

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Rincon Del Rio Development Project,
c. 216 acres along the Bear River,
Nevada County, California.**

Prepared for

Geddings Engineering

12836 Nevada City Highway
Nevada City, California 95959

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Ca. 7.5' Quad., No Significant Historic Resources.

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GENESIS SOCIETY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL - HISTORICAL - CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey for the proposed Rincon Del Rio development project involving approximately 216 acres of land located adjacent to the north side of the Bear River and the east side of Rincon Road, approximately 1/2 mile east of State Route 49, in southern Nevada County, California (see *Project Location Map*).

Proposed action involves subdivision of the property followed by residential development, with specific features to include construction of new residential and related structures, new primary and secondary access roads, placement of utilities, etc.

Since the project as proposed will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components throughout the 216-acre project area, the potential exists to impact cultural resources located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which consists of the 216-acre project area itself. Evaluation of the project's potential effects to cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with Nevada County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Scope of Work

At the most general level, compliance with CEQA requires completion of projects in conformity with the standards contained in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, as amended. Based on this and other relevant Sections of the Guidelines, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present project:

- Conduct a records search at the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at CSU-Sacramento, and review state data bases and other relevant background information. The goals of the records search and data base review are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all archaeological and historical sites considered significant per CEQA are discovered, correctly identified, and properly interpreted.
- Conduct a pedestrian field survey of the project area. Based on map review, complete coverage, variable-intensity coverage was considered appropriate. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously recorded sites identified during the records search are re-located and existing evaluations updated based on current site and field conditions. For previously undocumented sites identified which might qualify as

“historical resources” per CEQA, the field survey would involve formally recording these on State DPR-523 Forms.

- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare an archaeological survey report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for prehistoric or historic sites recommended significant under CEQA and which might be affected by the project.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the Final Report for this project, detailing the results of the records search and field survey and containing recommendations for treatment of significant sites that could be impacted. All field survey procedures followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and conform to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

The proposed Rincon Del Rio development project incorporates approximately 216 acres of land located adjacent to the north side of the Bear River and the east side of Rincon Road, approximately 1/2 mile east of State Route 49, in southern Nevada County, California. Lands affected are located within a portion of Section 4 of T13N, R8E, and a portion of Section 33 of T14N, R8E, as shown on the USGS Lake Combie, California 7.5' series quad (see attached *Project Location Map*).

This portion of Nevada County was subjected to intensive and extensive mining, logging and ranching during the historic period, with the intensively mined Bear River located adjacent to the property's southern boundary. Further, contemporary residential and related development of the property has resulted in a number of ground disturbing activities throughout the subject property. Overall, but notwithstanding the effects of prior impacts to ground surface and subsurface components resulting from historic through contemporary mining, ranching and residential use, the project area appeared to be located within lands ranging from moderate to high in archaeological sensitivity.

Ethnographically, the project area is located within territory occupied by the Nisenan at the time of initial contact with European Americans (Wilson and Towne 1978: Figure 1). The Nisenan are Native American peoples also referred to as “Southern Maidu” who occupied the drainages of the southern Feather River and Honcut Creek in the north, through Bear River and the Yuba and American River drainages in the south. Villages were frequently located on flats adjoining streams, and were inhabited mainly in the winter as it was usually necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall).

As with all northern California Indian groups, economic life for the Nisenan revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. These people were very sophisticated in terms of their knowledge of the uses of local animals and plants, and of the availability of raw material sources that could be used in manufacturing an immense array of primary and

secondary tools and implements. Unfortunately, only fragmentary evidence of the material culture of these people remains, due in part to perishability and in part to the impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later (historic) land uses (mining, timber harvest, and ranching).

Based on the results of previous survey work within the general and immediate area, the potential range of prehistoric site types included the following:

- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage associated with midden accumulations (sometimes including other surface features such as housepit depressions, mortar holes, petroglyphs), resulting from protracted occupation along stream channels, particularly where streams merge with one another.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without midden accumulations, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Bedrock milling stations, including especially mortar holes, where suitable bedrock outcrops are exposed.
- Petroglyphs.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

As noted above, it was not expected that all of these site types would be encountered within the project area, but rather that these would be the most likely *types* to be encountered if any sites or features were identified at all.

Antecedent cultures in the area span several thousands of years and document use and occupation centered along watercourses and elsewhere throughout the area. Detailed archaeological sequences are reviewed in works by Moratto (2004) and others.

Recorded history in the project area begins with the attempts of Spanish colonists to explore parts of California beyond the coastal zone. Gabriel Moraga's expedition was undertaken in 1806, with additional incursions occurring through the 1840's. European Americans began arriving in more substantial numbers in the mid-1820's, most notably with the trapping expeditions of Jedediah Smith. However, the European American incursion with the greatest impact on Native American population and culture and the environmental structure of this area occurred immediately following the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848, which initiated the Gold Rush of 1849.

Mining along virtually every stream in the Nevada City, Grass Valley, Wolf Creek and the Bear River areas was underway by 1850, with initial mining along Deer Creek being especially intensive. Placer mining continued to yield large quantities of gold through the next several years, and by 1855 supporting industry in the mine fields of Nevada County and along what is now Highway 49 through Nevada City included stores, transportation companies, saloons, toll roads and stage lines, foundries, lumber mills, and water companies. Isolated features related to historic mining activities and associated transportation are ubiquitous throughout this portion of Nevada County, and include sluiced areas, ditches, "glory holes", collapsed shafts and adits, debris scatters, tailings piles, and structural remains.

Logging and ranching represent additional historic themes for this portion of southern Nevada County. As with the earlier mining emphasis, activities associated with logging and ranching have also adversely affected the local cultural resource base, although typically with somewhat less severe impacts than actions associated with the early days of gold mining.

Historic overviews for this portion of Nevada County generally suggested the potential presence of a range of historic site types, including:

- Two-track trails/wagon roads, most of which are now paved roadways or no longer exist.
- Water distribution systems, including small and large ditch, canal and channel systems, and levees dating to historic time periods.
- Occupation sites and homesteads with associated features such as refuse disposal areas, privy pits, barns, sheds, corrals, loading chutes, stock ponds, etc.
- Historic cemeteries.
- Mining-related features, such as general landscape modifications including sluiced areas and tailings/waste rock piles, adits, shafts and in rare instances associated headworks.

As with prehistoric sites, not all of these were expected to be present within the 216-acre project area, although these represent the range of *types* considered most likely to be found based on background information available.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several sources of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting pedestrian field survey includes soil types and geomorphological features, data maintained by the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission for any sacred land listings, and review of available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments (discussed above).

North Central Information Center (CSU-Sacramento)

Prior to conducting the pedestrian field survey, the official Nevada County archaeological records maintained by the North Central Information Center were examined for any existing recorded prehistoric or historic sites (NCIC File No. NEV-06-100, dated December 1, 2006). Information Center records document the following existing conditions for the 216-acre project area:

Previous Archaeological Survey: One archaeological survey has been conducted within the subject property. Johnson (NCIC Report 5773, dated 1972) conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 73-miles of Nevada Irrigation District canals and

ditches, including the Magnolia Ditch, which proceeds through the subject property. This survey involved no more than about 10% of the present project area's land.

Documented Sites: The 1871 GLO map labels a stream course within the eastern portion of the subject property as "China Hollow." Aside from this reference, no historic or prehistoric sites have been documented within or adjacent to the project area.

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining records at the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, the following sources were also reviewed by the Information Center, or separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (2006).
- The California Register of Historic Resources (2006).
- The California Inventory of Historical Resources (1976).
- California State Historical Landmarks (1996).
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992).
- The Historic Property Data File (2006).
- GLO Plat, T13N, R8E, 1865, T14N, R8E, 1871.
- USGS Lake Combie quad, 1949.
- Published and unpublished documents relevant to environment, ethnography, prehistory and early historic developments in the vicinity, providing context for assessing site types and distribution patterns for the project area (summarized above under *Location, Environmental and Cultural Context*).

4. PEDESTRIAN SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Strategy and Fieldwork

All of the project area was subjected to pedestrian survey, accomplished by walking back and forth across the property with transect spacing ranging between 10 and 30 meter intervals, depending on variation in archaeological sensitivity, vegetation cover, and other considerations.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyors took into account the results of background research, and were alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Michael Jensen and Robert McCann on December 19-22 2006. No special problems were encountered during the pedestrian survey, and all survey objectives are considered to have been satisfactorily achieved.

General Observations

Disturbance to the ground surface and sub-surface components throughout the property ranges from minimal to substantial. Portions of the property have been subjected to historic mining, logging and ranching, with landscape modifications, graded access roads and skid trails observed at several locations. As well, Rincon Road (paved) trends north-south along the western property boundary, along which buried and overhead utilities are present. Washed gravel beds are located within the southern portion of the property, adjacent to the north side of the Bear River. Finally, contemporary residential development and related activities have occurred throughout the western and southern portions of the property. The current owner purchased the property in 2000, undertaking a number of projects with ground disturbing effects, including construction of a 13,000 square foot residence located on a bluff overlooking the Bear River. Substantial grading, excavating and land re-contouring were undertaken in conjunction with this project. Additional related disturbance includes tree and brush removal, road construction, general land re-contouring, construction of auxiliary buildings, improvement of an existing stock pond, and extensive landscaping.

Recorded Cultural Resources – Cultural Inventory

Evidence of prehistoric presence was observed at four (4) locations within the project area. All of these represent single-occurrence basalt cores. A thorough inspection of all lands surrounding each of these four finds failed to identify any additional evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation, and all four single-occurrence cores are considered *Isolates*, categorically excluded as significant or potentially significant per CEQA.

Evidence of historic-era activity was observed at nine (9) separate locations within the project area. Six (6) of these represent single-occurrence artifacts/features, including “church-key”-opened cans, logging cable segments, and generalized mining-related landscape modifications. A thorough inspection of all lands surrounding each of these six finds failed to identify any additional evidence of historic activity or occupation, and all six are considered *Isolates*, categorically excluded as significant or potentially significant per CEQA.

The remaining three observations of historic-era cultural material include a small ranch complex (site Rincon #1), a segment of the Magnolia Ditch (site Rincon #2), and an agricultural or ranch ditch (site Rincon #3). All three were formally recorded on State DPR-523 forms.

Site Descriptions

Site Rincon #1: This site consists of a small ranch complex that extends approximately 155 feet in length (southeast-northwest) with a maximum width of 135 feet. The complex contains rock foundation remains and limited associated deteriorated lumber and fence wire representing the remains of a corral (Feature #1) and loading chute (Feature #2).

Feature #1: Feature #1 consists of the foundation remains of a livestock corral, consisting of hand-stacked fieldstones (limited to one-two courses in width and height) defining a portion of the perimeter of a corral, with an overall footprint of approximately 65' in length (northeast-southwest), and 60' in width. Linked with the linear rock courses (which generally define the corral perimeter) are interconnected rock terraces and short walls (< 1' high, limited to two-three rock courses), also including four fence posts, fence wire ("hog" wire and barbed wire strands), miscellaneous hardware (stamped steel hinges), and a small quantity of heavily deteriorated lumber.

Feature #2: Feature #2 consists of the foundation remains of a livestock loading chute, consisting of hand-stacked fieldstones (one to two courses in width and height) enclosing a space that extends approximately 15' in length (northwest-southeast), 12' in width, with a maximum height of the rock wall segments of approximately 2'. Several strands of fence wire and miscellaneous hardware and deteriorated lumber have been stacked on top of the rock wall at one location.

A short segment of ditch proceeds through the southern portion of the site as recorded herein. This feature has been recorded as a separate site (temporary designation of site Rincon #3, see below). Finally, a contemporary, barbed-wire fence bisects the site along a north-south axis, "ignoring" the boundary and functional integrity of the earlier corral and chute through which the new fence proceeds.

Site Rincon #2, Magnolia Ditch: This site consists of the Magnolia Ditch, constructed between 1938 and 1949 based on the ditch's sequence of appearance on USGS quadrangle maps. Within the subject property, the ditch trends south-north along the approximate 1,540-foot contour for a total distance of approximately 4,900 feet. The ditch measures roughly 4-6' in width at the top, and 3-4' in depth. Numerous fully contemporary modifications have been made to the ditch by Nevada Irrigation District, which include gunnite lining, concrete "box" linings (see photos), the addition of welded pipe sections and siphons, concrete and steel gates, and additional modifications to the levee system associated with ongoing maintenance. It is estimated that less than 30% of the original historic attributes defining this feature remain, including no pre-1950-1960 artifacts or structural subcomponents (such as distribution gates, support features).

Site Rincon #3: This site consists of a small ditch which trends east-west along the approximate 1,380-foot contour for roughly 7,800 feet through the project area. The ditch measures approximately 1-2' in width at the top and about 1' in depth. No additional features or artifacts are present in association, which makes dating of the ditch problematic. The ditch could be associated with historic mining in the area, which began during the 1850's, but appears (on the basis of tree sizes within the ditch) to have been excavated later, most likely in conjunction with ranching and the need to service stock ponds. The ditch has been substantially disturbed by on-going ranching, neglect and lack of use, and most recently by extensive residential development of portions of the property. The effects of erosion and bulldozer cuts associated with recent and on-going

residential development and use of the area are visible at several points along the length of ditch within the project area.

5. SIGNIFICANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

General

Prehistoric sites identified within the project area were to be evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed. Therefore, before developing mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must be determined in relation to criteria presented in PRC 15064.5, which defines a historically significant resource (one eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, per PRC SS5024.1) as an archaeological site which possess one or more of the following attributes or qualities:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource as described above (for the purpose of determining effects), and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the current body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Significance of Ditch Sites Rincon #2 and #3: Application of the CEQA criteria results in the following recommendation for the two linear features (ditches) located within the project area.

- a) & b) These two sites may initially have been excavated to serve mining activities, although dating of both (see discussion under site description) suggests more likely links with ranching (site Rincon #3) or ranching/farming/residential needs at various locations throughout this part of Nevada County (site Rincon #2, Magnolia Ditch). There is no evidence that either ditch is associated with specific undertakings, projects or persons which have made especially significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California. Regardless of its origins and original functional links, the Magnolia Ditch has been substantially modified for domestic water delivery and use by Nevada Irrigation District, such that most of the original historic qualities and attributes have been lost to contemporary updates and to the requirements of routine maintenance. Site Rincon #3, the small ranch ditch, has been abandoned and substantially impacted by recent and on-going residential development and use of the project area. Neither ditch is associated with early historic features, artifacts or structural subcomponents (such as early-style distribution gates, support features, etc.).

In short, the integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost with respect to both ditch segments within the project area. Loss of integrity continues, and today the features (as well as the immediate surroundings) little resemble the original ditches that proceeded through the project area.

Based on these considerations, these two sites are not recommended significant per Criteria a and b.

- c) These two ditch segments do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do these features represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost, as noted in the discussion of Criteria a and b, above, and no artifacts or associated features remain that are related to the original period of construction and use of either one of these ditches. Based on existing inventory data maintained by the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, a large number of ditches have already been well documented in Nevada and adjacent Counties that duplicate the qualities and attributes of these two ditches, so that this site type is not, therefore, under-represented in the California inventory.

Based on these considerations, these two ditch sites are not recommended significant or potentially significant per CEQA's Criterion c.

- d) Data recovery work involving either one of these linear features would likely not provide unique or unusual information, nor additional data useful in historic research not already captured in the existing site records (State DPR 523 forms prepared and submitted for both of these sites). As noted above, no early historic features or artifacts are present in association with either one of the ditch segments within the

project area, and no historic dumps have been located elsewhere in the present project area that might be related to original use and construction of these two ditches. In the absence of associated artifacts or original features dating to the period of initial construction and use, and considering the loss of integrity generally, further data recovery involving either one of these sites could not be expected to advance our knowledge and understanding of these two ditches beyond that which has been achieved in the present report and the DPR 523 site record submitted to the North Central Information Center.

Based on these considerations, these two ditch sites are not recommended significant or potentially significant per CEQA's Criterion d.

Collectively and in summary, the above findings lead to the recommendation that the two ditches within the present project area are not significant resources per CEQA.

Significance of Site Rincon #1, Ranch Features: Application of the CEQA evaluative criteria results in the following recommendation for two ranch features.

- a) & b) This site cannot be linked or associated with specific historical events, projects, persons or entities that have made significant contributions at the local, regional or national level. The site represents the limited, deteriorated remains of two ranch-related features whose specific components include limited stacked fieldstone alignments (one for a corral and one for a loading chute), and associated, heavily deteriorated lumber, wire and four deteriorated fence posts. The "definition" of the corral and chute perimeters by low, stacked stone "walls" and alignments is partial at best, and none of the original built environment remains. Finally, recent disturbance to the site is evident in the form of a new fence line constructed through the site, and recent limited tree clearing and other activities. Integrity of the site is very poor. These facts, when combined with the absence of GLO or early County Map or other references to those who constructed and/or utilized these features, makes it essentially impossible to characterize the size and scope of ranching operations undertaken at this location except by negative evidence – there is no evidence that the ranching operation was historically significant at the local, regional or national level.

Based on these facts and considerations, site Rincon #1 is not recommended significant per Criteria a and b.

- c) This site does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do the deteriorated feature remnants that comprise the site represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been lost, in conjunction with loss of virtually all of the original built environment save very limited foundation remains of what is believed to represent a small corral and loading chute area located adjacent to an existing ranch access road. Based on the

author's familiarity with existing historical site records on file at the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, a large number of sites have already been well documented in Nevada and adjacent Counties that duplicate the qualities and attributes of the limited foundation remains and additional non-diagnostic items (wire, four fence posts, low rock piles) that comprise this site. This site and the features present are not rare or under-represented in the California inventory.

Based on these facts and considerations, site Rincon #1 is not recommended significant per Criterion c.

- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information over and above that which exists in the existing site record and the present report. As noted in the site description, this site consists of only fragmentary elements of a small corral and associated loading chute, the integrity of which has been lost to natural deterioration, lack of use, and lack of maintenance. Whole artifacts are absent and none of the original superstructure remains at either one of the two identified features. There is no evidence that any artifacts have accumulated below the surface. When combined with the absence of GLO or early County Map or other references to the ranch or persons, families or named operations at this location, it is not a reasonable expectation that data recovery would further our understanding of this site in relation to important historic research objectives, themes, etc.

Based on these facts and considerations, site Rincon #1 is not recommended significant per Criterion d.

Collectively and in summary, these findings lead to the recommendation that site Rincon #1 is not a significant resource per CEQA.

6. SUMMARY of PROJECT FINDINGS and RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey of approximately 216 acres of land located adjacent to the north side of the Bear River and the east side of Rincon Road, approximately 1/2 mile east of State Route 49, in southern Nevada County, California. Proposed action involves subdivision of the property followed by further residential development, an action that would result in physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components and would therefore have the potential to impact cultural resources located within the project area.

A search of State data bases, including all records and documents available at the North Central Information Center, and intensive-level pedestrian survey, have resulted in identifying three (3) sites within the project area. All three of the project area sites (Rincon #'s 1-3") are recommended not significant under any of the relevant CEQA evaluative criteria. No treatment or mitigative action is recommended for these sites.

Based on the present findings and conclusions with respect to the three recorded historic sites, archaeological clearance is recommended for the 216-acre Rincon Del Rio Subdivision property, with the following general provisions:

- 1) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:** Evidence of human burial or scattered human remains related to prehistoric occupation of the area could be inadvertently encountered anywhere within the project area during future construction activity or other actions involving disturbance to the ground surface and subsurface components. In the event of such an inadvertent discovery, the County Coroner would have to be informed and consulted, per State law.
- 2) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that significant unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development or construction activities. This caveat is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where grasses and other vegetation partially obscure ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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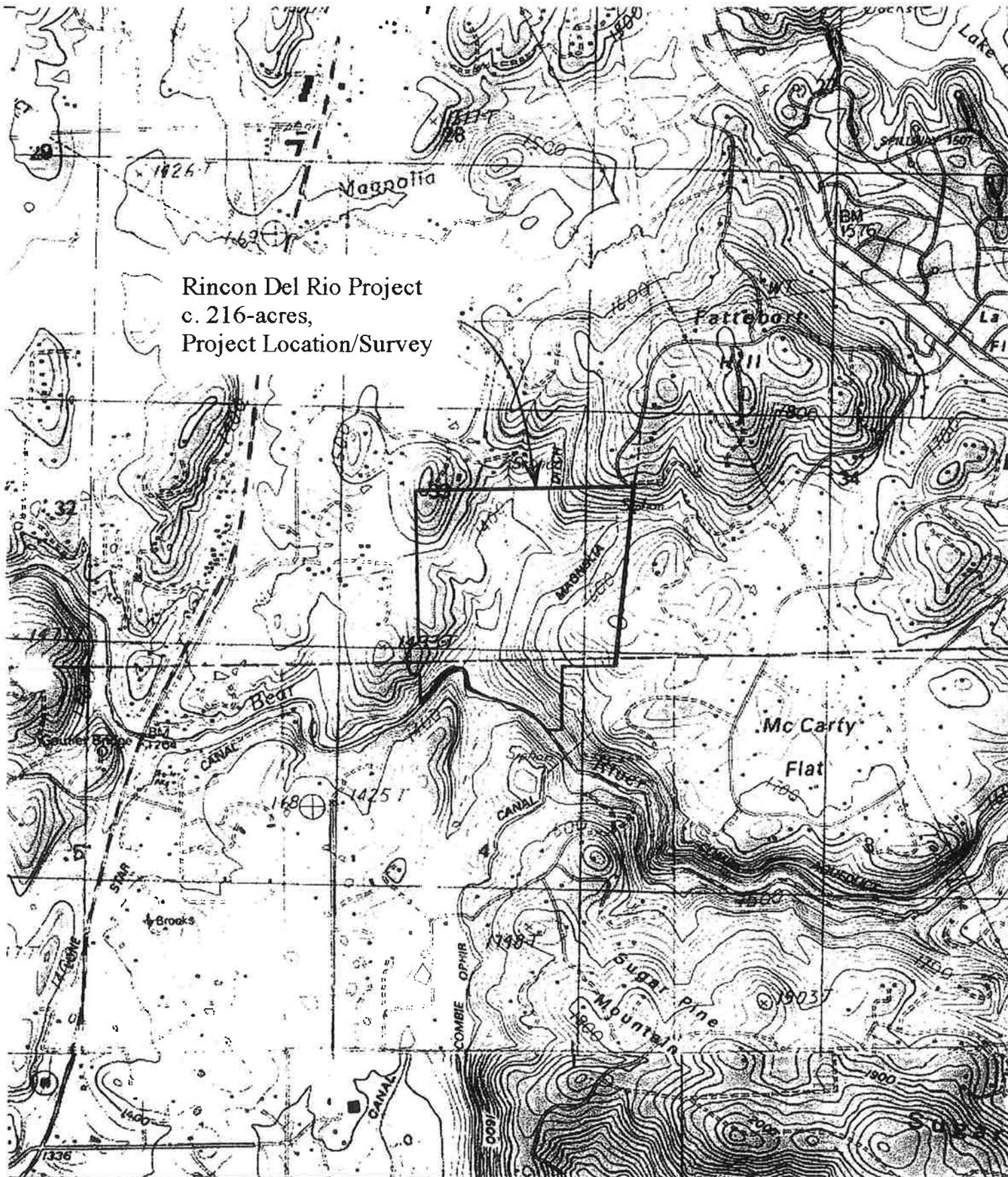
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Rincon Del Rio Development Project,
c. 216 acres along the Bear River,
Nevada County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- Project Location Map
- Records Search from CSU-Sacramento
- DPR 523 Primary Records for sites, “Rincon #1, Rincon #2, and Rincon #3”



Rincon Del Rio Project
 c. 216-acres,
 Project Location/Survey

N * / MN
 15

0 5 1 MILE
 0 1000 FEET 0 500 1000 METERS

Map created with TOPO! © 2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

NORTH CENTRAL INFORMATION CENTER

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Summary of Records Search Results

December 1, 2006

NCIC File No.: NEV-06-100

Sean M. Jensen
Genesis Society
7053 Molokai Drive
Paradise, CA 95969

From: Sally Torpy, Researcher

Re: 216-acre Rincon Del Rio Development
T13N/R8E Section 4
T14N/R8E Section 33
USGS Lake Combie 7.5-minute quad, Nevada County

- **Sites Within /Adjacent to Project:** Nothing listed.
- **NCIC Studies Within /Adjacent to Project:**
#5773 (Jerry Johnson 1972)
- **NRHP/CRHR (2006):** Nothing listed
- **OHP Historic Property Directory (2006):** Nothing listed
- **California Inventory of Historical Resources (1976):** Nothing listed
- **California State Historical Landmarks (1996):** Nothing listed
- **Points of Historical Interest (1992):** Nothing listed
- **GLO Plat:** 1865 plat of T13N/R8E
1871 plat of T14N/R8E
- **Historic Maps:** USGS 1949 Lake Combie quad

As indicated on the attached agreement form, the charge for this record search is **\$151.20**. Payment instructions are included at the bottom of the form. Thank you for using our services. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call 916/278-6217.

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings#: None

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

P1. Other Identifier: "Rincon #1".

P2. Location: Unrestricted.

P2a. County: Nevada.

P2b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Lake Combie, California.

Date: 1995 (Provisional).

T14N, R8E, Section 33. MDM.

P2c. Address: Unknown.

P2d. UTM: Zone 10: Easting: 665700 Northing: 4320647

P2e. Location From the intersection of State Route 49 and Rincon Road, proceed easterly along Rincon Road for approximately 0.4 miles to point where Rincon Road makes a 90 degree turn due south. At this point there is a north-south trending fence line located immediately east of Rincon Road, along which is located a contemporary irrigation ditch. Also located at this point is a graded access road trending west-east. Proceed easterly along access road for approximately 0.2 miles, crossing a north-south trending, unnamed perennial stream course, arriving at a northeast-southwest trending perennial stream course and site area. Site is situated on a gentle slope, northwest of the referenced perennial stream course.

P3a. Description: This site consists of a small ranch complex that extends approximately 155 feet in length (southeast-northwest) with a maximum width of 135 feet, for a total surface area of approximately 15,000 square feet. The complex contains foundation remains (for a corral and associated loading chute) associated with cattle/sheep ranching.

Feature #1: Feature #1 consists of the foundation remains of a livestock corral, consisting of hand-stacked fieldstones defining a portion of the perimeter of a corral, with an overall footprint of approximately 65' in length (northeast-southwest), and 60' in width. Linked with the linear rock courses (which generally define the corral perimeter) are interconnected rock terraces and short (< 1' high) walls, also including four fence posts, fence wire ("hog" wire and barbed wire strands) and miscellaneous hardware and a small quantity of heavily deteriorated lumber.

Feature #2: Feature #2 consists of the foundation remains of a livestock loading chute, consisting of hand-stacked fieldstones extending approximately 15' in length (northwest-southeast), 12' in width, with a maximum height of the rock wall segments of approximately 2'. Several strands of fence wire and miscellaneous hardware and lumber have been stacked on top of the rock wall at one location.

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings#: None

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

A short segment of ditch proceeds through the southern portion of the site as recorded herein. This feature has been recorded as a separate site (temporary designation of site Rincon #3). Finally, a contemporary, barbed-wire fence bisects the site along a north-south axis, "ignoring" the boundary and functional integrity of the earlier corral and chute through which the new fence proceeds.

- P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP33 – Farm/Ranch.
- P4. Resources Present:** Site. See attribute list above.
- P5a. Drawing:** Site sketch map, attached.
- P5b. Description of Photo:** See attached photographs for feature descriptions.
- P6. Date Constructed, Age and Sources:** No structures appear at this location on the 1949 USGS quad, nor on the 1871 GLO map, and according to the present land owner, no structures were present at the time of his acquisition of the property in 2000.
- P7. Owner and Address:** Unknown.
- P8. Recorded By:** Sean M. Jensen and Robert McCann. Genesis Society, 7053 Molokai Drive, Paradise, California 95969.
- P9. Date Recorded:** December 24, 2006.
- P10. Survey Type:** Intensive pedestrian survey involving c. 216-acres, which consists of hilly terrain above the Bear River, historically utilized for ranching and mining (currently residential), for which additional residential development is proposed.
- P11. Report Citation:** "Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Rincon Del Rio Development Project, c. 216-acres along the Bear River, Nevada County, California." Prepared by Genesis Society for Geddings Engineering, Nevada City, California, and filed with the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, CSU-Sacramento.

Primary #: _____

HRI #: _____

Trinomial: _____

NRHP Status Code: _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings#: None

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

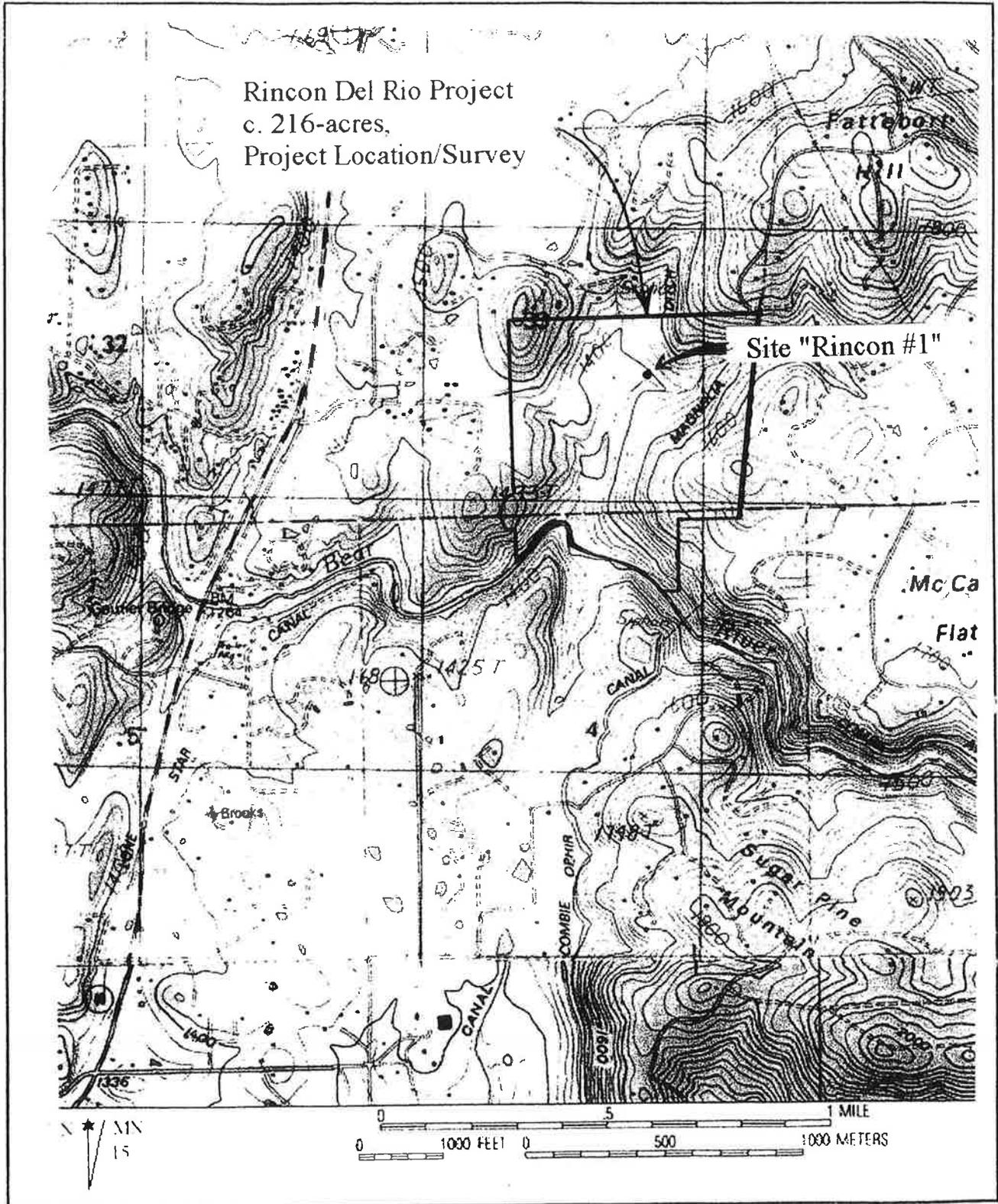
Page 3 of 3, plus Attachments.

"Rincon #1"

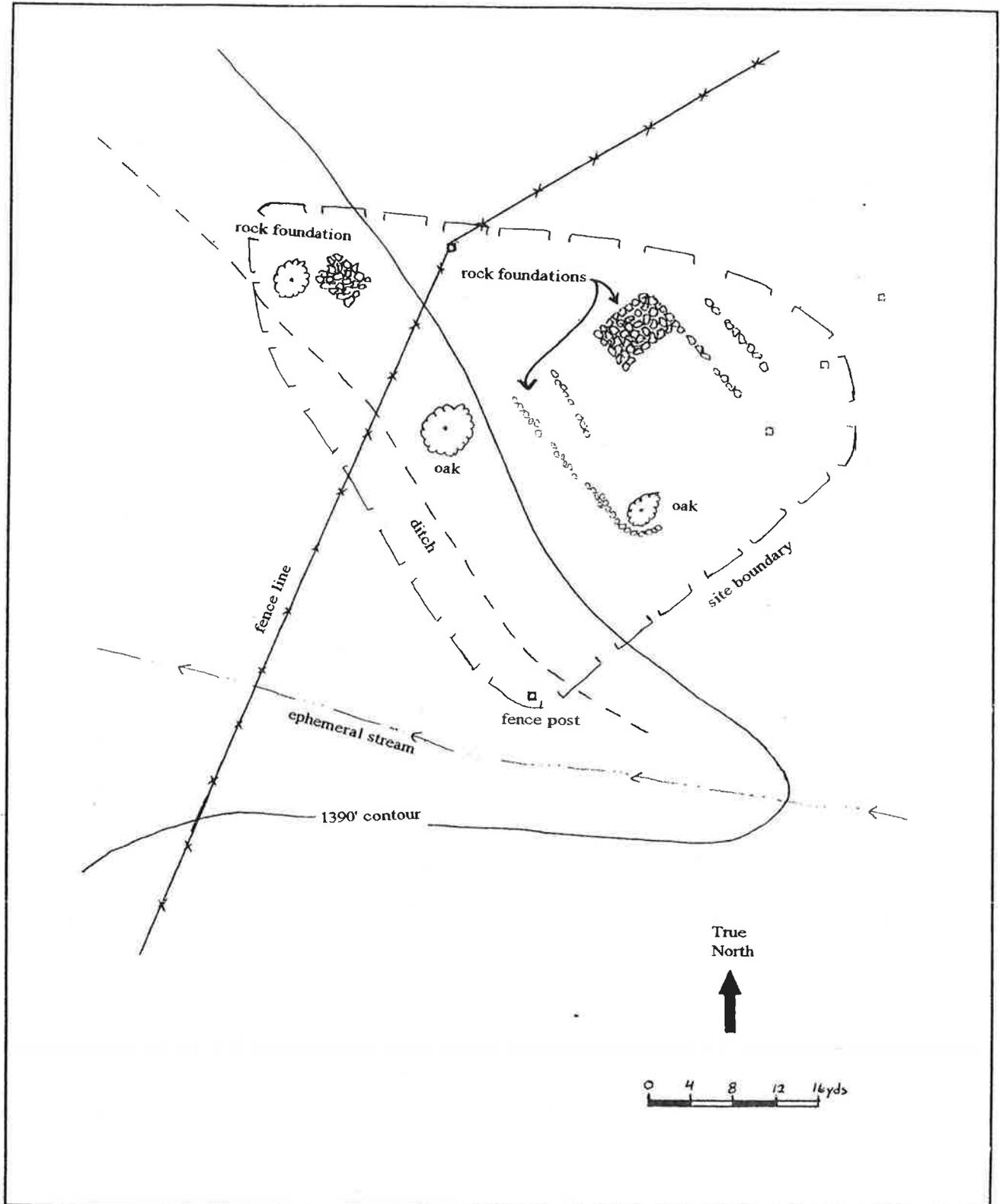
Attachments

- Site Location Map: From USGS Lake Combie, Ca., 7.5' Quad.
Site Sketch Map: Shows the overall site area in relation to topographic features and fence lines.
P5a Photos: See attached photographs for descriptive references.

ATTACHMENT: Site Location Map, "Rincon #1"



ATTACHMENT: Site "Rincon #1": Site Sketch Map



ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Rincon #1": Chute (Upper); Corral (Lower).



PRIMARY RECORD -UPDATE

Other Listings#: _____

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 1 of 2, plus Attachment(s)

Common Name: "Magnolia Ditch"

P1. Other Identifier: Rincon #2.

P2. Location: Unrestricted.

P2a. County: Nevada.

P2b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Lake Combie, California:

Date: 1995 (Provisional).

T13N, R8E, NW 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 4,

T14N, R8E, Section 33. MDM.

P2c. Address: Unknown.

P2d. UTM: Zone 10: Easting: Northing:

Point A: 665799 4320871

Point B: 666030 4320730

Point C: 665810 4320052

P2e. Location From the intersection of State Route 49 and Rincon Road, proceed easterly along Rincon Road for approximately 0.4 miles to point where Rincon Road makes a 90 degree turn due south. At this point a north-south trending fence line and a contemporary irrigation ditch are also present immediately east of Rincon Road. From this point, proceed east, then northeast, along the contemporary irrigation ditch for approximately 0.2 miles to a fence line defining the present survey property's northern boundary. Proceed due east along property (fence) line for approximately 0.2 miles to the Magnolia Ditch and UTM Point A.

P3a. Description: This site consists of the Magnolia Ditch, a water conveyance system constructed between 1938 and 1949, based on the ditch's sequence of appearance on USGS quadrangle maps. Within the subject property, the ditch trends south-north along the approximate 1,540-foot contour. The ditch measures approximately 4-6' in width at the top, 3-4' in depth, and extends for approximately 4,900' through the present project/study area. Numerous fully contemporary modifications have been made to the ditch by Nevada Irrigation District, which include gunnite lining, concrete "box" linings (see photos), the addition of welded pipe sections and siphons, concrete and steel gates, and additional modifications to the levee system associated with ongoing maintenance. It is estimated that less than 30% of the original historic attributes defining this feature remain, including no pre-1950-1960 artifacts or structural subcomponents (distribution gates, support features).

P3b. Resource Attributes: AH6 – Water conveyance system.

P4. Resources Present: Site. See attributes, above.

P5a. Drawing: None (other than attached Site Location/Sketch Map).

P5b. Description of Photo: See attached photographs for individual descriptions.

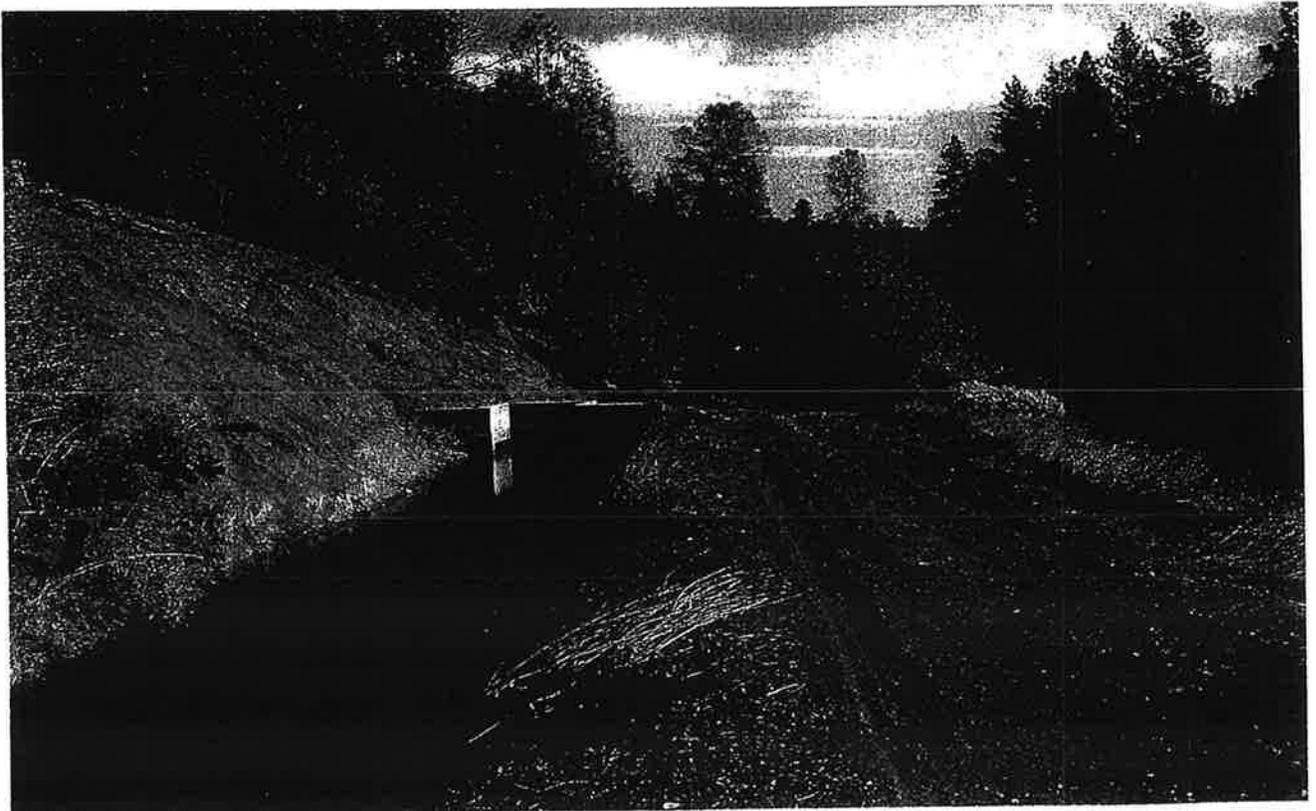
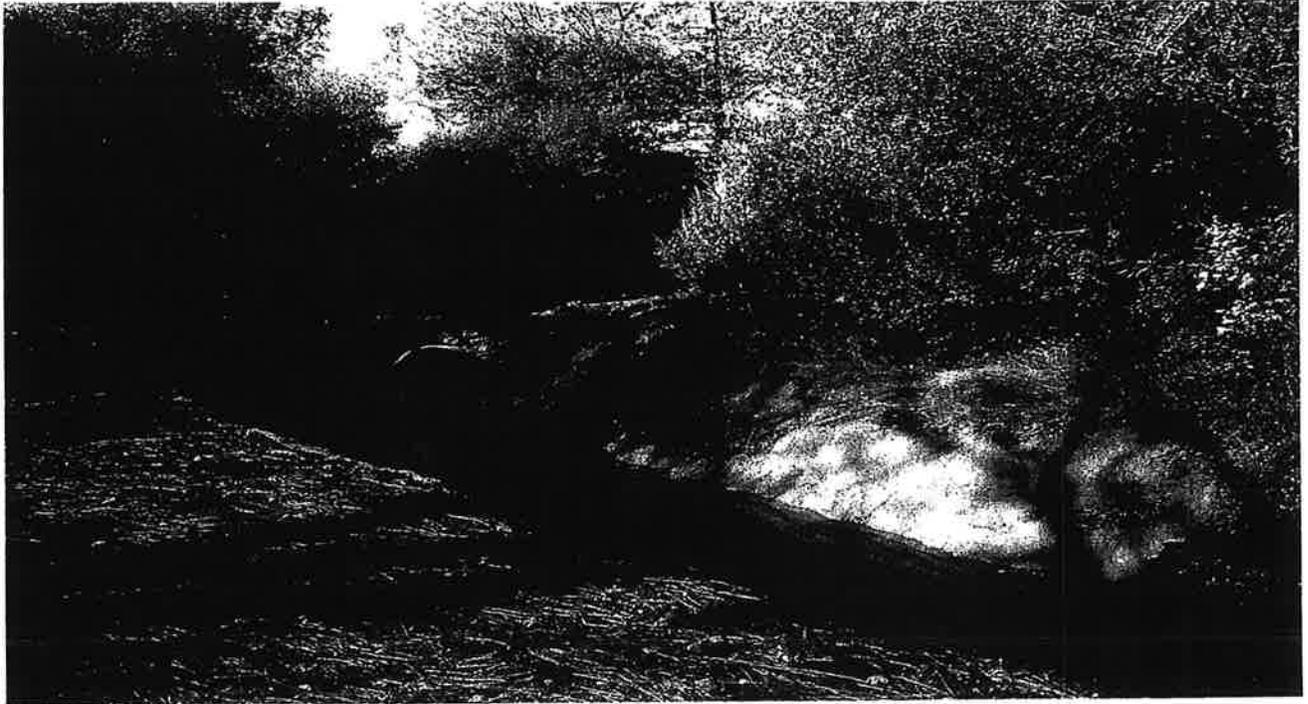
State of California -- The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	Primary #: _____ HRI #: _____ Trinomial: CA-NEV- -H NRHP Status Code: _____ Other Listings#: _____
PRIMARY RECORD -UPDATE	
Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____	
Page 2 of 2, plus Attachment(s)	Common Name: "Magnolia Ditch"

- P6. Date Constructed, Age and Sources:** Within the subject property, the ditch appears on the 1949 USGS quadrangle map, following the present alignment. However, outside of the subject property, the routing of the ditch was modified subsequent to 1949. Further, a number of siphons appear to have been added to segments of the ditch (including within the subject property) after 1949, eventually transporting water westerly via an aqueduct. Since 1949, Nevada Irrigation District has undertaken substantial modifications to the ditch so that today less than about 30% of the original attributes defining this historic feature remain, including no pre-1950-1960 artifacts or structural subcomponents (distribution gates, support features).
- P7. Owner and Address:** Unknown.
- P8. Recorded By:** Sean M. Jensen and Robert McCann. Genesis Society, 7053 Molokai Drive, Paradise, California 95969.
- P9. Date Recorded:** December 24, 2006.
- P10. Survey Type:** Intensive pedestrian survey, involving c. 216-acres, which consists of hilly terrain above the Bear River, historically utilized for ranching and mining (currently residential), for which additional residential development is proposed.
- P11. Report Citation:** "Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Rincon Del Rio Development Project, c. 216-acres along the Bear River, Nevada County, California." Prepared by Genesis Society for Geddings Engineering, Nevada City, California, and filed with the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, CSU-Sacramento.

Attachments

- Site Location Map:** From USGS Lake Combie, Ca., 7.5' Quad.
- No Site Sketch Map:** Site Map is the same as the Site Location Map for this linear feature. Therefore, there is no separate attachment for "Site Map."
- Photograph:** See attached record for photographs and descriptions.

**ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Rincon #2": Gunnite and Pipe (Upper);
Concrete gate (Lower).**



ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Rincon #2": Siphon (Upper); Box flume (Lower).



PRIMARY RECORD -UPDATE

Other Listings#: _____

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 1 of 2, plus Attachment(s)

Common Name: "Rincon #3"

- P1. Other Identifier:** Rincon #3.
- P2. Location:** Unrestricted.
- P2a. County:** Nevada.
- P2b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Lake Combie, California.
Date: 1995 (Provisional).
T13N, R8E, Section 4, T14N, R8E, Section 33. MDM.
- P2c. Address:** Unknown.
- P2d. UTM:**
- | Zone 10: | Easting: | Northing: |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| Point A: | 665224 | 4320040 |
| Point B: | 665573 | 4320736 |
| Point C: | 665733 | 4320615 |
| Point D: | 665765 | 4319888 |
- P2e. Location** From the intersection of State Route 49 and Rincon Road, proceed easterly along Rincon Road for approximately 0.4 miles to point where Rincon Road makes a 90 degree turn due south. At this point a north-south trending fence line and a contemporary irrigation ditch are also present immediately east of Rincon Road. From this point, proceed due south, along the fence (property) line, for approximately 0.3 miles to UTM Point A and a point where the ditch exits the western property boundary.
- P3a. Description:** This site consists of a small ditch. Within the subject property, the ditch trends east-west along the approximate 1,380-foot contour, and measures approximately 1-2' in width at the top, approximately 1' in depth, and extends for approximately 7,800'. No additional features or artifacts are present in association with the ditch. In the absence of artifacts or other associations, dating of the feature is problematic. The ditch could be associated with the earliest historic mining in the area, which began during the 1850's, but may have been excavated much later, in conjunction with mining or ranching activities. The ditch has been subjected to extensive disturbance, primarily from historic through contemporary ranching, and more recently, residential development of portions of the property. The effects of erosion and bulldozer cuts are visible at several points along the length of the ditch within the project area.
- P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH6 – Water conveyance system.
- P4. Resources Present:** Site. See attributes, above.
- P5a. Drawing:** None (other than attached Site Location/Sketch Map).
- P5b. Description of Photo:** See attached photographs for individual descriptions.

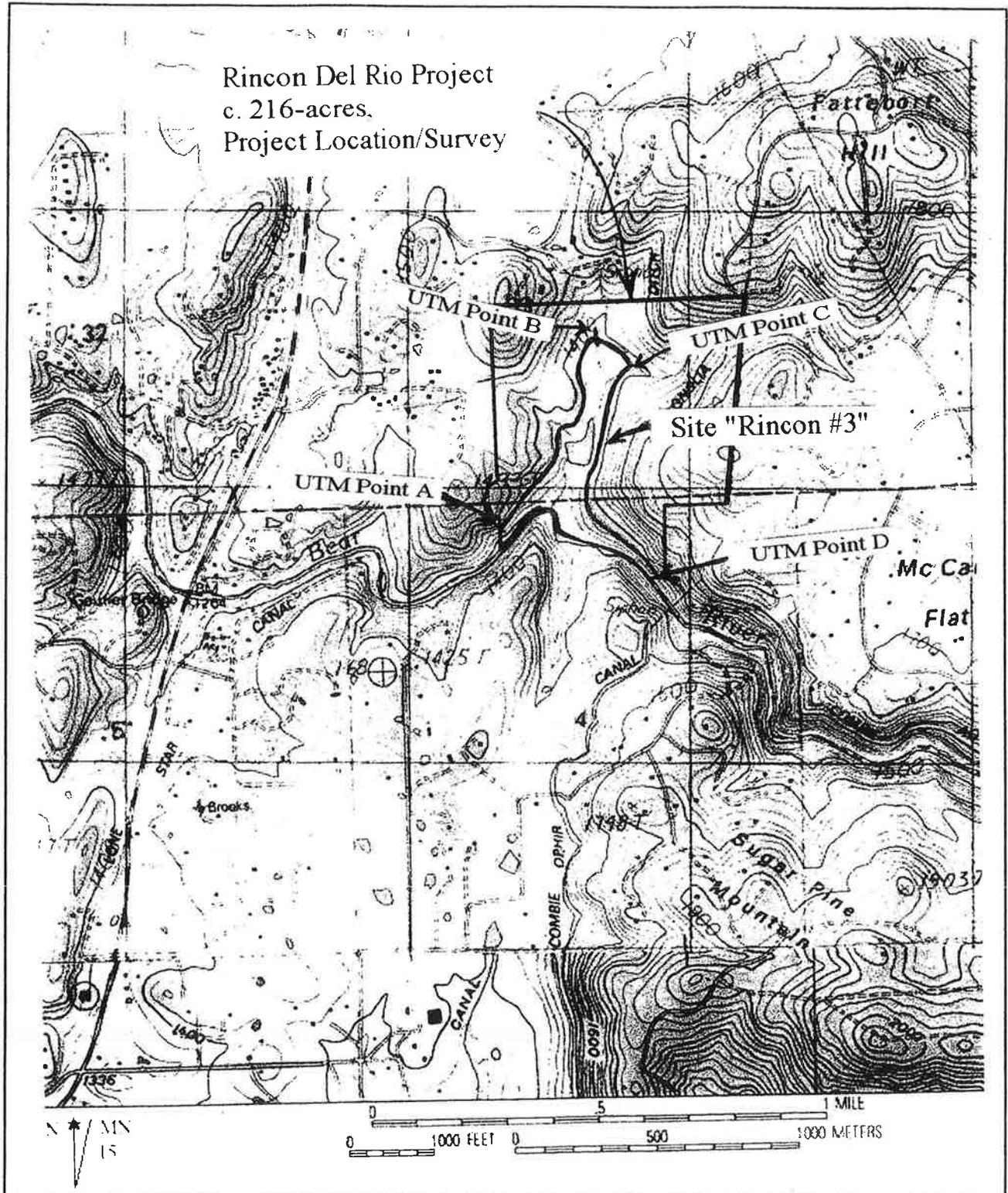
State of California -- The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	Primary #: _____ HRI #: _____ Trinomial: CA-NEV- -H NRHP Status Code: _____ Other Listings#: _____
PRIMARY RECORD -UPDATE	
Review Code: _____	Reviewer: _____ Date : _____
Page 2 of 2, plus Attachment(s)	Common Name: "Rincon #3"

- P6. Date Constructed, Age and Sources:** In the absence of artifacts or feature associations, dating of the ditch is problematic.
- P7. Owner and Address:** Unknown.
- P8. Recorded By:** Sean M. Jensen and Robert McCann. Genesis Society, 7053 Molokai Drive, Paradise, California 95969.
- P9. Date Recorded:** December 24, 2006.
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Attachments

- Site Location Map: From USGS Lake Combie, Ca., 7.5' Quad.
- No Site Sketch Map: Site Map is the same as the Site Location Map for this linear feature. Therefore, there is no separate attachment for "Site Map."
- Photograph: See attached record for photographs and descriptions.

ATTACHMENT: Site Location/Site Sketch Map, Site, "Rincon #3."



ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Rincon #3": UTM Point C (Upper); Ditch (Lower).

