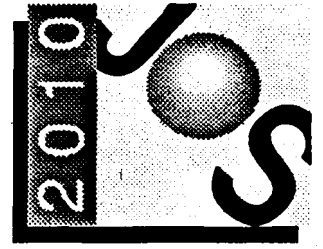


Chapter 16  
Cultural Resources



## **Chapter 16. Cultural Resources**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes existing conditions and sensitivity for cultural resources in the JOS service area, presents the methods and findings of the records search and field reconnaissance, and identifies impacts of implementation of the 2010 Plan on archeological and architectural resources of historical importance.

As described in Chapter 1, "Introduction", this EIR provides project-specific review in compliance with CEQA for full secondary treatment and solids processing at the JWPCP. Other elements of the 2010 Plan are analyzed on a program level when site-specific information is unavailable or locations of sites are not identified.

Analysis of the JWPCP requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) because the Districts intend to use an SRF loan for this portion of the project. A programmatic agreement between the SWRCB and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) requires that projects receiving federal funds administered by the SWRCB comply with Section 106 of NHPA. The Section 106 review process is implemented using a five-step procedure: identifying and evaluating historic properties, assessing the effects of the undertaking on properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), consulting with the SHPO and other agencies for the development of an agreement that addresses the treatment of historic properties, receiving comments on the agreement or results of consultation from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and proceeding with the project according to the agreements. The Districts are complying with this process and are currently coordinating their activities with SWRCB and the SHPO.

### **SETTING**

#### **Regional Setting**

##### **Prehistory**

The prehistory of the southern coastal region, including the Los Angeles County area, is divided chronologically into four cultural horizons that are defined in terms of changes in technology, subsistence, and settlement patterns.

Horizon I, the Early Man Horizon, began at the first appearance of people in the region (perhaps approximately 11,000 years ago) and continued until about 5000 B.C. Little is known about the people of this horizon, but they are generally thought to have been primarily semi-nomadic hunters.

Horizon II, the Millingstone Horizon, began around 5000 B.C. and continued until about 1500 B.C. The Millingstone Horizon is characterized by widespread use of millingstones (manos and metates) and core tools. A few projectile points or bone and shell artifacts from this horizon have been found. This horizon appears to represent a diversification of subsistence activities and a more sedentary settlement pattern. Archeological evidence suggests that hunting became less important, whereas reliance on collecting shellfish and vegetal resources increased.

Horizon III, the Intermediate Horizon, began around 1500 B.C. and continued until about A.D. 600-800. Horizon III is defined by a shift from the use of millingstones to greater use of the mortar and pestle, possibly indicating a greater reliance on acorns as a food source. Projectile points from this horizon are more abundant and, together with faunal remains, point to increased use of both land and sea mammals.

Horizon IV, the Late Horizon, began around A.D. 600-800 and terminated with the arrival of Europeans. This horizon is characterized by dense populations; diversified hunting and gathering subsistence strategies, including intensive fishing and sea mammal hunting; extensive trade networks; use of the bow and arrow; and a general cultural elaboration.

## **Ethnographic Background**

The inhabitants of the Los Angeles area were called Gabrielino by the first Spanish explorers visiting the area. Gabrielino territory included the watersheds of the San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles Rivers; portions of the Santa Monica and Santa Ana Mountains; the Los Angeles Basin; the coast from Aliso Creek to Topanga Creek; and San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina Islands.

The Gabrielino language is classified as belonging to the Takic Family, Uto-Aztecan Stock, and is subdivided into four or more separate dialects. The project area is in the area where the Gabrielino dialect of the Gabrielino language was spoken.

Because the Gabrielino culture disintegrated soon after contact with Europeans, little is known of the Gabrielino way of life. Much of the available ethnographic information about the Gabrielino Indians comes from an 1852 publication by Hugo Reid, who was married to a Gabrielino woman. Other bits of information were collected by Harrington (1942), Kroeber (1925), and others in the early 1900s.

Similar to their Chumash neighbors to the north, the Gabrielino had an elaborately developed material culture. Technological and artistic items included shells set in asphaltum; carvings; paintings; products of an extensive steatite industry; baskets; and a wide range of stone, shell, and bone objects of both utilitarian and decorative functions.

Gabrielino subsistence was based on a varied hunting and gathering strategy, which included large and small land mammals, sea mammals, river and ocean fish, and a variety of plant resources. Deep-sea fishing was accomplished from boats of wooden planks tied together and sealed with asphaltum. Sea mammals were hunted with harpoons, spears, and clubs. River fishing was undertaken with the use of line and hook, nets, basket traps, spears, and poisons. Land mammals were killed with bow and arrow, trapped, clubbed, or taken with the use of deadfalls.

The Gabrielino were apparently first contacted by Europeans in 1542 when Cabrillo entered the area. Following other Spanish visits to the region, colonization began in 1769 and resulted in the establishment of Missions San Fernando and San Gabriel. The effects of mission life and introduced diseases resulted in the Gabrielino population and culture becoming greatly diminished, and by the mid-1800s most surviving Gabrielino were wage laborers. A smallpox epidemic beginning in 1860 nearly wiped out the remaining Gabrielino.

### **Historical Setting**

Although the southern coastal region of California had been inhabited by Native Americans for millennia, California was not known to Europeans until 1542, when it was visited by Cabrillo. The San Diego area was the original center of Spanish settlement, but by 1769 explorers such as Gaspar de Portola had entered the Los Angeles Basin in search of the best route to Monterey, where a mission was to be established. Near one of the spots where Portola had camped, the Mission San Gabriel was established in 1771.

In the years following the establishment of the mission, several homesteads with adobe structures were established throughout the area, and in 1781 El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de la Porciúncula was founded. Los Angeles began to grow and became the center of the settlements of the Spanish aristocracy. The surrounding land throughout the Los Angeles Basin was divided into numerous Spanish and Mexican land-grant ranchos. Many of the ranchos were later subdivided or portions of them were sold, and these subdivisions often grew into thriving communities that exist to the present.

The establishment of several industries in the Los Angeles region in the late 19th and early 20th century (most notably the oil, agriculture, and motion picture industries) has fueled the growth of the greater Los Angeles area into an extensively developed urban area.

### **Joint Water Pollution Control Plant**

The entire area of the JWPCP facility, including the locations of currently proposed expansions, was inspected for cultural resources in 1975. Although no clear indications of cultural resources were found on the surface, several backhoe trenches were excavated in 1979. Some marine shell fragments were encountered; however, the excavators concluded

that no significant cultural resources were present and that most of the area consists of recent fill and imported material. (Scientific Resource Surveys 1979.)

The Poggi homesite, dating to the 1870s, is known to have existed about 0.25 mile west of the JWPCP, and some structures associated with the homesite are thought to have been present onsite but have since been destroyed. No evidence of associated historical structures or debris was encountered during the backhoe excavations.

A small area east of the JWPCP has also been examined for cultural resources but none were found. Overall, few surveys have been completed in the general area (a 4-mile radius) of the JWPCP facility, and those that have been conducted were small.

The nearest known archeological site (LAN-727), approximately 0.75 mile northeast of the JWPCP facility, has been characterized as a prehistoric village with burials, shells, and artifacts. Several other prehistoric sites have been recorded approximately 1 mile southeast of the JWPCP, near Harbor Lake.

The low density of known cultural resources in the immediate vicinity of the JWPCP could be a function of the lack of sites present, the low number of surveys undertaken in the area, or the sites being present but buried. Because several prehistoric sites have been recorded within about 1 mile of the JWPCP and because a source of fresh water is present (Bixby Slough), the area is moderately sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources.

Eight properties listed in the NRHP are located within approximately 4 miles of the JWPCP, but none are found within a 1-mile radius of the plant. No California historical landmarks or points of interest are located within 1 mile of the facility.

The JWPCP was also inspected during a reconnaissance-level survey. A qualified archeologist visited the site on February 22, 1994, to inspect the areas of proposed actions and to assess the general sensitivity of the facility for the presence of cultural resources. Areas where project activities could occur and that were not paved or did not have a standing structure were inspected for evidence of historical and prehistoric cultural resources. Structures 50 years old or older were also noted and photographed. Aerial photographs of the facility (1940s to present) illustrating construction and expansion were also examined.

Only a small area in the northwest corner of the site has significant exposures of soil where project activities may occur. All other areas are paved, have standing structures, or have been massively disturbed. Most of this area is now used as a container nursery and bedding plant and has been leveled. Adjacent to the bedding plant is a narrow strip of land along the east edge of Bixby Slough. This area was also examined, but it has a dense cover of grass and other vegetation, resulting in very poor visibility. No evidence of historical or prehistoric cultural resources was identified in this area.

Two buildings at the JWPCP date to approximately 1938. The location of these buildings is shown in Figure 16-1. One of these buildings (dating to 1938) was originally the

plant powerhouse and is now used as a maintenance shop (Figure 16-2). The other building (date uncertain, possibly 50 years old) was originally an electric pumphouse and is now used as a storage room (Figure 16-3).

All other structures on the site are substantially less than 50 years old, and the majority were built after 1970.

### **Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant**

The area of the Los Coyotes WRP has not previously been inspected for cultural resources, and no sites have been recorded on or adjacent to the WRP property. A small survey was completed east of the Los Coyotes WRP with negative results. No cultural resources have been recorded within 1 mile of the plant, possibly a result of very few surveys having been completed in the area.

The area within a 4-mile radius of the Los Coyotes WRP has a very low known site density. This could be a result of the lack of sites present, the fact that few surveys have been completed, or the destruction or burial of sites as a result of the extensive development of the area.

Four properties listed in the NRHP are located within approximately 4 miles of the Los Coyotes WRP, but none are found within a 1-mile radius of the plant. No California historical landmarks or points of interest are located within 1 mile of the facility.

### **San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant**

The area surrounding the San Jose Creek WRP has not been inspected for cultural resources. No cultural resources have been recorded on or adjacent to the San Jose Creek WRP site or within 1 mile of the facility. Large-area surveys completed west and southeast of the San Jose Creek WRP have found that site densities are low in those areas.

The low density of sites recorded near the San Jose Creek WRP could be the result of the relatively high degree of development. Archeological inspections of less developed areas to the west (Whittier Narrows Recreation Area) resulted in the identification of several cultural resources, both historical and prehistoric (Roberts and Brock 1987).

No properties listed in the NRHP are located within 4 miles of the San Jose Creek WRP. No California historical landmarks or points of interest are located within 1 mile of the facility.

## **Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant**

The Whittier Narrows WRP area has previously been inspected for the presence of cultural resources, as part of the Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin archeological project. A large portion of the Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin, including the Whittier Narrows WRP site, is located within the Whittier Narrows Archeological District. Several early homesteads, and possibly the Mission San Gabriel, were located within the Basin. Although no cultural resources were recorded at the Whittier Narrows WRP property, three sites were recorded within 0.25 mile of the plant: a historical adobe structure, a historical dump with prehistoric artifacts, and a site with prehistoric ceramic shards and historical metal fragments. Several other prehistoric and historical sites have been recorded within a 1-mile radius of the Whittier Narrows WRP. Although the facility is included within a previously surveyed project area, its proximity to several cultural resources increases the likelihood that buried or other cultural resources may exist.

Four properties listed in the NRHP are located within approximately 4 miles of the Whittier Narrows WRP, but none are found within a 1-mile radius of the plant. The original site of Mission Vieja (Historic Landmark No. 161) is located within 0.25 mile of the plant.

### **IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE 2010 PLAN ALTERNATIVES**

#### **Methodology and Assumptions for Impact Analysis**

The impacts in this section were evaluated based on criteria set forth in 36 CFR 800.9 and using methods recommended in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeological and Historic Preservation.

The analysis for all facilities involved a records and literature search conducted February 22, 1994, at the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Archaeological Inventory at the University of California, Los Angeles. The objective of the records search was to identify known cultural resources at or adjacent to each facility and within a 1-mile radius of each facility; results were used to assess the sensitivity of each site for cultural resources and to identify the kinds of resources typically found in the area. Research included examination of archeological site and survey location maps, site record forms, cultural resource survey reports, and the NRHP. Additional sources consulted include California Historical Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest.

In addition to noting the locations of known cultural resources and previous cultural resource surveys, researchers conducted a general assessment of the overall area surrounding each JOS facility. This assessment provided information for determining the potential for unknown resources to be present.

A field reconnaissance was also conducted at the JWPCP because project-specific analysis of expansion at this plant is required to assess CEQA compliance of upgrading the JOS to full secondary treatment. The field reconnaissance was conducted to locate any previously unknown cultural resources in areas of anticipated ground disturbance where natural soils are visible, and to assess the possibility that structures of historical importance are present onsite.

### **Criteria for Determining Significance**

Applicable laws and regulations for historic properties are outlined in Appendix K of the State CEQA Guidelines and California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2. Under CEQA, the impacts on historic and prehistoric resources must be considered. An impact is considered significant if the project may cause damage to an important or unique cultural resource that:

- is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
- can provide information that is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing archeological or scientifically consequential and reasonable research questions;
- has a special or particular quality as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;
- is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or
- involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archeological methods.

If the selected project were to receive federal funding, permits, or other assistance, or were located on federally owned land, federal significance criteria would apply. Cultural resource significance for federal projects is evaluated in terms of eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Significant impacts can occur when prehistoric or historic archeological sites, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP are subjected to the following effects:

- physical destruction or alteration of all or part of the property or site;
- isolation of the property from the property's setting or alteration of the property's setting when that character contributes to the property's qualification for the NRHP;



- introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting;
- neglect of a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction; and
- transfer, lease, or sale of the property (36 CFR 800.9).

### Comparison of Alternatives

Table 16-1 at the end of this chapter shows that the impacts associated with Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 are similar to those associated with Alternative 1, with some variation. These variations are described below for each alternative.

#### Alternative 1: Upgrade JWPCP/Expand Los Coyotes WRP/San Jose Creek WRP

#### Construction Impacts

**Impact: Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources during Construction at the JWPCP.** Although previously prepared archeological investigations and an updated records search and field visit to the JWPCP indicate that no archeological resources have been identified on or adjacent to the JWPCP site, buried cultural resources could be present in this area. Construction of new facilities and modification of existing facilities at the JWPCP would involve groundbreaking operations and could disturb buried archeological sites. As required by Section 6-3.2, "Archeological and Paleontological Discoveries", of Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (American Public Works Association 1991), if archeological or paleontological resources (e.g., bone, chipped stone, shell, or dwelling sites) are discovered during construction, excavations in the area of discovery will cease. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

**Mitigation.** No mitigation is required.

**Impact: Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources during Construction at the Los Coyotes and San Jose Creek WRPs.** Records searches of the areas surrounding the Los Coyotes and San Jose Creek WRPs indicate that both areas have a low sensitivity for the presence of cultural resources. The areas proposed for expansion at these WRPs are surrounded by existing facilities and have been disturbed previously. This impact is considered less than significant for reasons described above for the JWPCP.

**Mitigation.** No mitigation is required.

## **Impacts of Treatment Plant Operations**

**Impact: Potential Change in the Settings of Two Historic Buildings at the JWPCP.** The setting of two buildings constructed more than 50 years ago could be changed permanently as a result of construction of new structures in the immediate area. The two buildings would not be physically affected by construction of new facilities, and the proposed changes would not change the use of the buildings. Additionally, the buildings do not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The Districts are currently coordinating with the SHPO to determine whether expanded treatment plant operations will have indirect effects on one or both of these buildings. If it is determined that an indirect impact would occur, a determination of the significance of each of the two structures by a qualified architectural historian will be required for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. This impact is considered less than significant.

**Mitigation.** No mitigation is required.

## **Impacts of Biosolids Disposal and Reuse**

**Impact: Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources Resulting from Biosolids Disposal and Reuse.** Implementation of the 2010 Plan would involve composting, land application, and landfilling activities that have the potential to disturb important buried archeological resources because of clearing or constructing new sites. However, the Districts would require contractors at all sites to demonstrate that cultural resource impacts have been avoided or reduced to less-than-significant levels through the preparation of site-specific environmental documents or compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.

**Mitigation.** No mitigation is required.

## **Alternative 2: Upgrade JWPCP/Expand Los Coyotes WRP**

Under Alternative 2, impacts at the JWPCP and the Los Coyotes WRP would be the same as under Alternative 1. No impacts would occur at the San Jose Creek WRP. An additional impact would occur from construction of sewer lines, which is described below.

**Impact: Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources during Construction of Sewer Lines.** Providing relief to sewer lines in the JOS service area would involve groundbreaking activities and could disturb buried archeological sites. However, the areas that would involve groundbreaking activities generally follow existing

sewer corridors and have been disturbed previously. This impact is considered less than significant for reasons described above for the JWPCP.

**Mitigation.** No mitigation is required.

### **Alternative 3: Upgrade JWPCP/Expand Whittier Narrows WRP**

Under Alternative 3, impacts at the JWPCP would be the same as under Alternative 1. No impacts would occur at the Los Coyotes or San Jose Creek WRPs. Impacts at the Whittier Narrows WRP are described below.

**Impact: Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources during Construction at the Whittier Narrows WRP.** The Whittier Narrows WRP is located within the Whittier Narrows Archeological District and the area surrounding the Whittier Narrows facility has a moderately high sensitivity for the presence of significant cultural resources, especially historical remains. Construction of new facilities, modification of existing facilities, and excavation of the flood storage area at the Whittier Narrows WRP would involve groundbreaking operations and could disturb buried archeological sites. Although construction would cease in an area if archeological or paleontological resources were discovered, this impact is considered significant because it could result in the physical destruction of all or part of a buried archeological resource.

**Mitigation.** Implementation of the following mitigation measure would be required to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level:

- **Mitigation Measure 16-1. Test sites to determine importance and perform data recovery if necessary.**

The Districts propose to test sites to determine their importance and to perform data recovery, if necessary. Once excavations are halted, a qualified archeologist would inspect and determine the importance of the discovery and report discoveries to the Corps' Los Angeles District. If the site is determined to be important and cannot be avoided, a data recovery plan would be prepared and implemented. If human skeletal remains are discovered, the Los Angeles County Coroner would be contacted pursuant to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99 of the California Public Resources Code. If testing indicates that a site is important, a data recovery excavation of the site would be implemented to retrieve materials and gather information that would otherwise be lost if the site were disturbed. In addition, because the Whittier Narrows WRP is on federal land, other requirements to comply with federal laws and procedures may apply.

**Alternative 4: Upgrade JWPCP/Expand Los Coyotes WRP/  
San Jose Creek WRP/Whittier Narrows WRP**

Under Alternative 4, impacts at the JWPCP and Los Coyotes and San Jose Creek WRPs would be the same as under Alternative 1, impacts on sewers would be the same as under Alternative 2, and impacts at the Whittier Narrows WRP would be the same as under Alternative 3. No additional impacts would occur under this alternative.

**No-Project Alternative**

No impacts on cultural resources would occur under the No-Project Alternative.

Table 16-1. Comparison of Cultural Resources Impacts by Alternative

Impacts and Mitigation Measures	Alternative 1			Alternative 2			Alternative 3		Alternative 4				
	JWPCP	LC	SJC	JWPCP	LC	Sewers	JWPCP	WN	JWPCP	LC	SJC	WN	Sewers
<b>Construction Impacts</b> Impact: Potential for disturbance of important buried archeological resources during construction (LT) No mitigation is required	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Impact: Potential for disturbance of important buried archeological resources during construction at the Whittier Narrows WRP (S) Mitigation Measure 16-1. Test sites to determine importance and perform data recovery if necessary								✓				✓	
<b>Impacts of Treatment Plant Operations</b> Impact: Potential change in the setting of two historic buildings at the JWPCP (LT) No mitigation is required	✓			✓			✓		✓				
<b>Impacts of Biosolids Disposal and Reuse</b> Impact: Potential for disturbance of important buried archeological resources resulting from biosolids disposal and reuse (LT) No mitigation is required	✓			✓			✓		✓				

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No significant and unavoidable impacts on cultural resources would occur.

LT = less than significant. S = significant.