

4.11 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes the potential impacts of the project on cultural resources within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. This section also includes an assessment of significance for identified cultural resources and an evaluation of potential impacts to cultural resources that could result from implementation of the proposed project. Analysis in this section is based upon a literature review conducted for prehistoric and historic resources within the vicinity of the proposed project area, and information obtained from a record search performed by the North Central Information Center for California Historical Resources.

4.11.1 EXISTING SETTING

PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

While archaeology in the San Joaquin Valley began in the 1890s, it was not until the early 20th century that excavations were conducted in the southern Sacramento Valley. The mounds of the southern Sacramento Valley are remnants of Indian villages. Native American people constructed and rebuilt villages over periods of hundreds, even thousands of years, often at the same location along rivers and creeks on natural clay knolls that stood above springtime floodwaters.

One of the earliest local “digs” near Elk Grove was at the Cantrell Mound, a late prehistoric village and historic cemetery site situated on a slight rise along the Cosumnes River Overflow about one-half mile outside the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. Elmer J. Dawson conducted excavations at the site in 1912.

After the first discovery was made, there were many others made and recorded in the years to come. In 1929, Hewes recorded the Panabaker Mound (CA-SAC-108) among other sites within what is now the City of Elk Grove Planning Area, between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River. Research in the area continued heavily until the pre-World War II era. There were a few studies conducted after World War II, which included a discovery by Jerald Johnson at the Blodgett site (CA-SAC-267) of a late period advanced baked clay “industry” akin to incipient pottery manufacturing.

For a more detailed description of prehistorical findings, please refer to the Elk Grove General Plan Background Report on Paleontological, Archaeological and Historic Resources.

ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

The City of Elk Grove Planning Area encompasses the former territory of six Plains Miwok tribelets along the Cosumnes River drainage and two, possibly three tribelets along the Sacramento River. James A. Bennyhoff’s research revealed that the Plains Miwok were recognized as a distinct language group as early as 1806 when Spanish explorers first entered the region (Bennyhoff 1977:1).

In his early, definitive ethnographic work on California Indians, A. L. Kroeber asserted that most northern California groups did not have true tribes, rather the distinction was between “village communities” or “tribelets.” The term, “village” implied a tract of land rather than a settlement. Generally, the population of a village community was divided between several settlements, each consisting of a few households. The principal village was maintained on a permanent basis, while subsidiary hamlets were frequently abandoned, reoccupied or newly founded (Kroeber 1925:831).

Of the 12 Miwok tribelet names associated with the northern Delta and Sacramento River, three appear within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area: *Hulpumne*, *Gaulacomne* and the *Chupumne*.

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Much of the ethnographic background that encompasses the City of Elk Grove Planning Area was taken from James Bennyhoff. For detailed information about the Native American assumed to occur in the City of Elk Grove Planning Area, please refer to the City of Elk Grove General Plan Background Report, Cultural Resources section.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Local History

One of the earliest recollections of what is now the City of Elk Grove Planning Area was written by William Robinson Grimshaw. In April 1849, Grimshaw volunteered to convey a message from Sutter's Fort to William Stout on the Stanislaus River, about 80 miles distant. Two years earlier, Stout led a party of Mormons overland to establish the City of New Hope in anticipation that this would be the final destination for Mormon people moving west under the leadership of Prophet Brigham Young (Barnes 1987:4). Riding one horse and leading another, Grimshaw took the old trail from Monterey to Sutter's Fort, known as "Upper Stockton Road" (the route of present day Highway 99).

The City of Elk Grove Planning Area includes ten commonly used place names representing historic communities, stations, schools or post offices: Bruceville, Elk Grove, Franklin, Hood, McConnell Station, Pleasant Grove, Point Pleasant, Sheldon, Sloughhouse and Walsh. Portions of two Mexican land grants lie within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area: Leidesdorff's Rancho Rio de los Americanos and Sheldon and Daylor's Rancho Omochumnes.

There were also historic cemeteries, airports/air fields, railroad, bridges, and farms found in the Planning Area.

Please refer to the City of Elk Grove General Plan Background Report for further information on these place names and historical features.

KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

Prehistoric and Archaeological Resources

The North Central Information Center's records search identified 93 prehistoric and historic Native American archaeological sites within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. Many, if not most of these archaeological sites are village mounds. Some are known to contain human remains. Many, if not all, have the potential to contain human remains.

The entire culture sequence of prehistoric and historic Native American occupation of the Elk Grove area is represented in these archaeological sites as a group—from the Middle Archaic of approximately 4,500 years ago to the late 1800s. Most are located along rivers, creeks, sloughs and around lakes.

The information center also identified 24 historic sites, many of which are remnants of farms and ranches within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. Included among the historic sites is the Murphy's Ranch (Murphy's Corral) site, State Historic Landmark 680 and California Inventory of Historical Resources 182; the site of Joseph Hampton Kerr's home, California Inventory of Historical Resources 178 and Point of Historical Interest 001; the site of the Old Elk Grove Hotel, Point of Historical Interest 004; and the site of the first county free library branch in California, California Historical Landmark No. 817.

Old Town Elk Grove became nationally recognized as a historic district on March 1, 1988. It is

listed as the Elk Grove Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Please refer to the Elk Grove General Plan Background Report Cultural Resources section for further details and a map outlining the historic district boundaries.

Appendix 4.11 lists only the known, recorded archaeological sites referenced by the North Central Information Center for the Planning Area, one of which is listed as a State Historical Landmark. The table is divided into nine sections, each of which lists archaeological sites recorded within a given United States Geological Survey topographic map.

Historic Resources

There are two sites within the Elk Grove Planning Area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Within the City limits of Elk Grove, the Elk Grove Historic District, located along Elk Grove Boulevard is the only site listed on the National Register. The Eastern Star Hall, located along the Sacramento River, approximately 1.5 miles north of the community of Hood, is the only other site in the Planning Area listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Properties of historical importance in California are currently designated as significant resources in three State registration programs: State Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, and the California Register of Historic Places. Below are three State Historical Landmarks that are within the region.

- No. 680 Murphy's Ranch (Murphy's Corral): Located near the southwest corner of Grant Line Road and State Route 99 – site of the beginning of the United States' conquest of California.
- No. 657 Grave of Alexander Hamilton Willard: Located in Franklin Cemetery; gravesite of the last possible remaining member of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- No. 719 Grave of Elitha Cumi Donner Wilder: Located in Elk Grove Masonic Cemetery; gravesite of a Donner party survivor.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Paleontology is defined as a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas. This resource can be an important educational resource for the reasons mentioned before, and are nonrenewable once destroyed. The California Environmental Quality Act offers protection for these sensitive resources and requires that they be addressed during the EIR process.

A file search was conducted in the GeoRef database covering the years 1785 to the present. A broad reconnaissance-level field survey of the Planning Area for the purpose of inspecting the land surface and potential outcrops of fossiliferous geological formations was also conducted.

While no fossils have been officially reported from the Planning Area, there have been informal finds. In 1959, a local Elk Grove farmer discovered a Pleistocene bone bed within the Riverbank Formation along the west side of Deer Creek. While the find was reportedly examined by a geologist from California State University, Sacramento, the find was apparently never published.

The fossils recovered to date from the Riverbank Formation are typically large, late Pleistocene vertebrates, although fish, frogs, snakes, turtles and a few plants such as *Prunus* (prune), *Platanus* (sycamore) and *Salix* (willow) are known as well (Hansen and Begg 1970, Hilton *et al.* 2000). The typically large, Rancholabran vertebrates include *Bison* (bison), *Equus* (horse), *Camelops* (camel), *Mammuthus* (mammoth), *Paramylodon* (ground sloth) and *Canis* (wolf).

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These fossils suggest a wet grassland environment interspersed with rivers, streams, ponds and bogs. The Rancholabrean fauna and flora are well known in California and they typically include many more species than reported from Sacramento County.

4.11.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), enacted in 1966, was an attempt to preserve the historical and cultural foundations of the American people. The congress found that historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage were being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently. The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage was in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, benefits would be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.

Federal regulations for cultural resources are governed primarily by Section 106 of the NHPA. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" can be found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites, which are determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The criteria for determining National Register eligibility are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Recent amendments to the Act (1986 and 1992) and subsequent revisions to the implementation regulations have strengthened the provisions for Native American consultation and participation in the Section 106 review process. While federal agencies must follow federal regulations, most projects by private developers and landowners do not require this level of compliance. Federal regulations only come into play in the private sector if the project requires a federal permit or if it uses federal money.

STATE

The California Register of Historic Places serves as the authoritative guide to resources that are considered historic under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). However, simply because a resource is not currently listed in the California Register of Historic Places does not mean that it is not a historical resource. State historic preservation regulations affecting the City of Elk Grove General Plan include statutes and guidelines contained in the CEQA: Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA guidelines. CEQA requires lead agencies to carefully consider the potential effects of a project on historical resources. A "historical resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record or manuscript, which is historically or archaeologically significant (Public Resources Code Section 5020.1). Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines specifies criteria for evaluating the importance of cultural resources. Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested persons and corporate entities, including but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associations and societies be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains and associated grave goods regardless of their antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 *et seq.*).

Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may

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be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) including the following:

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

CEQA emphasizes avoidance of archaeological and historical resources as the preferred means of reducing potential significant effects. If avoidance is not feasible, an excavation program or some other form of mitigation must be developed to mitigate the impacts.

LOCAL

Sacramento County General Plan

The Sacramento County General Plan is used as the "blueprint" to guide future development in unincorporated portions of the County, including sections of the Planning Area that are outside the Elk Grove city limits. The following Sacramento County cultural resources policies are applicable to the Planning Area outside the existing city limits of Elk Grove.

- CO-155: Utilize the California Archaeological and the Sacramento History and Science Division to assist in determining need for survey.
- CO-156: Refer projects with identified archaeological and cultural resources to the Cultural Resources Committee to determine significance of resource and recommend appropriate means of protection and mitigation. The Committee shall coordinate with the Native American Heritage Commission in developing recommendations.
- CO-157: Significant archaeological, prehistoric, or historic sites shall be protected as open space for potential future excavation.
- CO-158: Native American burial sites encountered during preapproved survey or during construction shall, whenever possible, remain in situ. Excavation and reburial shall occur when in situ preservation is not possible or when the archaeological significance of the site merits excavation and recording procedure. On-site reinterment shall have priority. The project developer shall provide the burden of proof that off site reinterment is the only feasible alternative. Reinterment shall be the responsibility of local tribal representatives.
- CO-159: The cost of all excavation conducted prior to completion of the project shall be the responsibility of the project developer.

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- CO-160: Monitor projects during construction to ensure crews follow proper reporting, safeguards, and procedures.
- CO-162: As a condition of approval for discretionary projects which are in areas of cultural resource sensitivity, the following procedure shall be included to cover the potential discovery of archaeological resource during development or construction:
- Should any cultural resources, such as structural features, unusual amounts of bone or shell, artifacts, human remains, or architectural remains be encountered during any development activities, work shall be suspended and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment shall be immediately notified. At that time, the Department of Environmental Review and Assessment will coordinate any necessary investigation of the site with appropriate specialists, as needed. The project proponent shall be required to implement any mitigation deemed necessary for the protection of the cultural resources. In addition, pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, in the event of the discovery of human remains, all work is to stop and the County Coroner shall be immediately notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, guidelines of the Native American Heritage Commission shall be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains.
- CO-163: Conduct surveys and designate structures with architectural or historical importance on community plan maps. Where appropriate, plans shall designate significant historical architectural districts.
- CO-164: Develop local architectural preservation standards drawing from state and Federal guidelines.
- CO-165: Refer projects involving structures or within districts having historical or architectural importance to the Cultural Resources Committee to recommend appropriate means of protection and mitigation.
- CO-166: Development surrounding areas of historical significance shall have compatible design in order to protect and enhance the historic quality of the areas.
- CO-167: Restrict the circulation of cultural resource locational information to prevent potential site vandalism. This information is exempt from the "Freedom of Information Act."
- CO-168: Cooperate with other agencies to enforce laws and aggressively prosecute illegal collection of artifacts.
- CO-169: Design and implement interpretive programs about known archaeological or historical sites on public lands or in public facilities. Interpretation near or upon known sites should be undertaken only when adequate security is available to protect the site and its resources.
- CO-170: Provide historic and cultural interpretive displays, trails, programs, living history presentations, and public access to the preserved artifacts recovered from excavations.

CO-171: Interpretive elements involving Native American cultural resources shall be located at village sites (provided any unexcavated resources are properly protected) representative of different physical environments found in the County.

4.11.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural Resources

CEQA establishes statutory requirements for establishing the significance of archaeological resources (prehistoric-era) in Section 21083.2 and historical resources (historic-era) in Section 21084.1. Section 21083.2 defines a "unique archaeological resource" as "...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 that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. It has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event."

Section 21084.1 defines historical resources as those listed on or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Places. The two sections operate independently to ensure that significant potential effects on archaeological and historical resources are considered as part of a project's environmental analysis.

The California Register of Historic Places establishes a third set of criteria for determining the significance of historical resources that by definition includes prehistoric-era and historic-era resources (the California State Register Bill, PRC 5020 et seq.). The Register establishes 50 years as the period in which sufficient time has passed to allow a scholarly perspective in understanding the historic importance of a resource. A historical resource must be significant at the local, State, or national level under one or more of the following four 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;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history;
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.

A historical resource must also retain the integrity of its physical identity that existed during the resource's period of significance and is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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All three sets of criteria must be addressed when evaluating the significance of archaeological and historical resources under CEQA. Resources that are not deemed significant through formal evaluation need not be considered further in the CEQA process. In practice, however, ascertaining that a resource is not "unique," not "important," and does not meet California Register criteria may involve more research, analysis, and testing than if the resource could be avoided or standard mitigation measures adopted for project impacts.

Paleontological Resources

Development of land areas within the fossiliferous Riverbank Formation and other paleoenvironments represented by rocks and geologic fossils would be considered a potentially significant impact given the potential of these geologic units to contain paleontological resources.

There is an impact to cultural or paleontological resources if the implementation of the project results in the following:

1. Causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
3. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
4. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

METHODOLOGY

A records search for cultural resources was conducted for the City of Elk Grove and Planning Area by the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System on May 20, 2002. The records search included the transfer of graphics from the Information Center's base maps (USGS 7.5' Quadrangles) to an identical set of nine maps encompassing the Elk Grove Planning Area. The quadrangles included: Bruceville, Buffalo Creek, Carmichael, Clarksburg, Courtland, Elk Grove, Florin, Galt, and Sloughhouse.

In addition to information provided by the North Central Information Center, existing documents prepared for areas within the Planning Area were reviewed and utilized. For paleontological resources, files from the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California, Berkeley, were searched. In addition, the GeoRef database was consulted for further information relating to the Elk Grove region.

PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impacts to Prehistoric and Historic Resources

Impact 4.11.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the disturbance of known and undiscovered prehistoric and historic resources in the City. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

Development under the proposed City of Elk Grove General Plan could conflict with existing known cultural resources. In addition to these "known" resource areas, there is the potential that there are undiscovered prehistoric and historic resources that would be encountered by future

development. **Figure 4.11-1** shows the areas of cultural sensitivity within the City of Elk Grove and Planning Area.

General Plan Policies and Action Items

- HR-1 Encourage the preservation and enhancement of existing historical and archaeological resources in the City.*
- HR-1-Action 1 Develop and update a comprehensive Historic Resource inventory using the National Register, the California Register, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Interest, and any other structures or properties the City Council determines to have historic value.*
- The Inventory should contain a map that shows the location of all of the structures with a historically significant designation, and a list of all of the historically significant structures in Elk Grove.*
- HR-1-Action 2 Establish a Historic Preservation Committee to provide input regarding the City's historic preservation regulations.*
- This committee could include members of the public that are experienced in and knowledgeable about historic resources in the City.*
- HR-1-Action 3 Create partnerships with private organizations that focus on historic resource preservation, such as the Elk Grove Historical Society.*
- HR-1-Action 4 Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance establishing guidelines and processes for the preservation and enhancement of historic structures.*
- HR-2 The City supports the goals and objectives for the Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California 2000-2005.*
- HR-3 Encourage restoration, renovation, and/or rehabilitation of all historic structures.*
- HR-3-Action 1 Provide financial incentives to residents as encouragement for rehabilitation and restoration of private property.*
- HR-3-Action 2 Participate in the Mills Act Tax Abatement Program as an economic incentive for private property owners to actively participate in the restoration of their properties.*
- HR-3-Action 3 Use grants and funds available to the City for historic preservation, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the California Heritage Fund (provided by the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000).*
- HR-4 Support use of federal financial incentive programs to encourage preservation of historic structures.*
- HR-4-Action 1 Provide information to residents of how to apply for the Federal Preservation Tax Incentive.*

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- HR-4-Action 2 Provide IRS information of how to claim income and estate tax deductions for charitable contributions of partial interest in historic property, per the Tax Reform Act of 1986.*
- HR-6 Protect and preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources throughout the City.*
- HR-6-Action 1 In areas identified in the Background Report as having a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological artifacts, require completion of a detailed on-site study as part of the environmental review process. Implement all recommended mitigation measures.*
- HR-6-Action 2 Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resources:*
- "The Planning Division shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action."*
 - "All construction must stop if any human remains are uncovered, and the County Coroner must be notified according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed."*

Implementation of the above General Plan policies and action items would help maintain impacts to known and undiscovered cultural resources at a **less than significant** level.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Paleontological Resource Impacts

Impact 4.11.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the disturbance of Pleistocene nonmarine sedimentary rocks (Riverbank Formation) and Quaternary alluvium geologic units, which have potential to contain paleontological resources. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

As previously described above, the Planning Area is located within the Pleistocene nonmarine sedimentary rocks (Riverbank Formation) and Quaternary alluvium geologic units. These geologic units are considered to have paleontological resource sensitivity, especially given the discovery of prehistoric Indian villages. Any future development could potentially affect undiscovered paleontologic resources. These geologic units are mostly located around the Sacramento and Cosumnes rivers.

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General Plan Policies and Action Items

HR-6 Protect and preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources throughout the City.

HR-6-Action 2 Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resource:

- "The Planning Division shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historic archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action."*
- "All construction must stop if any human remains are uncovered, and the County Coroner must be notified according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed."*

Implementation of the above General Plan policy and action item would help maintain the impact on undiscovered cultural resources at a **less than significant** level.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

4.11.4 CUMULATIVE SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CUMULATIVE SETTING

As identified in the database search conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC) for archaeological and cultural studies in the City of Elk Grove Planning Area and previous environmental studies associated with development in the area, the Elk Grove area is known to be rich in cultural resources. While many prehistoric and historic sites and resources have been identified, the probability is high that many of these resources remain undiscovered and should be taken under consideration upon any grading, excavation, or construction. In addition to cultural resources, fossiliferous rocks (Riverbank Formation) and Quaternary alluvium geologic units are located throughout the Planning Area. As noted in Section 4.11.1 (Existing Setting), paleontological resource discoveries have been made throughout the Planning Area and in the surrounding region.

As discussed in Section 4.0 (Introduction to the Environmental Analysis and Assumptions Used), potential development of the Urban Study Areas could have an affect on cultural resources in those areas. This could also result in potential affects to cultural resources in the Planning Area, as well as to the geographic extent of Sacramento County.

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CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Cumulative Impacts to Prehistoric and Historic Resources

Impact 4.11.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development in the Urban Study Areas could contribute to the disturbance of known and undiscovered prehistoric and historic resources in the Elk Grove area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

As described under Impact 4.11.1, development under the proposed General Plan could conflict with existing known cultural resources as well as areas considered culturally sensitive in the Planning Area. This would add to potential cultural resource conflicts from development in the Elk Grove area, as well as from potential development of the urban study areas, and continued buildout of the Sacramento County area. Refer to Section 4.0 (Introduction to the Environmental Analysis and Assumptions Used) for a further description of the Urban Study Areas.

General Plan Policies and Action Items

HR-1 Encourage the preservation and enhancement of existing historical and archaeological resources in the City.

HR-1-Action 1 Develop and update a comprehensive Historic Resource inventory using the National Register, the California Register, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Interest, and any other structures or properties the City Council determines to have historic value.

The Inventory should contain a map that shows the location of all of the structures with a historically significant designation, and a list of all of the historically significant structures in Elk Grove.

HR-1-Action 2 Establish a Historic Preservation Committee to provide input regarding the City’s historic preservation regulations.

This committee could include members of the public that are experienced in and knowledgeable about historic resources in the City.

HR-1-Action 3 Create partnerships with private organizations that focus on historic resource preservation, such as the Elk Grove Historical Society.

HR-1-Action 4 Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance establishing guidelines and processes for the preservation and enhancement of historic structures.

HR-2 The City supports the goals and objectives for the Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California 2000-2005.

HR-3 Encourage restoration, renovation, and/or rehabilitation of all historic structures.

HR-3-Action 1 Provide financial incentives to residents as encouragement for rehabilitation and restoration of private property.

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- HR-3-Action 2* *Participate in the Mills Act Tax Abatement Program as an economic incentive for private property owners to actively participate in the restoration of their properties.*
- HR-3-Action 3* *Use grants and funds available to the City for historic preservation, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the California Heritage Fund (provided by the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000).*
- HR-4* *Support use of federal financial incentive programs to encourage preservation of historic structures.*
- HR-4-Action 1* *Provide information to residents of how to apply for the Federal Preservation Tax Incentive.*
- HR-4-Action 2* *Provide IRS information of how to claim income and estate tax deductions for charitable contributions of partial interest in historic property, per the Tax Reform Act of 1986.*
- HR-6* *Protect and preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources throughout the City.*
- HR-6-Action 1* *In areas identified in the Background Report as having a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological artifacts, require completion of a detailed on-site study as part of the environmental review process. Implement all recommended mitigation measures.*
- HR-6-Action 2* *Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resources:*
- *“The Planning Division shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.”*
 - *“All construction must stop if any human remains are uncovered, and the County Coroner must be notified according to Section 7050.5 of California’s Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed.”*

Implementation of the above General Plan Policies HR-1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 and associate action items, in addition to compliance with federal and state laws would help maintain the cumulative impact of prehistoric and historic resources to the Planning Area and surrounding region at a **less than significant** level.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

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Cumulative Impacts to Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.11.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could contribute to the loss of paleontological resources in the Elk Grove area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

As described under Impact 4.11.2, development under the proposed General Plan could result in the loss of paleontological resources in the Planning Area as a result of placing development within the Pleistocene nonmarine sedimentary rocks (Riverbank Formation) and Quaternary alluvium geologic units. This would add to potential paleontological resource impacts from development in the Elk Grove area, as well as from potential development of the Urban Study Areas, and continued buildout of the Sacramento County area.

General Plan Policies and Action Items

HR-6 Protect and preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources throughout the City.

HR-6-Action 1 In areas identified in the Background Report as having a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological artifacts, require completion of a detailed on-site study as part of the environmental review process. Implement all recommended mitigation measures.

HR-6-Action 2 Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resources:

- "The Planning Division shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action."*
- "All construction must stop if any human remains are uncovered, and the County Coroner must be notified according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed."*

Implementation of the above General Plan Policy HR-6 and associated action items, in addition to compliance with federal and state laws, would help maintain the cumulative impact on paleontological resources to the Planning Area and surrounding region at a **less than significant** level.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

REFERENCES

City of Elk Grove Development Services. 2003. *City of Elk Grove General Plan*. Elk Grove, CA.

County of Sacramento Planning Department. 1993. *County of Sacramento General Plan*. Sacramento, CA.

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