

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section summarizes the results of the cultural resources studies conducted for the project, including information and documents reviewed during the preparation of the EIR, and incorporated in the EIR analysis.

4.4.1 Existing Conditions

The following summary of existing conditions has been incorporated by reference from the Port Master Plan Final Program EIR (CMCA 2004) and *Results of Phase One Archaeological Surface Survey of the Harbor Terrace Project* (Gibson 1996). The Phase One report is a confidential document held on file at the Harbor District offices.

4.4.1.1 Pre-History

The project area lies within the historic territory of the Native American Indian group known as the Chumash. The Chumash occupied the region from San Luis Obispo County to Malibu Canyon on the coast, inland as far as the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, and the four northern Channel Islands (CMCA 2004; Grant 1978 incorporated by reference). The Chumash are further divided into factions based on six distinct dialects: Barbareño, Ventureño, Purisimeño, Ynezeño, Obispeño, and Island. The Obispeño were the northernmost Chumash group, occupying much of San Luis Obispo County, including the Cal Poly area. The name Obispeño is derived from the mission with local jurisdiction, San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.

The archaeological record indicates that sedentary populations occupied the coastal regions of California more than 9,000 years ago (up to 15,000 years ago per consultation with Native American tribal representatives). Several chronological frameworks have been developed for the Chumash region including Rogers (1929), Wallace (1955), Harrison (1964), Warren (1968), and King (1990) (CMCA 2004, incorporated by reference). King postulates three major periods - Early, Middle and Late. Based on artifact typologies from a great number of sites, he was able to discern numerous style changes within each of the major periods. The Early Period (8000 to 3350 Before Present [B.P.]) is characterized by a primarily seed processing subsistence economy. The Middle Period (3350 to 800 B.P.) is marked by a shift in the economic/subsistence focus from plant gathering and the use of hard seeds, to a more generalized hunting-maritime-gathering adaptation, with an increased focus on acorns. The full development of the Chumash culture, one of the most socially and economically complex hunting and gathering groups in North America, occurred during the Late Period (800 to 150 B.P.).

The Chumash aboriginal way of life ended with Spanish colonization. As neophytes were brought into the mission system, they were transformed from hunters and gatherers into agricultural laborers and exposed to diseases to which they had no resistance. By the end of the Mission Period in 1834, the Chumash population had been decimated by disease and declining birthrates. Population loss as a result of disease and economic deprivation continued into the next century. Today many people proudly claim Chumash ancestry and take an active interest in promoting their culture and protecting archaeological evidence of their ancestors.

The Avila Beach area has a large site (SLO-56) which was occupied for over 5,000 years. It was also the location of a Mission Period village, named Sepjato, which was occupied as late as 1804. Following an annual cycle of hunting, fishing, fowling, and harvesting, the Chumash people adapted to changing environmental and social conditions and grew into a large complex society. Aboriginal society underwent major changes soon after Spanish contact in 1769,

primarily due to the introduction of epidemic European diseases and the consequent high mortality rate. Most of the Chumash from rancherias in the general area were baptized at San Luis Obispo Mission between 1772 and 1805.

4.4.1.2 Modern History

In 1769 Gaspar de Portolà and Father Junipero Serra departed the newly established San Diego settlement and marched northward toward Monterey with the objective to secure the port and establish five missions along the route. The Portolà expedition passed through present day San Luis Obispo County that same year. The closest mission to the project site is Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa founded in 1772 (CMCA 2004, Krieger 1985 incorporated by reference).

The San Miguelito Rancho of 22,136 acres of land borders San Luis Bay. This area was granted in 1867 by the Mexican Government to Don Miguel Avila. The town of Avila was laid out by the Avila brothers on the lands adjacent to the sandy beach overlooking the bay. In 1868, John Harford and associates chartered the People's Wharf Company to construct a deep water wharf to serve coastal shipping. At Avila Beach, near Point San Luis, the "People's Wharf" (located 400 feet east of the present pier), held two large warehouses, a hotel and a 2-foot, 6-inch narrow-gauge horse-drawn railroad to connect the wharf with the County road at Avila. The railroad was completed in 1873. This became the first narrow gauge railroad in California. The San Luis Obispo Railroad was incorporated in 1873 to build a 3-foot narrow-gauge railroad from Avila to San Luis Obispo, but construction only progressed as far as Miles Station which was the homestead of W. Miles and then a stage stop and horse change on the county highway, before funds ran out. At this point, Charles Goodall of San Francisco bought out Harford and the San Luis Obispo Railroad, and in August 1876, completed the 10.75-mile line to San Luis Obispo. The railroad tracks were located along the general area of Avila Beach Drive immediately south of the Harbor Terrace project site.

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson signed an executive order directing the Department of the Interior "to take the necessary steps to cause the reservation for Light House purposes of an area not exceeding twenty acres of land at each of the following named points on the Pacific Coast" including "Point San Luis". After several delays, work at the station was completed in June 1890, and the light was officially lit for the first time on June 30, 1890. The completed Victorian structure with 40-foot tower and fourth-order Fresnel lens stands just outside the harbor. An assistant keeper's dwelling, fog signal building (a 10-inch steam whistle), and small wharf were built nearby. The site also contains an oil house, two cisterns, a privy, workshop, and dwellings added in the 1960s.

The station continued operations for more than 80 years with only minor changes. The steam fog signal system was replaced with a compressed air system in about 1915 and the kerosene lamp in the tower was replaced with an electric light in 1933. During World War II, a radio listening station was built in front of the lighthouse and a second duplex was built just east of the original double dwelling. In 1961 the original double dwelling was replaced with a modern wood-frame duplex. It was reported that the Coast Guard simply pushed the original building over the cliff and into the ocean with a bulldozer. In 1969 the Fresnel lens was retired and replaced by an automated electric light. In 1974 the Coast Guard closed the station. After much work, in 1992, the Port San Luis Harbor District received the 30-acre site from the Federal Government with the requirement that the station be restored and opened to the public. In 1995, the Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers non-profit corporation was formed to take on this responsibility. In 2000, the Lighthouse Keepers prepared a Historic Structures Report and Treatment Plan for the renovation of the station and conversion to a museum. All development within the Lightstation

Planning Sub-Area must adhere to the National Park Service approved Treatment Plan and documents of Utilization and Acquisition, as well as all other applicable LCP standards.

Avila Beach has been a popular attraction for the residents of San Luis Obispo with structures being constructed as early as 1869. In 1908-1910, commercial establishments were constructed along Front Street. In 1924, electricity led to the rapid growth of the town of Avila Beach.

Passenger train service in 1930 was reduced to twice a week to Los Olivos; on the rest of the days the train turned around at Orcutt. By 1934, regular service had ended and all trains were “extras.” Service was suspended between Los Alamos to Los Olivos in 1933 and the branch was abandoned in 1935. All passenger service was discontinued in 1937. The tracks all the way to Port San Luis were pulled up and salvaged in 1941-42. Many of the rails and much of the hardware were shipped to Hawaii and the Southwest Pacific for use at naval supply bases during World War II.

4.4.1.3 Site Specific Setting

Archaeological Resources

Native American coordination was conducted during preparation of the EIR. Responding parties included representatives from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and the Northern Chumash Tribe yak tityu tityu. Both representatives noted the cultural significance of the Port San Luis/Avila Beach area, and an interconnected Native American village complex extending from Indian Head Point to the Port San Luis Lighthouse. Evidence of this village complex is supported by the archaeological records available for the area.

Surveys have recorded a number of smaller prehistoric sites in the Wild Cherry Canyon, located immediately east of the Harbor Terrace project area and on the terraces just north of the town of Avila Beach. Sites in these areas are much smaller and more specialized than the large sites observed at SLO-56 and SLO-773 (see description below).

An archival records search conducted for the Harbor Terrace site (including an area approximately 0.5 mile beyond its boundaries) indicated the existence of 12 recorded archaeological sites. Of this total, three sites were recorded near or within the Harbor Terrace site boundaries. These three sites have been previously recorded (from prior area surveys conducted in 1977 and 1991) as SLO-773, SLO-756, and SLO-757. Pedestrian surveys of the Harbor Terrace site and adjacent areas confirmed the location and mapped the boundaries of these three archaeological sites. No new historic or prehistoric archaeological sites were discovered on or adjacent to the Harbor Terrace site. These three archaeological sites are described below. The descriptions of the location and contents of these sites are limited in order to discourage future disturbance or looting of resources. None of the documented sites are located within areas proposed for grading, development, or public access.

- **Site SLO-773.** Prehistoric site SLO-773 is located west of the intersection of Avila Beach Drive and Diablo Canyon Road. A portion of the original site was likely removed and/or displaced during the construction of Avila Beach Drive. Preliminary assessment of this site in 1977 indicated that it was a major village site, probably dating to post 1500 Anno Domini (A.D.). It contains evidence of a full range of cultural activities associated with a permanent Chumash village including one or more cemeteries. Documented resources included shell fragments, burnt rock, chipped stone artifacts, and one Olivella bead.

- **Site SLO-756.** This prehistoric site is located on top of a terrace overlooking San Luis Bay, east of Diablo Canyon Road and north of the existing water tank. Documented resources included shell fragments, chert flakes, pitted stones, and one mano.
- **Site SLO-757.** The prehistoric site is located on the same ridge as SLO-756, east-southeast of the water tank site. This site is similar in appearance to SLO-756; documented resources included shell fragments, chert flakes, chipped stone tools, and one mano.

Sites SLO-756 and SLO-757 possess artifacts indicative of two separate activity areas located adjacent to each other, a common pattern is Obispeño sites. One is an area for food preparation and consumption associated with living areas and trash dumps. These areas are marked by shellfish fragments, burnt rock, ground stone tools, simple scraping and cutting tools, and some flakes. The other area is for tool manufacturing activities and is characterized by an absence of shell, bone, burnt rock, and ground stone tools. More common are biface blanks, biface thinning flakes, hammerstones, and various stone tools. It is probable that both sites much larger than originally mapped, and may connect within the similar landform.

Based upon a comparison of resources found on other archaeological sites in the San Luis Bay area, these two sites display an absence of artifacts (native oyster shells), which would indicate that these sites pre-date the extinct lagoon which previously existed at the mouth of San Luis Creek. Otherwise, the precise period of occupation of these two sites, SLO-756 and SLO-757 is unknown.

All three of these prehistoric cultural sites identified during the surface survey of the Harbor Terrace site were largely intact cultural deposits. Guidelines for evaluation of cultural resources have been developed by the State of California as part of CEQA. Based on the surface information gathered from these three sites, SLO-773, SLO-756, SLO-757, and a general review of other information from sites in the Avila Beach and Port San Luis area, all three sites would fall within the following definitions of important and significant archaeological resources. These sites:

- a. “are associated with an event or person of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;”
- b. “can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions;”
- c. “have a special or particular quality such as oldest, best, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;”
- d. “are at least 1000 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity;” or
- e. “involve important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.”

Historical Resources

No evidence of the Pacific Coast Narrow Gage Railroad was observed during pedestrian surveys. This historical resource was probably removed during the construction of Avila Beach Drive.

Paleontological Resources

The geologic units underlying the project site include the Miocene-age Monterey Formation and rocks associated with the Jurassic/Cretaceous-age Franciscan Melange (refer to Figure 4.5-1). A majority of the site has been greatly altered by past grading activity, and is overlain by surficial units consisting of colluvium, landslide debris, and fill soil. The natural formations underlying the project site are known to contain paleontological resources; the potential for significant paleontological discovery is high in native soils.

4.4.2 Regulatory Setting

4.4.2.1 State Regulations

The State of California has formulated laws for the protection and preservation of historic and archaeological resources. Generally, a cultural resource shall be considered to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (PRC §5024.1, 14 CCR §4852) including the following:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to PRC §5020.1(k)), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in PRC §5024.1(g)) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource as defined in PRC §§5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

If the project may cause damage to a significant archaeological resource, the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Section 15064.5 of CEQA pertains to the determination of the significance of impacts to archaeological and historic resources, and provides guidelines for administering to archaeological resources that may be adversely affected by project development in §151226.4. Achieving CEQA compliance with regard to treatment of impacts to significant cultural resources requires that a mitigation plan be developed for the resource(s). Preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological resources.

4.4.2.2 Local Regulations and Policies

The project is required to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo LCP, CZLUO, and San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan. Applicable standards include the following:

Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance

Section 23.07.104 - Archaeologically Sensitive Areas:

To protect and preserve archaeological resources, the following procedures and requirements apply to development within areas of the coastal zone identified as archaeologically sensitive.

a. *Archaeologically sensitive areas. The following areas are defined as archaeologically sensitive:*

(1) *Any parcel within a rural area which is identified on the rural parcel number list prepared by the California Archaeological Site Survey Office on file with the county Planning Department.*

(2) *Any parcel within an urban or village area which is located within an archaeologically sensitive area as delineated by the official maps (Part III) of the Land Use Element.*

(3) *Any other parcel containing a known archaeological site recorded by the California Archaeological Site Survey Office.*

b. *Preliminary site survey required. Before issuance of a land use or construction permit for development within an archaeologically sensitive area, a preliminary site survey shall be required. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist knowledgeable in local Native American culture and approved by the Environmental Coordinator. The County will provide pertinent project information to the Native American tribe(s).*

c. *When a mitigation plan is required. If the preliminary site survey determines that proposed development may have significant effects on existing, known or suspected archaeological resources, a plan for mitigation shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist. The County will provide pertinent project information to the Native American tribe(s) as appropriate. The purpose of the plan is to protect the resource. The plan may recommend the need for further study, subsurface testing, monitoring during construction activities, project redesign, or other actions to mitigate the impacts on the resource. Highest priority shall be given to avoiding disturbance of sensitive resources. Lower priority mitigation measures may include use of fill to cap the sensitive resources. As a last resort, the review authority may permit excavation and recovery of those resources. The mitigation plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Environmental Coordinator, and considered in the evaluation of the development request by the Review Authority.*

d. *Archeological resources discovery. In the event archeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the standards of Section 23.05.140 of this title shall apply. Construction activities shall not commence until a mitigation plan, prepared by a qualified professional archaeologist reviewed and approved by the Environmental Coordinator, is completed and implemented. The County will provide pertinent project information to the affected Native American tribe(s) and consider comments prior to approval of the mitigation plan. The mitigation plan shall include*

measures to avoid the resources to the maximum degree feasible and shall provide mitigation for unavoidable impacts. A report verifying that the approved mitigation plan has been completed shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator prior to occupancy or final inspection, whichever occurs first.

Section 23.05.140 - Archeological Resources Discovery:

In the event archeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

- a. Construction activities shall cease, and the Environmental Coordinator and Planning Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.*
- b. In the event archeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and Environmental Coordinator so that proper disposition may be accomplished.*

San Luis Bay Coastal Area Plan

Archaeology

- 1. Cultural Resources. Incorporate into decisions implementation measures that conserve cultural and historical resources in development of affected Port properties.*

Harbor Terrace

- d. Potential impacts to cultural resources shall be evaluated by all development proposals on the Harbor Terrace site, and the protection and/or mitigation for any significant resources identified shall be incorporated into the proposed site design in coordination with SHPO and the local Chumash tribe. Archeological field surveys shall be conducted prior to construction activities on the Harbor Terrace. In accordance with Section 23.05.140 of the CZLUO, all construction activities shall cease should resources be identified during construction. In such an event, construction activities shall not re-commence until measures protecting and/or mitigating impacts to archaeological resources have been developed and approved by Planning Director, Environmental Coordinator, SHPO, and the Chumash tribe.*

No development shall occur west of Diablo Canyon Road other than restoration of the existing drainage course, and any cultural/archaeological preservation activities that have been coordinated and approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and representatives of the appropriate Chumash tribe.

Port Master Plan and Port Master Plan Final Program EIR

In addition, the project is subject to the following mitigation measures identified in the Port Master Plan Final Program EIR:

- C-1** *In the event archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative should monitor any mitigation work associated with prehistoric cultural material.*
- C-2** *If human remains are unearthed, 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).*

4.4.3 Thresholds of Significance

CEQA directs lead agencies to protect and preserve resources with cultural, historic, scientific, or educational value. In accordance with §15064.5 (Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archaeological and Historic Resources) and Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the County identified the following questions to determine a project's impact on cultural resources. Would the project:

- a. Disturb archaeological resources;
- b. Disturb historical resources; or,
- c. Disturb paleontological resources.

4.4.4 Impact Assessment and Methodology

CEQA applies to historic and archaeological sites. When a project will impact an archaeological site, the lead agency must first determine whether the site is an historical resource. A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource would occur if the project results in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the historical resources would be materially impaired. The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

1. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or,
2. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to PRC §5020.1(k) or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of PRC §5024.1(g), unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or

3. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for the purposes of CEQA.

4.4.5 Project Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Disturb Archaeological Resources

Proposed grading and construction activities would not result in the disturbance of any known archaeological resources. Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the area, and historic alteration of landforms, unknown and displaced subsurface resources may be present. Disturbance, looting, or destruction of these unknown resources would result in a potentially significant impact.

Other impacts to archaeological resources may include increased human presence and unauthorized collection. This impact would be minimized by the project location and design; no trails or public use areas are located within or adjacent to known sites, and these sites are not located within the property line of the project site. Due to the potential for trespass, mitigation is identified to discourage such activities, including education regarding prehistory of the area.

CUL Impact 1	
Grading and construction activities have the potential to impact previously undiscovered subsurface archaeological resources.	
Mitigation Measures	
<i>CUL/mm-1</i>	<i>Prior to issuance of grading permits from the County of San Luis Obispo, the Harbor District or their designee shall submit a Monitoring Plan, prepared by a County-approved archaeologist, for review and approval by the County Department of Planning and Building. The intent of this Plan is to monitor all initial earth-disturbing activities. The Monitoring Plan shall include at a minimum:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. list of personnel involved in the monitoring activities;</i> <i>b. inclusion of involvement of the Native American community, as appropriate;</i> <i>c. description of how the monitoring shall occur;</i> <i>d. description of frequency of monitoring (e.g., full-time, part time, spot checking);</i> <i>e. description of what resources are expected to be encountered;</i> <i>f. description of circumstances that would result in the halting of work at the project site (e.g., what is considered "significant" archaeological resources?);</i> <i>g. description of procedures for halting work on the site and notification procedures;</i> <i>h. provisions defining education of the construction crew;</i> <i>i. protocol for treating unanticipated finds; and,</i> <i>j. description of monitoring reporting procedures.</i>
<i>CUL/mm-2</i>	<i>Prior to initial ground disturbance, a County of San Luis Obispo-approved archaeologist shall provide cultural resources awareness training to all field crews and field supervisors. This training will include a description of the types of resources that may be found in the project area, the protocols to be used in the event of an unanticipated discovery, the importance of cultural resources to the Native American community, and the laws protecting significant archaeological and historical sites. In addition, the Harbor District (or their designee) shall provide all field supervisors with maps showing those areas sensitive for potential buried resources.</i>
<i>CUL/mm-3</i>	<i>During all initial ground disturbing construction activities, the Harbor District or their designee shall retain a qualified archaeologist (approved by the County Environmental Coordinator) and Native American to monitor all initial earth disturbing activities, per the approved Monitoring Plan. If any significant archaeological resources not previously identified in the Monitoring Plan, or human</i>

CUL Impact 1	
	<i>remains are found during monitoring, work shall stop within the immediate vicinity (precise area to be determined by the archaeologist in the field) of the resource until such time as the resource can be evaluated by an archaeologist and any other appropriate individuals. The Harbor District (or their designee) shall implement the mitigation as required by the County Environmental Coordinator.</i>
<i>CUL/mm-4</i>	<i>Upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, and prior to occupancy or final inspection (whichever occurs first), the qualified archaeologist shall submit a report to the County Environmental Coordinator summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met.</i>
<i>CUL/mm-5</i>	<i><u>Prior to occupancy, the Harbor District or their designee shall submit samples of cultural resource interpretive materials to the County Environmental Coordinator. The Harbor District or their designee shall coordinate with local Native American representatives during the initial development of the materials, and subsequent updating of materials for the life of the project. Materials shall not specifically identify the locations of archaeologically sensitive sites. Interpretive materials may include, but not be limited to, pamphlets, posters, kiosks or boards, exhibits, online posting of information, and presentations. Interpretive materials shall include, but not be limited to: prehistory, modern history, and living history of the Chumash in the Avila/Port San Luis Area and region, and citation or reference to laws governing the protection of cultural resources.</u></i>
	<i>Implement Port Master Plan Final Program EIR mitigation measures C-1 and C-2.</i>
<i>C-1</i>	<i><u>In the event archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative should monitor any mitigation work associated with prehistoric cultural material.</u></i>
<i>C-2</i>	<i><u>If human remains are unearthed, 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).</u></i>
Residual Impacts	
Based on the design of the proposed project, significant archaeological sites would be avoided. Due to the potential for discovery of unknown archaeological resources, mitigation is identified including monitoring of initial ground disturbance, and contingency measures in the event of discovery. Based on implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with existing regulations, potential impacts would be less than significant.	

Disturb Historic Resources

No historic resources or structures are located within the project site; therefore, no impact would occur.

Disturb Paleontological Resources

Implementation of the project would require mass grading, primarily within previously disturbed areas. Due to the sensitivity of the underlying geologic formations, there is a potential for significant paleontological discovery. Grading activities have the potential to destroy significant resources, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

CUL Impact 2	
Proposed grading and excavation activities have the potential to uncover and disturb paleontological resources, which would result in a potentially significant impact.	
Mitigation Measures	
<i>CUL/mm-65</i>	<i>A qualified paleontologist shall monitor initial excavation activities. Upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, and prior to final inspection, the consulting paleontologist shall submit a report to the County Environmental Coordinator summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met and include analysis of all discoveries.</i>
Residual Impacts	
Based on compliance with paleontological resource monitoring requirements, potentially uncovered resources would be noted, documented, and managed under the guidance of a qualified paleontologist. Therefore, potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.	

4.4.6 Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impact scenario includes build-out under the Port Master Plan. The Port Master Plan Final Program EIR, which included an assessment of the development of Harbor Terrace, identified potentially significant but mitigable impacts to cultural resources that would occur as a result of build-out of the Port Master Plan, including disturbance of unknown significant resources. Implementation of the proposed project would contribute to these identified impacts, but would not result in a cumulatively considerable effect resulting in a significant, adverse, unavoidable effect because documented significant resources would be avoided. Mitigation is identified, including compliance with previously adopted mitigation for the Port Master Plan and additional mitigation measures specific to the currently proposed project at Harbor Terrace.

Projects located outside of the Harbor District that may affect cultural resources in the region include the Avila Tank Farm remediation, general plan amendment, and development project. The Avila Tank Farm project site is located in an area of potential cultural significance. All discretionary projects in the Avila and Port San Luis area would be subject to existing regulations identified in the CZLUO regarding identification and discovery of significant cultural resources.

Based on the project’s avoidance of known significant sites, and mitigation measures identified to avoid impacts to unknown subsurface resources, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable significant impact to cultural resources.

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