



CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS

Date: March 3, 2020

To: DeNova Homes, Inc.

From: Solano Archaeological Services

Subject: 19910 5th Street West Project, City of Sonoma, Sonoma County, California

This technical memorandum prepared by Solano Archaeological Services (SAS) summarizes the preliminary archival research, and Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) record search for the 19910 5th Street West Development Project (the Project) located in the City of Sonoma, Sonoma County, California (Attachment A, Figure 1). This memorandum is for informational and planning purposes only and does not provide Project-based recommendations or resource evaluations per federal, state, or local environmental guidelines.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area address is 19910 5th Street West, located approximately .75 mile southwest of the downtown center of the City of Sonoma. The project area is situated on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Sonoma, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangle, in Township 6 North, Range 6 West on the Pueblo of Sonoma land grant (Attachment A, Figures 2–3).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

Archaeological data gathered over the past century has shown that humans have inhabited California and possibly the Sonoma area for at least the past 10,000–12,000 years starting with the Paleoindian period. Due in part to the varied topography and climate of the state, technological adaptations to these disparate conditions varied greatly from region to region and over long periods of time. To a certain degree, however, Native American technological and subsistence systems and land use patterns appear to have possessed similar general elements during various periods of prehistory. Although evolving environmental conditions can account for many technological changes over time, the effects of the inter-group exchange of material and non-material cultural elements was almost certainly an important factor affecting cultural development and variability throughout California.

The Paleoindian period (10,000 to 6,000 B.C.) was characterized by small, highly mobile groups occupying broad geographic areas. During the Archaic period, consisting of the Lower Archaic period (6,000 to 3000 B.C.), Middle Archaic (3,000 to 500 B.C.), and Upper Archaic (500 B.C. to A.D. 1000), geographic mobility may have continued, although groups began to establish longer term base camps in localities from which a more diverse range of resources could be exploited. The addition of milling tools, obsidian and chert concave-base points, and the occurrence of sites in a wider range of environments suggests that the economic base was more diverse. By the Upper Archaic, mobility was being replaced by

a more sedentary adaptation in the development of numerous small villages, and the beginnings of a more complex society and economy began to emerge. During the Emergent Period (A.D. 1000 to 1700), social complexity developed toward the ethnographic pattern of large, central villages where political leaders resided, with associated hamlets and specialized activity sites. Artifacts associated with the period include the bow and arrow, small corner-notched points, mortars and pestles, and a diversity of beads and ornaments (Fredrickson 1994; Gerike et al., 1996).

Ethnographic Setting

Numerous Native American groups can claim the area surrounding the City of Sonoma as their traditional lands as their group's boundaries changed over time or were not necessarily as well-defined as often is shown in ethnographic studies. In general, three native groups, the Wappo, the Pomo, and the Patwin resided in the Sonoma region during the late prehistoric and ethnographic periods. The settlement pattern for these peoples included permanent villages in valleys, along rivers or other waterways, organized as districts of smaller settlements or 'tribelets' around "one larger and continuously inhabited town, the center of a community with some sense of political unity" (Kroeber, 1925: 218). Tribelet chiefs were elected or appointed and resided at these major villages, and were responsible for maintaining relationships with other tribelets, as well as neighboring native tribes. The tribelet chief was also responsible for the management of his or her village, performing functions of ceremonial moderator and dispute resolution (Sawyer, 1978:256–263). The subsistence strategy typical for native groups in the Sonoma region was that of the hunter-gatherer, including a heavy dependence upon the acorn and other natively procured plants and the hunting of big and small game, which included bear, deer, elk, rabbits, and birds, among others.

During the ethnographic period, the experience of the Wappo typifies the interactions and ultimate fate of Sonoma area tribes once Euro-American settlement and control was solidified. It is surmised that the population of the Wappo prior to European contact may have exceeded 1,000 persons before falling drastically to 40 persons in 1908. Despite resistance, the native population was eventually brought under the control of the Mission at Sonoma, between 1823 and 1834. The remaining population was eventually moved to a reservation in Mendocino, where the majority perished, eventually leading to the closure of the reservation in 1867 (Kroeber 1925:221; Sawyer 1978:258–259).

Historic Overview - City of Sonoma

In 1823, Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma was established by Father Junipero Serra. It was the only California mission. installed after Mexican independence from Spanish rule. Sonoma was first acknowledged by Mexico as a city in 1835. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, a lieutenant later promoted to General, led the transformation of Sonoma into a Mexican pueblo. Vallejo oversaw construction of the eight-acre (ac.) central Plaza, which is the largest Mexican-era plaza in California, as well as the street grid, including the 110-foot-wide Broadway which leads directly to the plaza (now called Sonoma Square or Sonoma Plaza). When Vallejo's nephew, Juan Bautista Alvarado, was named governor of the Mexican state of Alta California in 1838, Vallejo was named military governor of the state.

After California achieved statehood in 1850, Vallejo was elected a state senator and lobbied to maintain Sonoma as the county seat; however, Santa Rosa won the honor in 1854. With U.S. rule came the appropriation of many land holdings, and Vallejo lost almost all of his real estate, which once amounted to 7 million ac. His home on West Spain Street was all that remained of his once large land holdings when he died in 1890. Sonoma was incorporated as a U.S. City in 1881. Sonoma Plaza, encompassing some 80 ac. and 28 buildings, including the Mission San Francisco Solano, Captain Salvador Vallejo's Casa Grande, the Presidio of Sonoma, and many other buildings along the periphery of the Plaza, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as a historic district significant for its association with historic events, as well as for its architecture.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

On March 2, 2021 the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at Sonoma State University conducted a records search (NWIC File No. 20-1442) for the project area. The NWIC archives were reviewed for information on previously known or recorded cultural resources within a quarter mile radius of the project area. This research included, but was not necessarily restricted to a review of the following sources:

- *National Register of Historic Places*;
- *California Register of Historic Places*;
- *California Historical Landmarks* (California Office of Historic Preservation);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (California Office of Historic Preservation);
- *California Inventory of Historic Resources*; and
- pertinent historical inventories including historic maps and plat maps.

The NWIC records search indicated that no previously documented cultural sites, features, or artifacts were known to be present within the project area. A single historic-era resource, the Sonoma Valley Hospital (NWIC # P-49-005327) is located about ¼-mi. to the northeast of the project area.

To supplement the NWIC record search, SAS conducted a review of historic USGS topographic quadrangle maps, General Land Office (GLO) plat maps, historic aerial photography, and GLO files detailing transfers of public (federal) lands to private individuals during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This research provided information on patterns of land use in and near the project area and allowed for the identification of any archaeologically sensitive areas that could be affected by the proposed Project.

Areas within the bounds of Spanish and Mexican land grants and ranchos were typically not sectioned, or mapped in any great detail (if at all) by the GLO and as a result there are no GLO plat maps or land patent records specifically associated with the project area. However, a review of historic aerial photos and USGS mapping shows that a residence currently situated in the project area was constructed sometime between 1948, and 1952. Historic mapping of the specific project area and surrounding area does not indicate the presence of any earlier developments or landscapes and features that might suggest the presence of buried prehistoric or historic-era archaeological sites, features, or artifacts.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LAND FILE REVIEW

On January 27, 2021 SAS emailed a letter to the NAHC requesting a search of the SLF database for the project area. On February 8, 2021, Ms. Sarah Fonseca, Cultural Resources Analyst at the NAHC, replied in an emailed letter that SLF record search did not reveal the presence of any Native American cultural properties or sites within or near the project area.

SUMMARY

- The NWIC record search did not identify any known cultural resources in or adjacent to the project area.
- Historic map and aerial photo reviews demonstrate that a residence currently in the project area was built sometime between 1948 and 1952.
- Historic map and aerial photo reviews do not show any developments in the project area prior to the construction of the existing residence.
- The map review indicates that the project area lies within close proximity to a major perennial waterway (Sonoma Creek) - a common setting for past Native American habitation.
- The NAHC SLF search results were negative.

CULTURAL RESOURCES SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

- *Historic-era Resources* – Archival research indicates that no development occurred on the property during the 19th century up until at least circa 1950. With no evidence for any kind of historic period activities or construction having taken place, SAS proposes a low level of sensitivity for the project area to contain traces of early historic-era sites, features, or artifacts. However, the circa 1950 residence will require an evaluation by a qualified architectural historian for subsequent applicable regulatory compliance purposes (e.g. California Environmental Quality Act).
- *Pre-Contact Resources* – Archival research and coordination with the NAHC indicates that no early Native American cultural resources are known to be present within or near the project area. However, Sonoma Creek is located less than ¼-mile west of the project area and comparable settings in the region often contain evidence for early Native American habitation and activities due to the nearby presence of potable water and various riverine and wetland species. Due to this possibility, SAS proposes a moderate level of sensitivity for the project area exhibiting prehistoric archaeological remains.

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Solano Archaeological Services

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ATTACHMENT A
Figures

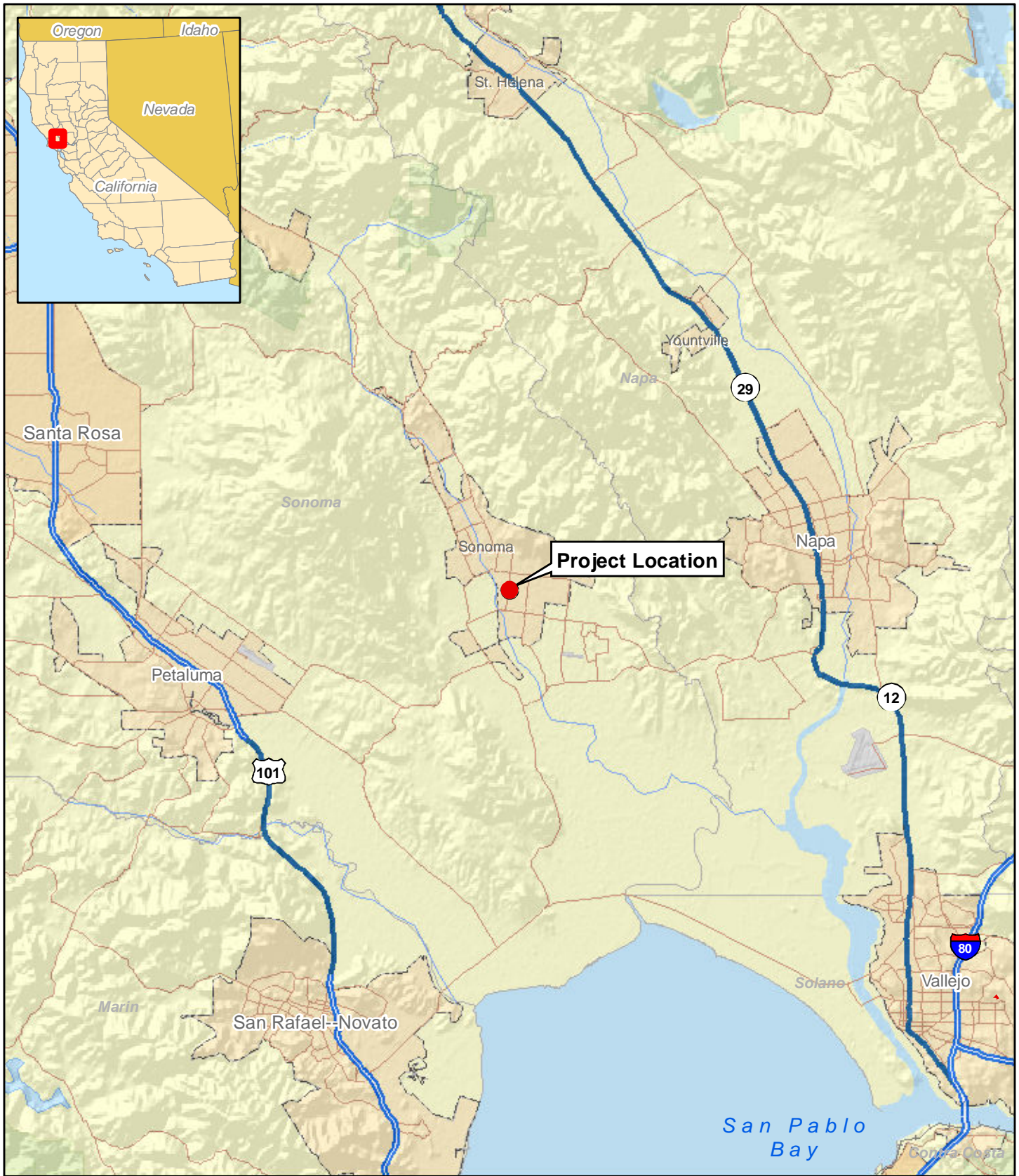


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map.

● 19910 5th Street West Project Location

Sources: USA Base Map [layer], Data and Maps [CD]. ESRI, 2006.

1:250,000

0 3 Miles

0 6 Kilometers



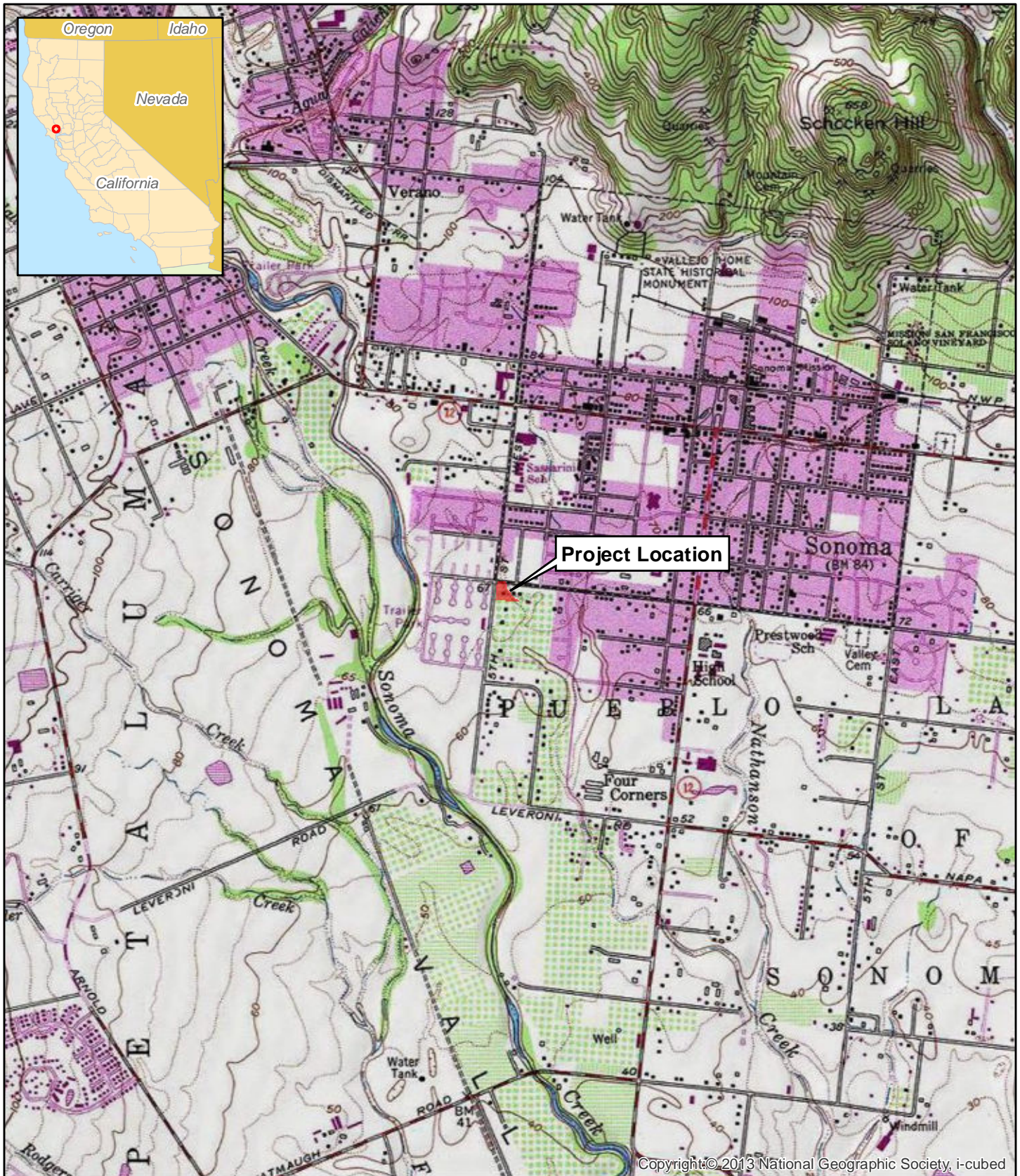


Figure 2. Project Location Map.

■ 19910 5th Street West Project Area

Pueblo Lands of Sonoma Land Grant
 (Presumed T05N, R06W, Sections 12 and 13).
 Sonoma 7.5' Series Quadrangle, USGS, 1980.

1:24,000

0.5

_____ Miles

1

_____ Kilometers





Figure 3. Project Area Map.

 19910 5th Street West Project Area

Total Acres: 1.50

1:1,200

0 100 Feet

0 50 Meters

