
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The purpose of the Cultural Resources section is to identify and evaluate the potential for the project to adversely affect paleontological, archaeological, and historical resources. Resources of concern include, but are not limited to fossils, prehistoric and historic artifacts, burials, sites of religious or cultural significance to Native American groups, and historic structures.

A records search, historic background survey, and field surveys addressing the project site were conducted by ENPLAN and are described in *A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Panorama Planned Development, Shasta County, California* (ENPLAN, 2008). The field survey addressed off-site utility line connections and sites for new utilities, as well as the proposed residential development site. Specific tasks included:

- A records search at the Northeast Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System (NE/CHRIS), California State University, Chico, was conducted on January 23, 2008. The purpose of the records search was to determine the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, the locations of known archaeological sites and/or any previously recorded archaeological districts, and the relationships between known sites and environmental variables.
- A field survey was conducted by ENPLAN archaeologists in March and April 2008. A complete coverage, consistent-intensity survey was considered appropriate given the project area's size, vegetation, and topography. As two previously recorded sites (CA-SHA-2939H and CA-TEH-2202H) were identified within the project area as a result of the records search, the purpose of the pedestrian survey was to formally re-evaluate these sites, as well as to record any previously undocumented cultural resources.
- Several individuals with expertise in local history were contacted by telephone and mail in March and April of 2008: Shasta County Historical Society; Dottie Smith, local historian; and Richard Silva, Oregon California Trails Association. Native American consultation was completed in March and April of 2008 with the following organizations and/or individuals contacted: The Native American Heritage Commission; Redding Rancheria Tribal Office; Wintu Educational and Cultural Council; Wintu Tribe of Northern California; and Wintu representatives Carol Sinclair and Loretta Root.
- Upon completion of the records search and the pedestrian survey, a final report was prepared by ENPLAN (2008). The report documented and evaluated cultural resources, identified project effects and recommended appropriate mitigation measures, where necessary, for sites that might be affected by the undertaking, and/or that are considered important "historical resources," per §15064.5(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The study resulted in identification of three historic features, two prehistoric sites, and 20 prehistoric “isolates.” The historic features consisted of a debris scatter, a power line, and the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canal. The two prehistoric sites are light lithic scatters with no cultural deposits. The isolates consist of chert flakes and cores. Although the overall ACID system may be eligible for listing, the on-site ditch segment is generic in nature and has been highly modified; no further evaluation or treatment is warranted. None of the other historic or prehistoric resources appear eligible for listing. The site has some potential to contain undiscovered subsurface cultural resources; mitigation measures included in the report prescribe steps to be taken if additional cultural resources are encountered.

4.5.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The physiographic characteristics of the project area are representative of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed. Topography within the project area consists primarily of rolling foothills ranging in elevations from about 430 to 610 feet. Within the project, five unnamed intermittent stream channels flow in a southerly direction toward Cottonwood Creek; however, these stream channels are generally very shallow and tend to meander in the southern, flatter portions of the project area.

Vegetation in the project area consists primarily of blue oak woodland with an annual grassland understory. Prior to historic disturbances and the introduction of ruminants, perennial bunchgrasses such as needlegrass, blue wild-rye, and several other native genera of grasses and forbs would have provided excellent foraging resources for native grazers and browsers in the region (Jensen and Reed, 1979), and concomitantly, excellent hunting and foraging grounds for human inhabitants.

Historic land uses in the project vicinity include grazing, homesteading, farming, ranching, substantial use for power line corridors, and possibly hardwood timber harvesting. Extensive historic gold mining activities took place along Dry Creek, located approximately six miles west of the project, and in the Clear Creek region, about eight air miles north. In addition, various gulches and creeks in the vicinity were subjected to dredge mining activities during the 1930s and 1940s (although no evidence of widespread mining was observed within the project area).

Regionally, the project area is located in the northern Sacramento Valley within the northern portion of California's Great Central Valley. The southern slopes of the Klamath Mountains are located approximately 20 miles to the west and north, the northeastern slopes of the Coast Range are 30 miles southwest, the Sacramento River is located five miles to the west, and the Cascade Range is located 10 to 15 miles to the east. Locally, the project area is within the Cottonwood Creek Watershed, about one mile north of Cottonwood Creek.

ETHNOGRAPHY

The study area falls within the ethnographic territory of the *Dau-nom* Wintu, also referred to as the Baldhill Wintu. DuBois (1935) and Kroeber (1925) provide primary

work, and LaPena (1978) provides summary work, on ethnographic accounts of Wintu culture. The following is derived from those sources unless otherwise indicated.

The Wintu represent the most northerly group of Penutian speakers in California and consist of nine geographically distinct groups, including the Baldhill Wintu. In general, Baldhill territory included land west of the Sacramento River between Clear Creek and Cottonwood Creek. Cottonwood Creek is often referred to as the boundary that separated the Northern Wintun (Wintu) from the Central Wintun (Nomlaki); however, Merriam (1966) indicates that Red Bank Creek, located south of Red Bluff, marked the northernmost extension of Nomlaki territory. Perhaps the best summary work and most in-depth analysis of this boundary discrepancy is provided by Johnson and Theodoratus (1982) in which they indicate the boundary was probably not static, and “that the possibility exists that the area was used as a marginal resource area: a region occupied only on a seasonal basis, perhaps by segments of both Wintu and Nomlaki groups” (Johnson and Theodoratus, 1982).

The Wintu subsistence/settlement strategy was similar to many other California groups, and was based on seasonal grazing practices and the exploitation of vegetal resources, fish, and game. The Wintu lived in permanent villages during the winter, subsisting mainly on stored foods. In the spring and summer months they occupied resource procurement camps (in brush shelters) usually located no more than three to four days walk from the main village. Food resources were periodically returned to the base camp for storage, which was guarded by old people unable to participate in the gathering rounds (DuBois, 1935). Extensive trade existed within and between various Wintu villages and tribes, and regional trade existed with the Shasta, Pomo, and Chimariko.

It is estimated that the Wintu arrived in the Sacramento Valley approximately 1,000 to 1,200 years ago, resulting in the displacement of Hokan-speaking peoples from the area (Moratto, 1984). Pre-contact population estimates for the Wintu are $\pm 14,250$ persons. In 1910, there were an estimated 395 Wintu remaining. It is estimated that approximately 75 percent of the Wintu populations living along the Sacramento River were lost to malaria and influenza epidemics brought about by the arrival of European-American trappers and settlers in the middle 1800s.

PREHISTORIC SUMMARY

The project area lies near the boundary between two prehistoric cultural regions that occupied portions of Shasta and Tehama counties. The earliest systematic archaeological investigations in Shasta County were conducted during the 1930s and 1940s and were associated with the construction of Shasta Dam. Smith and Weymouth (1952) recorded a large number of prehistoric midden sites along the Sacramento, Pit and McCloud Rivers, and Squaw Creek, with artifact assemblages suggesting that habitation of the sites by Penutian-speaking Wintu occurred by about 1,000 years ago. Later work at nearby Squaw Creek suggested occupation of the area began about 6,500 years ago (Sundahl, 1992). Cultural constituents from this early time period suggest cultural affiliation with the Borax Lake area, and the artifact assemblages suggest that Hokan-speaking peoples inhabited these sites.

The earliest systematic archaeological investigations in the general area were undertaken by Mohr (1949) and Treganza (1954) in association with various proposed reservoir projects. Treganza's work at CA-TEH-58 in 1954 yielded a large number of artifacts dating from the early to mid-nineteenth century. According to Hamusek (1992), subsequent archaeological investigations by Treganza, Edwards, and King in 1965 near the Tehama-Colusa Canal, within the proposed Neville-Paskenta Reservoir, by Chartkoff and Childress in 1966, and along proposed reservoir sites near Cottonwood Creek by Jensen (1978) and Johnson and Theodoratus (1982), resulted in the discovery of a large number of archaeological sites, with some containing artifacts and burials clearly indicative of a late prehistoric Nomlaki and Wintu presence.

Edwards proposed a three-phase prehistoric sequence for northern California encompassing a time span of about 5000 years, consisting of the Northern Millingstone Phase (5000 to 2000 BP), the Tehama Phase (2000 to 1000 BP), and the Shasta Complex (1000 BP to historic period) (Hamusek, 1992).

Archaeological work in the project vicinity has resulted in a very complex, and somewhat inconsistent local and regional archaeological record consisting of various temporal/cultural sequences. Perhaps the best supported chronological sequence for the region is that proposed by Sundahl (1992), who recognizes four cultural patterns, each corresponding to a specific temporal interval: Borax Lake Pattern (ca. 8000-5000 BP), Squaw Creek Pattern (ca. 5000-3000 BP), Whiskeytown Pattern (ca. 4000-1700 BP), and the Augustine Pattern/Shasta Complex (ca. Post-1700 BP).

More recent work in northern California at Clear Lake near Borax Lake provides clear evidence that the region was first colonized at the end of the Pleistocene and associated with the "Western Clovis Tradition" (Willig and Aikens, 1988), dating around 13,500 years ago (Fiedel, 1999 and 2000). Obsidian data collected by White in this same area indicates use of the area may have begun as early as 16,000 - 20,000 years ago, although White's findings have not been absolutely confirmed (White et al., 2002).

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first known recorded historic use of the region by European-Americans occurred during the late 1820s and early 1830s when the trapping expeditions of Jedediah Strong Smith, Peter Skene Ogden, and the Hudson Bay Company entered the Sacramento Valley (Petersen, 1965). Cottonwood Creek was named by Captain John Fremont in 1846 for the abundance of cottonwood trees growing along its banks. European-American settlement and population in the northern Sacramento Valley increased as a result of the acquisition of the Rancho Buenaventura land grant by Pearson B. Reading and gold mining in the late 1840s; the Homestead Act of 1862; the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1872; the copper mining boom of the 1880s; and the Central Valley Project of 1935. These events resulted in population increases within Shasta County in excess of 100 percent from 1850-1860, 1870-1880, and 1930-1940 (Shasta County, 1975).

The project area is located near the historic settlement of Cottonwood. Cottonwood is possibly the oldest settlement in Shasta County. The first settlement was located on the south side of Cottonwood Creek (in present day Tehama County) and served as a stopping place for miners, pack trains, and wagon trains as early as 1849 and possibly even earlier. Although it initially grew because of the mining in the area, by 1851 it had become an important transfer point for stages and freight. The site served as a stopping place for the Baxter & Monroe Stage and other stage lines, and the Cottonwood Post Office was established in 1852. The first Shasta County train station was built in Cottonwood in 1872. By the 1880s, orchards and grain farms were fully established in the area. Cottonwood is the oldest agricultural community in Shasta County and served as Shasta County's major shipping point in the 1880s for cattle, hogs, and wool. By 1900, Cottonwood was deemed one of Shasta County's most important towns for its role as the center of the area's farming and fruit growing. A resurgence in mining activities occurred during the 1930s in response to the federal government increasing the price of gold (as one of the many efforts to bring relief from the Great Depression), which resulted in many dredge tailings in the vicinity of creeks and gulches. However, it was the agricultural and sheep/cattle industries that consistently provided the primary economic goods for the region. Cottonwood became the largest bee shipping center in the United States in 1950 (Petersen, 1965; Smith, 1999).

REGULATORY SETTING

State Regulations

Senate Bill 18 Consultation. Senate Bill 18 requires cities and counties to contact, and consult with, California Native American Tribes (as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission, before adopting or amending a General Plan, or when designating land as open space, for the purpose of protecting Native American cultural places. The purpose of the Senate Bill is to establish meaningful consultation between tribal governments and local governments at the earliest possible point in the planning process. (State of California, 2004)

Local Regulations

Shasta County General Plan. An overview of existing and proposed *Shasta County General Plan* land use classifications and *Shasta County Zoning Plan* designations for the project site is provided in Section 3.4: Panorama Planned Development Regulatory Setting. Following is a discussion of objectives and policies in the *Shasta County General Plan* that are pertinent to the cultural resources evaluation for the project site.

Objectives

HER-1 Protection of significant prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

Policies

HER-a Development projects in areas of known heritage value shall be designed to minimize degradation of these resources. Where conflicts are unavoidable,

mitigation measures which reduce such impacts shall be implemented. Possible mitigation measures may include clustering, buffer or nondisturbance zones, and building siting requirements.

4.5.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for determining the significance of impacts related to cultural resources were based on the Environmental Checklist Form in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). An impact related to cultural resources was considered significant if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

4.5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Impact CUL-4.5-1 Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource *(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated)*

A number of contemporary features (i.e., mobile homes, stock ponds, power transmission lines, dirt roads) were noted during the 2008 field survey performed by ENPLAN. None of these features are considered “historical resources” under CEQA (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines).

Three historic sites, Pan3H, Power Line (CA-SHA-2939H), and the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) Canal (CA-TEH-2202H), were located/revisited during the survey. Pan3H is a scatter of historic/contemporary debris covering an area of approximately 1,300 square meters (0.33 acres). Items noted at the site are various-sized pieces of sheet metal, broken pieces of power line insulators, wire, pieces of quarter-inch screen, metal straps, remains of a 1920s-30s car axle, a few pieces of brown bottle glass, motor oil cans, and two buckets. Most of the debris is less than fifty years old and appears to be associated with power line construction and/or maintenance. No household debris (i.e., cooking ware, cutlery, dishes, etc.) are present at the site nor are there any remains of structures. Additional, more contemporary, scatters and burn piles are located on adjacent PG&E property to the south. These are clearly associated with recent dumping activities. The only dateable item at the site is the car axle (ca. 1920s-30s). This item lies on the northern edge of the site and may not be contemporary with the other remains associated with the site. Although this site possesses some integrity of location, setting, materials, and association, it is not (a) associated with significant events, or (b) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or (c) embody distinctive design/construction, or (d) yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Pan3H does not contain those

qualities that would make it a “historical resource” (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines) and requires no further evaluation or protection.

A 4,300-foot section of the ACID canal (CA-TEH-2202H) traverses the southern boundary of the project parcel. The entire segment is an earthen ditch, varying in both depth (under water est. 3’ to 5’) and width (15’ to 24’). It is assumed that the original canal was more uniform in dimensions but years of maintenance and the addition of bridges and diversions by adjacent users have greatly modified this feature. The first segment of the ACID canal was originally constructed between 1914 and 1917 and included a diversion on the Sacramento River at Redding, the construction of both earthen and concrete-lined mainline canals, numerous concrete diversions along its length, siphons under roads and at some stream crossings, a 1,249-foot-long aqueduct in Anderson across Anderson Gulch, and a complex system of distribution ditches throughout agricultural areas in the communities of Redding, Anderson, and Cottonwood. The segment within the project limits was not previously recorded and an update Linear Feature Record was prepared. The segment of the ACID canal (CA-TEH-2202H) requires some consideration. The larger system, of which this is a small portion, is potentially eligible for both the California and National Registers for its significance in the local economy and for the architectural quality of some of its elements (criterion (a) and (c)). However, this segment of the larger irrigation complex is a simple, generic, earthen ditch that has undergone significant modifications since it was originally excavated in the 1920s. The portion within the project has been altered by excavation for diversions, maintenance, repair, and minor expansions. It has lost integrity of its original design and method of construction. In addition, this particular ditch segment type is widespread within the system and there are numerous other segments in better condition that are more representative of the original ditch construction. Therefore, although the overall system may have potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, the segment within the current project site, due to its generic nature and loss of integrity, would not be considered a significant or contributing element to that potential. As such, the ditch segment within the project is not considered a “historical resource” under CEQA (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines) and requires no additional evaluation or treatment.

Dore and Serafin recorded a 50-mile segment of 230 KV transmission line (CA-SHA-2939H) that extends from the Pit 1 power plant near Burney to the Cottonwood substation near Cottonwood (Dore and Serafin, 2000). Dore and Serafin believed that this segment of the power line was the original line built in 1922 and recorded it as a historic site. The 50-mile portion recorded consists of 463 towers and three conductors. Part of this line, at its connection at the Pit 1 power plant, was determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as an element of a Historic District. The segment within the project area was not included as a contributing portion of the Historic District since this segment had been replaced and did not represent the original 1922 structure. Therefore, this resource is not significant under CEQA (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines) and requires no further consideration.

There is a very limited possibility that subsurface historical resources may be found in the course of future development work. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.5-1 will ensure that any subsurface historical resources are not adversely affected.

MM CUL-4.5-1. If any historic or prehistoric cultural resources (i.e., human bone or burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points, humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.) other than those documented in *A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Panorama Planned Development, Shasta County, California* are encountered during any phase of construction, all earth-disturbing work shall stop within 50 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can make an assessment of the discovery and recommend/implement mitigation measures as necessary. If human remains are encountered, the County Coroner shall be contacted; treatment of any human remains shall be in accordance with California Health and Safety Code 7050.5(a) and Public Resources Code 5097.98.

Following implementation of MM CUL-4.5-1, impacts related to historical resources would be less than significant.

Impact CUL-4.5-2 Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource (*Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated*)

A total of 22 cultural resources, consisting two prehistoric sites and 20 isolates were recorded within the project boundaries during the 2008 field survey performed by ENPLAN. The isolates consisted of isolated chert flakes and cores. None of them are considered to represent a site nor are they considered to be “historical resources” according to CEQA (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines).

The two prehistoric sites consist of light lithic scatters. One site contained three cores and three chert flakes. The other site contained five chert flakes, four cores of chert, and two quartz cobble hammerstones. Neither site contains a cultural deposit, and both appear to represent toolstone assaying of local chert cobbles. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were located at either site. The integrity of both sites has been compromised by historic and contemporary activities. The limited quantity and range of cultural items, compromised integrity, and the lack of any temporal control at these two sites limits their research potential significantly. What information that can be gathered was documented during their recording. Neither site qualifies as a “historical resource,” according to CEQA (§15064.5(a) State CEQA Guidelines).

In response to Shasta County’s written request for consultation with Native American tribes, in accordance with Senate Bill 18 (State of California, 2004), only the Greenville Rancheria (2008) and the Redding Rancheria (2008) expressed interest in participating in the consultation process. Neither tribe expressed concern with regard to the presence of prehistoric sites and/or traditional use/collection sites within or near the project area.

There is a very limited possibility that subsurface archaeological resources may be found in the course of future development work. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.5-1 will ensure that any subsurface archaeological resources are not adversely affected.

Mitigation is recommended for this potentially significant impact. Following implementation of MM CUL-4.5-1, impacts related to archaeological resources would be less than significant.

Impact CUL-4.5-3 Destruction of a Unique Paleontological Resource or Site or Unique Geologic Feature (*Less-than-Significant Impact*)

There is no record of paleontological resources on the project site. The project site has no unique geological features or fossil-bearing strata. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to unique paleontological resources, sites, or unique geologic features.

No mitigation is necessary for this less-than-significant impact.

Impact CUL-4.5-4 Disturbance of Human Remains (*Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated*)

The project site does not contain any identified cemeteries, burial sites, or human remains. However, there is a limited possibility that undiscovered human remains may be found in the course of future development work. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-4.5-1 would ensure that any subsurface human remains are not adversely affected.

Mitigation is recommended for this potentially significant impact. Following implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-4.5-1, impacts related to the disturbance of human remains would be less than significant.

4.5.4 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

With implementation of the above mitigation measure (MM CUL-4.5-1), project impacts to cultural, historical, archeological, and paleontological resources would be less than significant.

End of Section.

