

Appendix B

Cultural Memo



memorandum

date September 28, 2020

to City of San José, Environmental Services Department

from Heidi Koenig M.A. RPA, Environmental Science Associates

subject Cultural Resources Study for the City of San José Trimble and Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells Project (ESA Project D201900966)

Introduction

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) completed a cultural resources study for the Trimble and Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells Project (Project). This memorandum documents the methods and findings of the study, which included background research and a pedestrian archaeological survey. The City of San José (City), as the Lead Agency, proposes to construct four new municipal groundwater production wells, along with associated connections to the existing potable water distribution system, at two separate locations to secure additional sources of potable water supplies for its North San Jose/Alviso Service Area (**Figure 1**). The Project includes drilling of boreholes up to 800 feet in depth and the installation of steel casings, gravel packs, contamination sealants/screenings, submersible pumps, motors, and power supplies. Pipes and appurtenances would also be installed to connect the groundwater wells to the existing distribution system.

The Project is being evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to identify the physical environmental impacts of the Project. The City is the CEQA Lead Agency. ().

The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- Identify cultural resources, including archaeological resources, buildings, structures, and places of importance to Native Americans within the Project site;
- Evaluate identified cultural resources according to the criteria set forth by the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register); and
- Determine whether the Project would have a significant impact on historical resources, including archaeological resources.

ESA archaeologist Heidi Koenig, M.A., Cultural Resources Management, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), with 20 years of archaeological experience throughout California, completed the archaeological component of this study. Heidi meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology.

Project Location and Description

The City has identified two candidate sites for the municipal groundwater wells, the Trimble site and Agnews site.

Trimble Site

One well (NSJ #5) is proposed at the approximately 1.02-acre Trimble site. The Trimble site is located at 491 West Trimble Road on an existing San José Municipal Water System property (**Figure 2**). The proposed well would be used, similar to existing wells, for the reliability of water deliveries to existing customers. When there are any short term interruptions in the supply, the proposed groundwater well would pump groundwater into the distribution system or the existing tank at the Trimble site to supplement and blend with treated water supplies.

The vertical well would be constructed with an approximately 18-inch well casing, have a maximum borehole depth of up to 800 feet, and would be composed of standard well components including a sump, well screen, gravel pack, casing, pump shaft, grout seal, access tube, gravel feed pipe, pump motor housing, and a maximum 300 horsepower submersible pump.

The well would tie directly to the potable water distribution system transmission main in Trimble Road. Approximately 190 linear feet of 12-inch diameter ductile iron pipe would be installed within a 48-inch deep trench from the groundwater well to the distribution system in Trimble Road, with a future connection point to the water storage tank. The new well would utilize the existing power source and motor control center on site. Above ground features, including above ground piping, control valves, and a well pump and discharge assembly would also be installed.

The existing Trimble site is almost entirely paved and developed. The new well NSJ #5 would include an approximate 9-feet by 9-feet concrete pad footprint in an area that is currently not paved, between the property fence line and asphalt curb. The new pipeline would be installed under the existing paved area. Stormwater runoff is expected to drain to the existing onsite catch basin or to Trimble Road, where existing stormwater infrastructure exists.

Agnews Site

Three wells (NSJ #6, NSJ #7, and NSJ #8) are proposed within an approximately 1.6-acre portion of the proposed 22-acre Agnews East Parklands Project area at the Agnews site (**Figure 3**). The Agnews site is located off of Zanker Road, near the corner of Cabrillo Road and Center Road, at the former Agnews Hospital site, now proposed City park property known as the Agnews East Parklands Project.

The 18-inch diameter vertical wells would have maximum borehole depths up to 800 feet and would be composed of standard well components as described above for well NSJ #5. Wells NSJ #6, NSJ #7, and NSJ #8 would be located approximately 300 feet apart from each other.

Above ground facilities would be installed within the maximum 10,000 square foot (100 feet by 100 feet) footprint of each well site. This footprint would include the motor control center, above ground piping and control valves, emergency backup generator, transformer and power plant appurtenances, storm drainage utilities, and control and communication equipment. Each well head would sit on a maximum 81 square foot (9 feet by 9 feet)

concrete pad. The motor control center for each well would have an approximately 130 square foot (26 feet by 5 feet) footprint. A 500 kilowatt, 489-volt emergency standby generator serving the three proposed wells in the event of power outage would be set in a 200 square foot (20 feet by 10 feet) enclosure along with a 500-gallon fuel sub tank. Distribution pipelines would consist of 18-inch diameter ductile iron pipe and appurtenances installed with a 48-inch cover from the finish grade to the top of the pipe that would connect to the distribution main in Zanker Road.

NSJ #6 would be constructed on a previously paved surface. Wells NSJ #7 and NSJ #8 would be constructed on areas directly adjacent to paved road and increases to impervious surfaces in the area are expected to be minimal. Storm drainage utilities would consist of a maximum 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe that would connect to the existing 84-inch pipe on Zanker Road. Alternatively, future stormwater runoff may eventually be routed to a planned bioretention area in the proposed Agnews East Parklands Project area.

Setting

Natural Environment

The Project is in the Santa Clara Valley (Valley), on the southern end of the San Francisco Bay. The hills surrounding the Valley are the source of many perennial streams, which run from the hills to the San Francisco Bay. A major perennial stream is the Guadalupe River, which flows out of the Santa Cruz Mountains along a course that passes adjacent to the Trimble site. Another major stream in the area is Coyote Creek, which drains from the Diablo Range on the east side of the Santa Clara Valley and flows approximately 1/3-mile from the Agnews site. The Project sites are within the flood plains of these waterways. The area is very prone to flooding in its natural state, with engineered levees providing flood protection for vulnerable facilities.

The San Francisco Bay Area has undergone dramatic landscape changes since humans began to inhabit the region more than 13,000 years ago. Sea levels began rising about 15,000 years ago, at which time the coastline was located west of the Farallon Islands, and reached the present level of the bay about 5,000 years ago (Helley et al. 1979). This dramatic change in stream base-level has resulted in increased deposition of sediment along the lower reaches of Bay Area streams, including the Coyote and Guadalupe rivers (Helley et al. 1979:18). Active alluvial fan¹ deposits are generally less than 5,000 years old and overlie older land surfaces (including stabilized/abandoned Pleistocene-age alluvial fans). In many places, the interface between older land surfaces and active alluvial fans is marked by a well-developed buried soil profile, or a paleosol². Paleosols preserve the composition and character of the earth's surface prior to subsequent sediment deposition; thus, paleosols have the potential to preserve archaeological resources, if the area was occupied or settled by humans (Meyer and Rosenthal, 2007). Because human populations have grown since the arrival of the area's first inhabitants, younger paleosols (late Holocene) are more likely to yield archaeological resources than older paleosols (early Holocene or Pleistocene).

The Project sites are in areas of Holocene-age alluvium, which has a high potential to contain buried paleosols. Numerous deeply buried sites have been uncovered in the Valley, at depths varying between 1 foot and more than

¹ Alluvial fans are fan-shaped deposits of water-transported material (alluvium). They typically form at the base of topographic features where there is a marked break in slope, and contain both active and abandoned stream channels, terraces, natural levees and other fluvial morphologies.

² A paleosol is a buried soil that forms when sediment is deposited over a surface with a developed soil profile without it being eroded away first.

10 feet below the ground surface. In fact, more than 60 percent of recorded archaeological sites in this region have been found in a buried context (Meyer and Rosenthal, 2007). Boring logs from the Trimble site indicate that soils consist of interbedded sequences of coarse sand and gravels with silts and clays to a depth of 850 feet below ground surface (Bonkowski, 2019a). Soils beneath the Agnews site consist of similar deposits to a depth of 790 feet below ground surface (Bonkowski, 2019b). The boring logs do not have any indication of a buried paleosol or other evidence of stable land surfaces; however, the logs lack detail for the upper strata (surface to 10 feet) below the existing ground surface.

The Bay Area and the surrounding region contain an abundance of natural resources, which would have been taken advantage of by its prehistoric and early historic populations. The South Bay Area hosts a wide variety of natural communities, including salt marsh, scrub brush, grassland, and foothill woodlands. Deer, elk, and waterfowl were plentiful in prehistory, as were marine and San Francisco Bay resources such as seals, otters, abalone, mussels, oysters, clams and numerous fish species. Franciscan chert was an easily obtainable local raw material for stone tools. Obsidian could be obtained from the Anadel and Napa Glass Mountain quarries north of the Bay Area (Moratto, 1984).

Cultural Background

Archaeologists developed individual cultural chronological sequences tailored to the archaeology and material culture of each sub-region of California. Each of these sequences is based principally on the presence of distinctive cultural traits and stratigraphic separation of deposits. Milliken et al. (2007) provide a framework for the interpretation of the San Francisco Bay Area. The authors divided human history in California into three periods: the *Early Period* (8000–3500 B.C.), the *Middle Period* (500 B.C.–A.D. 1050), and the *Late Period* (A.D. 1050–1550). Economic patterns, stylistic aspects, and regional phases further subdivide cultural periods into shorter phases. This scheme uses economic and technological types, socio-politics, trade networks, population density, and variations of artifact types to differentiate between cultural periods.

Based on a compilation of ethnographic, historic, and archaeological data, Milliken (1995) describes a group known as the Ohlone, who once occupied the general vicinity of the Project area. The Ohlone once occupied a large territory from San Francisco Bay in the north to the Big Sur and Salinas Rivers in the south. The Project area is between the *Puichon* tribal area of San Fransiquito and Stevens Creeks and the *Tamien* tribal area of the Santa Clara vicinity (Milliken et al., 2009: Appendix B). Archaeological investigations at nearby prehistoric sites indicate that while Native Americans mainly utilized the marshland for resource procurement, including the collection of fish, shellfish, plants, and sea mammals, habitation and burial sites were not uncommon along the historic bay margins. After European contact, Ohlone society was severely disrupted by missionization, disease, and displacement. Today, the Ohlone still have a strong presence in the San Francisco Bay Area, and are highly interested in their historic and prehistoric past.

During the Spanish and Mexican periods, lands in the Project vicinity were used for cattle pasturage as part of the Rancho Rincon de los Esteros (Hoover et al., 2002:392). After California became part of United States in 1848, San José was initially (and temporarily) named the State's capital. The Rancho Rincon de los Esteros was subdivided into increasingly smaller parcels and fruit orchards, grain, berry, and vegetable crops were planted.

Background Research and Survey

ESA completed a records search for the Project sites at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on September 3, 2020 (File No. 20-0262). Results of the records search indicate that there are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Trimble site or the Agnews site. One cultural resource (the Coyote Creek prehistoric site [CA-SCL-675]) has been previously recorded within a ½-mile radius of the Agnews site. Site CA-SCL-675 is located approximately 1,400 feet northeast of the proposed well NSJ #6 location at the Agnews site (Cartier, 1998). Two cultural resources (historic-era Mission Road [CA-SCL-311H] and a prehistoric shell midden [CA-SCL-762]) have been previously recorded within a ½-mile radius of the Trimble site. Road CA-SCL-311H is approximately 1,200 feet southeast of the proposed well NSJ #5 location at the Trimble site (Whitlow, 1978). Site CA-SCL-762 is approximately 500 feet southwest of the proposed well NSJ #5 location (Voss, 1993; Kaijankoski, 2012). None of these resources would be impacted by the Project.

Aerial photographs of the Trimble site show the area as an orchard from at least 1938 to 1968. By the 1982 photo, the Trimble site had been developed with a large round tank and a few small structures. Aerial photographs of the Agnews site show the area used for agricultural from at least the 1930s to the 1950s. From at least the 1960s the Agnews site was adjacent to structures and roadways associated with Agnews Hospital, which remains relatively unchanged up to 2016.

A Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologist completed a surface survey of the Trimble and Agnews sites on September 18, 2020. All areas of proposed ground disturbance were inspected closely for cultural materials, including shell, lithics, bone, and midden soil. The proposed well NSJ #5 location at the Trimble site exhibited medium grayish brown silty clay. Visibility of the ground surface was approximately 90 percent. The area had been previously disturbed from construction of the adjacent levee and the construction of the existing facilities. The proposed well NSJ #7 and NSJ #8 locations at the Agnews site exhibited medium grayish brown soil with small angular gravels. The areas were covered in relatively dense vegetation, although visibility of the ground surface was approximately 50 percent. The Proposed well NSJ #6 location at the Agnews site is a paved area; the adjacent unpaved area exhibited the same soil and visibility as the other two well sites. The pipeline alignments at both the Project sites would be located in paved areas.

No cultural materials or other evidence of past human use or occupation was identified during the surface survey at the Project sites. Both locations have been previously disturbed from both early agricultural activities and modern development. The Agnews site has been graded for the construction of the buildings, roads, and infrastructure of the East Campus of the Agnews Developmental Center. The Trimble site has been graded for installation of the existing San José Municipal Water System tank and facilities, as well as the adjacent Guadalupe River levee.

The Agnews site is adjacent to the 1960s addition to the East Campus of the Agnew Developmental Center. This building is not a contributing feature to the California Register of Historical Resources-eligible and National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic district.

Recommendations

The cultural resources assessment completed for the Project indicates there are no known archaeological resources in the Project sites. The Project sites are highly disturbed; however, given the environmental context, the proximity

to nearby perineal water sources, and distance to previously recorded prehistoric archaeological resources, the Project sites have sensitivity for buried prehistoric archaeological resources. However, given the minimal ground disturbance associated with the Project, there is a lessened potential for encountering cultural materials during construction activities.

Although unlikely, the inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and/or human remains cannot be entirely discounted. The following actions are recommended in the event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and/or human remains during Project implementation.

Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Resources

If archaeological resources, including resources determined to be tribal cultural resources, are encountered by construction personnel during Project implementation, all construction activities within 100 feet shall halt and the contractor shall notify the Municipal Water personnel and the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement or Director's Designee. The work shall not commence again until a qualified archaeologist, defined as one meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology, can assess the significance of the find. Municipal Water or its contractor shall retain a Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologist to inspect the findings within 24 hours of discovery. Prehistoric archaeological materials might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or toolmaking debris; culturally darkened soil ("midden") containing heat-affected rocks, artifacts, or shellfish remains; and stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, hand stones, or milling slabs); battered stone tools, such as hammer stones and pitted stones. Historic-era materials might include stone, concrete, or adobe footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse.

If the City determines, based on recommendations from a qualified archaeologist and a Native American representative (if the resource is Native American-related), that the resource may qualify as a historical resource or unique archaeological resource (as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5) or a tribal cultural resource (as defined in PRC Section 21080.3), the resource shall be avoided if feasible. If avoidance is not feasible, the City shall consult with appropriate Native American tribes (if the resource is Native American-related), and other appropriate interested parties to determine treatment measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential impacts to the resource pursuant to PRC Section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4. This shall include documentation of the resource and may include data recovery (according to PRC Section 21083.2), if deemed appropriate, or other actions such as treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity and protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource (according to PRC Section 21084.3). The documentation shall be submitted the Director of Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement or Director's Designee.

Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains

If potential human remains are encountered, all work will halt within 100 feet of the find and the on-site construction crew will immediately contact the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, or Director's Designee. Municipal Water will contact the Santa Clara County coroner in accordance with PRC Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). As provided in PRC Section 5097.98, the NAHC will identify the person or persons believed most likely to

be descended from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent will make recommendations for means of treating, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98.

References

Cartier, Robert, Site Record for CA-SCL-675. On file, NWIC, 1989.

Hoover, M. B., H. E. Rensch, E. G. Rensch, W. N. Abeloe. *Historic Spots in California*. Revised by Douglas E. Kyle. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Kajjankoski, Phil, Updated Site Record for CA-SCL-762. On file, NWIC, 2012.

Milliken, Randall, *A Time of Little Choice*. Ballena Press Anthropological Papers No. 43. 1995.

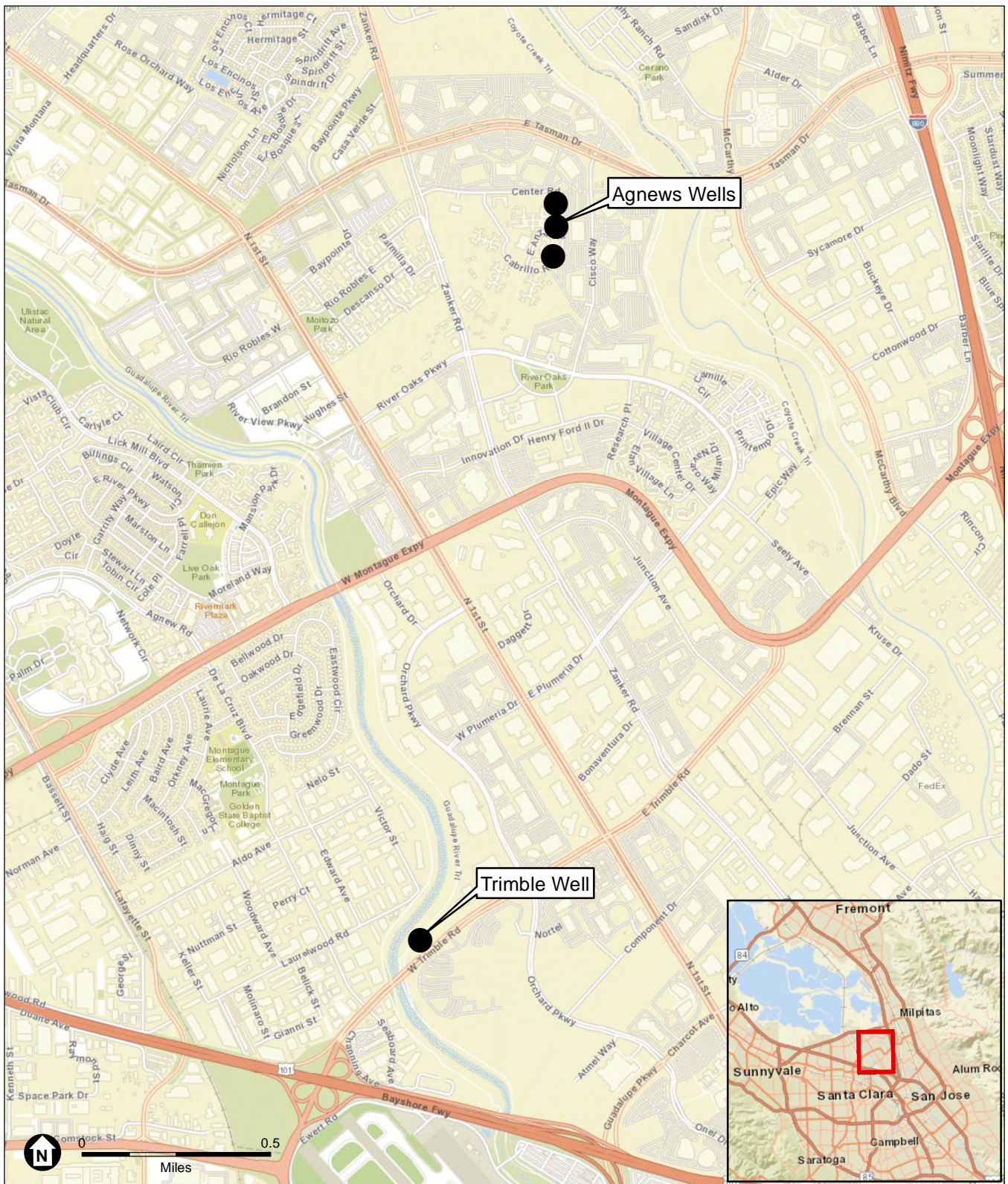
Milliken, Randall, Richard T. Fitzgerald, Mark G. Hylkema, Randy Groza, Tom Origer, David G. Bieling, Alan Leventhal, Randy S. Wiberg, Andrew Gottfield, Donna Gillette, Vaviana Bellifemine, Eric Strother, Robert Cartier, and David A. Fredrickson. Punctuated Culture Change in the San Francisco Bay Area, In *Prehistoric California: Colonization, Culture, and Complexity*. Edited by T.L. Jones and K.A. Klar, pp. 99–124, AltaMira Press. 2007.

Milliken, Randall, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverley R. Ortiz, *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*. Prepared for National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. June 2009.

Voss, Barb, Site Record for CA-SCL-762. On file, NWIC, 1993.

Whitlow, Jan, Site Record for CA-SCL-311H. On file, NWIC, 1978.

FIGURES



SOURCE: City of San José, 2020; Esri, 2020

Trimble and Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells

Figure 1
Project Location



SOURCE: City of San José, 2020; Esri, 2020

Trimble and Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells



Figure 2
Trimble Project Site



SOURCE: City of San Jose, 2020; Esri, 2020

Trimble and Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells



Figure 3
Agnews Project Site

