

## 3.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section presents the environmental setting and impact assessment for cultural resources in the City's Planning Area. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land within the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area boundaries that is outside the City's boundaries and adopted SOI. Together the City and the County Planning Areas comprise the OVOV Planning Area. Cultural resources are defined as prehistoric and historic sites, structures, and districts, or any other physical evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason. For analysis purposes, cultural resources may be categorized into three groups: archaeological resources, historic resources, and contemporary Native American resources. Paleontological resources, while not generally considered a "cultural resource," are afforded protection under *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* and as such are evaluated in this section of the environmental impact report (EIR). All impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources with the implementation of mitigation measures were found to be less than significant.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Prehistory—Paleontology

Resource information on paleontological history is not discussed specifically for the OVOV Planning Area, but for the Los Angeles region instead. During the Miocene and Pliocene Periods (23.8 to 1.8 million years ago), most of the greater Los Angeles Basin and the surrounding hills, including the Santa Clarita Valley, was submerged. Los Angeles County is one of the richest areas in the world for both fossil marine vertebrates and land vertebrates from rock deposited over the last 25 million years. Although Rancho La Brea (in the City of Los Angeles) has been highly publicized, there are many other areas of Los Angeles County, including the Santa Clarita Valley, that contain equally important fossil occurrences.

The richness of fossils in the County is due to several major series of events in the geologic history of the area. During the Miocene and Pliocene time, most of what is now the greater Los Angeles Basin and the surrounding hills, including the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding mountains, was submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean. Thousands of feet of sand, mud, and other materials were deposited on the

ocean bottom. Marine animals and shore birds were buried in these deposits as they died and sank to the bottom. Through time, many of these specimens became fossilized.

During the Pleistocene age, movement of and collision between tectonic plates elevated much of this area above the ocean and formed hills and mountains where the ocean bottom and valleys once existed. Erosion cut through these older sediments, as they were uplifted from the terrain that now exists.

Over 1,100 vertebrate fossil localities within the County are known. Most of these localities are generally scattered within 700 square miles (about 17 percent of the County) of hilly terrain that is underlain by fossil-producing rock formations. A substantial portion of these 700 square miles have been developed, and much of the remaining area is threatened, particularly areas surrounding the Santa Clarita Valley, including the Santa Susana Mountains to the southwest and the Sierra Pelona Mountains on the north.<sup>1</sup>

As development encroaches into the foothills of these ranges, the paleontological resources that may be present within these areas are subject to a greater risk of damage or destruction. Additional risk factors include the lack of outward visibility of these resources (they are often buried, sometimes under substantial quantities of earth) and a lack of information regarding specific locations of these resources in some portions of the City's Planning Area.

### *Prehistory and Archaeology*

Early man arrived in the Santa Clarita Valley 18,000 to 25,000 years ago during the migration across the Bering land bridge. The earliest physical evidence of human occupation in the Upper Santa Clara River Area dates from 7,000 to 4,000 years before present (b.p.), and was recovered from two sites near Vasquez Rocks. The identity of the area's first inhabitants is unknown. The Tataviam peoples, Uto-Aztecan speakers of Shoshonean descent, began to reach the OVOV Planning Area in approximately 450 A.D. They were described as a distinct linguistic group when they were first encountered in 1776 by Spanish explorer Pedro Fages.<sup>2</sup>

The Tataviam lived primarily on the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River, east of Piru Creek, extending north into the Antelope Valley, south to the San Gabriel Mountains.<sup>3</sup> However, archaeological data indicate that subsistence patterns and ritual practice were very similar to neighboring Chumash and Gabrielino culture groups. Tataviam village sites with known names are located at San Francisquito, Piru,

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<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles 1979. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> King and Blackburn 1978. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> City of Santa Clarita, Conservation and Open Space Element (2009).

Camulos, Castaic Reservoir, Piru Creek, Elizabeth Lake, and in the Newhall environs; additional archaeological sites have been recorded throughout the OVOV Planning Area, particularly along the Santa Clara River,<sup>4</sup> as well as in the Vasquez Rocks area.<sup>5</sup>

Sites of Native American cultural significance also exist within the City's Planning Area. Some are associated with archaeological sites; others are not otherwise recognizable. According to a recent study in the OVOV Planning Area, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) identified three sites of Native American cultural significance in proximity to the Santa Clara River including CA-LAN-361, CA-LAN-366, and CA-LAN-367.<sup>6</sup> Many of the place names used today, such as Castaic, Piru, Camulos and Hasley (Islay), reflect a Tataviam linguistic origin,<sup>7</sup> and given the long history of Native American occupation of the OVOV Planning Area, other such sites are likely present. One site of extreme cultural significance, Bowers Cave near Val Verde, contributed one of the most significant assemblages of Native American religious and ceremonial artifacts ever found in North America.<sup>8</sup> The Cave, named after the Ventura man who purchased the cave's contents from teenage discoverers, is located in the crest of the mountain at the entrance to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

## The Historical Period

### History of the Planning Area

The chronicles of the 1769 expedition from San Diego to Monterey by Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola provided the first Euro-American documentation of the Santa Clarita Region. The expedition passed through the San Fernando Valley to Newhall, then to the Castaic Junction area, and then down the Santa Clara River to San Buenaventura and north to Monterey.<sup>9</sup> The trail blazed by Portola became known as the El Camino Viejo (The Old Road).<sup>10</sup> Later, Pedro Fages, commander of the Presidio of San Diego, in 1772 traveled through Castaic Junction and Soledad Canyon in search of deserters from the army.

The Rancho San Francisco (which includes the western half of the Santa Clarita Valley) and the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River figured in three important episodes in Southern California, two of which are landmarks in the economic history of the state. The first is the documented discovery of gold in

<sup>4</sup> CH2MHill 1996. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan, "Conservation and Open Space Element,"* (2008) CO-34.

<sup>6</sup> CH2MHill 1996. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

<sup>7</sup> City of Santa Clarita 1999. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Jerry Reynolds, *The Signal Newspaper*, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan, "Conservation and Open Space Element,"* (2008) CO-35.

<sup>10</sup> City of Santa Clarita 1999. Santa Clarita Valleywide General Plan Technical Background Report, 2004.

Placerita Canyon in 1842 by Francisco Lopez, Manuel Cota, and Domingo Bermudez. An existing oak tree near this location became known as the Oak of the Golden Dream.

The upper Santa Clarita Valley was also the first location of true oil drilling in Southern California, exploration for which began about 1865, when oil seeps were discovered in Pico Canyon. Subsequent exploration led to the discovery of oil in Rancho San Francisco and throughout the valley. The crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad through the region, along with the development of the Newhall oil field and the Pioneer Oil Refinery (the predecessor of Chevron Oil) in 1874 (it was moved to its present location in 1876), initiated an oil boom in the area. The third major local historical event was the failure of the St. Francis Dam and the resulting flood of the river valley on March 12 and 13, 1928. The flood caused at least 450 deaths and destroyed 990 homes and large areas of orchards.<sup>11</sup>

American explorer John C. Fremont, who would later challenge Abraham Lincoln for the Republican nomination of U.S. president, arrived at Castaic Junction with his “Buckskin Battalion” in 1847, after following the future route of State Route (SR) 126 from Ventura. After camping for two days in the Santa Clarita Valley, he crossed into the San Fernando Valley near the present alignment of Sierra Highway. Near the current Universal Studios Hollywood, he accepted the surrender of California from General Andres Pico. The crossing through the mountains occurred at what is now known as Fremont Pass. In 1854, Phineas Banning made a 30-foot cut in the pass to allow the first stagecoach through the pass.

The Butterfield Overland Stage took the “Great Southern” or “Oxbow” route from St. Louis to San Francisco over Fremont Pass from 1858 until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. In 1863, under a construction contract awarded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, General Edward F. Beale’s workers cut a 90-foot-deep passageway through the pass between the present alignments of SR-14 and Sierra Highway to improve the roadway. Beale had also constructed a toll house when the pass was widened and collected toll for the right of passage for 22 years before the County halted the practice. Beale’s Cut was a vital route that served the Southern California area until it was bypassed by the Newhall Tunnel in 1910. By 1915, the “Ridge Route” extended from downtown Los Angeles north through the Newhall Tunnel and into the San Joaquin Valley. The San Fernando Railroad Tunnel, the third longest tunnel in the world at the time of the tunnel’s completion in 1876, is still used by the Union Pacific Railroad and Metrolink.

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11 Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, “Welcome to St. Francis Dam,” [http://seis.natsci.csulb.edu/VIRTUAL\\_FIELD/Francesquito\\_Dam/franmain.htm](http://seis.natsci.csulb.edu/VIRTUAL_FIELD/Francesquito_Dam/franmain.htm), 2002.

Because San Francisquito Canyon was the traditional route taken to the east, it was among the first canyons mined and settled. Gold mining continued in the canyon until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and one of the camps, Ratsburg, was mined until 1930.

By 1860, a copper boom had formed in Soledad, and a little town grew near the head of Williamson's Pass. Both copper- and gold-bearing quartz veins were mined into the twentieth century, although the rush was over by 1875.<sup>12</sup>

In 1875, most of the Rancho San Francisco was purchased by Henry Mayo Newhall, a San Francisco entrepreneur. From that time to the present, the history of the Santa Clarita Valley has been linked to the activities of Newhall and, after his death, to the family company, The Newhall Land and Farming Company. When Newhall acquired the Rancho, he knew the Southern Pacific Railroad intended to lay tracks north out of Los Angeles to join with the Central Pacific and its connection to the Transcontinental Railroad. A rail route through his property would increase its value, so he sold an alignment to the Southern Pacific for one dollar and a square-mile townsite to the railroad's development company for another dollar.

Three months after Newhall's land purchase, the Southern Pacific began tunneling through the mountains and the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Built with Chinese labor, at 6,940 feet the San Fernando (Railroad) Tunnel was the third-longest tunnel in the United States when it was completed on July 27, 1876. As the Southern Pacific extended track to the north, the Central Pacific was coming south to meet it. The two companies joined track near Lang Station in Canyon Country in a "golden spike" ceremony on September 5, 1876. The following month, on October 18, 1876, the Southern Pacific began subdividing the town of Newhall.

Initially the town was located at Bouquet Junction, in what would later become Saugus, named for Henry Newhall's hometown in Massachusetts. Little more than a year later, in January and February 1878, the town moved 3 miles south to its present location at Old Town Newhall, probably because of better water availability from a natural artesian spring. The Pioneer Oil Refinery, which handled the oil piped from Pico Canyon and was initially set up along the wagon route in the Newhall Pass, moved to present-day Pine Street in Railroad Canyon next to the new train tracks. The earliest productive refinery on the West Coast, it operated until 1888.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Rincon 2002.

<sup>13</sup> Rincon 2002.

The community of Newhall contains many notable Hollywood movie sets and is the site of the Walk of Western Stars. Some of the Western relics in downtown Newhall include the “Tom Mix cottages” used as housing for the early motion picture industry, the American Theater (originally the Tumbleweed Theater) designed by Charles S. Lee and funded in large part by Actor William S. Hart in 1940; Melody Ranch (a.k.a. Placeritos Ranch and Monogram Ranch), built in the early 1920s and owned from 1952 to 1990 by actor Gene Autry and used as a location for hundreds of Western films, television series and commercials; and the Walt Disney Co.’s Golden Oak Ranch in nearby Placerita Canyon. Heritage Junction, located at 24151 Newhall Avenue, has been set aside for the preservation of historic local structures.<sup>14</sup>

In 1908, the City of Los Angeles obtained rights to the watershed of the Owens Valley. Under direction of William Mulholland, chief engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the project was expanded in the 1920s into San Francisquito Canyon, where the St. Francis Dam was completed in 1926. From there, the aqueduct crossed the eastern end of the ranch and extended over the San Fernando Pass to the spillway above the San Fernando Reservoir. The Newhall directors also agreed to reservoir spillage of excess water into the Santa Clara River, for use by the ranch. In 1928 the concrete dam failed. The resulting flood of the river valley on March 12 and 13 caused at least 450 deaths and destroyed 990 homes and large areas of farmland. It was America’s worst civil engineering failure of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1932-34, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power built a new earthen dam in Bouquet Canyon.<sup>15</sup>

### ***Recognized Resources***

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) currently list 20 historical properties, sites, and landmarks in the area surrounding and including the City of Santa Clarita. The approximate locations of these sites within the City’s Planning Area are shown on **Figure 3.8-1, Cultural Resources within the City’s Planning Area**, using the map reference number provided in **Table 3.8-1**. Descriptions of the sites are listed in **Table 3.8-1, Cultural and Historical Resources in the City’s Planning Area**. The numbering of resources in **Table 3.8-1** and **Figure 3.8-1** is not meant to be sequential and represents only those resources within the City’s Planning Area. Of these sites, one is on the California Register of Historic Resources, four are State Points of Historical Interest, one is a State Historic Landmark, and 14 are City Points of Historical Interest. A complete listing of cultural and historic resources within the OVOV Planning Area can be found in the General Plan’s Conservation and Open Space Element (2009).

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<sup>14</sup> City of Santa Clarita 1999.

<sup>15</sup> Rincon 2002.

**\*NOTE ON CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
 The locations of some of the cultural resources have been approximated.

**Legend:**

- Cultural Resources
- SOI
- OVOV Planning Area
- City Boundary
- Angeles National Forest
- County Boundary

**Roads**

- Freeway
- Highway

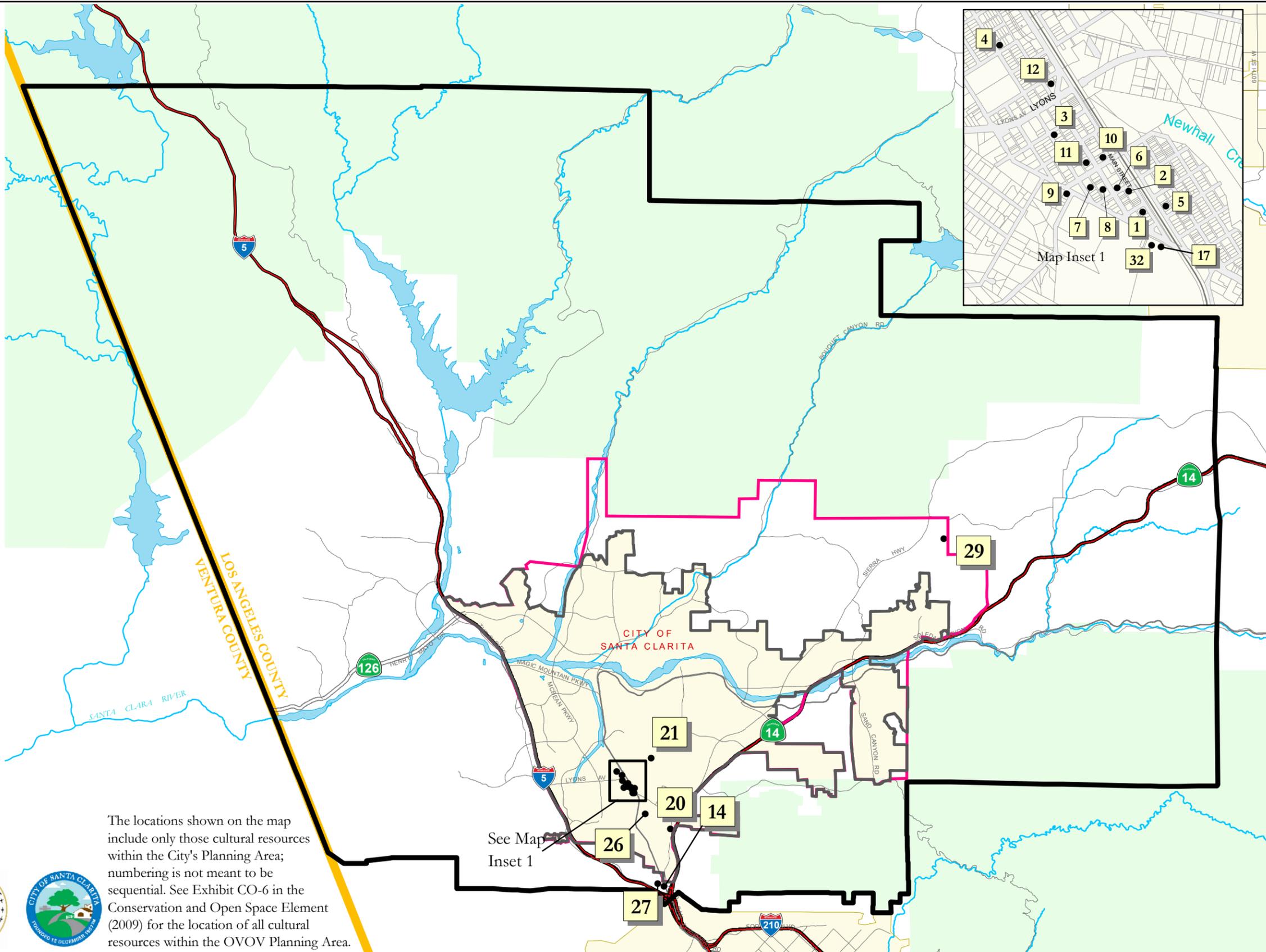
**Hydrography**

- Waterbody and Perennial Stream

NOTE: The Cultural Resource locations are referred to by name and description in Tables 3.8-1 and 3.8-2.

Note: GIS Projection - CA State Plane, Zone 5, NAD83, Feet.

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN MILES



The locations shown on the map include only those cultural resources within the City's Planning Area; numbering is not meant to be sequential. See Exhibit CO-6 in the Conservation and Open Space Element (2009) for the location of all cultural resources within the OVOV Planning Area.

SOURCE: One Valley, One Vision Draft Conservation and Open Space Element, Table CO 6, 2009

FIGURE 3.8-1

Cultural Resources Within the City's Planning Area

In addition to these sites, literature surveys prepared for recent studies identified 69 archaeological sites or isolated artifacts within 0.25 mile of the Santa Clara River as it runs through the Santa Clarita Valley.<sup>16</sup> Additional sites are likely present, as the river represented a major resource for Native American groups in the vicinity. Historical and archaeological sites can also be important cultural resources for Native American groups, as the activities that lead to the creation of the sites may have been ceremonial or otherwise culturally significant. This is especially true for gravesites, which are afforded special protection by state law. It is important to note, however, that not all such sites are indicated by artifactual evidence. These sites generally occur in the same types of locations as archaeological sites, often (but not always) near resource areas such as watercourses, drainages, and woodlands. These sites are also at risk from development, particularly because no outward signs are often provided, and Native Americans are reluctant to discuss the locations of these sites due to cultural taboos and/or a desire to protect the sites from intrusion.

**Table 3.8-1  
Cultural and Historical Resources in the City's Planning Area**

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
Pioneer Oil Refinery 23552 Pine Street, Newhall (State Historic Landmark #172) Map reference number 26	Oldest continuously operated oil refinery in the world; first refinery in state, producing illuminating oil. Donated to City in 1998, restored in 1930 and 1950s and 1976, but damaged in the 1994 earthquake.
Lyons Station/Eternal Valley Cemetery 23287 Sierra Highway, Newhall (State Historic Landmark #688) Map reference number 20	A stage stop was built here in 1852. It was used by the Butterfield Overland Stage line from 1857 to 1861 as a resting place for soldiers and camel caravans from Fort Tejon. Many pioneers are buried here in the Eternal Valley Cemetery.
22621 13th Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 4	Single-family dwelling: Built in February 1873 for Adam Malinszewski at Lyons Station; moved by O.J. Newhall to San Fernando Road in the community of Newhall about 1879. At the turn of the century, it was acquired by the Frew family, who were pioneer blacksmiths, then Mr. Ed Jauregui, who moved it to its present location.
24148 Pine Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 5	Single-family dwelling: Constructed in 1878 by California Star Oil Company as a guesthouse for visiting executives and politicians. Standard Oil sold it to Josh Woodbridge, who lived there until his death in 1950.

<sup>16</sup> CH2MHill 1996.

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
24522 Spruce Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 12	Commercial structure once known as "hoosegow." Initially planned as a wooden structure on this site in 1888, bids for a jailhouse were opened February 20, 1906, the result being this building of concrete in the Spanish Mission style. It retains to this day the original cell doors and barred windows. It served as a jail/constable's office until 1926, when a sheriff's substation was opened.
24311-24313 Main Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 11	Commercial structure: Thomas M. Frew arrived in Newhall in 1891, and opened a blacksmith shop on Railroad Avenue. The business moved to this location in 1910, when Mr. Frew built a shop in the Mission Revival style. This shop was expanded in 1924. His son, Thomas Frew Jr., changed it over to welding and a machine shop. In 1935, concurrent with the widening of Main Street, it was remodeled into its present Spanish Mission style.
22502-22510 5th Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 1	Commercial structure: Newhall Ice Company. This structure was built in 1922 by Fred Lamkin as a warehouse and storage yard. Lamkin came to Newhall in 1917, opening a garage facing San Fernando Road. Shortly after construction, the warehouse was converted into an icehouse, which is still in operation.
24244 Newhall Avenue Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 7	Church building was erected in 1940 under the direction of pastor Leroy Hux for the First Baptist Church of Newhall. It was later acquired by the Seventh Day Adventists and finally, the Church of Christ. Currently, Queen of Angels Church occupies the site.
22616 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 3	Single-family dwelling: This building was originally built about 1908 as a residence for Ray Osborne, Superintendent of the Sterling Borax Works in Tick Canyon. It was located in the small mining town of Lang in Canyon Country. It was moved to this location in 1928.
24287 Newhall Avenue Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 9	Single-family dwelling: California Bungalow style house built in early 1910s. Commonly known as Erwin House. Unusual in design, one of the last Bungalows left in Santa Clarita.
22506 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 2	Commercial building: Structure was erected by Albert Swall in 1902 facing San Fernando Road as a rental. In 1925, it was moved to the present location and a year later taken over by the Los Angeles County Sheriff as the first substation in the Santa Clarita Valley. Swall developed San Fernando Road as a business district. It became the circulation office for the Newhall Signal newspaper during the 1960s, until they vacated in 1986.

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
24238 Main Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 6	Commercial building: Sheriff's deputies replaced the old constabulary (and jail) in 1926, building Substation #6 and staffing it with eight Sheriff's deputies commanded by Captain Jeb Stewart. This was the second jail in what is now known as Santa Clarita. The Newhall Signal newspaper took over the building in 1968, using it as a "back shop" until they moved in 1986.
24307 Railroad Avenue Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 10	Commercial building: Commonly known as "Ye Olde Courthouse." The Newhall Masonic Building Company, Ltd., was incorporated in 1931 and completed this two-story project in 1932. The Courthouse occupied the ground floor, and the Masonic Lodge the second story. Lumber from the older Mayhue building was later used, including the floor of the Hap-A-Lan dance hall which previously occupied the site. The Court moved to Valencia and the courtroom became offices.
24247-24251 Main Street Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 8	Commercial structures (7): Commonly known as the Tom Mix Cottages. The small building at 24247 was built by Halsey W. Russell in 1919. In 1922, the six other cottages were added, forming a motor court catering to drivers on the old Ridge Route. These structures were also used by motion picture people as housing during the filming of stories in the area known as "Mixville." Tom Mix used one as a dressing room on several occasions.
24151 Newhall Avenue William S. Hart Park and Museum (State Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 32	The Hart mansion is filled with Western art and artifacts. Many Western movies have been filmed here. In addition to the listing for the property, several features of the site are eligible for individual listing: <sup>17</sup> the Bunk House, Headquarters Building, Garage and Chauffeur's Quarters, Gate Tower, Pool House, Ranch House Museum, and Sundeck/Tea Room.
Heritage Junction Historic Park 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 17	The following eight entries are associated with Heritage Junction Historic Park:
(1) Newhall Ranch House [At Heritage Junction]	Built around 1865 as a small house with a basement, this building served as the headquarters of the Rancho San Francisco, the original land grant comprising 48,000 acres of the Santa Clara River Valley. This ranch was owned after 1875 by Henry Mayo Newhall and was administered by his son, George, who expanded the Ranch House in 1893. Originally located in sight of the Estancia de San Francisco Xavier (on what is now Six Flags Magic Mountain property), this structure was moved into Heritage Junction in August 1990.

<sup>17</sup> City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan*, "Draft Conservation and Open Space Element." (October 2008).

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
(2) Mitchell Adobe Schoolhouse [At Heritage Junction]	Colonel Thomas Finley Mitchell, an officer of the Mexican-American War, homesteaded Sulphur Springs in the 1860s, building an adobe that served as his family's home. One room of the adobe was used as a schoolhouse for the local children, the first in the area and home of the second oldest school district in Los Angeles County. In 1986, the adobe was rescued from destruction and moved brick-by-brick to Heritage Junction, where it has been rebuilt.
(3) Kingsburry House [At Heritage Junction]	This house was built in 1878 as a residence at 8 <sup>th</sup> Street and San Fernando Road (Main Street). In 1883 it was occupied by Lyman Steward, a founder of the Union Oil Company. In 1911 it was moved to Walnut Street near Market. It is a one-story Colonial Revival cottage with a porch supported by four turned columns. This house is largely intact with original features, including double-hung windows. It was moved to Heritage Junction in 1987, and decorated in historic style by the Questers.
(4) Callahan's Schoolhouse [At Heritage Junction]	This 1927 structure originated at Robert E. Callahan's Western town/amusement area that operated in the 1920s in Santa Monica as the Mission Village, and was relocated to Mint Canyon (Saugus) when the freeway was built in 1963 and renamed Callahan's Old West. The structure was built to house six antique school desks which came from a mining camp in Vallejo, along with a speaker's podium and blackboard representative of a one-room schoolhouse. The building was donated by Callahan's widow, Marion, and moved to Heritage Junction in 1987.
(5) Ramona Chapel [At Heritage Junction]	Designed by Carrie Jacobs Bond, noted composer, this chapel was based on the one at Rancho Camulos made famous in Helen Hunt Jackson's novel <i>Ramona</i> . It was built in 1926 as part of Robert E. Callahan's Mission Village in Santa Monica, and Callahan's Old West when it was moved in the 1960s to accommodate the freeway. Wall paintings are by Frank Tinney Johnson. The altar is said to be over 200 years old, and the wooden pews date back to 1858. The chapel was donated by Callahan's widow, Marion, and moved to Heritage Junction in 1987.
(6) Edison House [At Heritage Junction]	This Bavarian-style structure was built in 1925 as part of a group of houses provided for Edison workers assigned to the Saugus Substation. In 1928, when the St. Francis Dam broke and flooded the area, killing 450 people, these structures escaped damage. After years as residences for a succession of Edison employees, the cottages became property of The Newhall Land and Farming Company. This house was moved to Heritage Junction in 1989.

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
(7) Pardee House/Good Templars 24275 Walnut Street, Newhall (State Point of Historical Interest)	Built in 1890 on Pine Street in Newhall by Henry Clay Needham, a prominent orator and later a prohibitionist candidate for president, as a Good Templar's Lodge. Moved in 1893 by Ed Pardee, local oilman and police constable, who expanded the structure and used it as his residence. The structure was later used as a telephone exchange by Pacific Bell; as a teen center by the Santa Clarita Valley Boys Club; as the Newhall-Saugus-Valencia Chamber of Commerce office; and as a movie set by Tom Mix in the 1920s. Donated to the historical society and moved to Heritage Junction in 1992.
(8) Saugus Depot 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest)	The last remaining railroad depot in the Valley. Built in 1887 by Southern Pacific, completing the spur line to Ventura. The structure was moved to Hart Park in 1980, where the SCV Historical Society operates as a general history museum. Next to the station is a historic Mogul steam locomotive, built in New York in 1900 and donated to the Historical Society by Gene Autry in 1982.
Beale's Cut Stagecoach Pass Adjacent to Sierra Highway near Newhall Avenue, Newhall (State Point of Historical Interest No. 1006) Map reference number 14	In 1862-63, General Edward Beale improved the wagon route through the present-day Newhall Pass between the current locations of SR-14 and Sierra Highway to a depth of 90 feet. Beale installed a tollbooth at this location, which he continued to operate for 20 years. The Newhall Tunnel, part of the Ridge Route, bypassed Beale's Cut in 1910.
Melody Ranch 24715 Oak Creek Avenue Newhall (City Point of Historical Interest) Map reference number 21	Historic ranch set used for western films. The buildings were originally developed by pioneer filmmakers Ernie Hickson and Trem Carr about 1922 and consisted of authentic Western buildings located at the present location of Golden Oak Ranch. In 1936 the buildings were moved to their current location. The site at that time was also known as the Monogram Ranch, as so many of the company's Westerns were filmed there. From 1949 to 1951 the site was the scene of Newhall's Old West Fourth of July celebration, when it became "Slippery Gulch." Purchased by western actor Gene Autry in 1952, the site was renamed Melody Ranch and used for many early television programs, including the long-running "Gunsmoke." Most of the structures burned down in a valleywide brush fire on August 26, 1962; however, the trademark Spanish-style arches and parts of the main street and Mexican village are still intact. In 1990 the ranch was purchased by the Veluzat family of Newhall and rebuilt. Today it remains a working movie ranch and the site of the City's annual Cowboy Festival.
Railroad Tunnel, Newhall Pass (California Register of Historical Resources) Map reference number 27	Determined eligible in 2000 for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. Completed in 1876 by the Southern Pacific Railroad. At the time, it was the third longest tunnel in the world.

Site Address and Map Reference Number <sup>1</sup>	Historical Significance
Borax Mine Tick Canyon Map reference number 29	In the spring of 1905 gold prospectors Henry Shepard and Louis Ebbenger found a rich deposit of borates in Tick Canyon. They sold the claim to Thomas Thorkildson and Steven Mather for \$30,000. Sterling Borax Works was formed to mine the claim, and began operations in 1908. A large mill was constructed north of what is now Davenport Road, and a narrow-gauge train line connected the mine to Lang Station, 6 miles away. Borax was hauled along this rail line by engine "Sterling No. 2" for 70 years. The mining camp, called Lang, included a boarding house, offices, company store, a dozen residences, corral, and warehouses. The Sterling Mine was never a big producer, generating about 20,000 tons per year of borates during peak production. Borax Consolidated, a forerunner of U.S. Borax, bought the Sterling Mine in 1911 for \$1.8 million. For many years, the corporate headquarters were located in Valencia.

Sources: Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, <http://www.scvhistory.com/scvhistory/index2.htm>, 1991; State of California, Office of Historic Preservation, November 27, 2002 *The Signal*, and the City of Santa Clarita.

<sup>1</sup> Locations of historic and cultural resources are identified on **Figure 3.8-1, Cultural Resources within the City's Planning Area**, using the map reference number provided in **Table 3.8-1**. The numbering of resources in **Table 3.8-1** and **Figure 3.8-1** is not meant to be sequential and represent only those resources within the City's Planning Area. A complete listing of cultural and historic resources within the OVOV Planning Area can be found in the proposed *General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element* (2009).

## REGULATORY SETTING

The treatment of cultural resources is governed by federal, state, and local laws and guidelines. There are specific criteria for determining whether prehistoric and historic sites or objects are significant and/or protected by law. Federal and state significance criteria generally focus on the resource's integrity and uniqueness, its relationship to similar resources, and its potential to contribute important information to scholarly research. Some resources that do not meet federal significance criteria may be considered significant by state criteria. The laws and regulation seek to mitigate impacts on significant prehistoric or historic resources. The federal, state, and local laws and guidelines for protecting historic resources are summarized below.

### Federal Regulations

#### *The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the official federal list of cultural resources that have been nominated by state offices for their historical significance at the local, state, or national level. Properties listed in the NRHP, or "determined

eligible” for listing, must meet certain criteria for historical significance and possess integrity of form, location, and setting.

Criteria for listing on the NRHP are significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture as present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that are (A) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; (B) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; (C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values, represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or (D) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Criterion D is usually reserved for archaeological and paleontological resources. Eligible properties meet at least one of the criteria and exhibit integrity, measured by the degree to which the resource retains its historical properties and conveys its historical character, the degree to which the original fabric has been retained, and the reversibility of changes to the property.

## **State Regulations**

### ***California Senate Bill 18***

Cities and counties are required pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 18 to notify and consult with California Native American Tribes about proposed local land use planning decisions for protecting Traditional Tribal Cultural Places.<sup>18</sup> Cities and counties must obtain a list of the California Native American tribes from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) whose traditional lands within the agency’s jurisdiction may be affected by a proposed adoption or amendment of a general plan or specific plan. Prior to the adoption or any amendment of a general plan or specific plan, a local government must notify the appropriate tribes of the opportunity to conduct consultations on the proposed action. Prior to the adoption or substantial amendment of the General Plan or Specific Plan, a local government must refer the proposed action to those tribes on the Native American contact list that have traditional lands within the agency’s jurisdiction.

To help local officials meet these new obligations, SB 18 requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to amend its General Plan Guidelines to include advice to local government on how to consult with California Native American tribes.

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<sup>18</sup> California Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004.

Developed in consultation with the NAHC, the OPR guidelines include advice for consulting with California Native American Tribes for

- the preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, cultural places;
- procedures for identifying through the NAHC the appropriate California Native American tribes;
- procedures for continuing to protect the confidentiality of information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of cultural places;<sup>19</sup> and
- procedures to facilitate voluntary landowner participation to preserve and protect the specific identity, location character, and use of cultural places.

### *The California Register of Historic Resources*

State law<sup>20</sup> also protects cultural resources by requiring evaluations of the significance of prehistoric and historic resources in CEQA documents. A cultural resource is an important historical resource if it meets any of the criteria found in Section 15064.5(a) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*. These criteria are nearly identical to those for the NRHP, which are listed above.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) maintains the CRHR. Properties listed, or formally designated eligible for listing, on the NRHP are automatically listed on the CRHR, as are State Landmarks and Points of Interest. The CRHR also includes properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

### *California Health and Safety Code*

These sections<sup>21</sup> collectively address the illegality of interference with human burial remains (except as allowed under applicable sections of the Public Resources Code), as well as the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project, treatment of the remains prior to, during and after evaluation, and reburial procedures.

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<sup>19</sup> California Government Code, Section 65040.2(g).

<sup>20</sup> Public Resource Code. Section 5020 et seq. "State Historical Resources Commission."

<sup>21</sup> California Health and Safety Code. Sections 7050.5, 7051, and 7054.

### ***California Senate Bill 297 (1982)***

This bill addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and establishes the NAHC to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains.

## **Local Regulations**

### ***Santa Clarita Municipal Code***

The Property Development Standards<sup>22</sup> of the City of Santa Clarita includes the requirement that all historical points of interest, as identified in the Open Space and Conservation Element of the Santa Clarita General Plan, shall be shown on the site plan. Any development which would detrimentally affect the historical point of interest shall comply with the requirements of City, state, and federal law.

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Review is to promote the economic and general welfare of the City of Santa Clarita by preserving and protecting public and private historic, cultural, and natural resources which are of special historic or aesthetic character or interest, or relocating such resources where necessary for their preservation and for their use, education, and view by the general public. Through historic preservation review, the Director of Community Development shall ensure that the project complies with all of the provisions of the Unified Development Code, the General Plan, specific plans and other legislative planning documents.<sup>23</sup>

## **THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The *State CEQA Guidelines* identifies certain criteria for determining whether any significant cultural resources will result with the implementation of the OVOV General Plan:

- The General Plan will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5;
- The General Plan will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;

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<sup>22</sup> City of Santa Clarita. Municipal Code. Title 17 Zoning Section 17.15.020. "Property Development Standards."

<sup>23</sup> City of Santa Clarita. Municipal Code. Title 17 Zoning Section 17.15.020. "Property Development Standards." Section 17.03.145. "Historic Preservation Review."

- The General Plan will directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature;
- The General Plan will disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on cultural resources within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

**Impact 3.8-1                    The General Plan will cause a potentially substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.**

As defined by CEQA Section 15064.5(b), "substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired." In order to create such a substantial adverse change, the resource must first possess historical significance. Secondly, the resource must meet the time and integrity criteria to be eligible for listing in the CRHR. Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to develop this perspective and permit a legitimate understanding of the resource's significance. A resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the California Register if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance.

**Historic Significance.** The resource has historical significance as defined by the State Office of Historic Preservation. A resource possesses historical significance if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Buildout in the City's Planning Area would result in a substantial increase in population and infrastructure. This increase in population would require the development and disturbance of vacant lands. Implementation of the General Plan would then have the potential to have a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.

As the City expands, the development of infrastructure would potentially encroach on designated historical structures. Identification of known structures, (**Figure 3.8-1** and **Table 3.8-1**) will help protect them and contribute to community identity and a sense of history (**Goal CO 5, Objective CO 5.1**). **Policies CO 5.1.1 to Policy CO 5.1.3** require review of appropriate documentations for sites identified on the actual and historic resources map (**Figure 3.8-1**) prior to issuance of any permits for grading, demolition, alteration, and/or new development, to avoid significant adverse impacts. **Policy CO 5.1.2** requires review of any proposed alterations to cultural and historic sites identified in **Table 3.8-1** or other sites which are identified in the Historical Resources in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area based on guidelines contained in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Properties or other adopted City guidelines. As new information about other potentially significant historic and cultural sites becomes available, an update to the cultural and historic resources inventory would be required and appropriate measures applied to all identified sites to protect their historic and cultural integrity (**Policy CO 5.1.3**). The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Downtown Newhall may provide an opportunity to create a historic district for revitalization and tourism purposes (**Objective CO 5.2** and **Policies CO 5.2.1 to CO 5.2.4**).

Any new development would be compatible with the surrounding context of the historic buildings and community design and scale appropriate for maintaining a sense of authenticity (**Objective CO 5.2, Policy CO 5.2.1 and CO 5.2.3**). Downtown Newhall would utilize the historic sites of the Valley to support the expansion and enhancement of a City historical park. In keeping with this theme Heritage Junction and the museum within William S. Hart Park would be continued to be supported and used to illustrate the various settlement phases of the Santa Clarita Valley (**Objective CO 5.2, Policy CO 5.2.2, and CO 5.2.4**).

Federal, state, and local regulations help determine if a structure, building, or land site should be listed as an historical resource. The City should maintain and acquire, where appropriate, open space to preserve cultural and historic resources (**Goal LU 6, Objective LU 6.4, Goal CO 10, Objective CO 10.1, Policy CO 10.1.4**). As identified in the federal, state, and local regulations any new development, as a result of the proposed build out, would have to conform to the aforementioned regulations to enhance and maintain the character, architectural style, or significance of the historical or cultural resource (**Goal LU 2, Objective LU 2.2, Policy LU 2.2.2**). **Policy LU 6.4.6** requires the environmental review and development review processes evaluate impacts on historic and cultural sites from proposed development. The implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies would reduce the potential impact on significant historical resources to less than significant.

***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

**Goal CO 5:** Protection of historical and culturally significant resources that contribute to community identity and a sense of history.

**Objective CO 5.1:** Protect sites identified as having local, state, or national significance as a cultural or historical resource.

**Policy CO 5.1.1:** For sites identified on the Cultural and Historical Resources Map, review appropriate documentation prior to issuance of any permits for grading, demolition, alteration, and/or new development, to avoid significant adverse impacts. Such documentation may include cultural resource reports, environmental impact reports, or other information as determined to be adequate by the reviewing authority.

**Policy CO 5.1.2:** Review any proposed alterations to cultural and historic sites identified in the Cultural and Historical Resources in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area Table or other sites which are so designated, based on the guidelines contained in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Properties (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 68, also known as 36 CFR 68), or other adopted City guidelines.

**Policy CO 5.1.3:** As new information about other potentially significant historic and cultural sites becomes available, update the Cultural and Historical Resources Inventory and apply appropriate measures to all identified sites to protect their historical and cultural integrity.

**Objective CO 5.2:** Protect and enhance the historic character of Downtown Newhall.

**Policy CO 5.2.1:** In keeping with the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan policies, by ensuring that the scale and character of new development is compatible with and does not detract from the context of historic buildings and block patterns.

**Policy CO 5.2.2:** Support expansion and enhancement of a City of Santa Clarita historical park adjacent to the Pioneer Oil Refinery to illustrate historic oil operations in the Santa Clarita Valley.

**Policy CO 5.2.3:** Ensure that all aspects of community design in Newhall, including street furniture, lighting, trash collection and storage areas, seating, and other accessory structures, are of a design and scale appropriate for the historic character of the district, while maintaining a sense of authenticity.

**Policy CO 5.2.4:** Continue to support “Heritage Junction” and the historical museum within William S. Hart Park as historical resources that illustrate the various phases of settlement within the Santa Clarita Valley.

**Goal CO 10:** Preservation of open space to meet the community’s multiple objectives for resource preservation.

**Objective CO 10.1:** Identify areas throughout the Santa Clarita Valley which should be preserved as open space in order to conserve significant resources for long-term community benefit.

**Policy CO 10.1.4:** Maintain and acquire, where appropriate, open space to preserve cultural and historical resources.

**Goal LU 2:** A mix of land uses to accommodate growth, supported by adequate resources and maintaining community assets.

**Objective LU 2.2:** Protect significant community resources from encroachment by incompatible uses, where feasible and appropriate.

**Policy LU 2.2.2:** Identify sites and areas with historical or cultural value to the community, and ensure that uses in or adjacent to these areas will not impact their historical integrity.

**Goal LU 6:** A scenic and beautiful urban environment that builds on the community's history and natural setting.

**Objective LU 6.4:** Protect the Santa Clarita Valley's significant historical and cultural resources in a scenic setting through appropriate land use designations.

**Policy LU 6.4.6:** Through the environmental review and development review processes, evaluate impacts on historic and cultural sites from proposed development and require appropriate mitigation.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies related to historic resources would reduce the effects of growth and development by requiring development proposals be evaluated for the presence of historic resources and by protecting historic buildings from demolition.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the proposed General Plan and the existing General Plan contain goals and policies that address the protection of historical properties. Consequently, both the existing and proposed General Plans have similar less than significant impacts.

**Impact 3.8-2            The General Plan will cause a potentially substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.**

In the protection and management of the cultural environment, *State CEQA Guidelines* provides definitions and standards for cultural resource management. The term "unique archaeological resource" has the following meaning according to CEQA<sup>24</sup>:

"An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. Has a special and particular quality, such as the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.

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<sup>24</sup> *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 21083.2

3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person."

The City Planning Area is rich with many different cultural and archeological resources with many of the potential archeological resources still buried under soil. The disturbance of the soil has the potential to uncover any unknown resources that have contributed to the contribution of California's history. The implementation of the General Plan would have the potential to negatively impact these resources. If a site is deemed to have an archeological resource then the appropriate measures will be applied. If the site does not meet the criteria defined<sup>25</sup> but meets the definition of a unique archeological resource, the site shall be treated in accordance with *State CEQA Guidelines* (**Goal CO 5, Objective CO 5.1, Policy CO 5.1.1**). As the City approaches buildout there is the potential to demolish existing buildings which are in the timeline or timeframe of becoming historic landmarks or buildings. Implementation of **Policies CO 5.1.1 through CO 5.1.3** would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

As stated in *State CEQA Guidelines* and in Senate Bill 18 the notification to any of the appropriate California Native American tribes via the contact list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission would be conducted on a project-by-project basis by the City (**Policy CO 5.3.1**). Notification to the Native American Heritage Commission for contacting the appropriate tribes would be required on a project-by-project basis (**Objective CO 5.3, Policy CO 5.3.2**). **Policy CO 5.3.3** requires the review and consideration of a cultural resources study that is required by CEQA. The Santa Clara River has been designated Open Space on the Land Use Map (**Policy LU 6.4.3**). The identification and preservation areas for open space would help conserve and protect significant cultural and historical resources (**Goal CO 10, Policy CO 10.1.4, Goal LU 6, Policies LU 6.4.3 and 6.4.6**). The incorporation of designating open space in these sensitive areas would further (**Goal CO 10, Policy CO 10.1.4 and Goal LU 6, Policies LU 6.4.3 and LU 6.4.6**) the City to add more recreation areas. The preservation of open space within the planning area would be consistent with the proposed General Plan.

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

- Objective CO 5.3:** Encourage conservation and preservation of Native American cultural places, including prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial sites on both public and private lands, throughout all stages of the planning and development process.

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<sup>25</sup> *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15064.5(a)

- Policy CO 5.3.1:** For any proposed general plan amendment, specific plan, or specific plan amendment, notify and consult with any California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission that have traditional lands located within the City's jurisdiction, regarding any potential impacts to Native American resources from the proposed action, pursuant to State guidelines.
- Policy CO 5.3.2:** For any proposed development project that may have a potential impact on Native American cultural resources, provide notification to Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission that have traditional lands located within the City's jurisdiction, and consider the input received prior to a discretionary decision.
- Policy CO 5.3.3:** Review and consider a cultural resources study for any new grading or development in areas identified as having a high potential for Native American resources, and incorporate recommendations into the project approval as appropriate to mitigate impacts to cultural resources.
- Policy LU 6.4.3:** Maintain cultural resources from pre-historical Native American habitation and historical settlement in the areas around Vasquez Rocks, Elsmere Canyon, and along the Santa Clara River, through designation of these areas as Open Space on the Land Use Map.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

The above goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan would reduce potential impacts on archeological resources. However, the policies above do not identify mitigation measures required if archeological resources are found to be impacted by the proposed buildout. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.8-1** to **MM 3.8-5** would reduce any potentially adverse impacts on archeological resources to less than significant.

## Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the proposed General Plan and the existing General Plan contain goals and policies that address potential impacts to archaeological resources. However neither General Plan contains policies that address the potential for resources found during Plan buildout. The proposed General Plan provides for mitigation to address potential resource occurrence.

**Impact 3.8-3                    The General Plan will directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.**

Significant paleontological resources are fossils or assemblages of fossils that are unique, unusual, rare, uncommon, diagnostically or stratigraphically important, and those that add to an existing body of knowledge in specific areas, stratigraphically, taxonomically, or regionally. They include fossil remains of large to very small aquatic and terrestrial vertebrates, remains of plants and animals previously not represented in certain portions of the stratigraphy, and assemblages of fossils that might aid stratigraphic correlations, particularly those offering data for the interpretation of tectonic events, geomorphologic evolution, paleoclimatology, and the relationships of aquatic and terrestrial species. Most of the potential fossil-producing rock formations are located within hilly terrain in the City's Planning Area (**Goal LU 6, Objective LU 6.1, Policy LU 6.4.6**). The potential increase in development potentially affect paleontological and unique geologic resources. This would conflict with the potential for preserving significant fossil remains (**Goal CO 10, Policy CO 10.1.4**). Implementation of mitigation measures listed below would reduce potentially significant impacts on paleontological or unique geologic resources to less than significant.

### *Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies have already been cited.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would reduce the impacts on paleontological and/or unique geologic resources. However, the policies above do not identify general mitigation measures required if archeological resources are found to be impacted by the proposed buildout. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.8-6** would reduce potentially significant paleontological and/or unique geological impacts to less than significant.

## Plan to Plan Analysis

The existing General Plan does not contain goals and policies that address potential impacts to paleontological and unique geotechnical resources. The proposed General Plan provides for mitigation to address potential resource occurrence. The proposed General Plan provides for mitigation to paleontological and unique geotechnical resources, and the existing General Plan does not. Impacts to this resource would be greater under the existing General Plan.

**Impact 3.8-4                    The General Plan will disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.**

The City's Planning Area has been a very active geologic area and has been transformed throughout the years. With the location of the San Andreas Fault within miles of the OVOV Planning Area the shape and the history of the Valley will always change and has the potential to uncover many unknown resources (**Goal CO 5, Policies CO 5.3.1 to CO 5.3.3**). There is potential for many human remains to be located near the Santa Clara River and the foothills of the surrounding mountains (**Policy LU 6.4.3**). Future development would require the disturbance and movement of earth and would thus have the potential for adverse impacts on human remains (**Policy LU 6.4.6**). Implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies of the proposed General Plan and implementation of mitigation measure **MM 3.8-7** would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

### *Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies have already been cited.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

The proposed General Plan would reduce impacts on the potential disturbance of human remains. If the presence of human remains is identified during the City's buildout, mitigation measure **MM 3.8-7** shall be implemented to reduce potential impacts on human remains.

## Plan to Plan Analysis

The existing General Plan does not contain goals and policies that address potential impacts to the disturbance of human remains. The proposed General Plan provides for mitigation to address potential resource occurrence. The proposed General Plan provides for mitigation to disturbance of human remains, and the existing General Plan does not. Impacts to this resource would be greater under the existing General Plan.

## MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts on cultural resources to a less than significant level.

- MM 3.8-1** Avoidance is the preferred treatment for cultural resources. Where feasible, project plans shall be developed to allow avoidance of cultural resources. Where avoidance of construction impacts is possible, covering of the cultural resource site with a layer of chemically stable soil and avoidance planting (e.g., planting of prickly pear cactus) shall be employed to ensure that indirect impacts from increased public availability to the site are avoided. Where avoidance is selected, cultural resource sites shall be deeded into permanent conservation easements or dedicated open space.
- MM 3.8-2** If avoidance and/or preservation of in place cultural resources is not possible, the following mitigation measures shall be initiated for each impacted site:
- a. A participant-observer as determined by the appropriate Indian Band or Tribe shall be used during archaeological testing or excavation in the project site.
  - b. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for the project, the project proponent shall develop a test level research design detailing how the cultural resource investigation shall be executed and providing specific research questions that shall be addressed through the excavation program. In particular, the testing program shall characterize the site constituents, horizontal and vertical extent, and, if possible, period of use. The testing program shall also address the California Register and National Register eligibility of the cultural resource and make recommendations as to the suitability of the resource for listing on either Register. The research design shall be submitted to the designated agency for review and comment. For sites determined, through the Testing Program, to be ineligible for listing on either the California or National Register, execution of the Testing Program will suffice as mitigation of project impacts to this resource.
- MM 3.8-3** In the unlikely event that artifacts are found during grading within the City's Planning Area or future roadway extensions, an archaeologist will be notified to stabilize, recover and evaluate such finds.
- MM 3.8-4** Where determined as part of a CEQA review, prior to grading, as part of an inspection testing program, a Los Angeles County Natural History Museum-approved inspector is to be on site to salvage scientifically significant fossil remains. The duration of these inspections depends on the potential for the discovery of fossils, the rate of excavation,

and the abundance of fossils. Geological formations (like the Saugus Formation) with a high potential will initially require full-time monitoring during grading activities. Geologic formations (like the Quaternary terrace deposits) with a moderate potential will initially require half-time monitoring. If fossil production is lower than expected, the duration of monitoring efforts should be reduced. Should the excavations yield significant paleontological resources, excavation is to be stopped or redirected until the extent of the find is established and the resources are salvaged. A report of the inspection testing program shall include an itemized inventory of the fossils, pertinent geologic and stratigraphic data, field notes of the collectors and include recommendations for future monitoring efforts in the City's Planning Area. Prior to grading, an agreement shall be reached with a suitable public, non-profit scientific repository, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History or similar institution, regarding acceptance of fossil collections.

- MM 3.8-5** For archeological sites accidentally discovered during future construction, there shall be an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archeologist. If the find is determined to be a historical or unique archeological resource, as defined under CEQA, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation shall be provided. Construction work may continue on other parts of the construction site while historical/archeological mitigation takes place, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(i).
- MM 3.8-6** During grading activities, in the unlikely event that artifacts are found during grading within the planning area or future roadway extensions, a paleontologist will be notified to stabilize, recover, and evaluate such finds.
- MM 3.8-7** If human remains are encountered during a public or private construction activity, other than at a cemetery, State Health and Safety Code 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours.
- a. If the coroner determines that the burial is not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted to determine the most likely descendent (MLD) for this area. The MLD may become involved with the disposition of the burial following scientific analysis.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT WITH MITIGATION FRAMEWORK**

Provided that the City implements the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies and the above mitigation measures, potentially significant cultural, historic, paleontological impacts and disturbance to human remains would be reduced to less than significant.