

Issue	Less Than Significant or No Impact	Potential Significant Impact Adequately Addressed in MEIR	MEIR Required Additional Review: No Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact Due to Mitigation Measures in Project Description	New Additional Significant Impact Not Addressed in MEIR	New Additional Mitigation Measures Required
5.5 Cultural Resources. Would the project:						
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

In March 2004, a cultural resources study was completed for the entire Specific Plan II area, of which Neighborhood I and J are a part (Peak & Associates, Inc., 2004). This study included a review of historical records and an intensive inspection of the study area in April, May and June 2003. The intensive site investigation included a team of archaeologists walking parallel transects across the approximately 2,500-acre site, spaced at intervals of 15 meters or less.

As a result of the investigation, three newly identified resources from the historic period (greater than 50 years in age) were discovered and evaluated. Previously identified cultural resources were also examined. Of 19 cultural resources located within the study area and evaluated, none was found to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.

Historical Resources Criteria

For the purposes of CEQA, an historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. When a project would affect an archaeological site, it needs to be determined whether the site is an historical resource, which is defined as any site that:

- Contains any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, or cultural annals of California and therefore may be considered an historical resource. Generally, the resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing

in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) including the following:

- (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.

For the California Register of Historical Resources, an historical resource must be eligible at the local, State, or national level under one (or more) of the four criteria, and retain integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Historical resources must meet one of the criteria of significance and retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Archaeological Studies in Project Area

A total of 10 archaeological studies were completed within the area of the overall Mountain House community between 1990 and 2001. The information gathered during these investigations is maintained by the Central California Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System. From these earlier studies, 16 prehistoric and historic period cultural resources were identified within the boundaries of Specific Plan II. However, none of these resources was found to be eligible for listing in the California Register (Peak & Associates, Inc., 2004).

During the field reconnaissance undertaken in April, May, and June 2003, three newly identified cultural resources were discovered and two of the previously identified resources were re-recorded because the original recorders of these resources did not have complete access to the sites. The other 14 previously identified resources were spot-checked to see if conditions had changed enough to warrant re-recording, but they had not.

All of the three newly identified resources represent the historic period. They included 1) a site with a barn and series of outbuildings, 2) a collapsed windmill, and 3) a linear-shaped refuse deposit covered with sediment across the deposit. The refuse, which consisted of bottles and other items, appears to have been deposited at the site sometime between the 1920s and the 1950s. At some point in time, it appears that sediment was placed over the refuse site, possibly to prevent a hazard for range cattle that roamed the area (Peak & Associates, Inc., 2004).

Conclusions Regarding Newly Identified Resources

The evaluation of whether any of the three above sites are eligible for the California Register, based on the listing criteria described above, concluded the following:

- *Barn and Outbuildings.* The assemblage of outbuildings and a barn do not appear to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of California's heritage or cultural heritage (Criterion A), or with the lives of persons important to our past (Criterion B). They do not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, nor represent the work of an important creative individual, nor possess high artistic values (Criterion C). They have not yielded, nor are they likely to yield, information important in history (Criterion D). Therefore, this site was found not eligible for the California Register.
- *Windmill.* The collapsed windmill does not appear to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of California's heritage or cultural heritage (Criterion A), or with the lives of persons important to our past (Criterion B). It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, nor represent the work of an important creative individual, nor possess high artistic values (Criterion C). It has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information important in history (Criterion D). Therefore, the collapsed windmill was found not eligible for the California Register.
- *Refuse Deposit.* Archival research was conducted at the California Room of the California State Library, State Division of Mines and Geology Library, Bureau of Land Management, and, the San Joaquin County Recorder's Office to ascertain the history of ownership and use of the property containing the refuse deposit. Ten hand-dug test units were excavated across the resource from west to east. The excavated sediment was passed through a one-eighth-inch mesh shaker screen, and the recovered historic period material was sorted by type (glass/metal/miscellaneous) and weighed. In total, approximately 845 pounds of glass and 234 pounds of metal were recovered, as were fragments of leather (shoes), bones (shellfish, chicken, pork, and beef), metal and plastic toys, building materials (plaster board, siding, asphalt roofing), two marbles, and two pennies, both dating to the early 1950s.

The refuse deposit was found to be consistently buried under approximately 20 inches of sediment. The deposit varies in thickness from a minimum of 16 inches to a maximum of just over 2 feet. The refuse lens is distinguishable by the presence of numerous fragments of glass (broken bottles), some complete bottles, some ceramic fragments, and numerous fragments of metal, and areas with decomposed metal (orange-colored rust stains). Ash and wood fragments were discovered in hand dug pits in portions of the excavated units, although all of the refuse was not subjected to burning.

The preliminary analysis of this material indicates that it appears to have been deposited during a relatively short time span (early to mid 1950s), from what appears to be a single-family household. Recovered items include canning jars, bone and shell remains from food items, bottle caps, and auto-related items (e.g., tires, belts etc.).

Although interesting, this refuse deposit does not appear to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of California's heritage or cultural heritage (Criterion A), or with the lives of persons important to our past (Criterion B). It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, nor represent the work of an important creative individual, nor possess high artistic values (Criterion C). It has not yielded information important in history (Criterion D), as it appears to have been deposited over a brief time period, just over 50 years ago. Thus, the refuse deposit was determined not eligible for the California Register. It was determined that no further testing was needed, and that no specific mitigation measures were necessary for its treatment.

Significant Impacts Identified in 1994 MEIR

The 1994 MEIR identified the following three potential impacts associated with Master Plan development:

- 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.
- 2) Development of the proposed project could disturb previously unknown human prehistoric burial sites.
- 3) The proposed project could destroy structures over 50 years of age that may have significant historical value.

Findings Related to Significant Impacts Identified in 1994 MEIR

For Impact No. 1 above, Section 7.4 of the Master Plan, Implementation Measures (a) through (f) deal with the recommended changes from the 1994 MEIR, addressing measures to undertake should unknown cultural resources be found. These measures also address the need for additional archaeological surveys when specific plans are developed.

For Impact No. 2 above, Section 7.4 of the Master Plan, Implementation Measure (e), was adopted regarding procedures to follow should unknown human prehistoric burial sites be discovered during construction.

For Impact No. 3 above, Section 7.4 of the Master Plan, Implementation Measures (d) and (f), were adopted regarding the need for surveys for each

specific plan to determine if structures more than 50 years old could be affected by development. Measures required at the time of Specific Plan II have been completed.

Discussion Regarding Neighborhoods I and J

- a) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?*

The Neighborhoods I and J development would not affect historical resources. As discussed in the "Setting" section above, none of the historical resources that were assessed was found eligible for listing in the California Register.

As with any surface inspection, there is always a remote possibility that previous activities (both natural and cultural) have obscured prehistoric or historic period artifacts or habitation areas, leaving no surface evidence to identify the resources. If, during construction activities, artifacts or non-native stone (obsidian, fine-grained silicates, basalt) are exposed, or if unusual amounts of bone or shell are observed, or if areas that contain dark-colored sediment that do not appear to have been created through natural processes are discovered, then work should cease in the immediate area of the discovery and a professionally qualified archaeologist should be contacted immediately for an on-site inspection of the discovery. If any bone is uncovered that appears to be human, then State law requires that the San Joaquin County Coroner be contacted. If the coroner determines that the bone most likely represents a Native American interment, then he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento so that they can identify the most likely descendants.

The above mitigation measure is addressed in the County's Development Title, Section 9-1053.8M and 9-1053.9M. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures are considered necessary.

- b) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?*

Refer to the discussion under (a) above.

- c) *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Unique geologic features and paleontological resources have not been identified within the Neighborhood I and J area and there is no evidence that paleontological resources exist at the site. The County's Development Title, Section 9-1053.9M, would provide mitigation should as-yet unknown paleontological resources be uncovered during construction. Paleontological resources were not addressed in the 1994 MEIR.

- d) *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Refer to (a) above. No additional mitigation measures would be needed beyond what is already required as part of the County's Development Title, Section 9-1053.8M and 9-1053.9M.

Sources of Information

Peak & Associates, Inc., 2004. *Cultural Resources Studies for the Proposed Mountain House Specific Plan II Area, San Joaquin County, California*. Prepared for Trimark Communities, L.L.C., March 22.

San Joaquin County, 1994, *Mountain House New Community Master Plan*. Adopted November 1994 and amended September 2000.

San Joaquin County, 1992, *San Joaquin County Development Title*. Adopted July 29, as amended.