

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**CA-KER-280, -810, -1085, -1091 and -2185**

**THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NOMINATION CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Archaeological and traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

CA-KER-280, -810, -1085, -1091 and -2185, also known as the Sebastian Indian Reserve Discontiguous Archeological District, consists of six archeological sites in Kern County, California. These sites represent five of the nine primary villages of one of the first Indian reserves in California, including the first reserve headquarters, and remnants of the second reserve headquarters.

Based on historical accounts and archaeological evidence these sites are considered to have a period of significance from 1850 to 1875. This twenty-five year period witnessed the events immediately leading to the creation of the reserve, the attempt at its creation and ultimate dissolution, and the period of consolidation of the multi-tribal resident Native American population into a single settlement and tribal entity.

While the archeological sites lack extant buildings, the sites maintain archeological integrity under National Register Criterion D. The District is significant under Criterion A, due to its demonstrated association with the ethnogenesis of a new tribal organization, the Tejon Indian Tribe; and Criterion D, because of the District's potential value for archeological research, especially concerning the nineteenth century acculturation and assimilation of Native American people.

The District's environmental setting consists of the transition between the Tehachapi Mountains to the south, and the open flats of the southern San Joaquin Valley to the north. The foothills, canyon mouths, and slopes of the Tehachapi are largely unmodified natural landscape in open space, currently used for livestock grazing. Although the introduction of foreign plants has changed aspects of the flora of this area, especially grasses and other under-story species, the immediate setting of each site is minimally changed from its appearance during the period of significance. This setting consists of oak woodlands on the Tehachapi slopes above the sites, with grasslands on the flats and riparian environments in the canyon bottoms that are adjacent to the sites.