

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.5.1 METHODOLOGY

This section analyzes the cultural resources that are present at the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin Recreation Area (WNDBRA), based on the *Whittier Narrows Historic Properties Management Plan* that was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1999. The Plan included a review of existing regulations that pertained to the WNDBRA and local cultural resources; archival research on the prehistory, ethnohistory, and history of the area; a record search of the site and the area within one mile of the site; and field work to locate cultural sites and evaluate their condition through an intensive pedestrian survey of targeted areas, photographs, and notes.

5.5.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Antiquities Act/Archaeological Resources Protection Act

The Antiquities Act (PL 59-209) was passed in 1906 to prevent vandalism and destruction of archaeological sites on public lands. This act regulates the examination and evaluation of archaeological sites on federal land, making it illegal to destroy sites or remove artifacts without a permit. The Act also gives the President authority to declare historic landmarks and gives the Secretary of the Interior the responsibility to issue permits for the investigation of ruins, archaeological sites, and artifacts.

The Antiquities Act is largely superseded by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 (PL 96-95), which makes it illegal to excavate, remove, or damage cultural resources. The ARPA also makes information on an archaeological site's location confidential. Uniform regulations for the protection of archaeological resources in parks and public property are codified in Title 36, Section 296 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR).

Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act/ Reservoir Salvage Act

The Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act (PL 74-292) is also known as the Historic Sites Act and gives the federal government the responsibility to restore, reconstruct, rehabilitate, preserve, and maintain historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, objects, and properties of national historical and archaeological significance. This law establishes the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a means of preserving and documenting cultural resources.

Federal projects for flood risk management, water supply, power generation, irrigation, and recreation were often located in floodplains, which were used for prehistoric habitation and contained many archaeological resources. Thus, starting in 1946, federal funds were spent for archaeological salvage in accordance with the Historic Sites Act. The Historical and Archaeological Data Preservation Act (PL 86-523), also known as the Reservoir Salvage Act was passed in 1960. This act calls for the preservation of prehistoric- and historic-period data that would otherwise be lost or destroyed by construction of a dam by a federal agency. To account for limited funding in the past, the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 provided a consistent level of funding to carry out the Reservoir Salvage Act.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 provided grants for the preservation of historic sites and allowed the federal government to acquire historical sites by power of eminent domain. It expanded the NRHP, established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and specified the duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Section 106 of the NHPA (16 *United States Code* [USC] 470f) is implemented through 36 CFR, Section 800, Protection of Historic Properties. This regulation requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any district, site, building, structure or object that is included in or is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and to give the ACHP an opportunity to comment on such undertakings (36 CFR 800.1). Under NHPA Section 106, the significance of any adversely affected cultural resource is assessed and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. Significant cultural resources are those that are listed or are eligible for listing in the NRHP in accordance with the criteria stated in 36 CFR 60.4, which are listed below.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:

1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
2. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
3. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of installation, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Section 101(d)(6)(A) of NHPA states that properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization may be determined to be eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Executive Order 11593 of 1971 was codified into Sections 110 and 206 of the NHPA, and states that studies should be conducted to locate and nominate all federally owned cultural resources that qualify for listing in the NRHP. Agencies were also required to use caution to ensure that potentially eligible properties are not damaged.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, and Reconstructing Historic Building and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (Weeks and Grimmer 1995) (Secretary of the Interior's Standards) assist in the preservation of a property's historical significance through the preservation of historic materials and workmanship of historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy.

The standards include preservation of exterior and interior building components, related landscape features, and the building's site and environment, as well as measures to maintain compatibility with attached, adjacent, or related new construction. Implementation of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards is identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(3) as generally reducing an impact on an identified historic resource to a less than significant level.

Historic Properties Management Plan

The Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for Whittier Narrows was prepared to comply with USACE Regulation 1130-2-438, which requires the establishment of an historic preservation program for the USACE's construction, operations, and maintenance activities at civil works projects.

The HPMP for Whittier Narrows identifies the presence of previously recorded sites, including 3 prehistoric sites and 12 historical sites, 4 of which are eligible for the NRHP. A comprehensive program to protect the cultural resources within the WND BRA is included in the HPMP as a way of effectively managing and protecting these resources. The program recommends:

- Controlled excavation of undisturbed cultural strata to investigate the geological history of the area;
- Paleoenvironmental and geomorphological studies to understand prehistoric human adaptations;
- Chronological reconstruction to understand how people lived and how cultures changed over time;
- Lithic-technology studies for information on subsistence and technological development of society;
- Archaeological monitoring of earth-moving activities to determine the presence of subsurface cultural deposits that may indicate patterns of trade and travel, regional integration, and social organization; and
- Site-specific recommendations for LAN-858, LAN-1009, LAN-1311/H, the La Merced Adobe, and Temple School.

State

California Register of Historical Resources

CEQA requires a lead agency to determine whether a project would have a significant effect on one or more historical resources. A "historical resource" is defined as a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (*California Public Resources Code* [PRC] §21084.1); a resource included in a local register of historical resources (14 *California Code of Regulations* [CCR] §15064.5[a][2]); or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (14 CCR §15064.5[a][3]).

PRC Section 5024.1 requires evaluation of historical resources to determine their eligibility for listing in the CRHR. The purposes of the CRHR are to maintain listings of the State's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected from substantial adverse change. The criteria for listing resources in the CRHR were expressly developed to be in accordance with the criteria established for listing in the NRHP and include those listed below.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:

1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
2. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
3. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of installation, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

According to Section 15064.5(a)(3)(A–D) of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR), a resource is considered historically significant if it meets the criteria for listing in the NRHP (per the criteria listed at 36 CFR 60.4 previously discussed). Impacts that affect those characteristics of the resource that qualify it for the NRHP or that would adversely alter the significance of a resource listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR are considered to have a significant effect on the environment. Impacts to cultural resources from a project are thus considered significant if the project (1) physically destroys or damages all or part of a resource; (2) changes the character of the use of the resource or physical feature within the setting of the resource that contributes to its significance; or (3) introduces visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant features of the resource.

California Environmental Quality Act

After establishment of the CRHR, the State legislature amended CEQA in 1992 to define historical resources (described below in Section 4.5.4, Thresholds of Significance). CEQA was further amended to state that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is considered a significant environmental impact. The CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(b)(1) provides that a substantial adverse change means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the resource would be materially impaired. As noted above, CEQA also provides that a project that abides by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards as mitigation for an identified significant environmental impact to a historic resource can generally be considered to have reduced the impact to a less than significant level.

Senate Bill 18

Senate Bill (SB) 18 (*California Government Code* §65352.3) incorporates the protection of California traditional tribal cultural places into land use planning for cities, counties, and agencies by establishing responsibilities for local governments to contact, refer plans to, and consult with California Native American tribes as part of the adoption or amendment of any general or specific plan proposed on or after March 1, 2005. SB 18 requires public notice to be sent to tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) SB 18 Tribal Consultation list within the geographical areas affected by the proposed changes. Tribes must respond to a local government notice within 90 days (unless a shorter time frame has been

agreed upon by the tribe) and indicate whether or not they want to consult with the local government. Consultations are for the purpose of preserving or mitigating impacts to places, features, and objects described in Sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 of the *Public Resources Code* that may be affected by the proposed adoption or amendment to a general or specific plan.

Human Remains

Section 7050.5 of the *California Health and Safety Code* provides for the disposition of accidentally discovered human remains. Section 7050.5 states that if human remains are found, no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.

Section 5097.98 of the *California Public Resources Code* states that, if remains are determined by the Coroner to be of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the NAHC within 24 hours, which in turn must identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendant of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

Mills Act

The Mills Act (*California Government Code* §§50280–50290) enables local jurisdictions to enter into “historical property contracts” that provide property owners with property tax relief in return their commitment to appropriately rehabilitating and maintaining a historical property. The State Historical Building Code provides alternative and lower cost requirements for restoration and rehabilitation work of historical structures. The Marks Historical Rehabilitation Act (*California Health and Safety Code* §§37600–37603) authorizes local jurisdictions to issue bonds to fund historical preservation efforts.

Environmental Setting

People first occupied the Los Angeles Basin around 8000 Years Before Present (YBP), before which shifting water courses and extensive flooding did not favor habitation. People then lived along the coast and in inland regions, and traveled/traded between these areas. Occupation of the basin during the Millingstone period (around 8000 to 3000 YBP), Intermediate period (around 1500 to 950 YBP), and Late period (1000 to 1700 YBP) are postulated on artifacts and tools that have been found in the area. The Spanish or Mission period began with the 1542 expedition of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo at the Channel Islands, with incursions into the mainland and colonization of Alta (Upper) California in the late 1700s. Explorers travelling from San Diego to San Francisco stopped at Whittier Narrows on their travels to and from the north. Native Americans that lived in the Whittier Narrows area were called the Gabrielino Indians, as derived from Mission San Gabriel.

The first European settlement in the Los Angeles Basin was in Mission San Gabriel, which was located on a hill approximately 2.3 miles from the San Gabriel River. Following the winter floods in 1771 and 1772, the mission was relocated to its current location in 1775. Native Americans worked at the mission, but their numbers rapidly declined due to European-brought diseases, unhealthy living conditions, lower birth rates, slave trade, overwork, and massacres. By 1800, most Gabrielinos were believed to have been missionized or dead, or to have fled the area.

The Mexican Revolution, a battle between the missionaries and military for the control of land, occurred from 1810 to 1821, and life for Native Americans remained hard under Mexican control. Secularization of the mission lands started in 1834, but land grants quickly occurred and created private ranch holdings (ranchos) that were run like the missions. Several of these ranchos were in and near Whittier Narrows. The Rancho Paso de Bartolo stretched from Whittier Narrows Dam south and east into Pico Rivera and Whittier. Other ranchos included Rancho La Merced, Potrero Chico, Rancho San Francisquito, Rancho Potrero de Felipi Lugo, and Potrero Grande.

Euroamericans were coming to California during the secularization period (1830–1860s) and in November 1842, 40 Americans led by William Workman and John Rowland arrived at the Whittier Narrows basin. Workman and Rowland became naturalized Mexican citizens and purchased Rancho La Puente east of the San Gabriel River.

In 1846, the U.S. declared war against Mexico and a group of 600 Euroamericans camped on the eastern side of the San Gabriel River on their way to Los Angeles in 1847. The Battle of the San Gabriel River was fought on January 8, 1847, approximately two miles downstream of the dam, which ended Mexican rule of California and incorporated the California territory into the U.S.

With the U.S. controlling California, Native Americans were forced into reservations or massacred. Those who escaped joined other Native American groups. By 1852, most Native Americans adapted to the presence of Euroamericans. Workman acquired Rancho La Merced in 1851, where his daughter and son-in-law built their residence (La Merced Adobe) east of the Rio Hondo.

A small village of adobe buildings was built in the mid 1800s at the location of the old mission, which was destroyed by the flood of 1867. The Bayers Store (also known as Basye Adobe, a dance hall and store) and La Merced Adobe were part of this village. In 1877, Elias Baldwin foreclosed on the Ranchos La Merced, Potrero Grande, La Puente, and Potrero Felipi Lugo. He later acquired other ranchos in the area. His land transferred to his heirs after he died, including the La Merced Adobe. Paolo Briano bought the residence in 1927 and established vineyards, orchards, and a general store.

James Cate planted walnut trees on a portion of the Rancho Paso de Bartolo and his son founded an irrigation company that brought water from the San Gabriel River, through Whittier Narrows, to Pico Rivera and Whittier. Walnut groves, orchards, and crop and flower fields were present in the Whittier Narrows area during the first two decades of the 1900s. D.W. Griffith directed *The Birth of a Nation*, which was filmed at Whittier Narrows in 1914. In 1915, oil wells were dug on Rancho La Merced and other locations in the area. The La Puente School, later called the Temple School, was built on Durfee Avenue and subsequently reconstructed and enlarged with oil revenues. Dairy farms moved into the area during the third decade, together with the development of railroads and stage coach routes. Flooding in 1938 destroyed the Basye Adobe, and the Flood Control Act of 1938 was established for additional flood risk management measures in the Los Angeles Basin. A revised plan for the basin was developed in 1940 and approved by Congress as the Flood Control Act of 1941. This act authorized the construction of the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin. The project site for the dam was purchased in 1940 and construction of the dam, spillway, and outlet works was completed in 1957. In 1960, Benjamin Dominguez was commissioned to construct uniquely designed play equipment at Legg Lake.

Historical Resources

A total of 16 previous studies of cultural resources in the project area have been conducted since 1947. These studies identified prehistoric- and historic-period sites in the WND BRA. The historical resources discovered are described below.

- The original Mission San Gabriel was founded in 1771 as the first European settlement in Los Angeles County. Researchers state this site may be located within LAN-1311/H, but its exact location is not known.
- Temple School was part of the La Puente School District, later the Temple School District, the oldest and one of the largest school districts in California. The school is currently used by the USACE as a maintenance building.
- The La Merced Adobe was located at the southeastern corner of Rosemead Boulevard and Durfee Avenue, but only structural remains are present on the site. Due to its association with early European settlement and people prominent in the history of the area, it is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- The Basye Adobe was located south of San Gabriel Boulevard and east of Lincoln Avenue, but no artifacts have been found in the area. It could be a significant resource if located.
- Temple's Corner was located west of Rosemead Boulevard and south of Durfee Avenue. This area is developed with roads and oil wells.
- The discovery of oil in the Montebello oil field occurred between 1915 and 1917. Oil wells are present in and near the WND BRA. While the wells on the site are no longer in use, the pipes, wells, and other equipment remain.

Other historical sites in the WND BRA include the Briano Winery at the Intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Durfee Avenue; a concrete slab of the Nutt Ranch at the intersection of Durfee Avenue and Siphon Road; the Estratta Farm on Siphon Road; the Farmer House; the Battista Ciocca Dairy and Orchards; the Briano Dairy; the Ed Ciocca Dairy; the Irwin Orchards; an engine of miniature railroad around Legg Lake; Old Mission Bridge; and the filming site of *The Birth of a Nation*. These sites are mentioned in various studies and historical aerial photographs.

Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric resources in the WND BRA include:

- **LAN-8558:** the site of prehistoric ceramics, potsherds, and rusted metal fragments. It is located at the center of the WND BRA.
- **LAN-1009:** yielded manos, metates, shell, stealite, stone-bowl fragments, possible scrapers, debitage, and cogg stones. Its location has not been verified but may be within or outside the WND BRA.
- **LAN-01311/H:** located in an area with oil wells, roads and other features. This site contained prehistoric and historical period components such as manos, cores, hammer stones, brown ware potsherds, glass, cut nails, and deer bone. This site is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Paleontological Resources

The WNCBRA is underlain by Holocene river deposits, which has low paleontological sensitivity. Thus, no paleontological resources are expected to be present at the site.

Cultural Sensitivity

Cultural sensitivity analysis for the WNCBRA was completed in 1991 and was contained in the Environmental Assessment for the Master Plan. The 1999 HPMP updated the 1991 sensitivity analysis based on review of additional studies. The 1991 analysis is provided below, followed by the 1999 HPMP analysis in **bold**. (Planning area references are to the planning areas in the MDPI).

No historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources were found in Area A and this area is considered to have low historic sensitivity, moderate archaeological sensitivity, and low paleontological sensitivity. The moderate archaeological sensitivity is due to the area's elevation above the 200-foot contour line, which may contain prehistoric materials. The low paleontological sensitivity is due to the underlying Holocene river deposits, which do not contain paleontological resources. **Development occurred in this area around 1950 and some cultural resources could be present.**

No historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources were found in Area B, and this area is considered to have low historic sensitivity, moderate archaeological sensitivity, and low paleontological sensitivity. A historic house was present southeast of this area, where historic refuse may be found. **Buildings were present in and near this area, as shown in mid-20th century U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps.**

The northern section of Area C has moderate historic and archaeological sensitivity and low paleontological sensitivity. Historic structures were located near this area and historic and prehistoric features may be found. The southern section has low historic sensitivity, low archaeological sensitivity, and low paleontological sensitivity. **No cultural resources are present in the northern section of this area, but it is near areas where development occurred during the 1950s. Some cultural resources may be present. The southern section is near LAN-1311/H. Thus, all work at the southern section should be closely monitored by a qualified archaeologist.**

No historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources were found in the Whittier Narrows Golf Course area along the Rio Hondo. This area is considered to have low historic sensitivity, low archaeological sensitivity, and low paleontological sensitivity. **The southern part may contain LAN-1311/H, which is eligible for listing in the NRHP. All impacts should be avoided and a plan to protect LAN-1311/H developed.**

The Natural Area has moderate to very high historic sensitivity. This area contained the La Merced Adobe, Temple Corners Store, Briano Winery, Nutt Ranch, Mission Viejo, and three other historic houses. Historic artifacts have also been found in this area. This area has moderate archaeological sensitivity and low paleontological sensitivity. **The La Merced Adobe was present in this area and a number of potentially significant cultural resources associated with early European settlement in the Los Angeles basin may be present in this area. This area has high potential to contain additional cultural resources.**

The Basye Adobe, Old Mission Bridge, and other historic houses were located in the conservation pool area, which has moderate to very high historic sensitivity. This area has low paleontological sensitivity. **The northern portion of this area is sensitive due to suspected historic-period buildings (Basye Adobe) and proximity to LAN-1311/H.**

Native American Heritage Commission Consultation

A record search of the Sacred Lands File was conducted by the NAHC and the search did not identify the presence of Native American cultural resources in and near the WNCBRA. Local Native American tribes were also consulted and the Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians indicated that the project site is located near their historic village site of Isantcangna. They requested that Native American Monitors be present during ground-disturbing activities.

5.5.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following significance criteria are derived from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project would result in a significant adverse impact on cultural resources if it would:

Threshold 5.5.1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5;

Threshold 5.5.2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines;

Threshold 5.5.3: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or

Threshold 5.5.4: Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

5.5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Project Design Features

There are no project design features that specifically relate to cultural resources.

Standard Conditions

There are existing federal, State, and regional regulations that relate to the preservation and protection of significant cultural resources. Compliance with these regulations would be required for proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA. These include:

SC 5.5.1 In accordance with the ARPA, no activity within the WNCBRA shall involve ground disturbance that would lead to the illegal excavation, removal, or damage of cultural resources.

SC 5.5.2 In compliance with the HPMP for Whittier Narrows, the entire project area should be subject to intensive surface examination to inventory and document all visible cultural resources. Known and suspected historic-period properties should be located and their boundaries defined. Steps to protect and preserve cultural sites from ongoing impacts shall be taken, and may include public education and protective measures. Also, a Whittier Narrows Archaeological District shall be

formed to encompass the area that contains most of the historic-period resources (generally around the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and San Gabriel Boulevard/Durfee Avenue).

SC 5.5.3 In accordance with the *California Health and Safety Code* and the PRC, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities at the site, all work shall halt and the County Coroner shall be notified (PRC §5097.98). The Coroner will determine whether the remains are of forensic interest. If the Coroner, with the aid of the County-approved Archaeologist, determines that the remains are prehistoric, he/she will contact the NAHC. The NAHC will be responsible for designating the most likely descendant (MLD), who will be responsible for the ultimate disposition of the remains, as required by Section 7050.5 of the *California Health and Safety Code*. The MLD will make his/her recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The MLD's recommendation shall be followed if feasible and may include scientific removal and non-destructive analysis of the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials (*California Health and Safety Code* §7050.5). If the landowner rejects the MLD's recommendations, the landowner shall rebury the remains with appropriate dignity on the property in a location that will not be subject to further subsurface disturbance (*California Public Resources Code* §5097.98).

SC 5.5.4 In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, consultation with the SHPO shall be made as part of the planning process in order to determine the effects of individual projects on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, and to give the SHPO an opportunity to comment on the project. The significance of on-site cultural resources shall be assessed and mitigation measures proposed to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level.

Impact Analysis

Historical Resources

Threshold 5.5.1: Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

The proposed programs, facilities, and improvements called out in the MDPI would lead to vegetation removal and ground disturbance that could affect historical resources in the WNCBRA. The locations of the Old Mission and Basye Adobe could not be precisely determined but any disturbance near the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Durfee Avenue (as associated with proposed Green Streets, traffic calming measures, and entry signage) may uncover or disturb these resources.

The La Merced Adobe was located within the Natural Area, and vegetation removal and native plant reintroduction in this area may disturb the foundation remains. This could affect the resource's eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.

Temple's Corner is located within the conservation pool; vegetation removal and native plant reintroduction in this area may disturb the foundation remains.

Oil wells are located in the southern section of the WND BRA and may be disturbed by proposed programs, facilities, and improvements. However, the majority of oil wells at the Montebello oil field are located outside the WND BRA, and oil wells at the site are plugged and abandoned and located at the eastern end of the field. Thus, removal of the plugged wells is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on this historical resource.

The Temple School building is used as a USACE maintenance building, and no changes to the school and associated buildings are proposed by the MDPI. Thus, no impact to this historical resource would occur.

A number of other historical sites are known to have been present in the WND BRA but have not been located. Other areas are known to have been developed in the 1950s or earlier and may contain historical resources. Thus, the proposed programs, facilities, and improvements in the MDPI could inadvertently disturb, destroy, or remove these resources. Because the WND BRA is within a floodplain, significant cultural resources may also be buried in the basin. Excavation activities would affect these subsurface deposits, where they may be present.

Standard Condition (SC) 5.5.4 involves consultation with the SHPO, SC 5.5.1 makes it illegal to excavate, remove or damage the on-site cultural resources, and SC 5.5.2 calls for an intensive surface examination to inventory and document all visible cultural resources in the WND BRA. Compliance with these SCs would reduce impacts on historical resources. However, the inventory of resources in the entire WND BRA may not be completed in time for the implementation of individual projects under the MDPI. Thus, potentially significant adverse impacts on historical resources may occur. Mitigation measures for potential impacts to historical resources are outlined below.

Archaeological Resources

Threshold 5.5.2: Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines?

The proposed programs, facilities, and improvements called out in the MDPI would involve excavation activities that could affect archaeological resources in the WND BRA. Archaeological resources have been found at the central and western portions of the WND BRA, with one site considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. Proposed trails, natural area river parks, and river crossings in Area D, and the proposed Green Streets, traffic calming measures, and entry signage near the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Durfee Avenue could affect these archaeological resources.

SC 5.5.4 involves consultation with the SHPO, SC 5.5.1 makes it illegal to excavate, remove, or damage the on-site cultural resources, and SC 5.5.2 calls for an intensive surface examination to inventory and document all visible cultural resources in the WND BRA and for the creation of an archaeological district. Compliance with these SCs would reduce impacts on archaeological resources. However, the inventory of resources in the entire WND BRA and archaeological district formation may not be completed in time for the implementation of individual projects under the MDPI. Thus, potentially significant adverse impacts on archaeological resources may occur. Mitigation measures for potential impacts to archaeological resources are outlined below.

Paleontological Resources

Threshold 5.5.3: Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The WNDBRA is considered to have low paleontological sensitivity. Thus, no paleontological resources are expected to be impacted by proposed programs, facilities, and improvements called out in the MDPI. No impacts would occur.

Human Remains

Threshold 5.5.4: Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No known human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, have been identified in the WNDBRA. However, the potential to disturb unknown burial remains would constitute a potentially significant impact. Therefore, in the event that burials are discovered during any development-related activities, implementation of SC 5.5.3 would reduce significant impacts to human remains to a less than significant level. No mitigation is required.

5.5.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative study area for historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources is defined as the San Gabriel Valley, which is the area that shares the prehistory and history with the WNDBRA.

Future growth and development in the San Gabriel Valley, including implementation of proposed programs, facilities, and improvements in the MDPI would lead to ground disturbance, which may affect in-situ cultural resources in the valley. Due to the site-specific nature of cultural resources, it is difficult to determine if significant cumulative impacts to cultural resources would occur on individual development sites. Development on sites with native soils and where no previous urban developments have occurred has the potential to yield archaeological and paleontological resources. The extent or significance of these resources cannot be determined until discovery during surveys and evaluation or upon excavation of native soils.

Historic structures that may be demolished as part of future development may affect the cultural significance of the site or the structure. Vacant areas where archaeological resources exist may be subject to grading and excavation that could damage cultural resources. Cultural surveys that are conducted prior to development would allow the early identification of on-site cultural resources and the preservation of significant resources. Compliance with the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5 to determine if there are important cultural resources on individual development sites would prevent cumulative impacts on cultural resources. Tribal consultation under SB 18 would also avoid and reduce impacts on Native American cultural resources by individual projects. Use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historical structure rehabilitation would help retain a property's historical significance through the preservation of historic materials and workmanship of historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy. These measures would reduce adverse impacts on cultural resources.

Since cultural resources are site-specific, no cumulative significant adverse impacts are expected from future developments with implementation of site-level surveys and mitigation outlined as part of cultural resource studies for individual development projects.

The implementation of the Whittier Narrows Historic Properties Management Plan and the mitigation measures outlined below would prevent adverse impacts on cultural resources on the site. Thus, the MDPI is not expected to have a cumulative contribution to the disturbance and/or destruction of cultural resources in the San Gabriel Valley.

5.5.6 MITIGATION PROGRAM

To reduce or avoid significant adverse impacts related to cultural resources, the following mitigation measures are required:

- MM 5.5.1** Qualified Archaeological Monitors and Native American Monitors shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities at the WND BRA. The monitors shall attend pre-construction meetings; fence, flag, or mark the boundaries of significant resources if they are in jeopardy of disturbance by construction; examine ground surfaces after vegetation removal but prior to grading; monitor all grading and stop or redirect grading to prevent damage to cultural resources; notify appropriate individual in the event of discovery of cultural resources; and comply with State and federal laws on the treatment of discovered human skeletal remains.
- MM 5.5.2** Prior to the implementation of each proposed program, facility, or improvement that involves vegetation clearing or grading, a cultural resources investigation shall be completed to evaluate whether any cultural resources remain exposed on the surface of the project area or can reasonably be expected to exist in the subsurface. If resources are discovered, management recommendations would be included that require evaluation of the resources for NRHP or CRHR eligibility. If eligible, a site shall be listed in the NRHP or CRHR prior to any work in or near the site.
- MM 5.5.3** All eligible sites shall be listed in the NRHP prior to any work in or near these sites. These include the La Merced Adobe and LAN-1311/H, which are now considered eligible, and the Old Mission and Basye Adobe, which are considered eligible if located.
- MM 5.5.4** The area north of Durfee Avenue and south of Legg Lake shall be surveyed after disking and prior to placement of plastic sheeting, and the subsurface shall be explored to determine if cultural remains are present. If cultural remains are observed, the boundaries, integrity, and research potential of the site shall be evaluated through text excavation. Because this area is subject to ongoing farming, re-locating archaeological resources and evaluating this site shall occur as soon as feasible. If eligible, it shall be listed in the NRHP or CRHR prior to any work in or near this site.
- MM 5.5.5** The area along State Route 60 west of the Rio Hondo shall be surveyed to find the exact location of archaeological resources and determine eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Subsurface exploration shall be conducted to confirm its presence. If eligible, it shall be listed in the NRHP or CRHR prior to any work on or near this site.

- MM 5.5.6** A treatment plan shall be developed and implemented for the area north of San Gabriel Boulevard and southeast of the Rio Hondo to protect further damage to cultural resources by oil drilling activities and other proposed improvements. The plan shall include worker education to prevent inadvertent damage; restrictions on future oil drilling and maintenance activities; fencing of the site; and enforcement monitoring. If preservation of the cultural site is infeasible, future damage shall be mitigated by data recovery.
- MM 5.5.7** Treatment of the La Merced Adobe shall include worker and visitor education and possibly site fencing. Site records shall also be completed and submitted to the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at the California State University, Fullerton. SHPO concurrence of its eligibility to be listed in the NRHP shall be requested. Any future damage shall be avoided or mitigated through data recovery. It shall be listed in the NRHP prior to any work in or near this site.
- MM 5.5.8** The Temple School and site shall be formally evaluated for NRHP eligibility, consisting of detailed documentation of the site and the architectural characteristics of the buildings, as prepared by a qualified Historian or Architectural Historian. The presence of historic-period archaeological deposits shall also be evaluated. If eligible, it shall be listed in the NRHP or CRHR prior to any work on or near this site.

5.5.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Potentially significant impacts to historical and archeological resources would be reduced to a level considered less than significant with implementation of the SCs and MMs listed above. No significant unavoidable and cumulative impacts on cultural resources would occur.

5.5.8 REFERENCES

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- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. 2010 (July 1). *36 Code of Federal Regulations* (Part 60, National Register of Historic Places; Section 60.4, Criteria for Evaluation). Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=4c16769b6f1b9f244b9036fb940b33e4&rgn=div8&view=text&node=36:1.0.1.1.26.0.45.4&idno=36>.

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