



5.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The purpose of this Section is to identify existing cultural resources in the Project area and to assess the significance of such resources. Mitigation measures are recommended to minimize impacts to cultural resources as a result of project implementation. The analysis in this Section has been prepared in accordance with Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which considers potential impacts to prehistoric, historic and paleontological resources. This Section is based upon the *Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Sierra Meadows Estates Development Project* and the *Addendum To: Archeological Inventory Survey for the Sierra Meadows Estates Development Project (Addendum Report)* prepared by Jensen and Associates, dated July 11, 2003 and January 6, 2004, respectively (refer to Appendix 15.7, *Cultural Resources Assessment*).

The *Archaeological Inventory Survey* report and the Addendum Report evaluated two separate areas of the project site. Thus, this Section contains analysis for the following two areas, as necessary:

- Original Survey Area: Includes a portion of Phase 1 (lots 1-15, only) and all of Phases 2 through 12, generally located south of Opah Drive.
- Addendum Survey Area: Includes a portion of Phase 1 (lots 16-26, only) and the area proposed for the 227-acre foot water reservoir and associated facilities, generally located to the north and east of Opah Drive.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

While much of the land in unincorporated Madera County in the vicinity of the project area remains undeveloped, new development is extending into the region. The region was mined during the latter part of the 19th Century, while ranching has been undertaken since the early 1860's. The early mining and ranching operations involved construction of access roads, a variety of residential and ranch structures, and other associated facilities (e.g., ponds, ditches, irrigation components, etc). Collectively, these activities have impacted many of the prehistoric and early historic sites in the region.

The project area itself incorporates a variety of terrain types, including flat mesas, ridgelines, stream courses (Miami and Carter Creek) and associated valleys, and moderately to very steep terrain along the fairly narrow canyon at the northern end of Carter Creek. Portions of the margins of both creeks are relatively steep and the bluffs flanking creek margins are developed at some locations. Several natural terraces have formed along the creeks, particularly around the curves of the creeks. Terraces are also located where ephemeral tributaries enter the large valley east of the confluence of the primary creek courses. The terraces provided suitable spots for prehistoric encampments and special use sites of various types.



RECORDS SEARCH

Several sources of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that may be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting field work included data maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CSU-Bakersfield), consultation with Southern Valley Yokuts Tribe members and the Wassama Roundhouse State Historical Park, and available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments. Overall, and based on an examination of available topographic and other maps, the project area appears to contain lands ranging from low to high sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic-period sites and features.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center

The records of the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (CSU-Bakersfield) were examined for previous survey and recorded prehistoric or historic sites (Records Search conducted June 8, 2003, I.C. File # 03-162). These records document the following existing conditions for the project area.

Original Survey Area

- All of the Original Survey Area has been subjected to formal archaeological inventory survey, with multiple projects having extended into the project area boundaries. The area was surveyed in 1979-1980 by Richard Ambro, Ph.D. and others. During his survey, Ambro documented four prehistoric sites within the project area, and two prehistoric sites located close to, but just outside the northeast corner of the property. Additional surveys involving portions of the property were undertaken by Hall, Wren, and Peak, with the Peak project involving approximately 60% of the project area. No additional sites were added to the cultural inventory of the project area by the Hall, Wren and Peak surveys.
- A total of four cultural resources have been identified and recorded within the Original Survey Area, two of which are food processing stations (CA-MAD-547 and -624), with the remaining two representing habitation locales (CA-MAD-625 and -629). Additionally, two prehistoric food processing stations (CA-MAD-637 and -638) were identified and recorded by Ambro close to, but just outside the northeast corner of the property.

Addendum Survey Area

- All of the Addendum Survey Area has been subjected to formal archaeological inventory survey. The area was surveyed in 1979-1980 by Richard Ambro, Ph.D. and others. During his survey, Ambro documented five prehistoric sites within or close to the project area. Additional surveys involving portions of the property were undertaken by Hall, Wren, and Peak. No additional sites were added to the cultural inventory of the project area by the Hall, Wren and Peak surveys.



- A total of five prehistoric cultural resources have been identified and recorded within the Addendum Survey Area, one of which (CA-MAD-627) is a food processing station, with the remaining four representing habitation locales (CA-MAD-623, -626, -634 and -635).

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining the records of Madera County maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center at CSU-Bakersfield, the following additional sources were consulted:

- The National Register of Historic Places;
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources;
- The California Historical Landmarks;
- The Southern Valley Yokuts Tribal Representatives;
- The District Archaeologist for the Central Valley District of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, commenting specifically in relation to nearby Wassama Roundhouse State Historical Park; and
- Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area, and are summarized below.

Prehistoric Summary

The general project area, including nearby lands of the Great Central Valley, has a long and complex cultural history with distinct regional patterns extending back more than 11,000 years. The first generally agreed-upon evidence for the presence of prehistoric peoples in this general region of California is represented by the distinctive fluted spear points, termed clovis points, found on the margins of extinct lakes in the nearby San Joaquin Valley. Most of the clovis points have been found on soil horizons containing the bones of extinct animals such as mammoths, sloths, and camels. Based on evidence from elsewhere, the ancient hunters who used these spear points existed during a narrow time range of 10,900 BP (before present) to 11,200 BP.

The next cultural period represented, the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, thought by most to be subsequent to the Clovis period, is another widespread complex that is characterized by stemmed spear points. This poorly defined early cultural tradition is regionally known from a small number of sites in the Central Coast Range, San Joaquin Valley lake margins, and Sierra Nevada foothills. The cultural tradition is dated to between 8,000 and 10,000 years ago and its practitioners may be the precursors to the subsequent cultural patterns that emerged in central California.



Approximately 8,000 years ago, many California cultures shifted the primary focus of their subsistence strategies from hunting to seed gathering and more generalized collecting as evidenced by the increase in food-processing implements found in archeological sites dating to this period. This cultural pattern is best known for southern California, where it has been termed the Milling Stone Horizon, but subsequent studies suggested that the horizon may be more widespread than originally described and was likely present throughout this region of California. Radiocarbon dates associated with this period vary between 8,000 and 2,000 BP, although most seem to cluster in the range of approximately 6,000 to 4,000 BP.

Cultural patterns, as reflected in the archeological record, particularly specialized subsistence practices, became codified within the last 3,000 years. The archeological record becomes more complex, as specialized adaptations to locally available resources were developed and populations expanded. Many sites dated to this time period contain mortars and pestles and/or are associated with bedrock mortars implying increasingly intense exploitation of the acorn. The range of subsistence resources utilized, along with Native American exchange systems, expanded significantly from the previous period. Along the coast and in the Central Valley, archeological evidence of social stratification and craft specialization is indicated by well-made artifacts such as charmstones and beads, often found as mortuary items. Ethnographic lifeways serve as good analogs for this late prehistoric time period.

Ethnographic Context

The project area is located with lands claimed by the Penutian-speaking Southern Valley Yokuts at the time of initial contact with European American populations circa AD 1850. These peoples occupied an area extending south and west to Buena Vista and Kern Lakes at the southernmost end of the Great Central Valley. While located within Yokuts territory, the project area was also visited by the Southern Miwok and Western Mono (Monache). The Yokuts and Miwok were both Penutian-speaking peoples who dominated the Central Valley, Delta and San Francisco Bay areas, but the Monache were Shoshone-speaking, culturally related to the desert dwellers east of the Sierra Nevada crest. Ethnographic and fully prehistoric sites in this area provide a unique opportunity for addressing issues of cultural interaction and regional trade.

The basic social unit for the Yokuts, as with most other California groups, was the family, although the village was also considered a social, political and economic unit. Often located on flats adjoining streams, villages were inhabited mainly in the winter because it was necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food-gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer, and fall). Villages typically consisted of a scattering of small structures, each containing a single family of from three to seven people. Larger villages might also contain an earth lodge, as attested by the example at nearby Wassama Roundhouse Park.

As with most California Indian groups, economic life for the Yokuts revolved around hunting, fishing, and collecting plants, with deer, acorns and avian and aquatic resources representing primary staples. The Yokuts used a wide variety of wooden, bone, and stone artifacts to collect and process their food, and were very



knowledgeable of the uses of local animals and plants and the availability of raw materials that could be used to manufacture an immense array of primary and secondary tools and implements. However, only fragmentary evidence of their material culture remains, due in part to perishability and in part to the impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later (historic) land uses, particularly logging and mining.

The discussion of regional prehistory and ethnography provides insight into the types of Native American sites already known or likely to be present within the project area, with the most frequently occurring types including the following:

- Habitation sites located along the margins of permanent streams, particularly at confluences, and in the vicinity of other natural surface water sources (springs, marshes and other wetlands). Large village sites have also been documented along smaller stream courses, especially where streams merge, and particularly at the interface of ecotones.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts without buried cultural deposits, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Petroglyphs, often in the form of cupped boulders, at or close to village sites or encampments.
- Bedrock food-processing (milling) stations, including mortar holes and metate slicks.
- Trails, often associated with migratory game animals.
- Mortuary sites, often but not exclusively associated with large village complexes.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

Historic Context

Interior California was initially visited by Anglo-American fur trappers, Russian scientists, and Spanish-Mexican expeditions during the early part of the twentieth century. These early explorations were followed by a rapid escalation of European-American activities, which culminated in the massive influx fostered by the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848. The influx of miners and others during the gold rush set in motion a series of major changes to the natural and cultural landscape of California that would never be reversed.

Oakhurst and Ahwahnee are located at opposite ends of the Fresno Flats, an active and lucrative placer mining area of the 1850's. With the discovery of gold in this area, large numbers of European-Americans, Hispanics, and Chinese arrived in and traveled through this region. The project vicinity became known as the Grub Gulch Mining District and yielded an abundance of ore through the latter part of the 19th and the early part of the 20th Centuries. During the initial days of gold mining, Euroamericans also discovered Yosemite Valley. Although the Valley lies north of



the Ahwahnee region, its discovery nevertheless affected the area because the two were connected by the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company's Turnpike Road. This road eventually became SR-41 which now follows approximately the same route and which is located a short distance east of the project area. Because of its location and other factors, Oakhurst became the primary transportation and economic hub of this region.

While SR-41 routed travelers north to Yosemite, other early roads headed northwest to Mariposa and Madera and southwest to Fresno. Out of this network emerged the community of Ahwahnee. Among the early residents of the Ahwahnee area was W. H. Crook who established the ranch known locally as "Four Tears." Crook built a fairly substantial ranching operation by purchasing the land of settlers who could not make an adequate living on their smaller Sierra farms. To assure an adequate water supply, Crook constructed a network of irrigation ditches to distribute the waters from Miami Creek, known in those days as the North Fork of the Fresno River. By 1879, Crook had constructed a dam to impound the water, and ditches and flumes to distribute it to two primary fields enclosed with fences. Crook also built a house adjacent to a wagon road that leads to the Ahwahnee Hotel.

Labor for Crook's undertakings were found in part among local Chinese, although relatively little has been adequately documented of this ethnic group's role in the local community. Native American people were also recruited by Crook, along with settlers who came to the Ahwahnee region and miners who could no longer support themselves in the gold fields. Many of the local ranch workers lived at the Indian community now known as Ahwahnee, or Wassama.

Land records indicate that in the general project vicinity there were up to sixteen homestead claims filed, although apparently only six filers were able to keep up with the required improvements and thus patent their claims. As elsewhere in early California, many of these were taken over by others, including Crook, leading eventually to some of the larger land holdings in the region, including the Four Tears Ranch.

Additional historic themes important to the general area include the timber industry, which benefited from construction of SR-41, and water storage and distribution. Most recently, residential and recreational developments have emerged as the single most important economic industry in the region.

Collectively, the various historic activities (mining, ranching, timber, water transportation) and contemporary development (transportation, residential and golf course development) have affected many of the region's prehistoric and earliest historic-period sites and features.

PEDESTRIAN FIELD SURVEY

Survey Strategy

In view of variable terrain and sensitivity zones present within the project area and considering previous survey involving all of the property, a mixed survey strategy



was employed. Intensive-level field re-survey was undertaken in the highest sensitivity areas, including:

- Flats and benches along stream channels, and in the vicinity of seeps;
- In the vicinity of previously recorded resources; and
- Along ridges, on the tops of knolls, and across saddles, features that are scattered throughout the project area.

Within these terrain types, which is estimated to be approximately 50 percent of the overall project area, survey transects in the Original Survey Area were spaced at 20-30 meter intervals. In the Addendum Survey Area, survey transects were spaced at 15-25 meter intervals.

General-level field survey was undertaken within the remaining 50 percent of the overall project area, which consists primarily of lands characterized by moderate to steep slopes located away from natural surface water sources, and within areas already developed for residential and golf course use. These areas were subjected to general-level coverage, achieved by walking non-systematic transects spaced approximately 50 meters apart in the Original Survey Area, and approximately 35-50 meters apart in the Addendum Survey Area.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyors took into account the results of background research, and were alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Field Work

Field surveys for the Original Survey Area were conducted between June 17 and 24, 2003. Field surveys for the Addendum Survey Area were conducted between December 18 and 27, 2003. No special problems were encountered during the course of the pedestrian surveys, and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

FINDINGS AND CULTURAL INVENTORY

General Observations

Disturbance to the ground surface ranges from minimal to substantial within the project area. Past mining and logging activities have likely resulted in minor to moderate disturbance to isolated portions of the property. Similarly, historic ranching has likely resulted in modifications to the landscape, including surface and limited subsurface soil impacts, especially in conjunction with construction small stock watering ponds and similar features. Opah Drive, a paved road, forms a portion of the northern and eastern property boundaries. Buried and overhead utilities are located within the project area, as are several dirt access roads, probably originally associated with ranching activities but which were improved subsequently utilized for a variety of purposes.



The most extensive disturbance to the project area has occurred with the construction of the Sierra Meadows golf course. This facility occupies the east-central one-third of the Original Survey Area, including the original “valley” area centered along Carter and Miami Creeks, and the confluence of these two streams with one another and with smaller ephemeral tributaries. Additionally, portions of the property at and around the golf course have been developed for residential use.

West of Carter and Miami Creeks, within the northwestern portion of the property and within the project area’s southeast quadrant, minimal to only limited disturbance was observed. While these areas are likely to have been affected by past ranching and some mining, the impacts appear to be relatively minor compared to the recent disturbances associated with the golf course and residential development.

Recorded Sites

Original Survey Area

Two cultural resources were identified by the Information Center as being located immediately adjacent to the property boundary (CA-MAD-637 and –638). Both sites represent prehistoric food processing stations (mortars, metate slicks, etc.). Field inspection of these sites and the surrounding lands, utilizing the existing archaeological site records and maps to relocate these sites, resulted in the following findings:

- Site CA-MAD-637 is mapped as being situated adjacent to the north end of a pond within the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 32. Field inspection of this area was conducted and the pond was found to be located completely outside of the subject property, to the north of the project area boundary.
- Site CA-MAD-638 is mapped and described as being located approximately 100 meters off an access road, which was discovered to be the existing paved Opah Drive, forming a portion of the northern and eastern property boundaries of the overall project area. Fieldwork indicated that the site is located north, and therefore outside, of the project property.

These two sites (CA-MAD-637 and –638) are not discussed further in this analysis, since they are not located within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

As stated in the Records Search section above, four cultural resources have been documented within the Original Survey Area, including two food processing stations (CA-MAD-547 and –624) and two habitation locales (CA-MAD-625 and –629). All four sites have been documented on State forms and the records filed with the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center at CSU-Bakersfield.

Table 5.7-1, *Summary of Recorded Sites: Original Survey Area*, summarizes the four Original Survey Area sites in terms of primary components present.



**Table 5.7-1
Summary of Recorded Sites: Original Survey Area**

Site	Summary
CA-MAD-547	Prehistoric special use, no midden/sub-surface.
CA-MAD-624	Prehistoric special use, no midden/sub-surface.
CA-MAD-625	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/subsurface.
CA-MAD-629	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/subsurface and housepit depressions (2).

Source: *Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Sierra Meadows Estates Development Project* (2003).

Addendum Survey Area

Five cultural resources were identified by the Information Center as being located within the Addendum Survey Area. These sites include CA-MAD-623, -626, -627, -634 and -635. Of these sites, one represents a prehistoric food processing station (mortars, metate slicks, etc.), while the remaining four represent habitation areas containing not only surface features such as mortar holes, but the accumulation of additional artifacts, waste flakes, bone, food remains and other items in a subsurface “midden” deposit.

Table 5.7-2, *Summary of Recorded Sites: Addendum Survey Area*, summarizes the four project area sites in terms of primary components present.

**Table 5.7-2
Summary of Recorded Sites: Addendum Survey Area**

Site	Summary
CA-MAD-623	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/ sub-surface.
CA-MAD-626	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/sub-surface.
CA-MAD-627	Prehistoric special use, no midden/sub-surface.
CA-MAD-634	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/sub-surface.
CA-MAD-635	Prehistoric occupation site with midden/sub-surface.

Source: *Addendum To: Archeological Inventory Survey for the Sierra Meadows Estates Development Project* (2003).

Site Descriptions

Original Survey Area

Site CA-MAD-547. Originally recorded by Peak and re-recorded by Ambro *et al* in 1980, this site is described as a small food processing station with four distinct areas where food processing occurred. Overall, the site extends approximately 100 meters



in diameter, and is situated on both sides of Carter Creek. A total of 19 bedrock mortar cups, one bedrock metate slick, one bedrock mixing trough and a single acorn cracking hole were originally described. No other cultural material, features or midden were noted. According to Ambro, the land area in and around the site boundary had been subjected to intensive farming and ranching impacts.

During the field survey, the site was re-located. Since the original recording, the site has been subjected to additional impacts. Site features located west of Carter Creek appear to have been subjected to little, if any, ground disturbing impacts. However, east of the creek, the original construction of golf course features, including construction of greens, fairways, golf cart paths, and underground utilities, have destroyed all evidence of the site, with the exception of one bedrock boulder containing seven cups. This particular feature (the single rock outcrop with seven remaining cups) corresponds exactly with one mapped and included in the site record. The boulder extends above the ground surface, indicating that surface and subsurface soils in this area were extensively modified during golf course construction.

No evidence of disturbed subsurface deposit was noted anywhere in the vicinity of the remaining mortars at this site, indicating that Ambro's original contention – that the site was a food processing station only and contained no additional features or accumulated midden – was likely accurate.

Site CA-MAD-624. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small food processing locale that extends approximately 10 meters in diameter, situated near a meadow east of Miami Creek. A total of nine bedrock mortar cups were observed on two separate bedrock outcrops. Additionally, four pestles and one acorn cracking rock were observed and recorded. No other cultural material, features or midden were noted in the original record.

During the field survey, the site was not re-located due to extensive, disturbances associated with golf course and residential construction. According to the site record and site location map, the site would have been located within an area which is now occupied by fairway numbers 11 and 12, and Lulniu Court, a paved cul-de-sac with recently graded residential uses adjacent to the north and south.

Again, while the area of the site has undergone wholesale re-contour and been subjected to impacts by mechanized equipment, no evidence of subsurface deposits was noted during the field inspection, again indicating that Ambro's original contention – that the site was a food processing station only and contained no additional features or accumulated midden – was likely correct.

Site CA-MAD-625. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small occupation camp situated on both the west and east sides of Miami Creek. Locus A is situated west of Miami Creek and occupies an area extending approximately 50 meters in length (east-west) by 20 meters in width. Locus A contains 13 mortar cups and one acorn cracking hole situated on four separate bedrock outcrops. A sparse scatter of obsidian waste-flakes and tools, and a dark brown-black midden, are also present within the locus boundary. During initial



recordation, Ambro noted a recent (1970's) bulldozer scar bisecting the site, although most of the site remained intact and undisturbed.

Locus B is situated east of Miami Creek, extends approximately 20 meters in length (north-south) by 10 meters in width, and contains two shallow bedrock mortars, a sparse scatter of obsidian lithics, and a dark brown-black midden. No other cultural material or features were noted at either locus.

During the field survey, the site was re-located and found to be essentially as described in the original record. Locus A appears generally intact, with the exception of the aforementioned bulldozer scar. Locus B appears intact and unchanged from site recordation by Ambro *et al* in 1980. The midden depth at both locations was estimated at a minimum of 30-40 centimeters, based on open ground squirrel holes and trowel scrapes.

Site CA-MAD-629. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small occupation camp containing 28 mortar cups on a large granite outcrop. Also present are two housepit depressions and associated midden area. Overall, the site extends approximately 100 meters in length (east-west) by 20 meters in width, and is located within the southeastern portion of the property, south of Miami Creek and a short distance north of Opah Drive. Artifacts observed on the surface include a single mano fragment, one projectile point and a light-density scatter of obsidian waste-flakes. The single projectile point observed was classified as a Cottonwood (Series) Triangular, suggesting deposition sometime after approximately 1200 AD. No other cultural material or features were noted.

During the field survey the site was re-located and discovered to be essentially unchanged since original recording. Two pine trees noted on the site sketch map have died and are no longer standing, but are still present at the site. Midden depth was estimated at a minimum of 30-40 centimeters, based again on examination of open ground squirrel holes and trowel probes.

Addendum Survey Area

Site CA-MAD-623. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a large occupation camp with three distinct midden loci, surface lithics, 56 bedrock mortars, and two metate slicks. Overall, the site extends approximately 150 meters north-south, by 100 meters east-west, and is situated adjacent to two stream courses, one perennial, the other ephemeral. Historic-era features included in the site boundary are five apple trees and a shallow irrigation ditch.

During the field survey, the site was successfully re-located. Since original recording, the site has been subjected to additional impacts. Several temporary structures have been moved onto and immediately adjacent to the site. These structures include travel trailers and small sheds/cabins. All of these have been abandoned are in poor condition, and are not historic. Site disturbance appears limited to the surface components, and the site remains largely intact.

Site CA-MAD-626. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small occupation camp situated 35 meters east of Miami Creek. Containing both



surface lithics and a buried midden, the site occupies an area extending approximately 35 meters in length (north-south) by 27 meters in width. During initial recordation, Ambro noted a wooden flume south of the site, an access road north of the site, and limited surface grading within the site boundary.

During the field survey, the site was re-located and found to be essentially as described in the original record. Contemporary repairs to the flume sections of the Miami Creek Ditch were observed, and construction staging activities appear to have been conducted within the site boundary, as evidenced by recently cleared brush fields and brush stockpiles on site, and limited surface grading of the site and surrounding area. Overall, however, the site appears intact.

Site CA-MAD-627. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small food processing locale that extends approximately 15 meters in diameter, situated adjacent to a perennial tributary of Miami Creek. A total of 15 bedrock mortar cups were observed on a single, large bedrock outcrop. No other cultural material, features or midden were noted in the original record.

During the field survey, the site was re-located and found to be as originally described. However, the access road depicted on the site map is an earlier (and now abandoned) alignment, situated down slope and south of the existing access road. The site retains integrity and remains intact.

Site CA-MAD-634. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as a small occupation camp consisting of wasteflakes and two bedrock mortars. The site is situated approximately 300 meters northwest of Miami Creek, and occupies an area approximately 25 meters in diameter.

During the field survey, the site was re-located and found to be essentially as described in the original record. Limited surface disturbance in the form of access roads was observed within the site boundary. A buried deposit was visible within these areas of disturbance. Overall, the site appears to remain intact.

Site CA-MAD-635. Originally recorded by Ambro *et al*, this site is described as an occupation locale containing both lithics and midden. The site is situated approximately 250 meters northwest of Miami Creek and occupies an area approximately 60 meters in length (north-south) by 54 meters in width. A single, temporally diagnostic projectile point (Sierra concave base) was identified during initial site recordation. During the field survey, the site was re-located and found to be essentially as described in the original record, and overall the site appears to remain intact.

Historic Structures

The project area does not contain any identified historic structures. Thus, no further discussion of impacts to known historic structures is contained within this document.



PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Section 5.8, *Geology and Soils*, provides a detailed description of the geologic setting of the project area. As noted in Section 5.8, bedrock exposed across the region surrounding the project site is predominately granitic rock that forms the core of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (i.e., Sierra Nevada batholith). The granitic rock that underlies the project site and surrounding region is identified as the early Cretaceous age (approximately 120 million years old) Bass Lake Tonalite. Alluvial deposits occupy the bottoms of the major drainages that flow westerly from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Given the igneous nature of the bedrock, it is not anticipated that paleontological (i.e., fossil) sites would exist within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

IMPACTS

The purpose of this analysis is to identify any potential cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area, and to assist the Lead Agency in determining whether such resources meet the official definitions of “historical resources,” as provided in the California Public Resource Code, in particular CEQA.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form which includes questions relating to cultural resources. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a Project may create a significant environmental impact if it causes one or more of the following to occur:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (refer to Impact Statement 5.7-1);
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (refer to Impact Statement 5.7-1);
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature (refer to Impact Statement 5.7-2); and/or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries (refer to Impact Statement 5.7-3).

Important cultural resources, per CEQA, are determined in relation to criteria specified in Section 15064.5 of the amended CEQA Guidelines. These criteria suggest that an “important archaeological resource” (an “historic property”) is one that retains essential integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location and associative context. Generally, a resource shall be considered to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for a listing on the California Register of



Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5025.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852), which include the following:

Criteria

- A. *Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.*
- B. *Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.*
- C. *Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or*
- D. *Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

Based on these standards/criteria, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a "less than significant impact" or a "potentially significant impact". If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of goals, policies, standards or mitigation, it is categorized as a significant and unavoidable impact. The standards used to evaluate the significance of impacts are often qualitative rather than quantitative because appropriate quantitative standards are either not available for many types of impacts or are not applicable for some types of projects.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- 5.7-1 *The proposed Project may cause a significant impact to known or unknown archaeological and/or historic resources on-site. Analysis has concluded that with implementation of the recommended mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.*

Specific application of the CEQA significance criteria to project area sites results in the following conclusions and recommendations.

ORIGINAL SURVEY AREA

Sites CA-MAD-547 and -624

Criteria A and B: Neither site is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, nor are the mortars associated with people significant in California history since the individuals responsible cannot be identified. Thus, neither one of these sites is considered significant per Criteria A and B.

Criteria C: Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information at CSU-Bakersfield, a large number of prehistoric components generally similar to and duplicating the attributes of both of these sites are known and documented for the County, being particularly abundant along virtually all of the



natural surface water sources in the area. Such prehistoric components are not, in other words, rare in the California inventory, nor do they "...embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values..." Therefore, these sites are not considered significant per Criterion C.

Criteria D: Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American activities typically document protracted habitation and performance of a range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding and appreciation of local and regional prehistory, and such sites are therefore routinely considered significant per Criterion D. However, there is no evidence for the accumulation of buried deposits at these mortar hole sites, and as a consequence data recovery (archaeological excavation work) could not be expected to advance or further our understanding or appreciation of local or regional prehistory substantially beyond that which has been achieved in the existing site records. For these reasons, neither site is considered significant under Criterion D (i.e., for residual research or information values).

Based on these findings, both CA-MAD-547 and CA-MAD-624 are not considered significant or potentially significant resources per CEQA Guidelines under any of the relevant evaluative criteria. Thus, no further treatment or consideration is warranted in relation to potential impacts to either of these sites that might accompany continuing development of the project area.

Sites CA-MAD-625 and -629

Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American use typically document protracted habitation and performance of a wide range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding and appreciation of local and regional prehistory, and such sites are therefore often considered significant under Criterion D, as indicated in the following discussion and evaluation.

Criteria A and B: These sites are not associated with events which have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, nor can the individuals involved ever be known on the basis of the data categories present at these sites. Thus, neither one of these site is considered significant per Criteria A or B.

Criteria C: Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center at CSU-Bakersfield, a large number of prehistoric components generally similar to and duplicating the attributes of these two sites are known and documented for this area of the County. Such prehistoric components are not, in other words, rare in the California inventory, nor do they represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Thus, neither one of these site is considered significant per Criterion C.



Criteria D: Specialized dating samples and temporally diagnostic implement types have not been demonstrated as being abundant at either of these sites, although one has yielded evidence of the latter in the form of a Cottonwood Triangular Series specimen. On the other hand, no excavation was undertaken during either the original 1980 recording or during the present field survey, so that essentially nothing is known about subsurface contents, artifact types and density, etc. Moreover, both sites appear largely intact, with very little of the original deposit having been affected by historic ranching or later development activities. If present, buried cultural materials could yield additional important information on prehistoric patterns of resource extraction methodology and technology, technical information concerning lithic reduction strategies employed, the size of the populations involved, and further characterization of the intensity of resource use during prehistoric time periods in this area of central California. In other words, portable cultural material of research value related to prehistoric activities could be present in the subsurface component at both of these sites, and there is a high probability for the presence of such material given the findings of excavation projects at other similar, nearby sites.

Also, these sites are located within an area variously occupied by Penutian-speaking Yokuts (primarily) and Miwok, but also Shoshone-speaking Monache, with the latter culturally related to the desert dwellers east of the Sierra Nevada crest. Under these circumstances, many of the ethnographic and fully prehistoric sites in this area could provide unique opportunities for addressing issues of cultural interaction and regional trade.

For these reasons, sites C-MAD-625 and -629 are considered potentially significant under CEQA's Criterion D. As significant/potentially significant prehistoric properties, two acceptable treatment options are generally available and acceptable.

Treatment Option #1: The first choice of treatment is to preserve both sites intact by means of an impact avoidance strategy. Impact avoidance and site preservation are compatible with the proposed residential development since surface indicators are generally minimal and most casual passers-by would not recognize surface features at these sites as evidence that buried cultural material is also present. Preservation could be achieved by locating proposed residential structures, driveways, associated outbuildings, utilities, and access roads in such a way as to avoid directly impacting these sites.

In order to ensure impact avoidance and site preservation, and to ensure that the sites are not inadvertently affected or impacted during construction, the boundaries of both should be clearly identified as "impact avoidance zones" on all project and development maps, and the sites temporarily flagged at the time of construction. If construction activity is to occur within approximately 25-30 feet of the mapped site boundaries, and/or if construction involves large pieces of equipment near either site, then the preservation/site areas should also be temporarily fenced during the construction period.

Treatment Option #2: If preservation "as is" cannot be ensured by adopting a preservation plan detailed above, then those specific attributes and qualities which may render these prehistoric sites significant per CEQA should be further specified through formal archaeological data collection work. At a minimum, such data



collection work (archaeological testing) should include excavation of a sample of cultural material sufficient to evaluate site and midden depth, age and make-up of the components of the sites, and characterization of artifactual and midden constituents in terms of major data categories present. The overall objectives of any such data collection work should be to identify those research questions for which the sites contain relevant information, with the research questions representing those presently being expressed by the body of professional archaeologists in the region. Any such data collection program should culminate in a professional report of findings that contains explicit recommendations for any mitigative-level data recovery work that might be justified or warranted on the basis of the specific findings of the testing program and the proposed level of project effects.

Table 5.7-3, *Summary of Significance Per CEQA: Original Survey Area*, summarizes the recorded project area sites in relation to CEQA significance criteria.

**Table 5.7-3
Summary of Significance Per CEQA: Original Survey Area**

Criterion	A	B	C	D
CA-MAD-547	-	-	-	-
CA-MAD-624	-	-	-	-
CA-MAD-625	-	-	-	+
CA-MAD-629	-	-	-	+
Totals	0	0	0	2
Note: "-" indicates that the site does not meet the associated CEQA criteria "+" indicates that the site does meet the associated CEQA criteria.				

ADDENDUM SURVEY AREA

Site CA-MAD-627, Mortar Holes Only

Criteria A and B: This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, nor are the mortars associated with people significant in California history since the individuals responsible cannot be identified. Thus, this site is not considered significant per Criteria A or B.

Criteria C: Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information at CSU-Bakersfield, a large number of prehistoric components generally similar to and duplicating the attributes of this site are known and documented for the County, being particularly abundant along virtually all of the natural surface water sources in the area. Such prehistoric components are not, in other words, rare in the California inventory, nor do they "...embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values..." Therefore, this site is not considered significant per Criterion C.



Criteria D: Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American activities typically document protracted habitation and performance of a range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding and appreciation of local and regional prehistory, and such sites are therefore routinely considered significant per Criterion D. However, there is no evidence for the accumulation of buried deposits at this mortar hole site, and as a consequence data recovery (archaeological excavation work) could not be expected to advance or further our understanding or appreciation of local or regional prehistory substantially beyond that which has been achieved in the existing site record. For these reasons, this site is not considered significant under Criterion D (i.e., for residual research or information values).

Based on these findings, CA-MAD-627 is not considered a significant or potentially significant resource per CEQA under any of the relevant evaluative criteria. No further treatment or consideration is warranted and none recommended in relation to potential impacts to this site that might accompany continuing development of the project area.

Sites CA-MAD-623, -626, -634 and -635, With Buried Deposits

Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American use typically document protracted habitation and performance of a fairly wide range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding and appreciation of local and regional prehistory, and such sites are therefore often considered significant under Criterion D, as indicated in the following discussion and evaluation.

Criteria A and B: These sites are not associated with events which have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, nor can the individuals involved ever be known on the basis of the data categories present at these sites. Thus, these sites are not considered significant per Criteria A or B.

Criteria C: Based on existing inventory data maintained by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center at CSU-Bakersfield, a large number of prehistoric components generally similar to and duplicating the attributes of all four of these sites are known and documented for this area of the County. Such prehistoric components are not, in other words, rare in the California inventory, nor do they represent a "... distinctive type..." or "...a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Thus, these sites are not considered significant per Criterion C.

Criteria D: Specialized dating samples and temporally diagnostic implement types have not been demonstrated as being abundant at any of these sites because no test excavations have been undertaken and essentially nothing is known about subsurface contents, artifact types and density, etc. Moreover, all of the sites appear largely intact, with very little of the original deposit having been affected by historic ranching or later development activities. If present, buried cultural materials could well yield additional important information on prehistoric patterns of resource



extraction methodology and technology, technical information concerning lithic reduction strategies employed, the size of the populations involved, and further characterization of the intensity of resource use during prehistoric time periods in this area of central California. In other words, portable cultural material of research value could very well be present in the subsurface component at all of these sites, and in fact there is a high probability for the presence of such material given the findings of excavation projects at other similar, nearby sites. Also, relevant here is the fact that these sites are located within an area variously occupied by Penutian-speaking Yokuts (primarily) and Miwok, but also Shoshone-speaking Monache, with the latter culturally related to the desert dwellers east of the Sierra Nevada crest. Under these circumstances, many of the ethnographic and fully prehistoric sites in this area could provide unique opportunities for addressing issues of cultural interaction and trade. For these reasons, sites CA-MAD-623, -626, 634 and -635 are considered potentially significant per CEQA's Criterion D.

As significant/potentially significant prehistoric properties (per Criterion D), two acceptable treatment options are generally available and acceptable. Refer to Treatment Options 1 and 2, above, recommended for sites C-MAD-625 and -629.

Table 5.7-4, *Summary of Significance Per CEQA: Addendum Survey Area*, summarizes the recorded project area sites in relation to CEQA significance criteria.

**Table 5.7-4
Summary of Significance Per CEQA: Addendum Survey Area**

Criterion	A	B	C	D
CA-MAD-623	-	-	-	+
CA-MAD-626	-	-	-	+
CA-MAD-627	-	-	-	-
CA-MAD-634	-	-	-	+
CA-MAD-635	-	-	-	+
Totals	0	0	0	4

Note: "-" indicates that the site does not meet the associated CEQA criteria
"+" indicates that the site does meet the associated CEQA criteria.

NATIVE AMERICAN AND STATE PARKS CONSULTATION

Original Survey Area

Prior to conducting the field survey, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to determine whether or not formal Sacred Lands listings were present within or adjacent to the Original Survey Area. NAHC responded in the negative on May 30, 2003 (refer to *Archaeological Inventory Survey*).

On June 3, 2003, Mr. Jay Johnson and the American Indian Council, representing local Yokuts interests, were contacted by letter and requested to supply any specific information which they may have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within or adjacent to the project area, or to comment more generally on the proposed Project.



Mr. Johnson forwarded the consultation letter to the Central Valley District of the Department of Parks and Recreation in Columbia, California. Dr. Linda Dick Bissonnette responded, on behalf of State Parks, suggesting that a range of studies be conducted, including impacts related to noise, traffic and cultural resources. These issues are addressed in the this Cultural Resources section, as well as Section 5.3, *Traffic and Circulation*, and Section 5.5, *Noise*, of this Document.

On July 10, 2003, Archaeologist Sean M. Jensen, M.A., met on site with Ms. Suzanne Ramirez, Mr. Jay Johnson, Ms. Mary Johnson, and Ms. Karen S. (last name withheld) representing local Yokuts interest and the site at Wassama Roundhouse. Also present and representing State Parks was Ms. Mova Verde, the State Parks Interpreter at Wassama.

During the field inspection, the identified sites were visited and the two alternative treatment options proposed herein were reviewed with the participants. With respect to treatment for the sites, neither an endorsement nor rebuttal was provided, with the representatives indicating that they would further consider with elders and other tribal members project effects and proposed treatments, and that if additional information was required they would contact the author.

In addition to project area sites, the Yokuts representatives and the State Park archaeologist expressed concern over potential effects of the project to the nearby Wassama Roundhouse State Park and the National Register-eligible prehistoric and ethnographic village site contained therein.

Several named prehistoric settlements are identified in ethnographic accounts for this area of Madera County, including villages at Wehilto, Olwia, Hitchawettah and Wasama. Unfortunately, precise locational data is lacking or problematic for most or all of these villages, primarily because so few knowledgeable informants were available at the turn of the Century, as a result of the devastating effects of introduced diseases, the resultant population decimation, and the nearly complete collapse of the traditional way of life.

In addition to pre-contact villages, however, are important post-contact settlements, one of which appeared at Ahwahnee, where Miwoks and others occupied a small tract of land and eventually built a ceremonial "roundhouse." This structure had fallen into substantial decay by the beginning of the 1960's-1970's, but was subsequently largely restored and is now incorporated into the State Park System of California. Beneath the restored roundhouse and other features of the built environment, at what is now the Wassama Roundhouse State Park, is a prehistoric and historic-period cultural deposit.

Although located approximately one-quarter mile north/northwest of the northwest corner of the project area, Yokuts representatives and the Wassama State Park Archaeologist Dr. Linda Dick Bissonnette have expressed concerns over anticipated effects of the proposed project to the State Park itself and traditional activities periodically conducted at the Roundhouse. Concerns included impacts related to vehicular and stationary noise sources generated from the proposed project (refer to Section 5.5, *Noise*).



Addendum Survey Area

Prior to conducting the field survey, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to determine whether or not formal Sacred Lands listings were present within or adjacent to the Addendum Survey Area. NAHC responded in the negative on May 30, 2003 (response attached to the original report for this project).

On December 31, 2003, Mr. Jay Johnson and the American Indian Council, representing local Yokuts interests, were contacted by letter and requested to supply specific information they might have concerning prehistoric sites or traditional use areas within or adjacent to the Addendum land area, or to comment more generally on the proposed further development of the Addendum land area. No response has been received from the group.

SUMMARY

As stated above, sites C-MAD-623, -625, -626, -629, -634 and -635 are considered potentially significant under CEQA's Criterion D. Thus, the proposed project does have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15604.5. However, implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce impacts to identified historic/archeological resources to less than significant levels. Additionally, although the field survey effort included a detailed reconnaissance of the site, the potential does exist for subsurface resources to occur that cannot be visibly detected. This potential impact can be considered significant thus requiring field monitoring mitigation by an archaeologist, qualified and approved by the County during grading and other associated clearing activities. Implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce the significance of potential impacts to a less than significant level.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

5.7-2 *The proposed Project area consists of igneous rock formations, which are not likely to contain paleontological resources. Analysis has concluded that impacts would be less than significant.*

No known paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features are known to exist within the project area. Furthermore, as stated in the Existing Conditions section above, bedrock exposed across the region surrounding the project site is predominately granitic rock that forms the core of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (i.e., Sierra Nevada batholith). The granitic rock that underlies the project site and surrounding region is identified as the early Cretaceous age (approximately 120 million years old) Bass Lake Tonalite. Given the igneous nature of the bedrock, it is not anticipated that paleontological (i.e., fossil) sites would exist within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Thus, less than significant impacts would occur in this regard.



BURIAL SITES

- 5.7-3 *The proposed Project may cause a significant impact to unknown Native American burial sites which could occur on-site. Analysis has concluded that with implementation of the recommended mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.*

According to the *Archaeological Inventory Survey* report and the *Addendum* report, as well as consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and Central Valley District of the Department of Parks and Recreation, no known Native American burial grounds are located within close proximity to the project area. A diligent field survey effort was conducted to find any surface manifestation of the reported burial ground, however, none was found. Despite the findings of the field survey effort, the potential does exist for human remains to occur that cannot be visibly detected. This potential impact can be considered significant and would require that all proper notification actions be taken in the event that human remains are discovered during construction/earth-moving activities. Implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would reduce the significance of potential impacts to a less than significant level.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- 5.7-4 *Cumulative development may adversely affect cultural resources in the Oakhurst/Ahwahnee area. Analysis has concluded that impacts would be less than significant.*

According to the Madera County Plan EIR, the cumulative effect of increased development and thus human population and associated activity, could result in occasional disturbance and adverse effects on unidentified important cultural resources sites, despite implementation of the General Plan polices and programs. Thus, the General Plan EIR concludes that impacts to cultural resources are potentially significant.

While much of the land near the project area remains undeveloped, residential subdivisions and commercial developments are extending into the region. Thus, there is potential for future development projects in the project vicinity to disturb undeveloped land that may contain known or unknown cultural (archaeological, paleontological and historical) resources. However, potential impacts to cultural resources would be evaluated on a site specific, project-by-project basis, pursuant to CEQA, to ensure that potentially significant impacts are reduced to less than significant levels. This would be especially true of those developments located in areas considered to have a high sensitivity for cultural resources. Each incremental development would be required to comply with all applicable State and Federal regulations concerning preservation, salvage, or handling of cultural resources.

Implementation of the proposed project would include mitigation to preserve or avoid impacts to known and unknown cultural resources that would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, the project would not contribute to any significant cumulative effects to cultural resources. Thus, it is concluded that the project's contribution to cumulative impacts associated with the



anticipated development identified in the Madera County General Plan is concluded to be a less than significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The section directly corresponds to the identified Impact Statements in the impacts subsection.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES

5.7-1a An archaeologist and/or a Native American Monitor appointed by Madera County shall conduct periodic inspections of the project site during earth removal or disturbance activities related to rough grading and other excavation for foundations and utilities. The inspections schedule shall be determined by the County of Madera prior to issuance of a grading permit. If any earth removal or disturbance activities result in the discovery of cultural resources, the project proponent's contractors shall cease all earth removal or disturbance activities in the vicinity and immediately notify the County selected archaeologist and/or Native American Monitor, who shall immediately notify the County. The County selected archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt or divert the excavation equipment in order to evaluate any potential cultural material. The County selected archaeologist shall evaluate all potential cultural findings in accordance with standard practice, the requirements of the Madera County General Plan, and other applicable regulations. Consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and data/artifact recovery, if deemed appropriate, shall be conducted.

5.7-1b Potential impacts to sites C-MAD-623, -625, -626, -629, -634 and -635 shall be avoided with implementation of the following treatment options:

Treatment Option #1: The first choice of treatment is to preserve the sites intact by means of an impact avoidance strategy. Impact avoidance and site preservation are compatible with the proposed residential development since surface indicators are generally minimal and most casual passers-by would not recognize surface features at these sites as evidence that buried cultural material is also present. Preservation could be achieved by locating proposed residential structures, driveways, associated outbuildings, utilities, and access roads in such a way as to avoid directly impacting these sites.

In order to ensure impact avoidance and site preservation, and to ensure that the sites are not inadvertently affected or impacted during construction, the boundaries of the sites shall be clearly identified as "impact avoidance zones" on all project and development maps, and the sites temporarily flagged at the time of construction. If construction activity is to occur within approximately 25-30 feet of the mapped site boundaries, and/or if construction involves large pieces of equipment near either site, then the preservation/site areas shall also be temporarily fenced during the construction period.



Treatment Option #2: If preservation “as is” cannot be ensured by adopting a preservation plan detailed above, then those specific attributes and qualities which may render these prehistoric sites significant per CEQA shall be further specified through formal archaeological data collection work. At a minimum, such data collection work (archaeological testing) shall include excavation of a sample of cultural material sufficient to evaluate site and midden depth, age and make-up of the components of the sites, and characterization of artifactual and midden constituents in terms of major data categories present. The overall objectives of any such data collection work shall be to identify those research questions for which the sites contain relevant information, with the research questions representing those presently being expressed by the body of professional archaeologists in the region. Any such data collection program shall culminate in a professional report of findings that contains explicit recommendations for any mitigative-level data recovery work that might be justified or warranted on the basis of the specific findings of the testing program and the proposed level of project effects.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

5.7-2 No mitigation measures are recommended.

BURIAL SITES

Refer to Mitigation Measure 5.7-1a. The following mitigation measure is also recommended.

5.7-3 In the event human remains are discovered during grading/ construction activities, work shall cease in the immediate area of the discovery and the Project Applicant shall comply with the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, including notification of the County Coroner, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission, and consultation with the individual identified by the Native American Heritage Commission to be the “most likely descendent.”

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

5.7-4 No mitigation measures are recommended.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No unavoidable significant impacts related to Cultural Resources have been identified following implementation of mitigation measures referenced in this Section.