

## PA-98-122

This site was only tested by means of shovel test pits as project redesign eliminated direct impact. It is unique in that it is primarily identified by a concentration of circular-shaped depressions and two large depressions that may have served as ceremonial structures. An extensive outcrop of bedrock mortars can be observed to the west, toward Clover Valley Creek, outside of the current project area.

All of the above mentioned cultural resources would qualify under NRHP criterion D. They all share temporal indicators that span the important period between pre and post-A.D. 500 when technological changes (atlatl to bow-and-arrow) and a postulated shift in cultural entities (introduction of the Maidu people) is believed to have occurred. [The presence of a large sample of corner and side-notched projectile points, more typically discovered in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, may shed some light concerning the origin and distribution of the little known Martis Culture.]

[Also distinctive to this district is the evidence of a large scale manufacture of projectile points from locally available material (slate, for example), and some evidence to suggest that Merhten Formation boulders were being converted into ground stone artifacts (bowl mortars). The presence of obsidian debitage and formed tools from most of the eligible resources (and some contributing resources) will allow for the address of the economic domain throughout this important time period.]

### Isolated Bedrock Mortar Stations

The areas found to have bedrock mortar stations with no associated evidence of a cultural deposit (CVL-6B, PA-98-102, PA-98-104, PA-98-105, PA-98-108, PA-98-110, PA-98-111, PA-98-113, PA-98-114, PA-98-117, PA-98-118 and PA-98-123) have been photographed, measured, and completely documented. The sites do not contain any apparent cultural deposit nor associated surface artifacts. The sites are probably associated with any one of a number of prehistoric village sites in the Project, and can be considered contributors to the District. The sites are not an uncommon or unique feature in the foothills, and are simply the physical evidence of the Native American use of the land for the gathering and processing of vegetal foods in the prehistoric period. The sites lack any further research potential, and do not appear to be eligible properties on their own merits.

### Bedrock Mortar Stations with an Associated Low-Density Deposit

These resources have bedrock mortar features and were found to contain some evidence of previous human activity other than the features themselves. The sites are probably associated with any one of a number of prehistoric village sites in the Project, and can be considered

contributors to the District. The absence of data that could address important research questions (NRHP criterion D), or deposits with compromised integrity, does not lead to their qualification as independently eligible historic properties. These resources are: CVL-3, CVL-4, CVL-6A, PA-98-101, PA-98-116, PA-98-120, and PA-98-124.

### **Low Density Deposits with Circular Depression Features**

These resources were found to contain a low density deposit of cultural material, even within the confines of the housepit features. The sites are probably associated with any one of a number of prehistoric village sites in the Project, and can be considered contributors to the District. The artifact yield was extremely low within the features themselves, and not much better surrounding them. These resources are PA-98-109, PA-98-112, and PA-98-116. The absence of data that could address important research questions (NRHP criterion D), or deposits with compromised integrity, does not lead to their qualification as independently eligible historic properties.

### **Historic Site**

#### **PA-98-107**

The site contains no artifacts or associated features and appears to represent a short-term residential occupation of the Project site in about the 1920s. There are no associations with important individuals or events, and there are no remaining elements of the original architecture other than the foundation. As such, the site is not an eligible property nor is it a part of the proposed Clover Valley Lakes Archeological District.

## **PROPOSED CLOVER VALLEY LAKES ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**

The Project essentially encompasses a unique geographic feature, a spring fed drainage enclosed by steep hill sides adjacent to the treeless expanse of the Sacramento Valley. The prehistoric sites present represent a wide variety of site types--large and small occupation sites, large and small campsites, special activity areas including food processing stations, and a rock art site.

[The proposed district includes prehistoric period resources that share a span of use and/or occupation from approximately 2000 B.C. (Early Martis) to A.D. 1850 (Late Kings Beach). Several of the prehistoric period resources, CVL-5, CVL-8, CVL-9, PA-98-106, and PA-98-115 have temporally diagnostic elements that are representative of an unbroken, almost 4,000 year time span.] The continuum of occupation is indicated by the analysis of the various temporally diagnostic projectile points. Of the total 113 illustrated and identified projectile points (Figures 1 - 13), the Late Kings Beach period has 17, or 15% of the total, the Early Kings Beach period

has 29, or 25.7%, the Late Martis period has 27, or 23.9%, the Middle Martis has 20, or 17.7%, the Early Martis period has 21, or 18.6%, and the Spooner period has one, or 0.9% of the collection. Similarities in point manufacture can be seen in the presence of the exclusively Sierra Subtype of Desert Side Notch Series points.

[The 4,000 year period of use and/or occupation at the sites within the proposed Clover Valley Lakes Archeological District covers a critical period of prehistory in the region. Postulated to have occurred during this period were the introduction of new technologies (mortar and pestle, use of bedrock mortars, and bow and arrow), and a shift in cultures from an earlier Hokan-speaking entity to a Penutian, and presumably Proto- Nisenan, entity.

In general, the Nisenan were divided into several political divisions or tribelets. The "tribelet" was defined by Kroeber for California as a special explanatory model for the social and political organization of the Indian people, which differed from other areas of North America. Tribelets were composed of a small number of people, without a distinctive language. A number of tribelets might speak the same dialect. The population of the tribelet would be divided between several settlements, each presumably consisting of a few households of related individuals or families. A chief would be recognized for the tribelet, with lesser chiefs for the secondary village communities. The principal village was more or less permanently inhabited, with subsidiary settlements abandoned or reoccupied. The limits of the territory of the tribelet were well defined, comprising in most cases a natural drainage area (Kroeber 1925). The known settlement pattern for the Nisenan people is one of tribelets or village communities with control over certain territories, with a large village site or cluster of sites around a large village with outlying campsites and special use areas geared to the seasonal collection of food in that territory (Wilson and Towne 1978). The Clover Valley Lakes sites are interrelated sites that may comprise a tribelet, and this interrelationship provides the linkage necessary to deem the sites in the Project an archeological district for evaluation under the NRHP.

The proposed Clover Valley Lakes Archeological District appears to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under criterion d, for its potential to yield information. Some of the problem domains include cultural chronology, economic (subsistence and exchange systems), settlement systems, and acculturation.

Little work has been conducted in this part of the foothill region. Early excavations focussed either on the large, rich village sites in the Delta region and along the major waterways in the Central Valley or to the higher elevation sites in proposed reservoir sites, along major Sierran waterways. As a result, chronological sequences have been established for each region, with later work emphasizing refinement of these sequences. Increasing development and urbanization in the Sacramento region over the past twenty years has pushed development further from the major drainages into the zone of the Project, at the margin of the Sacramento Valley and the Sierran foothills. Little systematic survey and excavation has occurred in this region, and as a result, there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the chronological sequence, and the degree to which the sites will reflect either the assemblages of the Central California or Sierra Nevada regions, or if it will indicate changing influences through time.