

4.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section of the SEIR describes potential cultural resources impacts relative to the proposed project and is based on information incorporated by reference and contained within the following sources:

- BonTerra Consulting. 2004 (October). Updated Cultural Resources Assessment: NorthLake Specific Plan Phase One/Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 51852, Castaic, Los Angeles County (a Letter Report to SunCal Companies). Pasadena, CA: BonTerra Consulting (included in Appendix H-1).
- Jones and Stokes. 2004 (November). Historical Evaluation of Electrical Transmission Lines within Castaic High School Project Area (a Letter Report to BonTerra Consulting). Irving, CA: Jones and Stokes (included in Appendix I-1).
- Southern California Edison (SCE). 2004 (April). *Southern California Edison Pastoria-Pardee Reconductoring Project, Historic Context Statement & Assessment of Effect*. Rosemead, CA: SCE (included in Appendix I-2).

4.8.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1992 NorthLake Specific Plan EIR

The 1992 SP EIR did not include a cultural resources analysis.

4.8.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The nature of cultural resources does not limit the potential occurrences to a specific or finite area. Therefore, the records search and background perspective considered the entire project area and the immediate vicinity.

Prehistoric Background

The prehistory of the Upper Santa Clara River Valley, including the Castaic Creek tributary system, is summarized by a general chronology developed for the southern California coastal region by William Wallace in 1955, which identifies four archaeological *horizons* based on types of artifacts and features diagnostic of broad periods in prehistory:

- **Early Man Horizon** (before 7,000 years ago)
- **Millingstone Horizon** (7,000–3,500 years ago)
- **Intermediate Horizon** (3,500–1,500 years ago)
- **Late Prehistoric Horizon** (1,500–historic contact, ca. 200 years ago)

The first horizon, *Early Man*, was initially speculative because substantial evidence was lacking. Since Wallace formulated his chronology, sites on the central coast and at Buena Vista Lake, for example, have yielded radiocarbon ages between 9,500 and 8,000 years ago. Clovis-like fluted projectile points at least 11,000 years old have been found in the southern San Joaquin Valley, Mojave Desert, and Tehachapi Mountains—the latter just 30 miles north of the project.

The Early Man Horizon is usually thought to have been characterized by small, highly mobile bands of hunters that are now known to correspond to the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (WPLT) of interior deserts or Paleo-Coastal Tradition (PCT) of the Pacific littoral zone (both 11,000–8,000 years ago). Sites from this period show a diversity of ecological settings and

approaches to subsistence. Sophisticated lithic technology of the WPLT/PCT revealed finely crafted projectile points, crescents, scrapers, and knives.

The *Millingstone Horizon* represents a long period of time characterized by small but less nomadic groups that probably relied on a seasonal round of settlement that may have begun during earlier millennia and likely included both inland and coastal residential bases. Millingstone sites are marked by the appearance of seed-grinding tools such as manos, metates, and hammerstones, usually in large numbers. These often occur in association with shell midden in coastal locations. Seeds from sage, buckwheat, and various grasses provided staple foods, and less emphasis appears to have been placed on hunting. Coarse-grained lithic materials, such as quartzite and rhyolite, are more common in flaked stone tools from this period than fine-grained materials such as chert and jasper.

During the *Intermediate Horizon*, the first evidence of acorn processing appeared in the presence of mortars and pestles. As a high calorie, storable food, acorns contributed to increasing sedentary lifestyles, which allowed for more complex social organization. The bow and arrow—a hallmark of the Late Prehistoric Period—had not yet been introduced. Along the coast, the Intermediate Period saw the use of more diverse marine resources, evident in bone and shell fishhooks, harpoon points, net weights, and the remains of plank canoes. Shell ornaments were produced. Regional exchange intensified, with non-local materials such as steatite, serpentine, fused shale, and obsidian obtained through trade.

The *Late Prehistoric Horizon* or Period began with larger populations and a wider variety of material culture and social institutions. Storable surplus foods such as acorns and dried meats allowed populations to increase and allowed for social mechanisms to diversify. New artifact classes, such as bow-and-arrow technology, some types of shell beads, and ceramics (in some areas) are diagnostic of the Late Prehistoric Period. Given the rise in population and more complex social practices, the production of rock paintings is also thought to be a hallmark of this period.

Late Period archaeology is generally better understood because the late nineteenth and early twentieth century descendants of these groups provided additional information to early anthropologists. However, so few descendants could be identified from the Tataviam or *Alliklik*, whose territory included the Castaic Creek area, that very little of them is known. By the time anthropologists began to collect data about traditional native ways of life in California (about 1900), virtually no Tataviam could be found. Decimated by Spanish missionization and absorbed by other groups through inter-marriage, the Tataviam vanished rapidly from the cultural landscape. What is known about their culture has been reconstructed through linguistic and ethnohistoric research, archaeological analysis, and remembrances of individuals from neighboring bands.

Most of what is known about the Tataviam has been gleaned from raw field notes taken by anthropologists John P. Harrington and Alfred L. Kroeber; from records at Mission San Fernando, where many Tataviam were taken; and from diaries of early Spanish explorers. Recent work with these materials has helped considerably in understanding more about Tataviam life. Their territory encompassed a roughly triangular area from the Piru area, eastward along the upper Santa Clara River through the Newhall area to Soledad Pass, and northward across the Sierra Pelona, Sawmill, and Liebre Mountains to the westernmost edge of the Antelope Valley and southernmost slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains.

The Tataviam were hunter-gatherers that spoke a variant of the indigenous Tatic language. Tatic-speakers are believed to have migrated into southern California from the Great Basin sometime between 1,000 and 3,000 years ago. Tataviam subsistence centered upon the

seasonal gathering of plant foods (yucca, acorns, sage seeds, and juniper berries) and hunting (rabbit, rodents, deer, and antelope). Acorns, the staple food of most Late Period groups in California, may have been less important to the Tataviam, who utilized yucca more extensively. With the Santa Clara River Valley and Antelope Valley acting as east-west corridors between the deserts and coast, the Tataviam likely participated in long-distance trade. Shell beads found in the western Mojave Desert, for example, were acquired by the Takic-speaking Kitanemuk through a trade network in which the Tataviam may have been linked with Hokan-speaking Chumash on the coast. A number of Tataviam villages have been identified through historic registers at Mission San Fernando, including *tsawayung* at the original Newhall Ranch site near Castaic Junction; *naqava'atang* in the Elderberry Canyon area along Castaic Creek; and *pi'ing* at the confluence of Castaic Creek and Elizabeth Lake Canyon. The village site of *pi'ing* probably lies under Castaic Lake which was created when Castaic Creek was dammed in 1972.

Historic Background

The major historic periods for the greater Los Angeles area are defined by key events documented by participants, witnesses, historians, and cartographers:

- **Spanish Period** (1769–1822)
- **Mexican Period** (1822–1848)
- **American Period** (1848–Present).

Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo made a temporary landfall at the Chumash village of *šišolop* (present-day Ventura) on October 12, 1542. However, the beginning of the post-prehistoric era in southern California is marked by the arrival of Gaspar de Portolá, his overland expedition from New Spain (Mexico), and the founding of the first Spanish settlement at San Diego on July 16, 1769. With the onset of the Spanish Period, the Tataviam first came into direct contact with Europeans when the Portolá expedition passed through their territory about two weeks later, reaching the upper Santa Clara River in the Newhall-Saugus area and camping briefly as they continued west toward Ventura. In 1772, Pedro Fages, a soldier searching for Spanish deserters, traveled through the Antelope Valley and into the San Joaquin Valley via the Tejon Pass. In 1776, Friar Francisco Garcés arrived in the Newhall-Saugus area and turned northward, following lower Castaic Creek and Elizabeth Lake Canyon to reach the Antelope Valley.

Three of the 21 Franciscan missions established by the Spanish in *Alta California* impacted Tataviam people profoundly: Mission San Gabriel Arcángel (1771), Mission San Fernando Rey de España (1797), and Mission San Buenaventura (1782). An *asistencia* (outlying chapel and granary) of Mission San Fernando was established in 1802 along the upper Santa Clara River. In 1820, Friar Mariano Payéras, *Presidente* of the California missions, reported to Spain that a mission should be established on the Santa Clara River in the Newhall area. However, the rebellion in Mexico against Spain was already under way, and Payéras received no support for his campaign to establish additional missions in California's interior.

Mexico's independence from Spain in 1822 brought the Mexican Period to California. Mexico secularized the missions but continued the Spanish practice of granting large tracts of ranch land to soldiers, civil servants, and pioneers. The project area is not located within any grant. The land grant nearest the project area was the 13,339-acre *Rancho Temescal* (or *Temascal*), located just 1.25 miles to the west at its nearest point. The ranch was patented by the United States in 1871, but little is known of historic developments there.

Located 2.5 miles to the southeast at its nearest point, the massive 48,612-acre Rancho San Francisco was granted in 1839 to Antonio del Valle, a Spanish lieutenant, by Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado. Rancho San Francisco became popularly known as Rancho de Valle and is designated as California Historical Landmark No. 556. On March 9, 1842, gold was discovered on the great ranch in Placerita Canyon by Francisco López six years before the famous discovery at Sutter's Mill that unleashed the California Gold Rush. López is said to have dreamed about finding the gold, and an oak tree growing at the spot came to be known as "Oak of the Golden Dream," now designated as California Historical Landmark No. 168.

Anglo-Americans began to explore *Alta California* as early as 1826, when trapper Jedediah Smith arrived at Mission San Gabriel. Mountain men James Ohio Pattie and Ewing Young passed through the Upper Santa Clara River Valley during the early 1830s. Preceding an American challenge for the California territory, Lieutenant-Colonel John C. Fremont's topographical engineers began to survey the region for the United States during the 1840s. Before long, the Mexican-American War broke out, with Fremont in command of the California Battalion for the United States. Fremont's battalion marched through the Santa Clara River Valley and south to Mission San Fernando. The hostilities ended on January 13, 1847, when the Treaty of Cahuenga was signed by Fremont and General Pico at the Campo de Cahuenga near Cahuenga Pass in the San Fernando Valley.

The American Period followed, with Mexico's concession of *Alta California* to the United States under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. The California Gold Rush of 1848 created a need for roads between the mining camps and major trade centers of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Early in 1855, shipping pioneer Phineas Banning blazed a wagon road north from Los Angeles to the newly established Fort Tejon, opening direct freight service between the growing business center, the Mojave Desert, and southern Kern County. The arduous route was improved in 1862 when a deep passageway was cut through an intervening ridge. Known as Beale's Cut, the feature is located in the Newhall area and is designated as California Historical Landmark No. 1006. In 1858, the Butterfield transcontinental stage line began to utilize Banning's road. The route followed San Francisquito Canyon rather than the steep grade north of Castaic, which is presently used for Old Route 99/Interstate 5.

During the winter of 1861–1862, relentless rains in southern California produced catastrophic floods that washed away thousands of buildings, crops, and livestock. The floods were followed by two years of catastrophic drought that dealt another crippling blow to crops and livestock. Land values fell dramatically, and most ranchers were forced to sell their holdings. The crisis opened the door to speculators and entrepreneurs from the East Coast who envisioned profitable new developments on cheap land. One of these was Thomas A. Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Scott sent Thomas Bard to California to purchase land in the quest for oil, and Bard purchased Rancho San Francisco in 1865. The enterprise was unsuccessful, and Bard sold Rancho San Francisco to rancher Henry Mayo Newhall in 1875. Oil speculation in the region, however, continued at a brisk pace as discoveries were made in other locations.

On September 6, 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad was completed through Soledad Canyon and crossed Newhall's Rancho San Francisco along the upper Santa Clara River. The golden spike driven at Lang Station represented a critical link between Los Angeles, northern California, and transcontinental routes to the east. The site of Lang Station is designated as California Historical Landmark No. 590. A station aptly named Newhall was established on October 28, 1876, but was renamed Saugus two years later when the original name was transferred to a new station that was constructed two miles to the south. A small depot was constructed at Castaic Junction a few years later in 1887.

The history of the Castaic Valley and upper Santa Clara River Valley is perhaps best known for the Newhall Land and Farming Company, which was founded in 1883 by the heirs of Henry Mayo Newhall after his death in 1882. Upon the company's 100-year anniversary, President and Chairman of the Board James Dickason summarized its history in terms of the chief economic pursuits during the first four quarters:

- **1883–1908:** cattle industries, including feed yards supplied by the company's own crops
- **1908–1933:** farming development and land sales
- **1933–1958:** mineral development and cultivation and irrigation improvements
- **1958–1983:** urban development (the communities of Newhall, Saugus, Valencia, and Canyon Country were incorporated as the City of Santa Clarita in 1987).

The earliest attempts to commercialize oil in southern California occurred during the 1850s. According to Hutchinson, the first "true" oil well in southern California was drilled in 1865 near Piru. Oil speculation in Rancho San Francisco had commenced under Thomas Bard in 1865. However, Henry Mayo Newhall, who had acquired the ranch from Bard ten years later, was not interested in the oil business and concentrated instead on traditional ranching pursuits—raising cattle, sheep, and horses—and agricultural endeavors, such as growing wheat and fruit trees and improving irrigation. Even so, he allowed speculation by "wildcatters" to continue.

In 1875, Well No. 4 in Pico Canyon struck oil, becoming the state's first successful well and establishing the Newhall Field. "Pico No. 4" is designated as California Historical Landmark No. 516. All other speculation efforts on the ranch failed, however, and as late as 1934 Newhall's son William declared that "there is no indication that this ranch is an oil property." Not until 1936—more than 60 years after the strike at Pico No. 4—was oil struck on the ranch again, in Potrero Canyon. By 1940, however, most pools in the Greater Newhall Field had been exhausted, and the majority of oil operations in the Newhall area were shut down. The Castaic Junction and Honor Rancho oil fields were discovered in 1950, but did not produce substantial yields.

In August 1924, work began on a dam that would create the St. Francis Reservoir in upper San Francisquito Canyon. The facility was the vision of William Mulholland, then Chief Engineer for the Los Angeles Bureau of Water Works and Supply. Mulholland planned to route an aqueduct from Owens Valley through the canyon, bringing water and hydroelectric power to the metropolis, and the Newhall directors agreed to an easement for the project through the ranch. The 185-foot high dam was completed in May 1926, but on March 12, 1928, it collapsed, and a catastrophic flow of water surged down the canyon and into the Santa Clara River Valley, destroying everything in its path and taking more than 400 lives. The site of the St. Francis Dam disaster is designated as California Historical Landmark No. 919.

Also, to accommodate the growing Los Angeles area, a set of paired electrical transmission lines was constructed in 1913 by Southern California Edison (SCE) for the Big Creek Project. The lines are currently known as the Bailey-Pardee and Pardee-Pastoria 220 kV circuits (on the east and west, respectively) and appear on the USGS topographic quadrangles of the area as early as 1940 (i.e., 15' *Violin Canyon* and *Castaic* Topographic Quadrangles, based on surveys in 1929, 1931, and 1936). In his *Iron Men and Copper Wires: A Centennial History of the Southern California Edison Company* (1983), William Myers identified the twin transmission lines as "the longest-distance and highest-voltage line in the world" at the time, stretching 241 miles from Big Creek Power House No. 1 in the Sierra Nevada to the Eagle Rock Substation in the Los Angeles area.

Originally designed to carry 150,000 volts (the largest capacity at the time), the line had to be converted to 220,000 volts in 1922 to meet Los Angeles' growing demand. According to Myers:

The most difficult single aspect of the job was converting the transmission towers themselves. New, longer insulators had to be installed, and most of the towers physically raised from 10 to 30 feet so the power lines would adequately clear the ground, all while the lines remained "hot"—energized at 150,000 volts—for the vital flow of energy to Los Angeles could not be interrupted. On Sunday morning May 6, 1923, the line was cut over to 220,000-volt operation, establishing another first for Edison. For this achievement, the Southern California Edison Company in 1923 became the first winner of the Charles A. Coffin Medal, today known as the Thomas A. Edison Award.

In about 1926, the power line was physically modified again, possibly as a result of improvements to the Ridge Route vehicular road, when at least one tower was moved a short distance out of the original alignment. Additional modifications followed in 1986 when selected towers were elevated once again, certain lines truncated, and some adjacent land forms graded to allow for increased line sag. The resource's historic alignment remains largely intact (with slight variations), but the original historic materials (towers, insulators, and electrical lines) appear to have lost some measure of integrity through modifications in 1922, 1926, and 1986.

Only a handful of families occupied the Castaic area when the Southern Pacific established a depot at Castaic Junction roughly three miles to the south. A post office followed in 1894, but closed a year later. The Castaic School District was organized in 1889. In 1914, construction began on a more direct roadway between Castaic Junction and Gorman, with the original "Ridge Route" opening to vehicles in 1915. Even before the new road was completed, shops for travelers began to appear, leading one historian recently to observe, "From the very beginning, Castaic has been a truck stop and remains so today." More than just a truck stop, however, the community of Castaic hosts more than one million people a year who come to enjoy fishing and aquatic sports at the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, created after Castaic Creek was dammed in 1972. However, independent evaluations conducted by SCE indicated that the transmission lines and towers may have historic relevance as contributing resources to a potentially larger historic district that encompasses the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project, which includes the power-generating facility and three transmission-line alignments. The SCE report states that the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project (potentially including transmission lines on the project site) has been determined eligible by consensus between SCE and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) as the Big Creek Hydroelectric Historic District with a 1911–1929 Period of Significance. The National Register eligibility determination automatically qualifies the historic property for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) (Public Resources Code § 5024.1.c).

4.8.3 RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

No relevant plans, policies, or regulations are noted at this time. However, because the 1913 Bailey-Pardee and Pardee-Pastoria 220kV transmission lines have been determined to be eligible for the National Register by consensus (i.e., SCE and SHPO), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation shall be required to reduce the level of impact to less than significant. The SHPO's office and the National Park Service are responsible for overseeing this project.

4.8.4 THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The criteria used to determine the significance of an impact are taken from Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The project will be considered to have a significant effect related to cultural resources if the project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. “Historical resources” are defined as buildings, structures, districts, sites, or objects that are eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) (CEQA Guidelines 15064.5.a.3). An eligible resource is one that meets at least one of the following criteria for significance:
 - Criterion A – Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.
 - Criterion B – Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
 - Criterion 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.
 - Criterion D – Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (referring to sites that have the potential to yield data relevant to important research topics).
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries.

Under CEQA, a finding of significance is normally made if a project would result in substantial alterations, removal or relocation of historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources.

4.8.5 RELEVANT PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Implementation of VTTM 51852 of the NorthLake Specific Plan, including implementation of off-site improvements, will result in the permanent conversion of largely undisturbed land to a developed area. Project implementation would require earthwork in the form of cut and fill and grading activities. In total, approximately 30.8 million cubic yards (cy) of earthwork would be required, including obtaining approximately 5.8 million cy of cut material from the adjacent borrow site.

As part of the project, segments of these on-site utility easements (natural gas and communication lines) will be relocated to allow for site grading. One of two oil pipelines that are located generally in the eastern ridge of Grasshopper Canyon will be relocated approximately 1,500–2,000 feet east. The relocation alignment of the Pacific Oil pipeline is proposed through adjacent lands owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). The Applicant is negotiating with the both agencies for receipt of easements to realign the pipeline through these publicly-owned properties (see Appendix N-4). The results of these efforts are pending but would be a condition of approval prior to initiation of development. The other pipeline will be vacated, its

portion on the Specific Plan site removed, and the ends stubbed off. Several SCE transmission towers on the NorthLake site will require alteration or relocation. Specifically, implementation of the proposed project would require the relocation of two to three towers so that the transmission lines will not directly traverse an area proposed for residential development. The final engineering plans under preparation by SCE have not been completed and the full extent of modification to the towers is not known at this time. For purposes of this analysis, it will be assumed that up to three towers will be completely demolished and new towers constructed.

4.8.6 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1992 NorthLake Specific Plan EIR Previously Adopted Mitigation Measures¹

The 1992 SP EIR did not address cultural resources; therefore, there are no mitigation measures to be carried forward.

Cultural Resources

I 4.8-1 Grading, implementation of the fuel modification plan, and excavation for the construction of utility lines may disturb undiscovered cultural and/or Native American resources occurring at the site.

Analysis Discussion: Based on consultation with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), four archaeological sites are located within one mile of the project site:

- **CA-LAN-323.** This resource site consists of prehistoric, lithic artifacts, midden, and bedrock mortar features. The site was first recorded in 1965.
- **CA-LAN-325.** This resource site consists of a prehistoric rock shelter containing basketry and beads. The site was first recorded in 1965.
- **CA-LAN-1222.** This resource site consists of a prehistoric rockshelter and an associated lithic artifact. This site was first recorded in 1985.
- **CA-LAN-1672H.** This resource consists of the remains of an historic ranch, including ceramic, glass, and metal artifacts. This site was first recorded in 1989.

None of the identified archaeological resources occur within project site boundaries or on the borrow site; therefore, implementation of the NorthLake project would not impact these recorded resources. Additionally, the known paleontological resources in the vicinity are either inundated by the water from Castaic Lake or on the opposite side of the freeway from the project site. Despite the lack of recorded archaeological and paleontological resources within the project site, there is the potential to disturb previously undiscovered resources, thus resulting in a significant impact.

Level of Significance without Mitigation: Significant Impact.

Recommended Mitigation Measures:

MM 4.8-1 All project-related ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist to reduce any archaeological resources impacts to a level of less than significant. The construction monitoring program shall be preceded by a

¹ Refer to Section 4.0 for a description of criteria used to categorize previously adopted mitigation program.

pre-grade meeting in the field in which the project archaeologist shall explain the procedures necessary to protect and safely remove potentially significant archaeological resources. If potential archaeological evidence (e.g., stone artifacts, dark ashy soils, burned rocks, old glass, metal or ceramic materials, or structural foundations) becomes apparent during construction-related ground disturbances, the LACDRP shall require that all work in that location shall be immediately diverted or ceased until the qualified archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. The project proponent will then be notified if the materials are believed to be potentially significant, and the archaeologist may recommend further study and mitigation to the satisfaction of LACDRP.

MM 4.8-2 All project-related ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified paleontologist to reduce any impacts to non-renewable fossil resources to a level of less than significant. The construction monitoring program shall be preceded by a pre-grade meeting in the field in which the project paleontologist shall explain the procedures necessary to protect and safely remove potentially significant fossil materials for study and curation at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

MM 4.8-3 All project-related ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified Native American Tribal Monitor to reduce any tribal resources impacts to a level of less than significant. The tribal monitoring program shall be preceded by a pre-grade meeting and during grading phase of the project in which the Native American Monitor shall explain the procedures necessary to protect significant cultural resources and sacred sites in a tribe's traditional ancestral territory. If potential cultural sites are identified during construction-related ground disturbances, all work in that location shall be immediately diverted or ceased until the qualified monitor has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. The project proponent will then be notified if the materials are believed to be potentially significant, and the archaeologist may recommend further study and mitigation to the satisfaction of LACDRP.

Net Level of Significance: Less than significant.

Historic Resources

1.4.8-2 Demolition or alterations to the SCE transmission lines and towers would significantly affect an historic resource.

Analysis Discussion: Based on consultation with SCE and the SCCIC, one known historic resource site is located within one mile of the project site:

- **19-186861.** This historic resource, known as the 1913 SCE Bailey-Pardee and Pardee-Pastoria 220 kV transmission line, is comprised of an historic electrical transmission line and its associated steel lattice towers dating to 1913; the resource was first recorded in 2003.

The historic SCE transmission line and towers, however, are located within the project site boundaries in an area designated for development and would be subject to grading and earth-moving activities. While the power line has undergone physical modification as recently as 1986, the resource's historic alignment remains largely intact. Under CEQA, resources which are eligible for listing as an "historical resource" (i.e., meet at least one of the criterion for

inclusion in the California Register) are treated as historic, and any alteration to the resource which diminishes its historical integrity is considered a significant impact. Therefore, demolition of any of the SCE towers and the rerouting of the transmission lines would be considered a significant impact. Final engineering plans may attempt to incorporate the original towers with modifications at the new locations. SCE will ultimately make the determination of the degree to which the towers will be altered based on engineering and safety requirements. Therefore, any disturbance to this resource through project implementation may be considered a significant impact.

Additional information provided by SCE acknowledges that the towers are considered historically significant as they are contributing elements of the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project, which has been determined by consensus to be eligible for the National Register as the Big Creek Hydroelectric Historic District. However, an application for formal listing of the Big Creek Hydroelectric Historic District has not been submitted to date; therefore, the resource and associated features have not yet been officially listed.

In addition to the SCE transmission line, an approximately 87-year-old segment of the Old Ridge Route Road also traverses the project site. An off-site segment of this roadway located north of the project site and within the Angeles National Forest (ANF) has been recorded and is listed on the National Register for its association with important transportation events (Criterion A) and highway engineering (Criterion C). The portion of the road located south of the ANF boundary has been evaluated as lacking physical integrity due to various alterations and resurfacing and was not included in the National Register nomination. Project actions, including demolition and grading, would be limited to portions of the roadway south of the segment designated as an historic resource and would not diminish the historic significance of the listed segment of Old Ridge Route Road. No impact related to Old Ridge Route Road would occur.

Level of Significance without Mitigation: Significant impact.

Recommended Mitigation Measures:

MM 4.8-4 Prior to any modifications to existing electrical transmission towers, a qualified architectural historian shall prepare the HAER documentation acceptable to SHPO and National Park Service standards for the 1913 SCE Bailey-Pardee and Pardee-Pastoria 220kV transmission line segment within the project area. The HAER documentation shall include drawings, photographs, and written documentation of each tower. The HAER documentation will be submitted to the National Park Service and/or any other agencies with regulatory oversight for final approval.

Net Level of Significance: Significant impact.

4.8.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.8.3 Cumulative impacts to cultural resources.

Analysis Discussion: The known archaeological resources in the vicinity are either inundated by the water of the Castaic Lake, or on the opposite side of the freeway from the project site. There are no known archaeological or paleontological resources on the Project or borrow sites. Although 14 sites are identified as tribes within the Northlake Specific Plan, these sites shall not become particular concerns as the tribal monitor will work diligently with the tribes to preserve and protect tribal resources (Ortega 2006). Impacts to potential archaeological, paleontological,

and tribal resources as a result of the proposed project are less than significant with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. Therefore, the proposed project would not generate cumulative impacts to archaeological or paleontological resources.

Implementation of the proposed Project would involve significant impacts to the historic SCE transmission line and towers. Therefore, the Project would result in a potential incremental contribution to the cumulative loss of historic resources.

Level of Significance without Mitigation: Significant impact.

Recommended Mitigation Measure: See MM 4.8-4.

Net Level of Significance: Significant impact.

4.8.8 IMPACT CONCLUSION

After implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, significant impacts to the SCE transmission towers would be reduced, but would still remain significant as historic resources would be permanently altered.

This page is intentionally left blank.