

## **R. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **1. Archaeological**

#### **Environmental Setting**

The project site is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Calabasas Road and Mulholland Drive in the San Fernando Valley. The property forms a long, roughly rectangular strip bounded by Mulholland Drive on the east and El Cañon on the west. The existing Motion Picture and Television Fund facility is concentrated at the northern end of the site.

The undeveloped portion of the site is comprised of an alluvial plain broken by a low hill and Dry Canyon Creek on the south. The creek bed, which contained water at the time of the survey, contains few rocks in spite of the fact that it has eroded a channel some three to four feet below surface grade. Part of the plain is used for agricultural purposes (truck farming crops such as strawberries, corn, tomatoes, and herbs) and has been for many years. The extreme southern end of the plain has several walnut trees, while the margins of Dry Canyon Creek support a disturbed riparian oak habitat.

The project site was surveyed for cultural resources by D. M. Van Horn and J. R. Murray on November 12, 1984 for the original 1986 Environmental Impact Report. Six recorded archaeological sites, five prehistoric and one historic, were found to be recorded within one kilometer (approximately 0.62 miles) radius of the project area. This included LAn-869, 711/712, and 1060, situated approximately one-half kilometer (approximately 0.31 miles) south of the site; LAn-1017, located approximately one kilometer to the west of the study area; the Leonis Adobe, LAn-964, a historic site located to the northeast of the parcel; and LAn-246, situated approximately one kilometer to the east of the subject property. No archaeological sites were recorded on the subject property.

No significant historic material was observed on the site at the time of this survey. Two isolated prehistoric artifacts were seen in the field just south of the existing Motion Picture and Television Fund facility. These artifacts consisted of a single platform quartzite cone and granite pebble which appeared to have been used as a small mano. These were found approximately 30 meters (approximately 33 yards) from one another. No sign of any other significant deposit accompanied the two prehistoric artifacts. It can be anticipated that any region where prehistoric aboriginal activity tended to be concentrated could be expected to produce such isolated finds as these two artifacts.

A subsequent records search of all historic and prehistoric archaeological sites recorded within a quarter mile of the project site, as well as a review of all known cultural resource survey and excavation reports, does not show any new archaeological sites.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, a record search of the Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area.<sup>2</sup>

### **Significance Criteria**

A significant archaeological impact according to CEQA is one which destroys, disrupts, or prevents access to an artifact which is:

1. Associated with an event or person of recognized importance in California or American prehistory or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
2. Provides information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions;
3. Has a special or particular quality, such as oldest, best, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;
4. Is at least 100 years old<sup>3</sup> and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or,
5. Involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

### **Environmental Impacts**

Development of the project would include grading and excavation of virtually all of the site. However, the field reconnaissance and record search have failed to yield any indication of the presence of significant archaeological material within the boundaries of the study area. The two prehistoric artifacts found during the 1984 survey were commonplace finds which lacked significance when found in the absence of other tools or depositional context. This is due to the fact that such

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<sup>1</sup> Dina R. Craig, Associate Coordinator, South Central Coastal Information Center, *California Historical Resources Information System*. Letter to Terra Ishee, Planning Associates, Inc. April 13, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Gail McNulty, Associate Program Analyst, Native American Heritage Commission. Letter to Terra Ishee, Planning Associates, Inc. April 14, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> The California Register provides that any site found eligible for nomination to the National Register would automatically be included within the California Register, and subject to all protections thereof. The National Register requires that a site or structure be at least 50 years old.

isolated finds offer little or no research potential. Consequently, no adverse impacts to any significant archaeological material could be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project. However, as prehistoric artifacts have been recovered proximate to the project site, the possibility exists, however remote, that significant cultural resources could be recovered from the site during grading and construction activities.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed and related projects are located in an area which is known to contain archaeological resources. As a result, there is a potential that implementation of these projects may encounter recorded or unrecorded resources and potentially create a significant impact to these resources. City requirements for site surveys reduce, but do not eliminate the potential for significant impacts. However, archaeological resources are a site specific concern. Potential impacts to archaeological resources from individual related projects would not compound the effects of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no cumulative impacts would occur.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- ! A Phase I archaeological survey should be conducted prior to earth moving operations at the project site.
  
- ! In the event any cultural resources or remains are encountered during the course of land modification and construction activities, the project should be halted and a qualified archaeologist and/or paleontologist with expertise in the area shall be consulted immediately in order to assess the nature, extent and significance of any cultural materials that are encountered. Upon review of the resources by the Archaeologist, construction work on project elements determined by the archaeologist not to threaten the resources may resume, and project elements that threaten the resources may resume when the impact to such resources is reduced, mitigated or otherwise acceptable as approved by the project archaeologist. Copies of the archaeological survey, study or report shall be submitted to the UCLA Archaeological Information Center. A Covenant and Agreement shall be recorded prior to obtaining a grading permit.

## **Impacts After Mitigation**

None are anticipated with implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

### **2. Paleontological**

Determined not significant by the October 4, 1984 Initial Study, and confirmed by the January 22, 1999 Initial Study.

### **3. Historical**

Determined not significant by the October 4, 1984 Initial Study, and confirmed by the January 22, 1999 Initial Study.