

Appendix B
Cultural Resources Reports



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August 14, 2009

Mr. Steve Speidel
Town of Mammoth Lakes
Post Office Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546

Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment for the Whitmore Park Track and Sport Complex Project (LSA Project No. TML0901)

Dear Mr. Speidel:

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) is under contract to the Town of Mammoth Lakes to provide a cultural resources assessment for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) and the Trail System Master Plan (TSMP) Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). As part of this study, LSA has included a Phase I archaeological survey of a portion of the Whitmore Park Track and Sport Complex project proposed at the Whitmore Park and Regional Pool. The cultural resources assessment was completed pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The cultural resources assessment included a record search and field survey of the project area.

The Whitmore Park Track and Sport Complex project will add a multipurpose sports field, a building for lockers/concessions/equipment storage, and an asphalt parking and loop driveway. This study includes the proposed additions as shown on the Whitmore Track and Sport Complex Concept Plan prepared by Brett T. Long on February 17, 2008. This study does not include the entire Whitmore Park and Regional Pool. See attached Figures 1 and 2 for the project maps.

METHODS

LSA researcher Bill Bell conducted a records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) located at the University of California, Riverside. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) cultural resource maps at the EIC were checked for possible prehistoric and historic resources previously recorded within ¼ mile of the project. To supplement the CHRIS data, a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places Index and Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties. The records search was conducted in July 2009.

An intensive pedestrian-survey for the project was conducted within the proposed study area by archaeologist Curt Duke, M.A., RPA, on July 19, 2009. The survey was conducted by walking transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart and focused on the areas with ground visibility. Where possible, soil profiles were examined for cultural resources and rodent back dirt was checked for cultural remains.

RESULTS

Data from the EIC indicate that there are no previously recorded cultural resources within the study area boundaries. There is one archaeological site located within the ¼-mile radius search for the study area. The site is historic trash scatter located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the project. The site is situated atop the bluff north of the Park. *[At this time, the research and information are preliminary and will be updated in the final memo. It should be considered tentative.]*

The field survey indicated that project is partially obscured by low-lying vegetation. Ground visibility was approximately 60 percent. No cultural resources were observed during the field survey. The field survey also indicates that the prior development of the park's three baseball diamonds, bathrooms, storage yard, and the adjacent animal shelter have moderately disturbed the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of LSA's field survey and research, development of the proposed project will not disturb any known cultural resources. In addition, it is not likely that unrecorded cultural resources will be disturbed due to prior disturbances. No further cultural resource investigations are necessary.

LSA recommends that if cultural resources are identified during ground disturbance associated with the Whitmore Park Track and Sport Complex project, an archaeological monitoring program should be implemented. The monitoring program shall be managed by an archaeologist who meets the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards*. The archaeological monitoring program shall include provisions for an archaeological monitor; assessing the significance of archaeological finds; avoidance and minimization of impacts to significant cultural resources (in conjunction with the Town); mitigation measures including archaeological excavation, laboratory analysis, reporting, and curation; and consultation with Indian Tribes if the resource is prehistoric in nature.

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you on this project. If LSA can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (951) 781-9310 or curt.duke@lsa-assoc.com.

Sincerely,

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.



Curt Duke, M.A. RPA
Archaeologist/Principal

Attachments: Figure 1: Regional and Project Location
Figure 2: Whitmore Park Aerial Map

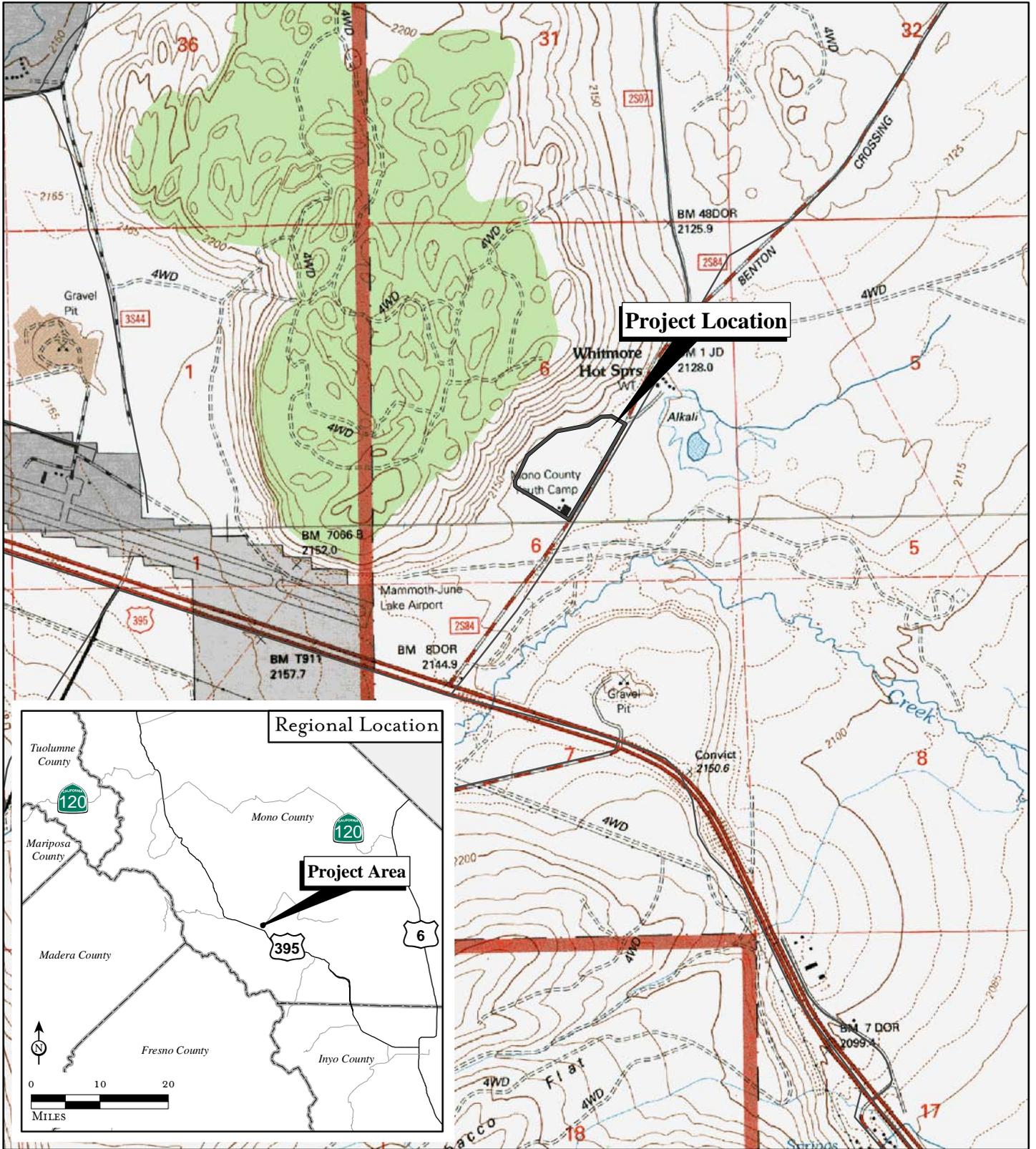
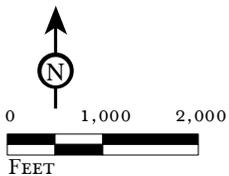


FIGURE 1

LSA



SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quads: Whitmore Hot Springs (1983), Convict Lake (1983), CA; Mammoth Lakes, 2009.

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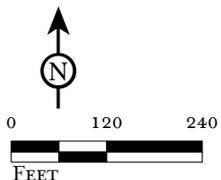
Whitmore Park Improvement Project
Mammoth Lakes
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Regional and Project Location



FIGURE 2

LSA



 Study Area

*Whitmore Park Improvement Project
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Local Vicinity Map

SOURCE: Mammoth Lakes, 2009; Google Earth, 2009.

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