mr. Steve Hutchason  
9728 Kent Street  
Elk Grove, CA 95624



9590 9402 1455 5329 8413 11

## 2.

7015 3430 0000 7306 6124

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

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## A. Signature

X *[Signature]* ☐ Agent  
☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

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D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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(over \$500)

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## 1. Article Addressed to:

Gene Whitehouse  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603



9590 9402 1455 5329 8413 28

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 3430 0000 7306 6131

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

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- ☐ Insured Mail
- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)
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- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

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- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Mr. Randy Yonamura  
P.O. Box 699  
Bush Street, Suite 2  
Plymouth, CA 95669



9590 9402 1455 5329 8413 35

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 3430 0000 7306 6148

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

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☐ Addressee

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D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

## 3. Service Type

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- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

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- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
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- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Matthew Moore  
10720 Indian Hill Rd.  
Auburn, CA 95603



9590 9402 1455 5329 8413 97

## 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 3430 0000 7306 6186

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

X *[Signature]* ☐ Agent  
☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

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D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ YesIf YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

## 3. Service Type

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- ☐ Collect on Delivery
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- ☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)
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- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



May 2, 2016

The Honorable Charlie Wright  
Chairman, Cortina Band of Indians  
P.O. Box 1630  
Williams, CA 95987

Dear Chairman Wright,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

The Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project is located on Decker Island in Solano County, California approximately five miles to the southwest of the town of Rio Vista. The project area is within the Jersey Island 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle in Township 3 North, Range 2 East, in an unsectioned area (Figure 1).

This letter is a request for information from you regarding cultural resources that may exist within the project area. Cultural resources include archaeological sites, features such as bedrock milling stations, and places or natural features associated with important traditional beliefs or traditional activities such as plant gathering. Your assistance in identifying such resources allows for them to be avoided and protected to the maximum extent possible. We understand that the location of these resources is sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for in California Government Code Section 6254.10. We welcome any recommendations regarding appropriate management or treatment of resources that occur within the project area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Wendy Pierce at (916) 376-9792 or by email at [Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov). Please also feel free to contact me directly at (916) 376-9777 or by email at [jwait@water.ca.gov](mailto:jwait@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Pierce" with a large flourish, and a smaller signature below it that appears to read "for".

Jacqueline Wait  
Senior Environmental Planner, Cultural, Recreation and Environmental Planning Section

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



May 2, 2016

The Honorable Leland Kinter  
Chairman, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
P.O. Box 18  
Brooks, CA 95606

Dear Chairman Kinter,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Pierce" with a small "Ar" below it.

Jacqueline Wait  
Senior Environmental Planner, Cultural, Recreation and Environmental Planning Section





Yocha Dehe  
Cultural Resources

May 18, 2016

Jacqueline Wait, Senior Environmental Planner  
Department of Water Resources  
3500 Industrial Blvd  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

RE: Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Wait:

Thank you for your project notification letter dated, May 2, 2016, regarding cultural information on or near the proposed Decker Island Tidal Restoration project, Solano County, CA. We appreciate your effort to contact us and wish to respond.

The Cultural Resources Department has reviewed the project and concluded that it is within the aboriginal territories of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Therefore, we have a cultural interest and authority in the proposed project area.

Based on the information provided, the Tribe has concerns that the project could impact undiscovered archaeological deposits. Additionally, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation requests a site visit to the project area to evaluate our cultural concerns. Please send us the cultural resource study for this project.

Please contact the following individual to coordinate a date and time for the site visit.

Mr. Anthony Flores  
Cultural Resources Site Protection Manager  
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
Office: (530) 796-3400, Email: [aflores@yochadehe-nsn.gov](mailto:aflores@yochadehe-nsn.gov)

Please refer to identification number YD - 05102016-02 in any correspondences concerning this project.

Thank you for providing us with this notice and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James Kinter  
Tribal Secretary  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



MIWOK United Auburn Indian Community  
MAIDU of the Auburn Rancheria

Gene Whitehouse  
Chairman

John L. Williams  
Vice Chairman

Danny Rey  
Secretary

Jason Camp  
Treasurer

Calvin Moman  
Council Member

June 2, 2016

Dean Messer  
California Department of Water Resources  
3500 Industrial Blvd  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Subject: Decker Island habitat Restoration Project

Dear Dean Messer,

Thank you for requesting information regarding the above referenced project. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria is comprised of Miwok and Southern Maidu (Nisenan) people whose tribal lands are within Placer County and whose service area includes El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba counties. The UAIC is concerned about development within its aboriginal territory that has potential to impact the lifeways, cultural sites, and landscapes that may be of sacred or ceremonial significance. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this and other projects in your jurisdiction. The UAIC would like to consult on this project.

We would like to receive copies of any archaeological reports that are completed for the project in order to ascertain whether or not the project could affect cultural resources that may be of importance to the UAIC. We also request copies of future environmental documents for the proposed project so that we have the opportunity to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources. The information gathered will provide us with a better understanding of the project and cultural resources on site and is invaluable for consultation purposes. Finally, please contact us if you know of any Native American cultural resources within your project area or if you discover any.

Thank you again for taking these matters into consideration, and for involving the UAIC early in the planning process. We look forward to reviewing the documents requested above and consulting on your project. Please contact Marcos Guerrero, Cultural Resources Manager, at (530) 883-2364 or email at [mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com](mailto:mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gene Whitehouse,  
Chairman

CC: Marcos Guerrero, CRM





MIWOK  
MAIDU

United Auburn Indian Community  
of the Auburn Rancheria

Tribal Office  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dean Messer, Chief  
California Department of Water  
Resources  
3500 Industrial Blvd  
West Sacramento, CA 95691



9569136521 0001



## Pierce, Wendy@DWR

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**From:** Pierce, Wendy@DWR  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 3:34 PM  
**To:** 'aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project

Hello Mr. Ruiz,

Ling forwarded your email to me. I am almost done with the cultural report. I will send it to you soon.

*Wendy Pierce, M.A.*

Associate Environmental Planner – Archeology  
Environmental Compliance & Evaluation Branch  
Division of Environmental Services  
California Department of Water Resources  
Phone (916) 376-9792  
Fax (916) 376-9692

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**From:** Chu, Ling-ru@DWR  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:34 AM  
**To:** Pierce, Wendy@DWR <Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** VanKlombenburg, Gina@Wildlife <Gina.VanKlombenburg@wildlife.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project

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**From:** Antonio Ruiz [<mailto:aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:02 AM  
**To:** Chu, Ling-ru@DWR  
**Cc:** Steven Hutchason  
**Subject:** Re: Decker Island Habitat Restoration Project

Hello Mr. Chu,

I appreciate you providing your initial letter in regards to this project. I would like to know if you can provide me with the cultural report for this proposed project.



Thank you,

Antonio Ruiz Jr.  
Cultural Resources Officer  
Department of Environmental Resources | Wilton Rancheria  
Tel: 916.683.6000 Ext. 2005 | Fax: 916.683.6015  
9728 Kent Street | Elk Grove | CA | 95624  
[aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov](mailto:aruiz@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov)  
[www.wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov](http://www.wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov)

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Department of Water Resources  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT**

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE**



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



April 18, 2016

Solano County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 3009  
Fairfield, California 94533-0309

Dear Historical Society Members:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA) is proposing to restore tidal habitat to Decker Island as a part of the Decker Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (the Project). The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-ac tidal habitat restoration obligations DWR has to improve tidal habitat for the protection and potential recovery of covered fish species.

The Decker Island Tidal Restoration Project is located on Decker Island in Solano County, California approximately five miles to the southwest of the town of Rio Vista. The project area is within the Jersey Island 7.5' United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle in Township 3 North, Range 2 East, in an unsectioned area (Figure 1).

As part of the environmental compliance for the project, we are conducting a cultural resources study in the project area. You are being consulted to determine if any historic or cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. Please notify me if there are any historic-era resources (ranches, farmsteads, mines, railroad lines, trails etc.) within or in close proximity to the defined project area. It would also be helpful to know if you have any written local histories that may contain information pertinent to the project vicinity. Your participation in the early identification of historic-era resources will ensure their consideration during the project planning phase.

Your response may be sent to me at the address provided above or email me at [Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov). Please email me or contact me at (916) 376-9792 if you have any questions regarding this request. If we do not receive a response to this inquiry within 30 days, it will be assumed that you are not aware of any historic-era resources within the project area. All comments and letters received from historical organizations will be included in the reports generated by this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Pierce".

Wendy Pierce  
Associate Environmental Planner-Archeology  
Office (916) 376-9792  
Fax (916) 376-9692  
[Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov](mailto:Wendy.Pierce@water.ca.gov)

Enclosures (1)