

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

SETTING

Archeological, ethnographic and historical overviews, and intensive archeological reconnaissance have been performed on the project site (Baker and Shoup, 1991, and Archeo-Tec, 1989, and 1990). The results of these investigations are summarized in the FEIR (BASELINE, 1992a). Additional studies were not performed for this EIR.

The project site and environs were probably part of the ethnographic territory of the Cholbon tribelet of the Northern Valley Yokuts (Bennyhoff, 1977). The tribelet's territory apparently extended westward along Old River to just west of Bethany. Spanish-led explorers arrived in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and may have had first contact with the project site when the expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza traveled from San Francisco Bay to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Spanish never settled this region. Mountain House, Mohr's Ferry Landing, and Wicklund emerged as settlements and stopping-off points in the mid-1800s serving transportation and trade activity along the Old River. Agriculture has dominated the region from historic times to the present.

Records or evidence of four prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are available for the project site. Prehistoric site, Ca-SJo-136, recorded near Mountain House Creek, has only general locational information and was not located during intensive surveying for the previous EIR (BASELINE, 1992a). Anecdotal reports indicate the potential for unidentified prehistoric sites in the project area. More than fifty years ago boys playing along Old River, east of the terminus of Kelso Road, found Native American artifacts. Present day accounts include a farmer east of Wicklund Road and one from the Fabian Tract area that have reported finding Native American artifacts (Dusina, 1993; Burick, 1994).

The historic sites are all believed unlikely to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. Historic archaeological site Ca-SJo-229H consists of the remains of the village of Wicklund. The integrity of the site is poor and the information potential of observed artifacts is low. A third site, Site Ca-SJo-230H, is also of poor integrity; the sparseness of artifactual remains indicates that information potential in the southern portion of the site is poor, and that historical associations are unimportant to State or local history. Site Ca-SJo-231H, west of Wicklund Road, approximately 50 years of age, lacks integrity and important historical associations, and is not likely to contain much information potential.

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A number of historic (over 50 years of age) structures are located on the project site including houses, barns, water towers, an old industrial building, and garages. Historical architectural evaluations have not been performed for these structures.

A National Historic Trail, the De Anza Trail, may be extended through the project site in the future. The National Park Service, responsible for establishing a plan for the commemorative trail route, could establish a segment of the trail through the project site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

For the purposes of this DEIR, a potentially significant impact on cultural resources is defined as the effect of any activity that has the potential to disrupt or adversely affect a prehistoric archaeological site or historic structure. A cultural resource is defined as a site or structure eligible for, or on, the National Register of Historic Places, or listed on the California Inventory of Historic Resources.

MASTER PLAN

The archaeological sites identified within the project site are not on, or likely eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places or the California Inventory of Historic Resources (BASELINE, 1992a). Unidentified prehistoric or historic archaeological materials may be located in the subsurface of the site. The National Register eligibility of identified sites could also be affected by discovery of additional material evidence on those sites. The eligibility of the historic structures on-site for the National Register has not been determined.

It is unknown whether the De Anza Trail may traverse the project site. The planning for the trail alignment has not been completed by the National Park Service at this time. If it were to traverse the site, the Draft Master Plan, under Objective 8 in Recreation and Open Space in Appendix C, contains Implementations to ensure coordination with the Service.

Impact M4.5-1

Development of the project could result in the disturbance of currently unknown subsurface prehistoric cultural deposits or artifacts related to the prehistoric setting or historic archaeological deposits or features dating from the establishment of Euro-American settlement in San Joaquin County.

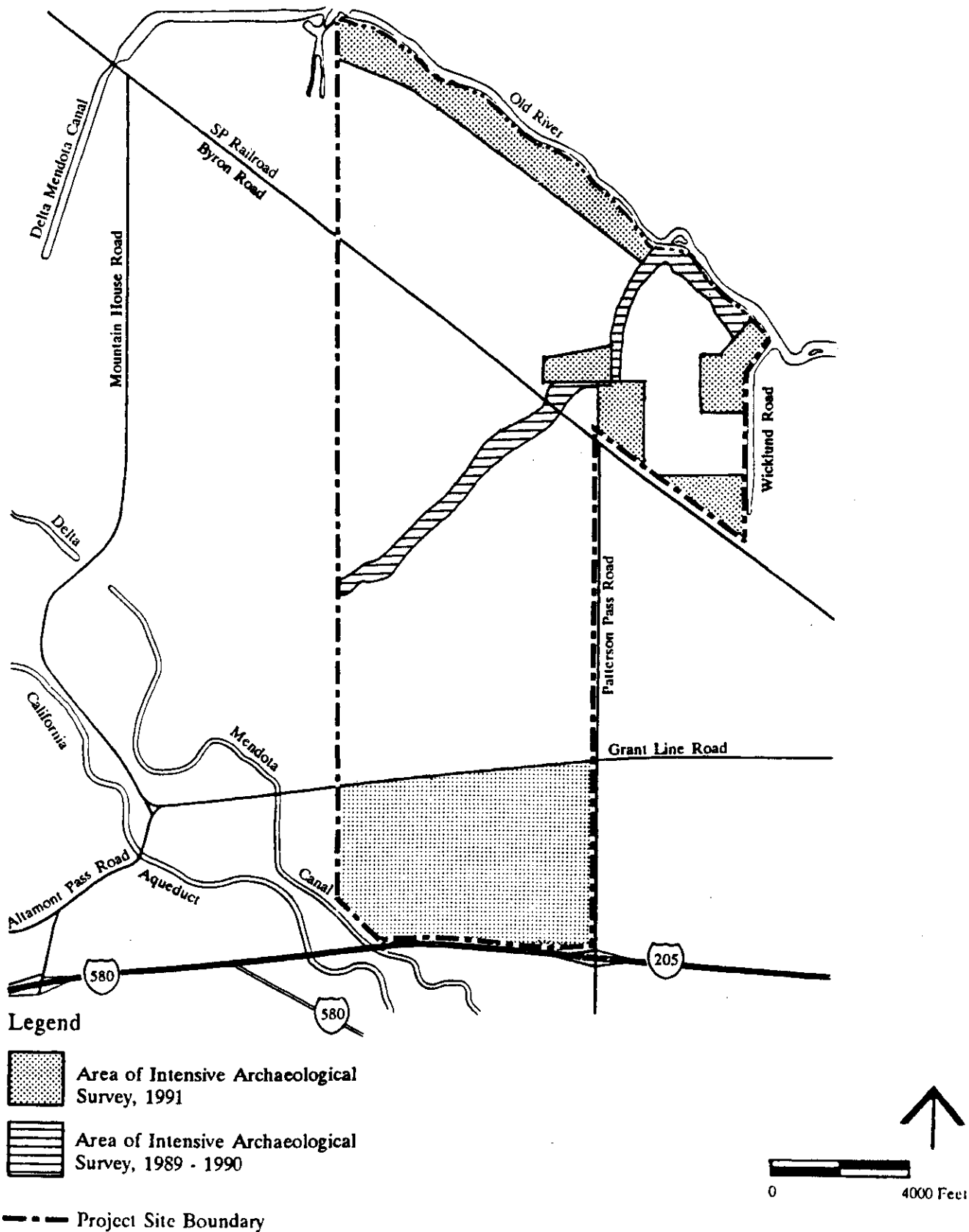
The project site contains records or evidence of four prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. These sites could be disturbed during site development. In addition, only portions of the site (Figure 4.5-1) have been the subject of archeological surveys; therefore, additional cultural resource sites may be present on the site.

Mitigation Measure M4.5-1

The following measures should replace Implementations a) and b) in ~~Cultural Resources, Land Use under Objective 8 In Development Standards (Appendix C).~~

AREA OF INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Figure 4.5-1



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"a) When specific land use and development plans are formulated as part of a specific plan, additional archaeological surveys shall be conducted in areas of development that have not been subjected to intensive archaeological reconnaissance. This shall include areas outside the specific plan area that are proposed for interim or permanent wastewater treatment or reuse.

"b) Because of the possibility that a buried site, Ca-SJo-136, may be located in the vicinity of Mountain House Creek, construction activity in the Mountain House Creek area **near that site** shall be monitored by an archaeologist.

"c) Because of the potential historic significance of Ca-SJo-229H, the site of the village of Wicklund, and because of the potential for buried features or artifact deposits in that area, an archaeologist shall monitor any construction work.

"d) If, during the course of construction, subsurface historic archaeological features were identified on sites Ca-SJo-230H and Ca-SJo-231H or anywhere within the project site, excavation shall cease and an archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate these materials.

"e) If, during the course of any construction activity, buried prehistoric cultural resources were found, excavation shall cease and an archaeologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate these resources. Such evaluation may entail archaeological test excavation and/or mitigative data recovery.

"f) A demolition permit, to be approved by the Planning Division of the Community Development Department, shall be required prior to destruction of any building in excess of 50 years of age."

Impact M4.5-2

Development of the proposed project could disturb previously unknown human prehistoric burial sites.

The project site is within the ethnographic territory of the Cholbon tribelet. It is unknown whether the site may contain prehistoric burial sites that have not been identified during previous archaeological site surveys.

Mitigation Measure M4.5-2

The following should be added as an Implementation in ~~Cultural Resources~~ Land Use Development Standards (Appendix C):

"g) The County Coroner, the Native American Heritage Commission, and an archaeologist shall be informed and consulted if a human prehistoric burial site were discovered during site construction. An agreement shall be formulated between the Native American representative, the archaeologist, San Joaquin County, and the developer with regard to the proper treatment

and disposition of human remains and associated artifacts in individual specific plans. Such treatment and disposition may require archaeological excavation and reburial."

Impact M4.5-3

The proposed project could destroy structures over 50 years of age which may have significant historical value.

A number of structures over 50 years of age have been identified on the site. The architectural significance or structural integrity of these structures have not been identified as part of previous surveys conducted on the site.

Mitigation Measure M4.5-3

*The following Implementation should be added under ~~Cultural Resources~~ **Development Standards** (Appendix C):*

*"h) Each specific plan shall contain a determination by a qualified architectural historian as to whether any of the structures that are more than 50 years old would be affected by specific plan implementation. If specific plan implementation were determined to affect the structures, recommendations by the qualified professional shall be implemented; such mitigation measures could consist of avoidance of impacts by incorporating the structure into planned developments, detailed architectural documentation and history, or removal of a structure to another location. Each specific plan shall map the location of all structures 50 years of older that have been determined by a historian to be of historic significance, **except for Specific Plan I.**"*

SPECIFIC PLAN

Specific Plan I does not contain any provisions for ensuring that impacts to cultural resources within the Plan subareas do not occur. Some identified prehistoric and historic sites are known to occur within the subareas, and unknown or undiscovered sites may be identified during site development. Implementation of the mitigation measure below, in combination with the Draft Master Plan implementation measures, would reduce the cultural resources impacts to non-significant.

Impact S4.5-1 (C,O,M)

Historic and prehistoric resources may be impacted by Specific Plan I development.

The three Specific Plan I subareas contain resources, either historic or prehistoric, as identified in intensive archaeological surveys conducted in portions of the subareas. In the Old River Business Park subarea, CA-SJo-229H, the former location of the town of Wicklund, may contain buried artifacts; in the southern portion of the subarea, CA-SJo-231H may also be affected by construction; this area contains a dense scatter of historic artifacts. In Central Mountain House, prehistoric resources may be located along Mountain House Creek, and a house on West Byron Road may have historic significance. The Mountain House Business Park subarea has been subjected to intensive surveying and no historic or prehistoric resources have been identified.

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The proposed water treatment plant location contains a building that may have historic significance. None of the alternative locations for wastewater reuse or alternative raw water pipeline alignments from the California Aqueduct has been intensively surveyed for prehistoric archeological sites.

Mitigation Measure S4.5-1 (C,O,M)

Specific Plan I should include a section on cultural resources, containing the following Objectives, Policies, and Implementations, at a minimum:

"Objective: To preserve and enhance significant cultural resources.

"Policy: Significant historic and prehistoric resources shall be located and either integrated into new development, recorded, or relocated.

"Implementation:

*"a) Areas proposed for development, wastewater treatment and reuse, water treatment, and the alternative raw water pipeline alignments not previously subject to intensive archaeological surveys shall be surveyed and the results shall be submitted with the first Development Permit, including those required for the water and wastewater treatment plants and related facilities. The recommendations of the archaeologist regarding preservation, recordation, or relocation shall be implemented ~~Mitigation~~ **to the greatest extent possible, and shall, at a minimum, contain the measures in Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines.***

"b) Potential historic structures shall be evaluated for the entire Specific Plan I area by an architectural historian and recommendations regarding incorporation into the project development, recordation, or relocation shall be implemented prior to submittal of the first Development Permit.

"c) If, during construction activities, buried prehistoric cultural resources and/or human remains were found, excavation shall cease and an archaeologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate these resources.'