IV.E CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

1. Environmental Setting

a. Study Area for Direct Impacts. The study area for determining cultural resource impacts of the proposed Specific Plan is the proposed project boundary, as shown in Figure II-2 and II-3 in Section II, Project Description. Potential impacts to historic resources that may be found on adjacent properties are also considered, as their integrity could be affected by offsite development proposals. Therefore, the study area for historic resources includes a ½ mile radius around the Specific Plan area.

b. Study Area for Cumulative Impacts. The cumulative cultural and historic resources impact analysis considers the proposed Specific Plan’s contribution to potential cumulative impacts when combined with buildout of the Santa Maria General Plan and surrounding County areas. The study area for the proposed Specific Plan’s contribution to cumulative cultural resource impacts focuses on the greater Santa Maria/Orcutt area.

c. Physical Setting.

Prehistory. At Spanish contact, the region was occupied by the Chumash, a diverse population living in settlements along the California coast from Malibu Creek to the southeast, Estero Bay in the north, Tejon Pass, Lake Casitas and the Cuyama River inland, and the islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz. Chumash society became more complex over the last 9,000 years. After A.D. 1000, changes in bead types suggest the operation of a highly complex economic system by the time the Spanish arrived. Following the 1542 Cabrillo voyage, many small Chumash settlements were abandoned and some of the largest historic towns were founded. This change in population distribution is attributed to growth in importance of trade centers and the development of more integrated political confederations. The Chumash economic system enabled them to make efficient use of diverse environments within their territory. Acorns and seeds were traded between the islands, mainland and interior populations who lacked marine resources traded with coastal populations for fish and other seafood. Most religious ceremonies had their roots in the Early Period when objects similar to those used historically were placed in mortuary associations or owned by religious leaders.

The Spanish viewed the Chumash as unique among California Indians due to their knowledge of the sea, canoe building expertise, ceremonial organization, their interest in acquiring and displaying possessions, willingness to work, and their extensive trade networks. The protohistoric Chumash maintained the most complex bead money system documented in the world. Prehistoric Chumash culture underwent dramatic changes following colonization in the late 18th century. The introduction of diseases quickly weakened and destroyed Native American cultures, with epidemics killing large numbers of people. Most Chumash towns and villages were abandoned by 1810. However, large segments of the population survived and worked to build the Spanish Missions, as well as the Mexican and American ranches which followed. Much of the Chumash culture managed to survive by "going underground" and effectively blending into the cultural landscape. Several thousand Chumash live today in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. In general, they place high value on objects and places associated with their past history, namely archaeological sites, and
artifacts from sites. Present-day Chumash are organized into dozens of social, cultural, and political groups, some of which take part in local affairs. Nearly all Chumash are concerned with preserving their heritage and are therefore interested in the preservation of the prehistoric and ethnographic archaeological records.

**History.** From the first European intrusions, including the early voyages of Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo in 1542, and Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602, to the land expeditions of Portola in 1769, and Anza from 1773-1775/1776, very few changes took place between Santa Barbara and Malibu. The result was that the Native American populations still enjoyed little interference from European Settlers until the Missions were established. The Spanish Period was followed by the Mission period which witnessed the establishment of twenty-one missions between 1769 and 1823. These missions were located roughly one day's ride from one another along the Camino Real which connected San Diego with Solano.

In 1787, La Purisima Mission, the 11th of Spain's 21 Franciscan missions, was dedicated in a location called Algascapi by the Chumash. The name was later changed by American settlers to Lompoc. The mission, completed in 1791 prospered until the 1812 earthquake destroyed it. After continuing natural calamities, the missionaries built a new mission four miles to the northeast. The mission flourished until 1822 when Mexico declared independence from Spain. An 1824 revolt by the Chumash population at nearby Mission Santa Ines spread to La Purisima. The Native American controlled the mission at La Purisima, until Spanish soldiers were dispatched from Monterey to reclaim it. The mission was closed permanently in 1834 with the padres moving to Mission Santa Ines. The buildings fell into disrepair and were auctioned off in 1845. The land was used for sheep ranching and farming until the early 1900s, when the property was purchased by the Union Oil Company. Renovation began in 1933. After secularization in 1833, former mission lands opened to settlement and in 1844, Rancho Punta de la Laguna, which includes the project area, was granted to Luis Arellanes and Emidio Ortega. Potentially important historic period sites include structures and features associated with mission and ranch operations.

In 1846, United States forces occupied California and in 1848 the U.S. formally gained control with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Accelerated by the Gold Rush, by 1850 the population had increased enough to justify admission to the Union. Following the brief mining frenzy, the economic focus shifted from cattle ranching to farming and between 1860 and 1900, farming became the major industry of the area. The completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad line through the area in the 1900s accelerated growth by making access by immigrants easier. Oil discoveries in the early twentieth century created a boom in industrial development. Potentially important sites from the American Period include locations or structures from the early farming era (1850-1940s), oil development (1900-1940's) and other structures from the early twentieth century associated with significant events, persons or early industry.

Because of a climate which is conducive to the growth of flowers and plants, the area was given the name, "Valley of Gardens." The first settlers planted grain and beans, followed by dairymen and farmers from Europe, giving the valley a multi-national population. Santa Maria began in 1874 when four land owners donated acreage where their properties adjoined. Originally called "Central City," the name changed in 1882 to Santa Maria because another "Central City" in
Colorado was receiving mail intended for residents here. In 1882, a narrow-gauge Pacific Coast Railroad from San Luis Obispo County helped transport the valley's produce to outside markets. By 1901, the Southern Pacific Railroad passed through the lower part of the valley en route to Los Angeles. Santa Maria is the agricultural and business center of the Santa Maria Valley. Today, the general area continues to grow, yet still retains its rich heritage and ties to its agricultural past.

**Study Area Conditions.** The project area is situated within the Santa Maria Valley, a broad alluvial basin separated by the Santa Maria River on the north and the Casamalia Hills and Solomon Hills on the south. The terrain is relatively flat, and slopes from the southeast and northeast to the west. The project area is dominated by several soils series including: the Narlon Series, the Oceano Series, and Gullied Land, which consists of areas in which the soil profile has been largely destroyed by deep gullies. This land type occurs on recent alluvial soils, on terrace soils, and on upland soils. The vegetation consists of low brush, sparse annual grasses, and forbs, although the prehistoric environment was probably quite different, possibly consisting of a Coastal Sage Scrub plant community. During prehistoric and ethnographic times wildlife may have contained seasonally fluctuating populations of quail, rabbit, rodents, and deer, as well as lizards, snakes, and various species of birds.

The surface exposures are mapped as surficial artificial fill and older Holocene wind deposited sand both having a low possibility for paleontological resources. These surficial units are underlain by formations, some of which have a high possibility for resources, and the depth to the underlying formations is assumed to be greater than 100 feet, based on stratigraphic profiles from the geologic maps for the area (1994 Dibblee Geological Foundation Map DF-51). The underlying formations include: Careaga Sand (no fossils recorded); Foxen (no fossils recorded); Sisquoc (approximately 150 microfossils at 4-5 unique sites); and Monterey (approximately 1600 microfossils at 5-6 unique sites).

**Existing Cultural and Historic Resources.** As part of a February 2010 Phase I Archaeological Study conducted by Robert Wlodarski of Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team (HEART), a cultural resources record search was performed by the Central Coast Information Center, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara, for a ½ mile radius around the Specific Plan area. The records search determined that no previously recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resources exist within the boundaries of the Specific Plan area. Neither have any prehistoric archaeological sites been recorded within a ½ mile of the site. However, one historic archaeological site, and the following three historic properties are located within a ½ mile of the project:

- The Santa Maria Refining Oil Field, discovered in 1934 is located approximately 200 feet west of the project boundary;
- A historic barn is situated approximately 300 feet west of the site’s northwestern boundary; and
- The Santa Maria Valley Railroad at Black Road crossing dates to circa 1911, and is approximately 400 feet west of the site’s northwestern boundary.

According to staff from the Native American Heritage Commission, no known Native American resources have been recorded within the project boundaries (Sanchez, 2010).
An on-foot field investigation of the Specific Plan area yielded no evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources within the site’s boundary (Wlodarski, 2010). This survey is described in more detail in the Methodology section below.

d. Regulatory Setting.

California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The California Register is an authoritative guide in California to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state’s historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(a)). The CRHR is overseen and administered by the State Historical Resources Commission. The criteria for listing resources on the CRHR are based on those developed by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with modifications in order to include a broader range of resources which better reflect the history of California. A resource is considered historically significant if it:

- Is associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history and cultural heritage of California and the United States.
- Is associated with the lives of persons important to the nation or to California’s past.
- It 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.
- It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the State and the Nation.

California Public Resources Code. Section 5097.9 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) stipulates that it is contrary to the free expression and exercise of Native American religion to interfere with or cause severe irreparable damage to any Native American cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine.

Section 5097.5 of the PRC prohibits excavation or removal of any “vertebrate paleontological site or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands.” PRC 30244 requires reasonable mitigation of adverse impacts to paleontological resources from development on public land. Penal Code Section 623 spells out regulations for the protection of caves, including their natural, cultural, and paleontological contents. It specifies that no “material” (including all or any part of any paleontological item) will be removed from any natural geologically formed cavity or cave.

State Health and Safety Code. If human remains are discovered or exposed during construction, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will then contact the most likely descendent of the deceased Native American, who will serve as a consultant on how to proceed with the remains (i.e., avoid, rebury).
Adopted Policies and Regulations that Mitigate Impacts. The Resources Management Element of the City’s General Plan includes the following goals and policies that relate to cultural resources, with which future projects must comply:

- **GOAL 4 – HISTORICAL.** Preserve cultural and archaeological resources to assure that future generations maintain a strong sense of value.
- **POLICY 4.** Preserve and identify cultural and archaeological resources that define the historical significance of the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Valley.

CEQA provides guidelines for mitigating impacts to archaeological and historical resources in Section 15126.4. Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological resources (14 CCR 15126.4(b)(3)). Preservation in place may be accomplished by planning construction to avoid the resource, incorporating sites within parks or open space, covering sites with chemically stable and culturally sterile fill, or deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement. When data recovery excavation of an archaeological site is the only feasible mitigation, a detailed data recovery plan must be prepared and adopted prior to any excavation.

For buildings and structures, maintenance, repair, restoration, preservation, conservation, or reconstruction consistent with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties is considered mitigation of impacts to a less than significant level (14 CCR 15126.4(b)(1)). Simply documenting a historical resource, however, will not mitigate the effects of demolition to a less than significant level (14 CCR 15126.4(b)(2)).

e. **Notice of Preparation and Responses.** This section of the EIR contains the following information and analysis based on input from public agencies in response to the Notice of Preparation:

- As requested in NOP Response S.2-1, a records search was conducted at the Central Coast Information Center, Department of Anthropology, University of California Santa Barbara.
- Description of procedures that would apply to addressing resources, if they are discovered as a result of future development, as requested by Native American Heritage Commission NOP Response S.2.
- Consideration of mitigation provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archaeological resources, and construction monitoring by a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, as necessary, as requested in NOP Response S.2-4.
- Preparation of a Phase 1 Archaeological Study consistent with the guidelines, policies and procedures for the preparation of such studies within the City of Santa Maria, as requested in NOP Response S.2-2.

2. **Methodology and Significance Criteria.**

  **Methodology.** A Phase 1 Archaeological Study was prepared for the Specific Plan area by Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team (HEART) in February 2010. As described above, a record search for a ½ mile radius around the project site was performed by
staff with the Central Coast Information Center (Amy Gusick, Assistant Coordinator on May 27, 2009). In addition, an on-foot inspection of the project was performed for the project area on February 16, 2010. The archaeological survey crew consisted of Robert Wlodarski (Principal Investigator, HEART); Wayne Bonner (Project Manager); Charles Parra and Susie Ruiz (Native American representatives). All open cuts, exposed soil profiles, rodent spoils, cleared areas, and other fortuitous exposures were examined within the project area for any evidence that might suggest the presence of obscured archaeological remains.

The following criteria were used to assess whether the proposed Specific Plan could result in impacts on cultural resources, as derived from Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines:

1. Physically damaging, destroying, or altering all or part of the resource;
2. Altering characteristics of the surrounding environment that contribute to the resource’s significance;
3. Neglecting the resource to the extent that it deteriorates or is destroyed. Indirect impacts primarily result from the effects of project-induced population growth. Such growth can result in increased construction as well as increased recreational activities that can disturb or destroy cultural resources; or
4. The incidental discovery of cultural resources without proper notification.

The potential for paleontological resources to exist was assessed by Julie Broughton, Senior Paleontologist with Rincon Consultants. Records were obtained from the University of California Museum of Paleontology, and the Geologic Map of the Santa Maria and Twitchell Dam Quadrangles by Thomas W. Dibblee, Jr (1994 Dibblee Geological Foundation Map DF-51) was used to determine geological formations on-site and within a 2 mile radius.

A letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission on May 20, 2009 requesting information regarding the presence of Native American Cultural Resources within the project area. A reply from Katy Sanchez was received on May 28, 2009, stating that no known Native American resources were recorded within the project boundaries.

Significance Criteria. For the purposes of this project, the following impact criteria derived from the State CEQA Guidelines and included in the City’s Initial Study for this project have been applied to determine whether a significant impact would occur:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5; or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature.

Under CEQA, an impact on a historical resource is considered significant if the impact lessens the integrity of the qualities of the property that qualify it for the CRHR. If the proposed project may cause damage to a significant historical resource, the project may have a significant effect on the environment.
Indirect impacts result primarily from the effects of project-induced population growth. Such growth can result in increased construction as well as increased recreational activities that can disturb or destroy cultural resources.

The following impact criterion was dismissed within the City’s Initial Study as being less than significant relative to the proposed project:

- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

3. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact CR-1 The Specific Plan area contains no evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources, nor evidence of near-surface paleontological resources. However, ground disturbance associated with new construction could uncover previously unknown buried archeological deposits. This adverse impact is significant, but can be feasibly mitigated or avoided.

Discussion of Impact. As described in the Existing Cultural and Historic Resources section above, the records search through the Central Coast Information Center concluded that no previously-recorded cultural or historic resources are located within the Specific Plan area. In addition, the Sacred Lands File Check through the NAHC concluded that no known Native American resources were recorded within the project boundaries. The results of the field investigation also yielded no evidence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources within the boundaries of the subject property. Based on these results, the proposed improvements or modifications within the Specific Plan area would have no adverse impact on known cultural resources. In addition, the proposed Specific Plan would not directly or indirectly impact any of the four offsite archaeological and historic sites described above.

The nature of a walkover can only confidently assess the potential for encountering surface cultural resource remains. Future development pursuant to the Specific Plan could result in the discovery of previously unidentified buried archeological deposits and/or human remains in development areas of the Specific Plan. This is based on the fact that the Santa Maria Valley supported prehistoric human activity, and that resources have been discovered elsewhere in the valley. At the same time, the likelihood that such resources would be discovered in the Specific Plan area are relatively low, since the entire area has supported ongoing agricultural uses or has already been graded and developed, which had disturbed the land and any potential near surface cultural resources that may have been present. Although the actual depth to the underlying formations that have a potential for paleontological resources to occur is unknown, cross sections indicate that the surficial alluvium is a substantial depth (over 100 feet). Construction excavation would not occur at sufficient depths to risk encountering these formations.

As noted in the Initial Study for the Specific Plan, buried human remains are not expected in the Specific Plan area. In the unlikely event of encountering such remains, then the procedures described in Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code would be followed. These procedures require notification of the County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines that the discovered remains are those of Native American ancestry, then the NAHC must be notified.
by telephone within 24 hours. Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, describe the procedures to be followed after the notification of the NAHC.

Project Elements that Mitigate Impacts. The Specific Plan does not include any elements that would mitigate potential impacts to cultural or historic resources.

Mitigation Measures. The following mitigation measure will reduce Impact CR-1 below a level of significance.

CR-1 Discovery of Archaeological Resources During Construction. Implementation of the following actions shall satisfy the performance standard that the conditions specified in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines do not result. Both a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative shall monitor all initial earth moving activities within native soil. The applicant and/or their agents, representatives or contractors shall stop or redirect work immediately in the event archaeological remains are encountered during grading, construction, landscaping or other construction-related activity. The applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative to evaluate the significance of the find through the preparation of a Phase II Archeological Survey. Cultural resource remains may include artifacts, shell, bone, features, foundations, trash pits and privies, etc. The Phase II shall include:

- Mapping the location of the artifacts within the proposed area of fill;
- Surface collection of artifacts;
- Excavation of a small sample of the cultural deposit to characterize the nature of the buried portions of the sites;
- Monitoring of excavations by a Native American representative;
- Analysis of all remains, submission of a final report detailing the results of the investigations, and curation of all artifacts and records detailing the results of the investigations at a City-approved curation facility.

If based on the findings of the Phase II, a determination is made that the resource is important; the applicant will be required to prepare a Phase III, which shall outline a program to mitigate impacts to the identified resource. The Phase III shall require avoidance of the resource, adoption of development restrictions to preserve the resource, or special construction techniques (e.g., covering, etc.) to protect the resource.

Plan Requirements and Timing. This condition shall be in effect throughout initial site disturbance activities on the project site and shall be printed on all grading and construction plans.
Monitoring. Community Development will check plans prior to initiation of site disturbance activities, and shall spot check in the field.

Effectiveness of Mitigation Measures. As described by Robert Wlodarski, Certified Archaeologist by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), registered as a professional archaeologist by the California Committee for the Promotion of History (C.C.P.H), significant impacts to unknown archeological resources can be feasibly mitigated with implementation of the above mitigation measures.

4. Cumulative Impacts

As discussed in Section III Environmental Setting, pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15130 the cumulative analysis contained in this EIR is based on a “summary of projections” relative to Orcutt Community Plan and Santa Maria General Plan, which are projected to result in an additional approximately 15,000 residential units and 19,000,000 square feet of non-residential uses (commercial, office, industrial, etc.) within the project vicinity at buildout. Development under the proposed Specific Plan in conjunction with buildout of the Orcutt Community Plan and Santa Maria General Plan has the potential to cumulatively impact cultural and historic resources if development occurs in archeologically sensitive areas. The precise location of such development and whether it would impact archeological resources is speculative at this time. However, existing General Plan policies are intended to fully protect known archaeological resources, and onsite monitoring and proper handling of potentially uncovered resources would reduce this impact to a less than significant level. In addition, cumulative impacts to such resources would be addressed and mitigated on a case-by-case basis as projects are considered. Therefore, the Specific Plan would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts relative to cultural resources.
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