
3.4 - Cultural Resources

3.4.1 - Introduction

This section describes the existing cultural resources setting and potential effects from project implementation within the project site and its surrounding area that are based on a Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment conducted by MBA.

3.4.2 - Environmental Setting

Regional Setting

The City of Vallejo is located in the southwestern portion of Solano County, California. Vallejo is approximately 53.58 square miles in area and is centered along State Route 29 (SR-29) and Interstate 80 (I-80), which both traverse north and south through the City. SR-37 also traverses east and west through the City. The southern portion of Vallejo is dominated by high and medium-density residential land uses with commercial land uses immediately adjacent to I-80. Mare Island industrial uses are also located in the southern portion of the City.

Project Site

The 149.11-acre Solano County Fairgrounds project site is located immediately southwest of the Interstate 80 and State Route 37 interchange in the City of Vallejo, California, adjacent to the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom theme park and Lake Chabot. The site consists of the existing Solano County Fairgrounds, which includes administration and exposition buildings, a horse track, grandstands, equestrian buildings, horse barns, and several parking areas.

Surrounding Area

Following is a brief description of the areas surrounding the project site.

North

A Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and SR-37 are located north of the project site. The Country Club Crest residential subdivision is located beyond the hotel and SR-37.

East

I-80 is immediately east of the project site and beyond I-80 is a modest sized retail center.

South

The project site is bordered on the south by the Newell Mobile Homes Park beyond which there is a small motel.

West

Fairgrounds Drive is located immediately west of the project site. Further west of Fairgrounds Drive is Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Lake Chabot and a Six Flags Discovery Kingdom parking lot. Dan Foley Park is located north and west of the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom parking lot.

Following is a brief overview of the prehistory, ethnography, and historic background, providing a context in which to understand the background and relevance of sites found in the general project area. This section is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the current resources available; rather, it serves as a general overview.

Further details can be found in ethnographic studies, mission records, and major published sources, as documented in Appendix D.

Cultural Setting

Regional Prehistory

Early archaeological investigations in central California were conducted at sites located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. The first published account documents investigations in the Lodi and Stockton area. The initial archaeological reports typically contained descriptive narratives, with more systematic approaches sponsored by Sacramento Junior College in the 1930s. At the same time, University of California at Berkeley excavated several sites in the lower Sacramento Valley and Delta region, which resulted in recognizing archaeological site patterns based on variations of inter-site assemblages.

Research during the 1930s identified temporal periods in central California prehistory and provided an initial chronological sequence. In 1939, Lillard noted that each cultural period led directly to the next and that influences spread from the Delta region to other regions in central California. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Beardsley documented similarities in artifacts among sites in the San Francisco Bay region and the Delta and refined his findings into a cultural model that ultimately became known as the Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS). This system proposed a uniform, linear sequence of cultural succession. The CCTS system was challenged by Gerow, whose work looked at radiocarbon dating to show that Early and Middle Horizon sites were not subsequent developments but, at least partially, contemporaneous.

To address some of the flaws in the CCTS system, Fredrickson (1973) introduced a revision that incorporated a system of spatial and cultural integrative units. Fredrickson separated cultural, temporal, and spatial units from each other and assigned them to six chronological periods: Paleo-Indian (10000 to 6000 B.C.); Lower, Middle and Upper Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D. 500), and Emergent (Upper and Lower, A.D. 500 to 1800). The suggested temporal ranges are similar to earlier horizons, which are broad cultural units that can be arranged in a temporal sequence. In addition, Fredrickson defined several patterns—a general way of life shared within a specific geographical region. These patterns include:

- Windmill Pattern or Early Horizon (3000 to 1000 B.C.)
- Berkeley Pattern or Middle Horizon (1000 B.C. to A.D. 500)
- Augustine Pattern or Late Horizon (A.D. 500 to historic period)

Brief descriptions of these temporal ranges and their unique characteristics follow.

Windmill Pattern or Early Horizon (3000 to 1000 B.C.)

Characterized by the Windmill Pattern, the Early Horizon was centered in the Cosumnes district of the Delta and emphasized hunting rather than gathering, as evidenced by the abundance of projectile points in relation to plant processing tools. Additionally, atlatl, dart, and spear technologies typically included stemmed projectile points of slate and chert but minimal obsidian. The large variety of projectile point types and faunal remains suggests exploitation of numerous types of terrestrial and aquatic species (Appendix D). Burials occurred in cemeteries and intra-village graves. These burials typically were ventrally extended, although some dorsal extensions are known with a westerly orientation and a high number of grave goods. Trade networks focused on acquisition of ornamental and ceremonial objects in finished form rather than on raw material. The presence of artifacts made of exotic materials such as quartz, obsidian, and shell indicates an extensive trade network that may represent the arrival of Utian populations into central California. Also indicative of this period are rectangular *Haliotis* and *Olivella* shell beads, and charmstones that usually were perforated.

Berkeley Pattern or Middle Horizon (1000 B.C. to A.D. 500)

The Middle Horizon is characterized by the Berkeley Pattern, which displays considerable changes from the Early Horizon. This period exhibited a strong milling technology represented by minimally shaped cobble mortars and pestles, although metates and manos were still used. Dart and atlatl technologies during this period were characterized by non-stemmed projectile points made primarily of obsidian. Fredrickson (1973) suggests that the Berkeley Pattern marked the eastward expansion of Miwok groups from the San Francisco Bay Area. Compared with the Early Horizon, there is a higher proportion of grinding implements at this time, implying an emphasis on plant resources rather than on hunting. Typical burials occurred within the village with flexed positions, variable cardinal orientation, and some cremations. As noted by Lillard (1939), the practice of spreading ground ochre over the burial was common at this time. Grave goods during this period are generally sparse and typically include only utilitarian items and a few ornamental objects. However, objects such as charmstones, quartz crystals, and bone whistles occasionally were present, which suggest the religious or ceremonial significance of the individual. During this period, larger populations are suggested by the number and depth of sites compared with the Windmill Pattern. According to Fredrickson (1973), the Berkeley Pattern reflects gradual expansion or assimilation of different populations rather than sudden population replacement and a gradual shift in economic emphasis.

Augustine Pattern or Late Horizon (A.D. 500 to Historic Period)

The Late Horizon is characterized by the Augustine Pattern, which represents a shift in the general subsistence pattern. Changes include the introduction of bow and arrow technology; and most importantly, acorns became the predominant food resource. Trade systems expanded to include raw resources as well as finished products. There are more baked clay artifacts and extensive use of *Haliotis* ornaments of many elaborate shapes and forms. Burial patterns retained the use of flexed burials with variable orientation, but there was a reduction in the use of ochre and widespread

evidence of cremation. Judging from the number and types of grave goods associated with the two types of burials, cremation seems to have been reserved for individuals of higher status, whereas other individuals were buried in flexed positions. Johnson (1976) suggests that the Augustine Pattern represents expansion of the Wintuan population from the north, which resulted in combining new traits with those established during the Berkeley Pattern.

Central California research has expanded from an emphasis on defining chronological and cultural units to a more comprehensive look at settlement and subsistence systems. This shift is illustrated by the early use of burials to identify mortuary assemblages and more recent research using osteological data to determine the health of prehistoric populations. Although debate continues over a single model or sequence for central California, the general framework consisting of three temporal/cultural units is generally accepted, although the identification of regional and local variation is a major goal of current archaeological research.

Native American Background

At the time of European contact, the project area was occupied by the Patwin tribe of Native Americans. The Patwin occupied the southwestern Sacramento Valley from the town of Princeton, north of Colusa, south to San Pablo and Suisun bays, and from the lower hills of the eastern North Coast Ranges to the Sacramento River. Patwin territory extended approximately 40 miles east to west and 90 miles north to south. Based primarily on linguistic variation, the Patwin are the most southern division of the Wintuan population, who are members of the Penutian linguistic stock. The area around Vallejo was likely occupied by speakers of the Suisun dialect. Distinction is made between the Hill and River Patwin. Hill Patwin had villages located in valleys along the hills of the Vaca Mountains and Coast Ranges with populations concentrated in the Indian, Bear, Capay, Cortina, Long, and Napa valleys. In general, the River Patwin occupied the west banks of the lower Sacramento River below the Feather River as well as the lower reaches of Cache and Putah creeks in the Sacramento Valley. The Patwin political organization was centered on the tribelet, which consisted of a primary village with smaller satellite villages governed by a chief. Tribelets were autonomous and differed from each other with minor cultural variations. The economic and ceremonial activities of each village were administered by a chief whose position was typically passed on patrilineally, although some chiefs were chosen by village elders. The chief administered subsistence ventures, such as hunting and gathering expeditions, and served as the primary resource distributor.

The Hill Patwin subsistence base varied seasonally and included gathering seeds and plant resources on the plains, netting migratory waterfowl in the tule marshes, and netting salmon and other fish in the rivers and streams. Acorns were a staple in the Patwin diet and were obtained from communally owned hill and valley oak groves. The Patwin typically stored the acorns in granaries as insurance against famine in poor harvest years. Ethnographic reports indicate the Patwin obtained large game such as deer, tule elk, and antelope, by using nets or shooting with bows and arrows.

The Hill Patwin trade system included various resources that were exchanged with Wappo, Nomlaki, and Southeastern Pomo, and the River Patwin. The River Patwin obtained obsidian from sources to the west and east. Initially, finished shell beads were obtained from coastal tribes, but later, the River Patwin traded for whole shells from the Pacific Coast and produced the beads themselves.

Relationships with nearby tribes as well as other Patwin tribelets were not always friendly. Johnson notes that relations were strained especially with Napa Valley groups and that the provocations primarily consisted of poaching, with the subsequent retaliations consisting of organized battles on individuals or groups or surprise attacks on villages.

Patwin mortuary practices included burials in cemeteries located at one end of the village, possessions of the deceased being buried along with them, and at some locations, property was burned near the grave. Typically, only people who died away from the village were cremated. Johnson (1978) notes that according to a Hill Patwin informant “the River people [Patwin] set a corpse upright, then pushed the head down, broke the back, wrapped the body in a skin, and put it in the grave.” In addition, long burial ropes constructed of hemp were wrapped around the deceased and temporary containers made of tule reeds were utilized for transport.

Spanish Exploration and Settlement

Spanish exploration into Suisun Bay and into the Central Valley dates back to the late 1700s. Spanish mission records indicate that by 1800, Patwin inhabitants at Aguastos, the south-central area, and other villages were being taken to Mission Dolores (San Francisco de Asis), and that Mission Sonoma (San Francisco Solano), built in 1823, was baptizing Patwin tribal members until secularization of the missions in 1832-1836. Many Native Americans were not willing converts. There are numerous accounts of neophytes fleeing the missions, and a series of “Indian Wars” broke out when the Spanish tried to return them to the missions.

The Mexican Period

With the declaration of Mexican independence in 1821, Spanish control of Alta California ended, although little change actually occurred. Political change did not take place until mission secularization in 1834, when Native Americans were released from missionary control and the mission lands were granted to private individuals. Shoup and Milliken (1999) state that mission secularization removed the social protection and support on which Native Americans had come to rely. It exposed them to further exploitation by outside interests, often forcing them into a marginal existence as laborers for large ranchos. Following mission secularization, the Mexican population grew as the native population continued to decline. Anglo-American settlers began to arrive in Alta California during this period and often married into Mexican families, becoming Mexican citizens, which made them eligible to receive land grants. In 1846, on the eve of the U.S.-Mexican War (1846 to 1848), the estimated population of Alta California was 8,000 non-natives and 10,000 natives. However, these estimates have been debated. Cook (1976) suggests the Native American population was 100,000 in 1850; the U.S. Census of 1880 reports the Native American population as 20,385.

During this period, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo assumed authority of Sonoma Mission and established a friendly relationship with the Native Americans who were living there. In particular, Vallejo worked closely with Chief Solano, a Patwin who served as Vallejo's spokesperson when problems with Native American tribes arose. In 1843, Governor Manuel Micheltorena gave General Vallejo the 84,000-acre Soscoe land grant of Rancho Suscolto that included the present-day Vallejo.

Euro-American Expansion

During this period, and prior, Native American populations were declining rapidly because of an influx of Euro-American diseases. In 1832, a party of trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company, led by John Work, traveled down the Sacramento River, unintentionally spreading a malaria epidemic to Native Californians. Four years later, a smallpox epidemic decimated local populations, and it is estimated that up to 75 percent of the native population died.

After the upheaval of the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, and the result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, California became a United States territory. In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold at Coloma in modern-day El Dorado County, which started the gold rush into the region that forever altered the course of California's history. The arrival of thousands of gold seekers in the territory contributed to the exploration and settlement of the entire State. By late 1848, approximately four out of five men in California were gold miners.

The gold rush originated along the reaches of the American River and other tributaries to the Sacramento River, and Hangtown, present-day Placerville, became the closest town offering mining supplies and other necessities for the miners in El Dorado County. Gold subsequently was found in the tributaries to the San Joaquin River, which flowed north to join the Sacramento River in the great delta east of San Francisco Bay.

By 1864, California's gold rush had essentially ended. The rich surface and river placers were largely exhausted and the miners either returned to their homelands or stayed to start new lives in California. After the gold rush, people in towns such as Jackson, Placerville, and Sonora turned to other means of commerce, such as ranching, agriculture, and timber production. With the decline of gold mining, agriculture and ranching came to the forefront in the State's economy. California's natural resources and moderate climate proved well suited for cultivation of a variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and grains.

The County of Solano

Solano County is one of the original 27 counties created at statehood. Originally named Benicia County, its name was changed to Solano County in honor of Sem-Yeto, also known as Chief Solano, a Patwin man who ruled over most of the indigenous tribes between the Sacramento River and Petaluma Creek. The County retains its original boundaries as they were delineated in 1850.

In 1840, José Francisco Armijo received the 13,315-acre Rancho Tolenas land grant by Governor Alvarado. Armijo's son, Antonia, acquired the land when his father died in 1850, and it was

subsequently acquired by Captain R.H. Waterman in 1858. Shortly after acquiring the land, Waterman offered 16 acres to Solano County for a new, more centrally located county seat. Solano County voters accepted the offer, and the county seat was relocated from Benicia to the new town of Fairfield, where it remains today.

Early settlers into the County cultivated fruits and vegetables for local consumption, and grains were grown on a larger scale for export. Dry farm crops such as wheat and oats used for cattle fodder proved profitable in the area despite limited irrigation. Initially, all products were transported via the waterways but, with the completion of California Pacific Railroad, goods were transported by rail. Fruit and nut crops were particularly successful in the project vicinity, and by 1910, Solano-Yolo Land and Water Company proposed dam and irrigation systems to support these crops. However, by 1930, government standards resulted in sales and abandonment of orchards with subsequent fruit worker strikes and riots resulting in the 1934 to 1935 closure of the peach and cherry shipping industry. The fruit and nut industries slowly recuperated and were aided by the formation of the Solano Irrigation District in 1948. Solano County continued to grow over the years with the addition of Travis Air Force Base in 1943, new industrial parks, and a resurgence of fruit processing and packing warehouses.

The City of Vallejo

Mariano Vallejo proposed the creation of a new town in 1850, and in 1851, the location was officially decided upon where present-day Vallejo sits. The town was to serve as the State capitol, but in 1852 when the government was convened there, no new building had been constructed for them to meet and after eleven days decided to move the sessions to Sacramento. In 1853, the State capitol was officially moved to nearby Bernicia.

The primary industry that brought early settlers into the greater Vallejo area was farming. The rich Delta soil and temperate climate proved beneficial for cultivating vegetables and fruit, and the nearby waterways provided a ready source of transportation for shipping to the gold mining towns of the Sierra Nevada. In addition to growing fruits and vegetables, farmers soon discovered that dry farm crops such as oats and wheat could be grown in the area with minimal irrigation. The first railroad into the area was the California Pacific built in 1874, which replaced water transport as the main source for transporting local products.

A prominent feature in the history of the City of Vallejo is Mare Island, established in 1854 by Commander David Farragut as the site of the first Pacific naval installation. The first ship constructed at the Mare Island facilities was launched in 1860, and the height of construction took place there during World War II, employing over 41,000 people. The shipyard was closed in 1996 on the recommendation of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The Solano County Fair

Dating back to at least 1875, agriculture fairs were important events for horse races and livestock shows, co-organized by Solano and Napa counties. A precursor to the Solano County Fair, the “Bells of Solano County Exposition,” was organized in May 1930 by David A. Weir, publisher of the Solano Republican newspaper, and held across from the Solano County Courthouse in Fairfield. The event was intended to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the newspaper, as well as highlight the agriculture, technology, and local business of Solano County. Weir’s vision was that the profits from the event would be used for an ongoing annual Solano County fair, but unfortunately, the fair was not as successful as he hoped despite attendance by more than 20,000 visitors.

Plans for purchasing land and securing financing for the development of the Solano County fair began in 1938, but with the effects of World War II being felt across the country, these efforts were delayed. After the end of the war, planning resumed and groundbreaking ceremonies for the fairground took place on September 21, 1950. The opening of the fair was so important, that a parade proceeded through downtown Vallejo, schools were let out early, and traffic backed up for miles trying to enter the fairgrounds.

3.4.3 - Regulatory Framework

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act

The CEQA Guidelines state that a resource need not be listed on any register to be found historically significant. The CEQA guidelines direct lead agencies to evaluate archaeological sites to determine if they meet the criteria for listing in the California Register. If an archaeological site is an historical resource, in that it is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register, potential adverse impacts to it must be considered. If an archaeological site is considered not to be an historical resource, but meets the definition of a “unique archeological resource” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, then it would be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section.

Local

City of Vallejo

General Plan

The General Plan establishes the following objectives, goals, and policies relevant to the Historic Preservation:

- **Historic Preservation Goal.** Preserve and improve historically and architecturally significant structures and neighborhoods.
- **Objective 1:** Develop pride and awareness of Vallejo’s heritage, both locally and elsewhere.
- **Objective 2:** Assist property owners in the restoration of significant buildings.
- **Objective 3:** Protect significant buildings from exterior alternations that would diminish their historic or architectural significance.

- **Objective 4:** Prevent the demolition of significant buildings when it is economically feasible to restore them.
- **Policy 1:** Promote Vallejo’s heritage.
- **Policy 2:** Assist property owners in their restoration efforts. This includes providing information on preservation resources and assisting in the placement of structures on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Policy 3:** The City will regulate changes in the exteriors of structures in the Heritage District, Historic District, and designated City landmarks to enhance the value of Vallejo’s heritage.
- **Policy 4:** The City will seek private and public funding for historic preservation.
- **Policy 5:** The State Historic Building Code will be used as permitted by state law and the State’s Architect’s Office on any structure on the Historic Resources Inventory or in the Architectural Heritage and the St. Vincent’s Historic Districts.

State

California Register of Historical Resources

As defined by Section 15064.5(a)(3)(A-D) of the CEQA Guidelines, a resource shall be considered historically significant if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CR). The California Register of Historical Resources and many local preservation ordinances have employed the criteria for eligibility to the NRHP as a model, since the NHPA provides the highest standard for evaluating the significance of historic resources. A resource that meets the NRHP criteria is clearly significant. In addition, a resource that does not meet the NRHP standards may still be considered historically significant at a local or state level.

3.4.4 - Methodology

MBA prepared a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of the project site. The Cultural Resources Assessment consisted of a record searches and a pedestrian survey of the project site, which are described below.

Record Searches

Northwest Information Center (NWCIC) Record Search

On April 22, 2011, a record search was conducted at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) in Rohnert Park for the project area and a 0.25-mile radius beyond the project boundaries. To identify any historic properties or resources, the current inventories of the National Register of Historic Places (NR), the California Register of Historic Resources (CR), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL) list, the California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI) list, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) were reviewed to determine the existence of previously documented local historical resources. Review of these inventories indicated that none of the buildings or structures within the project area have been listed on the NR, CR, CHL, CPHI, the HRI, or any local inventories.

Results from the NWIC indicate that eight previous studies were conducted within the search radius (Table 3.4-1).

Table 3.4-1: Previous Studies

Record Number	Author/Date	Title of Report
S-000885	Fredrickson/1978	An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Proposed Shea Homes Subdivision, Solano County, California.
S-001834	Eisenman/1979	A Preliminary Cultural Resources Study of the Lakeville-Sobrante 230kV T/L Project Area.
S-002663	Damon/1980	Lakeville-Sobrante 230kV Transmission Line Archaeological Sensitivity Map (letter report).
S-005068	Deitz/1973	Report of an Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Hunter Ranch, Vallejo, California.
S-007352	Chavez/1985	Cultural Resources Evaluation for the Marine World/Africa USA Property, Vallejo, California.
S-007354	Rondeau/1985	Archaeological Survey Report, Route 27 Improvements, 10-SOL-37 P.M. 10.0/11.210101-327000 (Caltrans).
S-020617	Psota/1998	Review of the Historic Resources of the Built Environment for Site SF-354, Parrot Cellular Store Mount at 153 Plaza Drive, Suite 103, Vallejo, Solano County, California (letter report).
S-021254	Origer/1998	Archaeological Survey Report for the Solano Bikeway Project Planned by the City of Vallejo, 04-SOL-80.

One prehistoric site (CA-SOL-317), a lithic scatter, was recorded just outside the western project boundary. According to the DPR form that was completed by David Chavez and Associates in March 1985, the site consisted of “a scatter of lithic debitage and shell in a dark brown/black soil matrix. The debitage consisted of both chert and obsidian flakes. The flakes were mainly thinning and small pressure flakes although some large obsidian chunks (2.5cm²) were noted.” In addition, the DPR form states that “a review of maps and materials for the area indicate that the site location consists entirely of fill material. The site is a secondary deposit and it is believed that the materials came from a site originally located on a hill south of the golf course.”

Native American Heritage Commission Records Search

On May 11, 2011, MBA sent a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in an effort to determine whether any sacred sites are listed on its Sacred Lands File for the project area. The response from the NAHC was received on June 10, 2011. The record search failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. A list of seven Native American representatives who may have additional information about the project site was sent with the results. On August 29, 2011, letters were sent to each of the seven representatives requesting further information about the project area. As of this date, no responses have been received from any of the Native American representatives.

Paleontological Records Search

A recent paleontological study conducted directly adjacent to the project area found that although there have been no reported fossil remains in the local vicinity, geological deposits evidenced some fossil plant remains that suggest a potential for encountering additional paleontological resources during ground disturbance.

The project area falls geologically within the Coast Ranges Physiographic Province, consisting of faulted and folded northwest trending hills that are separated by narrow valleys. Within the project area, three distinct geological layers have been identified that are of concern for yielding paleontological resources. From oldest to youngest, these are the Cretaceous Great Valley Sequence, Pleistocene Alluvial Fan Deposits, and Holocene Alluvial Fan Deposits.

The paleontological survey directly adjacent to the project area resulted in the visual identification of fossil plant remains in exposed geological deposits from the Cretaceous Great Valley Sequence. The visual inspection of exposed Pleistocene Alluvium sediments was negative for paleontological resources, however, they note that fossil vertebrates have been found elsewhere in these types of geological deposits, indicating a potential for their discovery within the project area. Alluvium from the Holocene period is too young and thin to preserve fossils. Given these observations, Fisk (2011) recommended that a Paleontological Evaluation Report and Paleontological Mitigation Plan be developed.

Pedestrian Survey

MBA's Senior Project Archaeologist surveyed the project area on May 13, 2011. The project area was surveyed using 10- to 15-meter transects when possible, walked in a zigzag pattern to ensure proper coverage.

The project area consisted of flat terrain, predominantly covered with asphalt roads, fairgrounds' buildings, stables, a horserace track with a 9-hole golf course in the middle of the track and various landscape elements.

The pedestrian survey started in the southern portion of the fairgrounds where the horse stables are located. The horse stables are very similar in design and components with the major difference being the number of stalls. There is a tack shed located in a central area between each of the stables. Within the southern portion of the fairgrounds, south of the stables was a large, open grassy area which was surveyed using 10-meter transects. Visibility was fair to good in this area, depending on the grass cover; however, no cultural resources were discovered. In the northeastern portion of the project area is the a horserace track with a 9 hole golf course in the middle of the track. In the approximate center at the western project boundary, is possibly the original sign for the entrance into the racetrack that reads "Horseman's café." On the opposite side of Fairgrounds Drive from the Horseman's Cafe sign, is the approximate location where the prehistoric lithic scatter (SOL-317) was recorded. To try to determine if remnants of SOL-317 or an unknown prehistoric site were within the

project area, the grassy area adjacent to the east of Fairgrounds Drive was surveyed. Although no evidence of any prehistoric resources were observed visibility was very poor in this area due to thick grass and weedy vegetation. The remaining project area was covered with various fairgrounds buildings, parking areas, and asphalt roads.

3.4.5 - Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G Environmental Checklist, to determine whether impacts to cultural resources are significant environmental effects, the following questions are analyzed and evaluated. Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?
- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

3.4.6 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Historic Resource

Impact CUL-1: The project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5.

Impact Analysis

No historic resources have been previously recorded within the project site. However, the buildings and structures were constructed as early as 1950 and therefore meet the minimum age requirement (45 years) for evaluation as noted by the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) "Instructions for Recording Historical Resources." Although the buildings and structures have not been formally evaluated, they are considered historically significant because of their age, their association with early Solano County, and California fairgrounds and racetracks. In addition, the buildings retain a high level of integrity. During the course of the pedestrian survey, many of the existing buildings, specifically, the stables and associated jockey's quarters, the racetrack and grandstand, and some of the older fairgrounds buildings were considered historically significant in terms of listing on the California Register of Historic Resources (CR) or local historic registers. All existing fair facilities would be demolished with the exception of Gibson Hall, McCormack Hall, the trash shed, the maintenance shed, the livestock building, and the sheep barn.

In addition, subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered historic resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact, as the presence of historic resources has not been

determined. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant.

Entertainment Area

The entertainment area would authorize up to 327,571 square feet of retail, commercial, entertainment, and office space on 48.8 acres at time of full buildout. Project implementation would require demolition of the existing fair facilities and construction and grading of up to 27.8 acres of previously undeveloped land.

Although the buildings and structures have not been formally evaluated, some are considered historically significant because of their age, their association with early Solano County, and California fairgrounds and racetracks. Demolition of the existing buildings considered historically significant is considered a potentially significant impact. Subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered historic resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce these potentially significant impacts to a level of less than significant.

Fairgrounds

The fairgrounds portion of the site would include up to 149,500 square feet of new building space at time of full buildout including a new exposition hall and new concert arena/grandstand cover. All existing fair facilities would be demolished with the exception of Gibson Hall, McCormack Hall, trash shed, maintenance shed, livestock building, and sheep barn.

Although the buildings and structures have not been formally evaluated, some of the Fairgrounds buildings are considered historically significant because of their age, their association with early Solano County, and California fairgrounds and racetracks. Demolition of the existing buildings considered historically significant is considered a potentially significant impact. Subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered historic resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce these potentially significant impacts to a level of less than significant.

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1a Entertainment Area. Because the buildings and structures appear to be historically significant, prior to demolition, they shall be evaluated for historic significance and eligibility for listing (under criteria A, B, C, and D) on the California Register of Historical Resources (CR) or local registers. Each of the buildings that are determined to be historically significant shall be recorded on appropriate Department

of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. As detailed in MM CUL-1b, inadvertent discovery measures for cultural resources shall be included in all construction contracts.

MM CUL-1b Fairgrounds. Because the structures appear to be historically significant, prior to demolition they shall be evaluated for historic significance by a qualified archaeologist or an architectural historian to determine if they are eligible for listing on the CR (under criteria A, B, C, and D) or local registers. Each of the structures that are determined to be historically significant shall be recorded on appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. A determination of eligibility may result in the need for additional archival research and/or further documentation.

If potentially significant cultural resources are encountered during grading activities for the project, all construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the find shall cease until a qualified archaeologist determines whether the resource requires further study. A standard inadvertent discovery clause shall be included in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction shall be evaluated for significance by a qualified archaeologist and recorded on appropriate DPR forms. Potentially significant cultural resources consist of, but are not limited to stone, bone, glass, ceramics, fossils, wood, or shell artifacts, or features including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If the resource is determined significant under CEQA, the qualified archaeologist shall prepare and implement a research design and archaeological data recovery plan that will capture those categories of data for which the resource is significant.

The types of procedures that are typically included in a research design and data recovery plan include but are not limited to:

- A pre-construction sensitivity meeting with construction and management personnel.
- Data recovery excavation units, as required, with the goal of addressing research issues from resources discovered during the fieldwork including local manifestations of regional chronology, subsistence, settlement, and exchange. Specific research questions to be addressed include temporal placement of the archaeological materials, site formation processes, subsistence, flaked stone technology, settlement patterns, and exchange and interaction systems.
- Field and laboratory analysis methodology would include as appropriate:
 - Initial processing, photography, faunal and lithic artifact analysis, and cataloging of artifacts.
 - Construction monitoring, if required.

- Inadvertent discovery procedures for features/artifacts and human remains.
- Archaeological data recovery report would be prepared detailing the findings of the procedures listed above.

The archaeologist shall also conduct appropriate technical analyses, prepare a comprehensive report, file it with the appropriate Information Center, and provide for the permanent curation of the recovered materials.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Archaeological Resource

Impact CUL-2: The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5.

Impact Analysis

One prehistoric resource was previously recorded within the project area, site CA-SOL-317, a lithic scatter, was recorded just outside the western project boundary. According to the DPR form completed by David Chavez and Associates in March 1985, the site consisted of “a scatter of lithic debitage and shell in a dark brown/black soil matrix . . .” Additionally, the DPR form states that “a review of maps and materials for the area indicate that the site location consists entirely of fill material. The site is a secondary deposit and it is believed that the materials came from a site originally located on a hill south of the golf course.” Therefore, although there is one prehistoric resource recorded within the project area, it was considered a secondary deposit when it was recorded in 1985. A visual examination during the course of the survey conducted for this project revealed that the area where the site was recorded has been disturbed by the construction of Fairgrounds Drive and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and therefore it is considered highly unlikely that any portion of the site remains.

However, subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered archaeological resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant.

Entertainment Area

The entertainment project area would authorize up to 327,571 square feet of retail, commercial, and entertainment space, and office space (as a substitute for other EMU uses) on 48.8 acres at time of full buildout. Project implementation would require demolition of the existing fair facilities and construction and grading of up to 27.8 acres of previously undeveloped land.

Subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered archaeological resources.

Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce these potentially significant impacts to a level of less than significant.

Fairgrounds

Site CA-SOL-317, a lithic scatter, was recorded just outside the western project boundary by David Chavez and Associates in March 1985. At that time the site consisted of “a scatter of lithic debitage and shell in a dark brown/black soil matrix . . .” However, map reviews for the area indicated that the site consisted of fill material brought in from an area south of a the nearby golf course. During the pedestrian survey conducted for this project, no indications of the prehistoric site were visible and the area was highly disturbed with Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and Fairgrounds Drive. Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that any portion of the site remains.

However, subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered archaeological resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant.

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Entertainment Area

MM CUL-2a If potentially significant cultural resources are encountered during grading activities for the project, all construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the find shall cease until a qualified archaeologist determines whether the resource requires further study. A standard inadvertent discovery clause shall be included in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction shall be evaluated for significance by a qualified archaeologist and recorded on appropriate DPR forms. If the resource is determined significant under CEQA, the qualified archaeologist shall prepare and implement a research design and archaeological data recovery plan that will capture those categories of data for which the resource is significant.

The types of procedures that are typically included in a research design and data recovery plan include but are not limited to:

- A pre-construction sensitivity meeting with construction and management personnel.
- Data recovery excavation units, as required, with the goal of addressing research issues from resources discovered during the fieldwork including local manifestations of regional chronology, subsistence, settlement, and exchange. Specific research questions to be addressed include temporal placement of the

archaeological materials, site formation processes, subsistence, flaked stone technology, settlement patterns, and exchange and interaction systems.

- Field and laboratory analysis methodology would include as appropriate:
 - Initial processing, photography, faunal and lithic artifact analysis, and cataloging of artifacts.
 - Construction monitoring, if required.
 - Inadvertent discovery procedures for features/artifacts and human remains.
- Archaeological data recovery report would be prepared detailing the findings of the procedures listed above.

The archaeologist shall also conduct appropriate technical analyses, prepare a comprehensive report, file it with the appropriate Information Center, and provide for the permanent curation of the recovered materials.

Fairgrounds

MM CUL-2b

If potentially significant cultural resources are encountered during grading activities for the project, all construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the find shall cease until a qualified archaeologist determines whether the resource requires further study. A standard inadvertent discovery clause shall be included in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. Any previously undiscovered cultural resources found during construction shall be evaluated for significance by a qualified archaeologist and recorded on appropriate DPR forms. Potentially significant cultural resources consist of, but are not limited to stone, bone, glass, ceramics, fossils, wood, or shell artifacts, or features including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If the resource is determined significant under CEQA, the qualified archaeologist shall prepare and implement a research design and archaeological data recovery plan that will capture those categories of data for which the resource is significant. The archaeologist shall also conduct appropriate technical analyses, prepare a comprehensive report, file it with the appropriate Information Center, and provide for the permanent curation of the recovered materials.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Paleontological Resource or Geologic Feature

Impact CUL-3: The project could directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Impact Analysis

No recorded paleontological resources are known to be present within the project site. A recent paleontological study conducted directly adjacent to the project area found that although there have been no reported fossil remains in the local vicinity, geological deposits evidenced some fossil plant remains that suggest a potential for encountering additional paleontological resources during ground disturbance. As such, subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered paleontological resources. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant.

Entertainment Area and Fairgrounds

The paleontological survey resulted in the visual identification of fossil plant remains in exposed geological deposits from the Cretaceous Great Valley Sequence. The visual inspection of exposed Pleistocene Alluvium sediments was negative for paleontological resources, however, fossil vertebrates have been found elsewhere in these types of geological deposits, indicating a potential for their discovery within the project area.

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Entertainment Area and Fairgrounds

MM CUL-3 In the event a fossil is discovered during construction for the proposed project, excavations within 50 feet of the find shall be stopped until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist, in accordance with Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards. A standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall make recommendations of the procedures to be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the find is determined to be significant and it is determined that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall develop a Paleontological Mitigation Plan and carry out a data recovery plan consistent with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards.

A paleontologic mitigation monitoring program would be developed by a qualified paleontologist that may include but is not limited to:

- Full-time monitoring of excavation activities below 10 feet. Paleontologic monitors would be equipped to salvage fossils, as they are unearthed, to avoid

construction delays, and to remove samples of sediments likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. Monitors would be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens.

- Preparation of recovered specimens to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates. Preparation and stabilization of all recovered fossils are essential to fully mitigate adverse impacts to the resources.
- Identification and curation of specimens into an established, accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontologic storage. These procedures are also essential steps in effective paleontologic mitigation and CEQA compliance. The paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impacts to significant paleontologic resources is not complete until such curation into an established museum repository has been fully completed and documented.
- Preparation of a report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the appropriate lead agency along with confirmation of the curation of recovered specimens into an established, accredited museum repository, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontologic resources.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Human Remains

Impact CUL-4: **The project could disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.**

Impact Analysis

Entertainment Area and Fairgrounds

Subsurface construction activities associated with the proposed project, such as trenching and grading, could potentially damage or destroy previously undiscovered human remains. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant.

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation

Potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-4 Entertainment Area and Fairgrounds. In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5; Health and

Safety Code Section 7050.5; Public Resources Code Section 5097.94 and Section 5097.98 must be followed. In this instance, once project-related earthmoving begins and if there is accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, the following steps shall be taken:

1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the County Coroner is contacted to determine if the remains are Native American and if an investigation of the cause of death is required. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours, and the NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the “most likely descendant” (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The MLD may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work within 48 hours, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC Section 5097.98.
2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity either in accordance with the recommendations of the most likely descendant or on the project site in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance:
 - The NAHC is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being notified by the commission.
 - The descendant identified fails to make a recommendation.
 - The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendant, and mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

3.4.7 - Residual Significant Impacts

None identified.