Appendix B

Archaeological Resources Reports
Judy Shanley  
David J. Powers & Associates  
1871 The Alameda  
San Jose, CA 95126  

July 15, 2011  

Dear Ms. Shanley:  

RE: RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL LITERATURE REVIEW FOR THE GAVILAN COLLEGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, GILROY, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  

At your request I have completed an archaeological literature review at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at Rohnert Park on June 27, 2011 (NWIC file no. 10-1283) for the above referenced project area. No recorded archaeological resources were found in the general vicinity of the two improvement areas. This report contains a summary of my findings to date.  

PROJECT DESCRIPTION  

The proposed project consists of a variety of improvements at both the northern and southern end of the existing campus facility. At the north end of the site, existing portable buildings will be removed and new ones relocated there; a parking lot and fire access road will also be added. At the southern end of the property a new vehicle access road from the main parking lot will be constructed which requires the construction of a bridge to connect it with the southern entrance to the campus. The exact aerial extent in which both these improvements will occur is currently not known.  

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH  

An archaeological literature review was conducted in person by this author at the NWIC to obtain information about recorded historic and/or prehistoric sites in and around the project area, and to obtain information about previous formal archaeological surveys of the campus and surrounding lands.  

The campus evidently has not been formally surveyed in the past, and there are no recorded historic or prehistoric sites inside its borders. The nearest recorded sites are informally recorded historic sites on the west side of Highway 101. In addition a series of prehistoric sites
have been recorded in the vicinity of Highway 101 and Uvas Creek, but none of these have been recorded formally to date. These resources were evidently found as a result of Caltrans studies done in the area starting in 1990 for the Route 152 Transportation Corridor studies—the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project includes a large section of land which extended west to the edge of the Gavilan College campus. The only recorded prehistoric site is Scl-639, located over a mile to the northwest of the campus near Christmas Hill. The remaining informally recorded prehistoric sites found nearer Highway 101 along Uvas Creek fell within the original Highway 152 APE, but evidently never were revisited for the highway project. To date there are no records of formal archaeological surveys of the canyons leading to the west of the college.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD INSPECTION

A visual field inspection was completed by this author on July 14, 2011. Given the general nature of the proposed improvements, the visual reconnaissance was expanded to include a larger area than planned. Each of the development areas are described below:

Northern Area:

The area of the planned modular buildings is largely covered by pavement and/or a granite gravel; it appears that this area has also been graded to create level pads and the roadway leading to the campus. Visual inspection of the ground surface was expanded uphill into the grove of mature oak trees and northwards along the creek margin, where a dirt road is located. Soils throughout this area consist of a loamy clay soil containing scant amounts of water worn gravel. It is apparent that the topsoil once found in the area of the modular buildings was probably graded away when leveling occurred.

No cultural resources were noted anywhere in or around the project area.

Southern Area:

This project consists of the extension of a roadway over a new bridge crossing the drainage south of the duck pond to connect with the southern entrance to the campus. Since the actual alignment of the roadway is not known, the visual inspection was expanded to the south and north, starting at the spillway and covering all open ground between the parking lot and the entrance road. It should be noted that this entire area has been graded, exposing a light brown clay matrix containing abundant natural gravels throughout; the drainage itself has been channelized and the banks at places are comprised or construction debris from the original campus construction.

No cultural resources were found in the immediate vicinity of the project area.
FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of this author that future construction related to the modular buildings and/or the new roadway/bridge access will have no effect on historic and/or prehistoric cultural resources. Because it is apparent that original construction in both areas resulted in the removal of the topsoil layer, any cultural resources which may have been located there have been removed. Due to the very low potential for the discovery of buried cultural resources, this report does not recommend mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing and does not recommend archaeological monitoring of future construction related earthmoving.

Sincerely,

Miley Paul Holman
Holman & Associates

GAVIIAN COLLEGE LITERATURE REVIEW

REFERENCES

Caltrans
1990
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT FOR THE ROUTE 152 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDY IN SOUTHERN SANTA CLARA AND NORTHERN SAN BENITO COUNTIES. On file, Northwest Information Center (NWIC) S-12303

1992
ADDITIONAL HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE SURVEY REPORT For the Proposed Route 152 Corridor Relocation Within the City Limits of Gilroy, Santa Clara County and Unincorporated Rural Areas of San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. On file, NWIC S-01693.

2004
Letter Response to Jacquelin Kehl regarding the Hollister to Gilroy 4-Lane Project. On file, NWIC S-30235
March 21, 2012

Dear Mr. Lisenbee:

RE: CULTURAL RESOURCES INSPECTION OF ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE GAVILAN COLLEGE GILROY CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

On July 15, 2011 I completed a report for Ms. Judy Shanley for improvements planned at that time for the campus. The description of the work envisioned at that time included the following:

“The proposed project consists of a variety of improvements at both the northern and southern end of the existing campus facility. At the north end of the site, existing portable buildings will be removed and new ones relocated there; a parking lot and fire access road will also be added. At the southern end of the property a new vehicle access road from the main parking lot will be constructed which requires the construction of a bridge to connect it with the southern entrance to the campus. The exact aerial extent in which both these improvements will occur is currently not known.” (Holman 2011:1)

Thanks to the inexact location and nature of the planned improvements, this author chose to extend his visual inspection throughout the general campus to insure that any cultural resources would be located. None were noted in either the general vicinity of the northern nor southern improvement areas.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following project description was supplied to this author in February of 2012 and is included in its entirety:
Project Understanding

Gavilan Community College currently seeks to implement several facilities and infrastructure upgrades to the Gilroy campus, including the following:

- Demolition of former police academy portables and relocation of other portables to site
- Relocation of Gilroy Early College Academy (GECA) portables around central courtyard
- Parking Lot C expansion
- Water storage, tank distribution and well improvements
- Demolition of building CJ500 (at tennis courts)

The following is my summary of the potential impacts to the ground the projects may have:

PORTABLES DEMOLITION:

Plans call for the demolition of the existing buildings at the north end of the campus. Impacts to the soil will include the removal of existing foundations and future construction of new concrete foundations, as well as the relocation and hook-up to existing utilities.

GECA CAMPUS CONSOLIDATION:

Other than the demolition of 6 portables and the relocation of 10 portables to the GECA site and part of parking lot C, the nature of the potential impacts to the soils of the area are not listed.

PARKING LOT C EXPANSION:

This proposed project has a list of potential impacts to the soils, and is presented below verbatim:

“Gavilan proposes to expand Parking Lot C southerly to near the campus loop road’s south Santa Teresa Boulevard entrance. At the southern end of the parking lot expansion, a new two-way driveway would connect to the campus loop road, creating an intersection with the golf course/club house drive. The parking lot expansion would include 125 new parking spaces and a new campus entry monument sign and would be surrounded by a landscape berm. A drainage swale would extend along the road edge. Expansion of Parking Lot C would include construction of a new catch basin and filling of the existing drainage overflow/outlet from the detention (duck) pond. The storm flow would be carried in a new storm drain pipe under the parking lot to daylight at the swale adjacent to Santa Teresa Boulevard.”
GAVILAN COLLEGE CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY 2012

WATER STORAGE TANK, DISTRIBUTION, AND WELL IMPROVEMENTS

This project element also lacks detail about proposed soils disturbance which will be caused by the replacement of the water system for irrigation and fire demands at the campus, replacement of the existing 1,000,000 gallon water tank with two 669,000 gallon reservoir tanks at the same location in the foothills above the campus. The project includes two new wells (off campus), distribution piping and a back up power supply.

NOTE: It must be assumed that there will be considerable earthmoving needed for the reservoirs and in-ground piping system, as well as excavation at the well sites themselves.

BUILDING CJ500 DEMOLITION

The foundation for this building will be left in place; no ground disturbance is proposed.

DESCRIPTION OF 2012 FIELD INSPECTION

This author conducted a re-inspection of the proposed project area(s) on March 3, 2012. After a review of the visual inspection done for the July 15, 2011 report, only the off-site well location was inspected; because of the vague nature of the improvements planned in 2011, this author had expanded his visual inspection to include all those areas where open soil is still visible inside the campus; buildings, parking lots, concrete walkways and landscaping covers well over half of the ground surface inside the campus where the original 2011 and 2012 proposed improvements will take place.

The visual inspection of the new well location on Mesa Road and the (probable) alignment of pipelines to it along Mesa Road up to Santa Teresa Boulevard revealed a consistent exposure of light brown sandy clay loam, containing little to no rock; a recent discing of the area in preparation for planting made 100% of the ground surface visible. No cultural resources were seen on either side of Mesa Road from the well site or at the well site itself; a 50x50 foot area was inspected at the location of the proposed wells.

No further visual inspection of the campus itself was conducted for this study because of the general survey which was done in 2011. The main areas where earthmoving would occur last year included the toe of the hill at the southern end of the campus, along the drainage at the western edge, and at the parking lot/pond area at the northeastern end of the project area. Comprised of clay soils containing angular rock, none of these areas contained visible prehistoric or historic cultural resources.
FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2011 archival study and the field inspection of the campus grounds failed to turn up any evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources. While there have been very few formal archaeological studies done in the general area, the only areas to yield prehistoric archaeological materials are on the west side of Highway 101 along the Uvas Creek drainage. The campus itself is located in a zone of low to moderate archaeological sensitivity; the intermittent drainages flowing from it to the north have not yielded archaeological sites for over a mile to the west and east; temporary camp sites and special use areas such as bedrock mortar locations have not been located at the interface of the hills on the south end of the campus where more level and habitable ground is found.

Based upon my 2011 visual inspection of the campus area, it is my opinion that there is a low to moderate potential that the current campus improvements will uncover archaeological resources which might be buried under the existing campus buildings, parking lots, pathways and other improvements.

This report does not recommend either mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing in areas covered with pavement or concrete, and does not recommend continual archaeological monitoring of the proposed improvements. This report does recommend that a training session be conducted for all personnel involved with demolition, trenching and general excavation activities at all locations to inform them about what materials and/or other indicators might be found which may be associated with a cultural resource eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). Instruction should also include a careful listing of the steps to be taken to insure that potentially significant resources are protected and if significant, are mitigated according to CEQA requirements.

In the event that any materials and/or other indicators are found which require assessment and possible mitigation, construction personnel should have necessary contact information for a qualified archaeologist. If suspected human remains are discovered, contact information should also be available for the County Coroner’s Office, and if remains are found to be Native American in origin, for the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as well.

Sincerely,

Miley Paul Holman
Holman & Associates
REFERENCES

Holman, Miley
2011