



CHAPTER 21

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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INTRODUCTION

According to CEQA, an important or unique cultural resource is one 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.
- Involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archeological methods.

This chapter describes existing conditions with regards to cultural resources in the SCVJSS planning area and the impact of the recommended project on them.

The setting discussion that follows focuses on the proposed VWRP expansion. Due to the minor nature of the proposed upgrades at the SWRP and VWRP (reference Chapters 7 and 8), the discussion of the existing conditions at the SWRP is not included in this chapter. However, the potential cultural resources impacts associated with the construction of these upgrades are addressed.

SETTING

Regulatory Setting

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. Beyond the requirements of CEQA and the Public Resources Code, an analysis of the impacts on cultural resources under the proposed alternatives is required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Compliance with Section 106 is needed because Districts Nos. 26 and 32 propose to use State Revolving Fund Loans to finance the recommended project (see Chapter 7). A programmatic agreement between the SWRCB and the State Historic Preservation Officer requires that projects receiving SRF loans and that are administered by the SWRCB comply with Section 106 of the 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 on the National Register of Historic Places, 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 Preservations, and proceeding with the project according to the agreements.

The state requirements for cultural resources are outlined in Appendix K of the State CEQA Guidelines and Sections 5020, 5020.4, 5020.7, 5024.1, 5024.5, 5024.6, 21084, and 21084.1 of the Public Resources Code. Generally, compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA is sufficient to ensure compliance with CEQA. Other state requirements are outlined in Section 7052 of the California Public Health and Safety Code and

Section 5097 of the Public Resources Code, which provide for the protection of Native American remains and identify special procedures to be followed when Native American burial sites are found. When remains are found, the Native American Heritage Commission and the County Coroner must be notified. The NAHC provides guidance concerning the most likely Native American descendants and the treatment of human remains and associated artifacts.

Regional 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 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 (Los Angeles) was founded. 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.

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 hunting 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.

The Santa Clarita Valley

The Tataviam

The subject area falls in territory historically occupied by the Tataviam, sometimes referred to as the Alliklik. The tribe arrived in the Santa Clarita Valley around 500 AD during the Shoshone Migration and were the valley's principal residents until the arrival of Spanish explorers in the 19th Century (Phillips, 1981). Their territory also included terrain north of Liebre Mountain, the Sierra Pelona Mountains, the western edge of the Antelope Valley, and the Saugus-Newhall area. Very little is known about the social and political institutions of the Tataviam. They occupied a region that contained many important resources and they were intimately involved in the exchange system which linked the Southern California Coast with the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin, and the Southwest. The Tataviam followed an annual cycle of trapping and hunting of animals, and the gathering of seeds and plants.

Their population centers were built around several related families of extended kin groups varying in size from 10 to 200 people. Their society began to collapse with the advent of Spanish Colonialism in the 1770's. Due to high mortality rates from epidemics introduced by the Spanish settlers and the colonial practices of the Spanish, the traditional Tataviam lifestyle was soon lost. By 1810, virtually all the Tataviam had been baptized and by 1916 the last speaker of the Tataviam language died.

Historical Setting

The demographics of the valley changed from predominantly Native American with the advent of European colonialism. In the late 1700s, Gaspar de Portola claimed the Santa Clarita Valley for Spain, which facilitated the arrival of Spanish and other

European colonists. Shortly thereafter, the valley was marked for missionary activity, and it became a stop along the Camino Viejo, which ran from Monterey to San Diego along the western coast of California. In 1797, San Fernando Mission was established, and the lands of the Santa Clarita Valley were ceded to the Mission (Caughey, 1982).

The character of the Santa Clarita Valley changed drastically with the advent of the Gold Rush. In 1842, gold was discovered in Placerita Canyon, and a whole new wave of immigration began. The influx of immigrants caused the rural character of the valley to gradually transform to a more urban form (Forbes, 1919).

At the end of the Mexican-American War, the State of California was admitted to the Union in 1850. In 1875, Henry Mayo Newhall purchased much of the western side of the Santa Clarita Valley, and the pace of development in the valley increased. Shortly thereafter, rail lines were placed through the valley. A further impetus to development came with the discovery of oil in Pico Canyon.

Archaeological and Historical Resources

As mentioned previously, the Santa Clarita Valley has a rich history from the early Native American settlement through the gold rush and into the present. Consequently, the valley has a wealth of archeological and historical resources. For example, 22 semi-permanent villages erected by the Tataviam have been identified. . Additionally, the Santa Clarita Valley has one site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, eight California Registered Historical Landmarks, and four State Points of Historic Interest. These sites are representative of the significant historical periods experienced by the valley, including the missionary period, the gold rush, the discovery of oil, and the development of rail links to the valley (Santa Clarita, 1991).

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE 2015 PLAN ALTERNATIVES

The analysis of the impact of the selected alternatives on the cultural resources of the area is largely based upon a April 2, 1992, Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment conducted for the VWRP Stage IV solids processing expansion. This study is still applicable because the study focused on the VWRP site, at which the impacts will be localized.

Methodology and Background for the Impact Analysis

Information on the recorded cultural resources of the region was obtained from the Archeological Information Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and from filed reconnaissance of the area. The UCLA maps and records show that the entire VWRP site itself has never been examined for cultural resources, but that numerous studies have been done in the vicinity.

Records Search Results

The nearest documented archeological site is located approximately one-half mile from the VWRP. The site is characterized as a deeply buried mortuary below the surface of a parking lot. The site dates from 1500 to 1800 AD. A small Tataviam village in the vicinity has also been noted, but records are uncertain as to its exact location.

Two additional historic sites have been noted within a one-mile radius of the project, including a two-story frame house built by Henry Mayo Newhall, noted as the *oldest Anglo house in the area*.

Field Reconnaissance

As part of the cultural impact study for the previous expansion, the area was surveyed on foot by two

archeologists. They noted that the ground surface had been disturbed by material storage and previous grading activities. Vegetation on the VWRP site, they noted, was sparse and the ground surface was largely composed of alluvial materials. The field study revealed no materials or features of any kind that could be considered of import with regard to cultural resources.

Criteria for Determining Significance

Under NRHP, the California Public Resources Code, and CEQA, significant impacts can occur to cultural resources when prehistoric or historic archeological sites, structures, or objects 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.
- Transfer, lease, or sale of the property (36 CFR 800.9).

The Recommended Project

VWRP Expansion Construction Impacts

Impact: *Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources During Construction at the VWRP.* Surface inspections and the records

search revealed no evidence of either prehistoric or early historic resources on the VWRP site. Also, any cultural resource that may have existed would probably have been washed away or buried by the 1928 flood.

However, construction of new facilities and modification of existing facilities at the VWRP will involve ground breaking operations and could disturb buried archeological sites. As required by §6-3.2, "Archeological and Paleontological Discoveries," of *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction*, 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 (American Public Works Association, 1991).

Nevertheless, field studies and record search results have led to the conclusion that the possibility of encountering buried cultural resources within the boundaries of the VWRP is remote. Furthermore, no structure on the VWRP site could be characterized as historically important as none have been standing for more than 100 years. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

SWRP and VWRP Upgrade Construction Impacts

Impact: *Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources Resulting from Construction.* As indicated earlier, the construction activities associated with the upgrades are minor. The upgrades will not involve any significant grading or excavation, therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Biosolids Disposal and Reuse Impacts

Impact: *Potential for Disturbance of Important Buried Archeological Resources Resulting from Biosolids Disposal and Reuse.* Implementation of the recommended project could 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 Nos. 26 and 32 would require contractors at all sites to demonstrate that cultural resource impacts have been addressed through the preparation of site-specific environmental documents or compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

No Project Alternative

As no new construction is involved under the No Project Alternative, no impacts to cultural resources would occur.