

Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

As a result of the analysis undertaken in the Initial Study for the Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan (The Master Plan), the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) determined that the proposed project may result in environmental impacts to cultural resources. Therefore, this issue is being carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIR. This analysis was undertaken to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate potential significant impacts to cultural resources and to identify potential alternatives.

The analysis of cultural resources consists of a summary of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, a description of the existing conditions at the proposed project area, thresholds for determining if the proposed project would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and levels of significance after mitigation. The cultural resources at the proposed project site were evaluated with regard to a query of the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University Fullerton, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC), the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the San Fernando Valley Historical Society Website, and the County of Los Angeles Office of the Assessor's Online Parcel Viewer (Assessor). Published and unpublished literature was reviewed.

3.4.1 Setting

3.4.1.1 Regulatory Setting

Federal and state laws and regulations governing historic, archaeological, Native American, and paleontological resources must be followed by the proposed project. Correspondingly, summaries of these laws and regulations are provided hereafter.

Federal

Though this project is not considered a federal undertaking, it does involve federal funding as part of the proposed project. Therefore, federal regulations are described hereafter.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, declared a national policy of historic preservation and encourages such preservation. It established an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and provided procedures for the federal agency to follow if a proposal could affect a property included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The ACHP

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developed procedure 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, which must be followed on any federal project of action.¹

National Register of Historic Places

The NRHP is the official list of properties recognized for their significance and deemed worthy of preservation. The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation offers a guide to be used by federal, state, and local governments, private groups, and citizens to identify the nation's cultural resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment. As established in the NHPA of 1966, to be listed in the NRHP, or to be determined eligible for listing, properties must meet certain criteria for historic or cultural significance. Qualities of significance may be found in aspects of American history, architecture (interpreted in the broadest sense to include landscape architecture and planning), archaeology, engineering, and culture.

A property is eligible for the NRHP if it is significant under one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion A: It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B: It is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Criterion C: It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D: It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.²

To be eligible, qualities of integrity must also be evident in the resource, measured by the degree to which it retains its historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In general, the resource must be 50 years old to be considered for the NRHP, but there are exceptions and overriding considerations to this criterion.

Listing in the NRHP does not, in and of itself, provide protection for a historic resource. The primary effect of NRHP listing for the owners of historic buildings is the availability

¹ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. March 24, 2006 - updated. Section 106 Regulations: 36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties. Available at: <http://www.achp.gov/work106.html>.

² National Park Service. 1998. *National Register Bulletin, 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>.

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of financial and tax incentives. In addition, for projects that receive federal funding, the Section 106 process must be completed.³

Evaluation of Resources Less than 50 Years Old

The NRHP guidelines allow for buildings less than 50 years old to be considered under Criteria Consideration G, which states that “a property (which has achieved) significance within the past fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.”⁴ The explanation of the guideline is as follows:

Fifty years is a general estimate of the time needed to develop historical perspective and to evaluate significance. This consideration guards against the listing of properties of passing contemporary interest and ensures that the NRHP is a list of truly historic places.⁵

It has been determined that previously identified historic archaeological sites that occur on site are not eligible for inclusion under the NRHP.

Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act of 1990

The Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act of 1990 sets provisions for the intentional removal and for their inadvertent discovery of human remains and other cultural items from federal and tribal lands and for their inadvertent discovery. It clarifies the ownership of human remains and sets forth a process for repatriation of human remains and associated funerary objects and sacred religious objects to the Native American groups claiming to be lineal descendants or culturally affiliated with the remains or objects. It requires any federally funded institution housing Native American remains or artifacts to compile an inventory of all cultural items within the museum or with its agency and to provide a summary to any Native American tribe claiming affiliation.⁶

³ National Park Service. 1998. *National Register Bulletin, 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>.

⁴ National Park Service. 1998. *National Register Bulletin, 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>.

⁵ National Park Service. 1998. *National Register Bulletin, 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/>.

⁶ National Park Service. 1990. *Native American Graves, Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service. Available at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/MANDATES/25USC3001etseq.htm>.

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State

California Environmental Quality Act, '21084.1: "Historical Resource; Substantial Adverse Change" ⁷

For the purposes of this section, a historical resource is a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 4020.1, and included as such in a local register, or deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1, are presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of this section, unless the preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the resource is not historically or culturally significant. The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the CRHR, not included in a local register, or not deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1 shall not preclude a lead agency from determining whether the resource may be a historical resource.

California Environmental Quality Act, '15064.5: "Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archeological and Historical Resources." ⁸

For the purpose of this section, a resource shall be considered to be historically significant if it meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (Public Resources Code [PRC] 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 4852), including the following:

- It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- It 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.
- It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, important information in prehistory or history.

An adverse effect on a cultural resource is defined as:

- A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource by physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings; or

⁷ California Resources Agency. 11 December 2003. California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter 2.6, '21084.1: "Historical Resource; Substantial Adverse Change." Available at: http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/Ch_2-6.html.

⁸ California Resources Agency. 16 September 2004. California Environmental Quality Act, Article 5, '15064.5: "Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archeological and Historical Resources." Available at: http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art5.html.

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- A change that demolishes or materially alters those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in, the CRHR, or inclusion in a local register.

California Health and Safety Code, Section 7052

Section 7052 of the California Health and Safety Code establishes a felony penalty for mutilating, disinterring, or otherwise disturbing human remains, except by relatives.⁹

California Penal Code, Section 622.5

Section 622.5 of the California Penal Code establishes a misdemeanor penalty for injuring or destroying objects of historical or archaeological interest located on public or private lands, but specifically excludes the landowner.¹⁰

California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.5

Section 5097.5 of the California PRC establishes a misdemeanor penalty for the unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources located on public lands.¹¹

California Register of Historical Resources

In 1992, the California Legislature established the CRHR. The CRHR is used as a guide by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change. The CRHR, as instituted by the California PRC, automatically includes all California properties already listed in the NRHP and those formally determined to be eligible for the NRHP (Categories 1 and 2 in the State Inventory of Historical Resources), as well as specific listings of State Historical Landmarks and State Points of Historical Interest. The CRHR also may include various other types of historical resources that meet the criteria for eligibility, including the following:

- Individual historic resources;
- Resources that contribute to a historic district;
- Resources identified as significant in historic resource surveys; and
- Resources with a significance rating of Category 3 through Category 5 in the State Inventory (Categories 3 and 4 refer to potential eligibility)

⁹ State of California. *California Health and Safety Code, Section 7052*. Available at: <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cacodes/hsc/7050.5-7055.html>.

¹⁰ State of California. *California Penal Code, Section 622.5*. Available at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

¹¹ State of California. *California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.5*. Available at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAISdocID=60334228069+12+0+0&WAIAction=retrieve>.

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for the NRHP; Category 5 indicates a property with local significance).

A property must meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR:

- It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- It 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.
- It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Three properties in the community of Sylmar have been designated by the State as California State Historic Landmarks.

Evaluation of Resources Less than 50 Years Old

The California Register follows the lead of the NRHP in utilizing the 50-year threshold. A resource is usually considered for its historical significance after it reaches the age of 50 years. This threshold is not absolute; it was chosen as a reasonable span of time after which a professional evaluation of historical value/importance can be made. It has been determined that previously identified archaeological sites that occur on site are not eligible for inclusion under the CRHR.¹²

State Historic Resources Commission and the Office of Historic Preservation

In accordance with state law (California PRC Section 5020.4), the primary responsibility of the State Historic Resources Commissions (SHRC) is to review applications for listing historic and archaeological resources on the NRHP, the CRHR, and the California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest registration programs.

The SHRC is also charged with the following responsibilities:

- Conduct a statewide inventory of historical resources and maintain comprehensive records of these resources;
- Develop and adopt criteria for the rehabilitation of historic structures;
- Establish policies and guidelines for a comprehensive statewide historical resources plan;

¹² Office of Historic Preservation. 1992. *California Register of Historical Resources*. Available at: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238.

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- Submit an annual report to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the state legislature giving an account of its activities, identifying unattained goals of plans and programs, and recommending needed legislation for the support of these programs;
- Consult with and consider the recommendations of public agencies, civic groups, and citizens interested in historic preservation; and
- Develop criteria and procedures based on public hearings and active public participation for the selection of projects to be funded through the National Historic Preservation Fund and other federal and state grants-in-aid programs.

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is the governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. The chief administrative officer for the OHP is the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO is also the executive secretary of the SHRC. The mission of the OHP and the SHRC, in partnership with the people of California and governmental agencies, is to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter of public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social, and environmental benefits will be maintained and enriched for present and future generations.¹³

The OHP is responsible for carrying out its mission by meeting the following goals:

- Identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties;
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations;
- Cooperating with traditional preservation partners while building new alliances with other community organizations and public agencies;
- Encouraging the adoption of economic incentives programs designed to benefit property owners; and
- Encouraging economic revitalization by promoting a historic preservation ethic through preservation education and public awareness, and, most significantly, by demonstrating leadership and stewardship for historic preservation in California.

Local

Southern California Association of Governments

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Growth Management Chapter (GMC) has instituted policies regarding the protection of cultural resources. SCAG GMC Policy No. 3.21 "encourages the implementation of measures aimed at the

¹³ Office of Historic Preservation. 12 June 2002. "About OHP." Available at: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=1066.

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preservation and protection of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources and archaeological sites.”¹⁴

City of Los Angeles

Sylmar falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles (City) and is considered to be a “community” within the City of the Los Angeles. The goal of the City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element is to “protect the City’s archaeological and paleontological resources for historical, cultural, research and/or educational purposes” and to protect important cultural and historical sites and resources for historical, cultural, research, and community educational purposes.¹⁵ Therefore, the City has devoted three sections to the policy, goals, and measures designed for the protection and conservation of cultural resources.

Some of the measures developed for the protection of cultural resources within the City of Los Angeles include:

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC)

The City established the Cultural Heritage Commission in 1962 to identify and protect architectural, historical, and cultural buildings, structures, and sites important to the city’s history and cultural heritage. The CHC has designating power for Historic-Cultural Monuments and in 30 years has designated almost 700 sites. Two properties within the community of Sylmar have been dedicated by the City as Historic Cultural Monuments.

Historic Period Overlay Zones (HPOZ)

The HPOZ provision of the zone code, Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 12.20.3, was adopted in 1979 and amended in 2001. It contains procedures for the designation and protection of areas that have structures, natural features, or sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or aesthetic significance. Fourteen areas of the city are classified as HPOZs, and 12 other areas are under study. HPOZ areas contain significant examples of architectural styles characteristic of different periods in the city's history. They may be a few blocks or a few square miles in area.¹⁶

¹⁴ Southern California Association of Governments. 2001. *SCAG Growth Management Chapter (GMC) Policy No. 3.21*. Contact: 818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435.

¹⁵ City of Los Angeles. September 2001. City of Los Angeles, General Plan, Conservation Element: Section 3 Archaeological and Paleontological, Section 4: Conservation, Section 5 Cultural and Historical. Available at: <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/PLN/Cwd/GnlPln/ConsvElt.pdf>.

¹⁶ City of Los Angeles. September 2001. City of Los Angeles, General Plan, Conservation Element: Section 3 Archaeological and Paleontological, Section 4 Conservation, and Section 5 Cultural and Historical. Available at: <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/PLN/Cwd/GnlPln/ConsvElt.pdf>.

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3.4.1.2 Environmental Setting

Paleontological Resources

Paleontology is a branch of geology that studies prehistoric life forms other than humans through the analysis of plant and animal fossils. Fossils are the remains of organisms that lived in the region in the geologic past; therefore, they preserve an aspect of Southern California prehistory that is of scientific importance, since many species are now extinct. Fossils are found embedded in geologic formations that range in thickness from a few feet to hundreds of feet. These formations form a complex relationship below the surface. Sedimentary formations are layered atop one another, and over time the layers have been squeezed, tilted, folded, and shaped by fault activity. Sensitive fossil-bearing formations found at the surface also may extend from just below the surface to many miles below the surface. Consequently, the task of predicting paleontologically sensitive areas is difficult.

The proposed project site is underlain with Surficial Sediments (Qg and Qa), Older Dissected Surficial Sediments (Qae), and the deeper Saugus Formation (QTs). While Surficial Sediments and Older Dissected Surficial Sediments do not contain paleontological resources, excavation at greater depths into the Saugus Formation may encounter fossils of Pleistocene age.¹⁷

Archaeological Resources

The region of Sylmar, in the San Fernando Valley, was home to Native American population groups for at least 8,000 years. The native ecological environment consisted of a large basin surrounded by the San Gabriel Mountains and river and stream drainages, which were prime locations for Native American food processing and village sites. Prehistoric archaeological sites are often covered by 3 or more feet of topsoil, often protecting sites even after an area has become highly urbanized, particularly in areas with shallow building foundations, parks, parking lots, and roads. However, prehistoric sites occasionally can be found on the surface in urbanized areas that have not been extensively disturbed. The following is a cultural chronology of the Native American habitation of Southern California. Noted Anthropologist William Wallace first developed this chronology in 1955. Since then, various chronologies suggested for several regions of California have been published. However, all of these regional chronologies were based on Wallace's version, with only minor changes. Wallace's 1955 chronology remains among anthropological and archaeological scholars as a standard cultural chronology for the prehistoric habitation of Southern California.

¹⁷ Dibblee, Thomas W. Jr., California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology; and U.S. Geological Survey. 1991. Geologic Map of the San Fernando and Van Nuys (North ½) Quadrangles, Los Angeles County, California. Published by: Dibblee Geological Foundation P.O. Box 60560, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

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Prehistoric Period (Prior to 1542)

The prehistoric cultural history of the project area is outlined in the following chronology¹⁸.

Early Man Horizon

From the end of the Pleistocene (approximately 11,000 years ago) to approximately 6,000 B.P. (B.C.), archaeological assemblages attributed to this horizon area were characterized by large projectile points and scrapers. The limited data available suggest that prehistoric populations focused on hunting and gathering, moving from region to region in small nomadic groups.

Milling Stone Horizon

This horizon is characterized by the appearance of hand-stones and milling-stones and dates between approximately 6,000 B.P. to 1,000 B.P. (B.C.). Artifact assemblages during the early Milling Stone period reflect an emphasis on plant foods and foraging subsistence systems. Inland populations generally exploited grass seeds, which became the primary subsistence activity. Artifact assemblages are characterized by choppers and scraper planes but generally lack projectile points. The appearance of large projectile points in the latter portion of the Milling Stone Horizon suggests a more diverse subsistence economy.

Intermediate Horizon

Dated from 1,000 B.C. to A.D. 750, the Intermediate Horizon represents a period of transition for prehistoric Native American groups. Little is known about the people of this period, especially those occupying inland southern California. Archaeological site assemblages possess many attributes of the Milling Stone Horizon. In addition, however, these sites generally contain large stemmed (or notched) projectile points and portable mortars and pestles. It is believed that the mortars and pestles were used to harvest, process, and consume acorns. Given the general lack of data on the subsistence system and the cultural evolution of this period, the substrates representing the cultural behavior are not well understood.

Late Prehistoric Horizon

From A.D. 750 to Spanish contact in A.D. 1769, the Late Prehistoric Horizon reflects an increased technological sophistication and diversity. This period is characterized by the presence of small projectile points, which imply the use of bow and arrow, as opposed to spear. In addition, site assemblages also include steatite bowls, asphaltum, grave goods, and elaborate shell ornaments. Utilization of bedrock milling slicks is prevalent

¹⁸ Wallace, William J., 1955. A Suggested Chronology for Southern California Coastal Archaeology. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 11(3): 214-230.

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throughout this horizon. Also, an increase in hunting efficiency and widespread exploitation of acorns provided reliable and storable food resources. These innovations seem to have promoted greater sedentism.

Native American Population: The Tataviam¹⁹ and Tongva/Gabrieleno²⁰

The Tataviam

The Tataviam are a Native American group that resided in and around the area encompassing the project site (Figure 3.4-1, *Tribal Area Map*). The name “Tataviam” means, “People who Face the Sun.” The Tataviam belong to the family of Serrano people who migrated down into the Antelope, Santa Clarita, and San Fernando Valleys some time before 450 A.D. They settled into the upper Santa Clara River Drainage. Some Tataviam settlements in the Santa Clarita and upper valleys were Nuhubit (Newhall); Piru-U-Bit (Piru); Tochonanga which is believed to have been located at the confluence of Wiley and Towsley Canyons; and the very large village of Chaguibit, the center of which is buried under the Rye Canyon exit of I-5. The Tataviam also lived where Saugus, Agua Dulce, and Lake Elizabeth are located today. This places the Serrano among the larger “Shoshonean” migration into southern California that occurred 2,000 to 3,000 years ago.^{21 22}

The Tataviam people lived primarily on the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage system, east of Piru Creek, but they also marginally inhabited the upper San Fernando Valley, including present day San Fernando and Sylmar (which they shared with their inland Tongva/Gabrieleño neighbors). The traditional Tataviam territory lies primarily between 1,500 and 3,000 feet above sea level. Their territory also may have extended over the Sawmill Mountains to include at least the southwestern fringes of the Antelope Valley, which they apparently shared with the Kitanemuk, who occupied the greater portion of the Antelope Valley. The Tataviam were hunters and gatherers who prepared their foodstuffs in much the same way as their neighbors. Their primary foods included yucca, acorns, juniper berries, sage seeds, deer, the occasional antelope, and smaller game such as rabbits and ground squirrels. There is no information regarding Tataviam social organization, though information from neighboring groups shows similarities among Tataviam, Chumash, and Gabrieleño ritual practices. Like their Chumash neighbors, the Tataviam practiced an annual mourning ceremony in late

¹⁹ Solis, Laurie A. 2006. *The Tataviam: People who Face the Sun*. Unpublished literature excerpt. Publishing information: iUniverse Publishing. www.iuniverse.com.

²⁰ Gabrieleno/Tongva Band of Mission Indians. 2006. Available at: <http://www.tongva.com>.

²¹ Ventura County Resource Conservation District. September 2005. Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Removal Plan Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. Available at: <http://www.vcrd.org/files/eir/SCARP-EIR-Ch3.6.pdf>.

²² Higgins, Paul. 1996. *Tataviam Indians, Early Newhall Residents*. Available at: <http://www.scvleon.com/newhall/tataviam.htm>.

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Figure 3.4-1
Tribal Area Map

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summer or early fall which would have been conducted in a circular structure made of reeds or branches. At first contact with the Spanish in the late 18th century, the population of this group was estimated at less than 1,000 persons. However, this ethnographic estimate of the entire population is unlikely to be accurate, since it is based only on one small village complex and cannot necessarily be indicative of the entire population of Tataviam. Given the archaeological evidence at various Tataviam sites, as well as the numbers incorporated into the Spanish Missions, pre-contact population and early contact population easily exceeded 1,000 persons.^{23 24}

The Tataviam people lived in small villages and were semi-nomadic when food was scarce. The Tataviam were hunter-gathers who were organized into a series of clans throughout the region. Jimsonweed, native tobacco, and other plants found along the local rivers and streams provided raw materials for baskets, cordage, and netting. Larger game was generally hunted with the bow and arrow, while snares, traps, and pits were used for capturing smaller game. At certain times of the year, communal hunting and gathering expeditions were held. Faunal resources available to the desert dwelling Serrano included deer, mountain sheep, antelope, rabbit, small rodents, and several species of birds (quail being their favorite). Meat was generally prepared by cooking in earth ovens, boiling, or sun-drying. Cooking and food preparation utensils consisted primarily of lithic (stone) knives and scrapers, mortars and metates, pottery, and bone or horn utensils. Resources available to the desert dwelling Tataviam included honey mesquite, piñon nuts, yucca roots, mesquite and cacti fruits.

These resources were supplemented with roots, bulbs, shoots, and seeds that, if not available locally, were traded for with other groups.

Labor was divided between the sexes. Men carried out most of the heavy but short-term labor, such as hunting and fishing, conducted most trading ventures, and had as their central concerns the well being of the village and the family. Women were involved in collecting and processing most of the plant materials and basket production. The elderly of both sexes taught children and cared for the young.

Tongva/Gabrieleño

The Tongva/Gabrieleno are a Native American people who inhabited the area in and around Sylmar, which they shared with the Tataviam people. *Tongva* means "people of the earth" in the Tongva language, a language in the Uto-Aztecan family. The Tongva are also often referred to as the Gabrieleño/Tongva or Gabrielino/Tongva tribe. Following the Spanish custom of naming local tribes after nearby missions, they were called the Gabrieleño, Gabrielino, or San Gabrieleño in reference to Mission San Gabriel Arcangel.

²³ King, Chester and Thomas C. Blackburn, *Tataviam, Handbook of North American Indians, California, Volume 8*, 1978.

²⁴ Information excerpted from Bean, Lowell John and Charles R. Smith, 1978, *Gabrielino, Handbook of North American Indians, op. cit., pp. 538-549.*

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Likewise, the nearby Tataviam people were known as "Fernandeño" after Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana.²⁰

These Native Americans known as the Gabrieleño spoke a language that falls within the Cupan group of the Takic subfamily of the Uto-Aztecan language family. This language family is extremely large and includes the Shoshonean groups of the Great Basin. Given the geographic proximity of Tongva/Gabrieleño and Serrano bands living in the area and the linguistic similarities, ethnographers have suggested that they shared the same ethnic origins (Figure 3.4-1).²¹ Correspondingly, these groups will be referred to as the Gabrieleño in this document. The Gabrieleño are considered one of the most distinctive tribes in all of California, occupying a large area that was bordered on the west by Topanga and Malibu, the San Fernando Valley, the greater Los Angeles basin, and the coastal strip south to Aliso Creek, south of San Juan Capistrano. Gabrieleño territory extended from the San Bernardino Mountains to the islands of Catalina, San Clemente, and San Nicolas and occupied most of modern day Los Angeles and Orange Counties, which is incredibly fertile land.²²

Very little is known about early Tongva social organization because the band was not studied until the 1920s and had already been influenced by missionaries and settlers.²¹ Kroeber's (1925) work indicates that the Tongva were a hierarchically ordered society with a chief who oversaw social and political interactions both within the Tongva culture and with other groups. The Tongva had multiple villages ranging from seasonal satellite villages to larger more permanent villages. Resource exploitation was focused on village-centered territories and ranged from hunting deer, rabbits, birds, and other small game to sea mammals. Fishing for freshwater fish, saltwater mollusks, and crustaceans and gathering acorns and various grass seeds were also important.²² Fishing technology included basket fish traps, nets, bonefish hooks, harpoons, and vegetable poisons, and ocean fishing was conducted from wooden plank canoes lashed and asphalted together.²³ Tongva houses were large, circular, thatched and domed structures of tule, fern, or carrizo that were large enough to house several families.²⁴ Smaller ceremonial structures were also present in the villages and were used in a variety of ways. These structures were earth-covered, and different ones were used as sweathouses, meeting places for adult males, menstrual huts, and ceremonial enclosures (*yuva'r*).²⁵

²⁰ Bean, Lowell J. and Sylvia B. Vane (eds.). 1979. *Native Americans of Western Riverside County, California and the Devers-Mira Loma 500 kV Transmission Line Route (Lamb Canyon-Mira Loma Section)*. Report prepared by Cultural Systems Research, Inc., Menlo Park, CA, for Southern California Edison Company, Rosemead, CA.

²¹ Kroeber, Alfred L. 1925. *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 78. Washington.

²² Bean, L. and C. Smith. 1978. 'Gabrieliño'. In *Handbook of North American Indians*, Volume 8, California. R. F. Heizer (ed.): 538-549. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institute Press.

²³ Blackburn, Thomas C. 1962-63. Ethnohistoric Descriptions of Gabrielino Material Culture. *Annual Reports of the University of California Archaeological Survey* 5: 1-50. Los Angeles.

²⁴ Johnston, B.E. 1962. California's Gabrieliño Indians. Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publication Fund, vol. VII. Los Angeles: Southwest Museum.

²⁵ Heizer, R.F. and S.F. Cook. 1952. Fluorine and other chemical tests of some North American human and fossil bones. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 10 (3): 289-393.

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The coastal Tongva are among the few New World peoples who regularly navigated the ocean. They built seaworthy canoes, called *ti'at*, using planks that were sewn together, edge to edge, and then caulked and coated with either pine pitch or, more commonly, the tar that was available either from the La Brea Tar Pits or asphaltum that had washed up on shore from offshore oil seeps. The *ti'at* could hold as many as 12 people and all of their gear and all of the trade goods they were carrying to trade with other people, either along the coast or on one of the Channel Islands. The Tongva canoed out to greet Spanish explorer Juan Cabrillo when he arrived off the shores of San Pedro in 1542.

Modern place names with Tongva origins include: Pasadena (Pasade'gna), Pacoima, Tujunga, Topanga, Rancho Cucamonga, Azusa, and Cahuenga Pass.

The name of their creation deity, Quaoar, has been used to name a large object in the Kuiper belt. A 2,656-foot summit in the Verdugo Mountains, in Glendale, has been named *Tongva Peak*. The *Gabrielino Trail* is a 32-mile path through the Angeles National Forest.

In the 1990s, Kuruvungna Springs, a natural spring located on the site of a former Tongva village on the campus of University High School in West Los Angeles, was revitalized due to the efforts of the Gabrielino/Tongva Springs Foundation. The spring, which produces 22,000 gallons of water each day, is considered by the Tongva to be one of their last remaining sacred sites and is regularly used for ceremonial events.

Given the high growth area, many controversies have arisen naturally around land-use issues relating to the Tongva. Balancing the needs of the approximately 300 member tribe with the millions of inhabitants of Los Angeles often has had to be resolved in the courts. Burial grounds have been inadvertently disturbed by developers. The tribe has complained about bones being broken by archeologists studying the site.

Another widely known controversy was over an area called Puvungna, which is believed by the Tongva to be the place of creation. The site, formerly home to a Tongva village and also containing an active spring, is on the grounds of what is today California State University, Long Beach. A portion of Puvungna (a burial ground on the western edge of the campus) is listed on the NRHP; nevertheless, developers have repeatedly attempted, beginning in 1992, to build a strip mall in the area. They were blocked by the courts after the Tongva petitioned for relief.

Historically, the Tongva, like most Native Americans, have lost many of their battles to preserve their lands and culture. Whether or not the Tongva will be able to maintain their culture and historic lands in the future is somewhat uncertain.

The library of Loyola Marymount University, in Los Angeles, has an extensive collection of archival materials related to the Tongva and their history.²⁵

²⁵ Wikipedia, 25 July 2006. *The Tongva*. Available at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tongva>.

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Project Area History

Spanish Exploration, Mexican Settlement, and American Occupancy

Exploration of California first occurred in 1540 when a land expedition under the command of Hernando de Alarcon traversed inland along the Colorado River in an attempt to meet up with the party of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, who was searching the Southwest for the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola (Gold). Two years later, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was commissioned by the Spanish government to investigate the western shores of the newly acquired territory. His investigation was restricted to the southern California coast, with only brief stops onshore to gather water and supplies. The first documented description of Los Angeles County comes from Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542. Apparently, his ship made land fall at what is today San Pedro, taking on fresh water and other supplies. He did not explore the area, but sailed on.²⁶

During the early decades of the 19th century, independence groups sprang up throughout the Spanish Empire. Like the American colonists, the citizens of these Spanish colonies thought it was time for self-rule and abolition of the Viceroy system. At that time, California was considered a province of Mexico. Throughout the Spanish Period, California remained largely unsettled.

The first Spanish encounter with the Tataviam occurred when Gaspar de Portola's expedition arrived in Castaic Junction on August 8, 1769, on their way north from Los Angeles. It is recorded that the Tataviam gave the Spanish explorers food and ate with them. On September 8, 1797, Father Lasuen, accompanied by Father Francisco Dumetz, arrived in the San Fernando Valley and assembled a small arbor for a temporary church. A cross was raised and mass was celebrated as the official San Fernando Rey de Espana Mission.

On January 13, 1847, Captain John C. Fremont accepted the surrender of Governor Pio Pico and Commander Jose Maria Fores. In 1847, the final terms of surrender were signed at Campo de Cahuenga Adobe in the Cahuenga Pass. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo formally annexed California to the United States in early 1848, ending the Mexican War and beginning the American Period.

San Fernando Mission

On the afternoon of the founding day of the San Fernando Mission, 10 native children, 5 boys and 5 girls, were baptized; the first boy baptized was named Fernando Maria. This was the beginning of the end of the villages in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys; the Spaniards soon gathered the inhabitants to work on the construction of the San Fernando Mission. It was on August 28, 1795, that the Spaniards forced themselves

²⁶ Beck, Warren A. and Ynez D. Haase. 1974. *Historical Atlas of California*, University of Oklahoma Text, Norman.

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to climb and descend the sharpest mountain ridges north into Newhall Valley (Santa Clarita Valley), reaching Castaic Lake.

The Spanish government subsequently established missions and military outposts to facilitate colonization of the area and to keep rival European nations out of the area. By the early 1800s, the Estancia de San Francisco Xavier, an outpost of the Mission San Fernando, was established in the fertile Santa Clara River Valley. By 1810, all of the Tataviam in the area had been baptized and relocated to the mission or the *estancia*. Eventually, the *estancia* was reclassified as an *asistencia*, or sub-mission. The Native Americans soon became referred to as *Fernandeños*, to reflect the Spanish Mission to which they were associated. The introduction of disease was disastrous to the native people. Well over 2,000 natives were interred in the San Fernando Mission cemetery between 1798 and 1852.

Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1822, and on July 25, 1826, Governor Jose Maria Echeandía issued a decree beginning the secularization of the California missions. However, because many Native Americans failed to leave the missions, Echeandía issued a second decree on 6 January 1831 encouraging the Native Americans to leave the missions. Many of the Tataviam left the mission and began their own ranches in the San Fernando Valley in the 1800s, when the mission system was in decline. El Rancho Encino was one of many, while some went up north to El Tejon to work. When John Harrington interviewed the last *Fernandeños* that lived on or near the mission, they told how the mission was in ruins in the late 1880s and described it as a ghost cemetery.

In August 1834, secularization became official under Governor Jose Figueroa. The Spanish mission system was largely abandoned, and the Mexican government bestowed land grants or ranchos on those loyal to the Mexican government and to some Anglo settlers. In the Santa Clara River Valley, Governor Juan B. Alvarado granted the deed to the former *Asistencia de San Francisco Xavier* lands to Lt. Antonio del Valle.²⁷

Los Ranchos

The Rancho movement in California began in the fall of 1784, when three Spanish soldiers were given permits to graze their cattle on certain tracts of land by Pedro Fages, then governor of Alta California. (Figure 3.4-2, *Old Spanish and Mexican Ranchos*) These land grants were given mostly to soldiers or ex-soldiers during the Spanish Period, which ended in 1822. Formal grants by governors became common during the Mexican Period which followed.

²⁷ Solis, Laurie A. 2006. *The Tataviam: People who Face the Sun*. Unpublished literature excerpt. Publishing information: iUniverse Publishing. www.iuniverse.com.

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Figure 3.4-2
Old Spanish and Mexican Ranchos

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The oldest of the San Fernando Valley ranchos is the 36,000-acre San Rafael, in the present day area of Glendale and Burbank. It was granted by Governor Fages to a young Spanish soldier, Corporal Jose Maria Verdugo, on October 20, 1784. This rancho later became the site of the San Fernando Mission.

The rest of the ranchos of the San Fernando Valley were granted by the Mexican government after 1834 (the Mexican Period). The largest of these was the Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando, which occupied most of the San Fernando Valley, but several peripheral ranchos did exist. On December 5, 1845, the San Fernando Mission was leased to Andres Pico (brother of Governor Pio Pico) and Juan Manso for nine years. On June 17, 1846, the land was sold to Eulogio de Celis. By the time the United States took control of California in 1849, the Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando, owned by Eulogio de Celis and Pico, was the single largest land grant in California. Andres Pico handed his portion of the rancho over to his brother Pio, who in turn sold out the mission to the now established "San Fernando Farm Homestead Association" in 1869 for \$115,000. With this final conveyance, the Spanish and Mexican rancho days came to an end.

The San Fernando Farm Homestead Association turned the former mission land into a large and profitable wheat ranch. In 1874, Eulogio F. Celis (son of de Celis) sold his remaining land holdings of the former mission lands to George K. Porter and Senator Charles Maclay. Both Maclay and Porter's lands would eventually become fields of barley and wheat.

In 1876, with the completion of the San Fernando railroad tunnel connecting northern and southern California, a period of rapid growth followed in southern California. In the 1880s a real estate boom occurred, and large properties, such as Maclay's and Porter's, were subdivided into lots for housing tracts and small businesses. Citrus groves for oranges and lemons also were established, and a rapid population growth in the Valley began. It has never ceased.^{28 29 30}

Sylmar History

Father Iballa, Padre at the San Fernando Mission from 1820 to 1834, was indirectly responsible for Sylmar's olives. He recognized the similarity of the climate and soil to those found in Europe where olives had been cultivated for centuries. He sent to Spain for young seedlings and planted them around the mission. Sylmar's existence is so entwined with that of San Fernando that for many years the two were thought of as one. San Fernando became a city in 1874. By 1890, a group of Illinois businessmen bought 2,000 acres (8 km²) east of the railroad tracks on San Fernando Road, just south of Roxford

²⁸ Robinson, William Wilcox. 1939. *Ranchos Become Cities*. San Pasqual Press, Pasadena, CA.

²⁹ Robinson, William Wilcox. 1961. *The Story of the San Fernando Valley*. Title Insurance and Trust Company, Los Angeles California.

³⁰ Robinson, William Wilcox. 1930. *The Spanish and Mexican Ranchos of San Fernando Valley*. Southwest Museum Papers No. 31, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California.

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Street, and planted olives on over 1,100 acres (4.5 km²). Calling themselves the Los Angeles Olive Growers Association, they built a packing plant and sold olives under the Sylmar Packing label. Sylmar's olives became famous throughout the state for sweetness and purity. Chinese pickers were hired to harvest the crops, and they produced up to 800 US gallons (3,000 L) of olive oil per day. The pickling plant was on the corner of Roxford and San Fernando Road.

Along with its near perfect climate for growing olives, Sylmar also seemed ideal for the treatment of respiratory problems. The present Olive View-UCLA Medical Center has its root in a tuberculosis sanitarium that opened close to the current site in 1920 and was destroyed by a fire in 1962. A new major medical center facility opened in January 1971 and was destroyed in the Sylmar earthquake the following month. The new Olive View Medical Center was completed and opened in 1987.

Sylmar is a community conveniently located in the northernmost section of the San Fernando Valley. It is part of the City of Los Angeles and is served by the Los Angeles City and County governments. Its adopted motto, "It All Comes Together in Sylmar," reflects both the vision of the community and the easy access to and from the area via the four major freeways that serve it.

The topography is generally flat, with sloping hills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Sylmar is the terminus of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and was once the site of the world's largest olive groves—hence its name, which means "Sea of Trees." It is the one area in the Los Angeles basin that is relatively smog free because of the occasionally strong winds along the foothills.

Stetson Ranch Equestrian Park, located just below the mountains and adjacent to Angelus National Forest, is one of only two such parks in Los Angeles City. Hang gliders can be seen soaring in the mountain areas and landing in Sylmar. Several other city and county parks and two golf courses also are located within Sylmar's boundaries.

A veterans' hospital built in 1926 at the top of Sayre Street was destroyed by the 1971 earthquake, and the entire 97 acres were dedicated to Los Angeles County in 1977 as Veterans Memorial Park.³¹

Pioneer Cemetery

Located on a 3.8-acre (15,000 m²) site at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Bledsoe Street, Pioneer Cemetery was originally a 10-acre (400,000 m²) site, when dedicated in 1870. It was known at the time as the San Fernando Cemetery and also as the Morningside Cemetery, and it is the second oldest cemetery in the San Fernando Valley. Over 740 outstanding residents were buried there between 1892 and 1939. The cemetery was officially abandoned in 1960. Edith Reber, a long-time resident of Sylmar and an

³¹ All Experts. 2006. Sylmar, Los Angeles, California. *Sylmar Lifestyles*. Available at: http://experts.about.com/e/s/sv/Sylmar_Los_Angeles_California.htm.

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active member of the Chamber, ran a volunteer effort for many years to maintain the grounds, with the help of local volunteer groups. It is located on what is currently the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Bledsoe Street.³²

3.4.2 Significance Thresholds

According to CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, the project may result in a significant impact, if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or,
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

3.4.3 Environmental Impact Analysis

3.4.3.1 Paleontological Impacts

Dr. Samuel McLeod, Director of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, conducted a paleontological records check for the proposed project area on July 20, 2006. This search included a review of all recorded fossil records for locality and specimen data in the Museum's permanent paleontology collection records (Figure 3.4-3, *Geology Map*).

The results of the paleontological records check indicated that both the northern and southern parcels of the project area contain surficial deposits composed of older Quaternary Alluvium beneath soil, derived either as fan deposits from the mountains to the east and north or as alluvial deposits associated with the Pacoima Wash that forms the eastern border of the southern parcel. These deposits may not contain significant vertebrate fossil remains in the uppermost layers, but at significant depths they may contain significant vertebrate fossils, which are likely to be encountered. The closest fossil vertebrate locality in similar deposits is identified in the records as follows:

- LACM 5745, situated directly west of the proposed project area, just east of the Golden State Freeway (I-5) and between Foothill Freeway (I-210) and San Fernando Road, which contained fossil mastodon (*Mammut*) and horse (*Equus*).

³² San Fernando Valley Historical Society. 2006. *San Fernando Valley Historical Sites with Official Status*. Available at: <http://www.sfvhs.com/ValleyLandmarks.htm>.

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Figure 3.4-3
Geology Map

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In addition, at and near the Van Norman Reservoir, located west-southwest of the proposed project area, three fossil vertebrate localities were discovered from similar deposits at the proposed project site. These are identified in the fossil record as:

- LACM 3397, that produced fossil bison (*Bison*) at a seventy-five foot depth;
- LACM 7152 that produced fossil mammoth (*Mammuthus*), and bison (*Bison*) in terrace deposits; and
- LACM 1733 that produced fossil horse (*Equus*) at an undocumented depth.

Grading or very shallow excavation in the uppermost few feet of the project area parcels is unlikely to uncover significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations in those areas, however, may well encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains.³³ There is a potential for significant impacts to occur.

3.4.3.2 Archaeological Impacts

An archaeological records search was undertaken by URS staff archaeologist, Laurie Solis, M.A., at the California OHP designated archaeological record repository SCCIC housed at California State University, Fullerton. This record search was undertaken on July 18, 2006, and July 24, 2006, for relative archaeological investigations within the proposed project site and within a 1-mile radius and for previously identified archaeological sites within the proposed project site and those identified within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project site.

Previous Studies within the Project Site

One previous archaeological investigation was undertaken within the boundaries of the current LAMC campus. This study is identified in the archives as LA-977. The methodology and results of the investigation are as follows.

LA-977. In 1979, John Foster and Clay Singer of the Northridge Archaeological Research Center, at California State University Northridge, conducted a Phase I archaeological survey of the then undeveloped property that currently contains the LAMC campus. No archaeological resources were observed on the surface of the property. However, the caveat of the report indicated that “since archaeological resources are situated within close proximity to the project property, there does exist the chance of encountering archaeological resources subsurface within the project property,” and that in

³³ Macleod, Samuel. 20 July 2006. Correspondence: *Paleontological resources for the proposed Mission College Master Plan EIR, in the Community of Sylmar, project area*. Available at: URS Corporation, 915 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

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the event of a find, “the Northridge Archaeological Research Center must be contacted at once.”³⁴

The proposed Harding Street property has not been surveyed for the presence of cultural resources.

Previous Studies within 1 Mile of the Project Site

Three previous archaeological studies have been completed within 1 mile of the proposed project site. These studies are identified in the archives as LA-384, LA-1428, and LA-2146. The methodology and results of the three investigations are as follows.

LA-384. In September of 1977, a Phase I archaeological survey was undertaken by Patricia Martz of the Archaeological Research Unit, Dry Lands Research Institute, at the University of California, Riverside. This archaeological investigation was undertaken at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The survey included the lands under the ownership of the Corps just southeast of the proposed project site, in Lopez Canyon, at the location of Lopez Dam. No cultural resources were observed on the surface during the survey.

LA-1428. In December 1984, A Phase I Archaeological Survey was undertaken by Susan Colby and Dr. David Whitley of the University of California, Los Angeles. This archaeological investigation was undertaken at the request of Lou Giboney & Associates. The survey included a 630' x 350' parcel at 13684 Foothill Boulevard. No cultural resources were observed on the surface during the survey.

LA-2146. In May 1990, a Phase I archaeological survey was undertaken by Dr. Molly Alexander of Archaeological Associates, Ltd. The survey included a 6-acre property on Hubbard Street in Sylmar. No cultural resources were observed on the surface during the survey.

Archaeological Resources

Two archaeological sites have been recorded within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project site. These archaeological sites are identified in the archives as LAN-799 and LAN-1042H. The constituents of these sites are identified hereafter. Since LAMC construction would not affect these resources, no impacts would occur.

LAN-799. Originally recorded in 1977 by Bob Edberg, this site is 1 mile east of the project site, in an area known as Limekiln Canyon. The site contains 2 lime kilns, iron barrel hoops, and pediments. The site dates from the Mission period (1700s) and may be

³⁴ Foster, John M. and Clay Singer. November 10, 1979. Assessment of the Impact upon Archaeological Resources by the Proposed Development of the Hubbard-Eldridge Site #3. Unpublished literature, available at: The South Central Coastal Information Center, CSUF, 800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA.

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associated with the San Fernando Mission. No artifacts were recovered, and the site may still be intact.

LAn-1042H. This site, first recorded in 1979 by Vance Bente, contains two rock features: a linear arrangement of rocks that parallels the contour of the terrace, and a rock walled turn out. Conflicting respondent information suggests that 1) features were present in the first two decades of the 1900s, resulting from land clearing by the original settler, Mr. Cox (1900-1905), or 2) features represent a Civilian Conservation Corps project of the 1930s.

The proposed project site may impact as-yet-unknown archaeological resources within the Harding Street property, since there is an unknown potential for them to occur. Since archaeological resources at this site may be affected by the project, impacts could be significant.

3.4.3.3 Historic Resources

Two listed historic properties are in the vicinity of the project site.

- Griffith Ranch Historical Monument, California State Historic Landmark No. 716, is within 1 mile of the proposed project site and is known as Griffith Ranch Historical Monument, California State Historic Landmark 716. Originally part of the San Fernando Mission lands, this ranch was purchased by David Wark Griffith, revered pioneer of silent motion pictures, in 1912. It provided the locale for many western thrillers, including Custer's Last Stand, and was the inspiration for the immortal production Birth of a Nation. In 1948, it was acquired by Fritz B. Burns, who has perpetuated the Griffith name in memory of the great film pioneer. **Location:** 12685 Foothill Boulevard at Vaughn Street, San Fernando, CA.³⁵
- San Fernando (Pioneer Memorial) Cemetery, California State Historic Landmark 753 and L.A. Historic Cultural Monument 586. The cemetery is located 2.20 miles from the proposed project site on a 3.8-acre (15,000 m²) site at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Bledsoe Street. It was originally a 10-acre (400,000 m²) site, when dedicated in 1870. It was known at the time as the San Fernando Cemetery and also as the Morningside Cemetery, and it is the second oldest cemetery in the San Fernando Valley. Over 740 outstanding residents were buried there between 1892 and 1939. **Location:** It is located at 14451 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar, CA.

³⁵ Ceres. State Historical Landmarks. 2006. *Los Angeles, Griffith Ranch Historical Monument*. Available at: http://ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/counties/Los_Angeles/landmarks.html.

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One property in the vicinity of the proposed project site is potentially eligible for listing and located within 2.5 miles of the proposed project site.

- Rancho Sombrero. The former Sylmar ranch of G. Henry Stetson (north-west of the project site), of the Stetson hat family, was reputed to have the largest private swimming pool in the country. Most of the 285 acres were sold in 1958 to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Part of the land today features a city-run riding ring.³⁶

The proposed project is not anticipated to impact registered or listed historic resources.

3.4.3.4 Human Remains

A record search was conducted at the SCCIC to determine the presence of human remains within the proposed project area. The search included a review of all recorded historic sites within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project area, as well as a review of all relevant cultural resource and survey reports. In addition, a review of the USGS 7.5-minute series San Fernando topographic quadrangle was completed, including a visual search for both the small and large cemetery icons. The nearest cemetery to the proposed project site is within 1.25-miles of the proposed project site and is known as Pioneer Cemetery.

San Fernando (Pioneer Memorial) Cemetery, established in 1870, California State Historic Landmark 753, and Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument 586. This flat, 3.8-acre Sylmar site is covered with native grasses and includes a walkway and memorial patio. This is the second oldest cemetery in the San Fernando Valley. It inters the remains of early pioneers, Civil War Veterans, and mission Indians.³⁷

The project is not anticipated to impact human remains.

As part of the research efforts undertaken for this project, the NAHC was contacted on July 12, 2006 (response received on July 28, 2006) to ascertain the presence of known sacred sites and/or the potential presence of Native American cultural resources within the project site. A response from the NAHC indicated there was no known presence of such resources. Native American individuals and organizations potentially familiar with the project site were contacted on August 16, 2006, and a self-addressed stamped envelope was enclosed for reply. To date, we have not had any further responses

³⁶ *The Valley Observed. 2006. Gone but not forgotten: Ranch Sombrero. Available at: <http://www.americasuburb.com/gone.html>.*

³⁷ San Fernando Valley Historical Society. 2006. Sylmar Landmarks. Available at: <http://www.sfvhs.com/ValleyLandmarks.htm>.

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regarding the project site's potential for sacred sites.³⁸ The project site is not anticipated to impact Native American sacred sites. (See Appendix C.)

3.4.3.5 Cumulative Impacts

Excavation and development in an area with sensitive cultural resources could adversely affect the resource unless mitigation measures are employed. However, since mitigation measures probably would be provided for specific projects as they occur within the Mission College Master planning area, to lessen individual project impacts to a less than significant level, cumulative impacts to cultural resources are not anticipated to occur.

3.4.4 Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures have been provided to reduce potential impacts from cultural resources to a less than significant level.

CUL-1. The LAMC will undertake a Phase I archaeological survey of the Harding Street property. It will be conducted prior to site clearing, grading, or excavation on the property by a qualified archaeologist (holding an M.A. in archaeology or anthropology) to ascertain the presence of cultural resources within the project site. As a result of the archaeological investigation of the Harding Street property, the qualified archaeologist may make recommendations to avoid or mitigate impacts to archaeological resources; these will be implemented by the LAMC. These recommendations may include monitoring of the project site and/or data recovery. The LAMC does not anticipate the need for archaeological monitoring on the Main Campus since the site has already been surveyed and been built upon.

In the event archaeological resources are encountered during construction activities, construction activities in the place of discovery will cease until a qualified archaeologist is called to the site to mitigate the finds by documentation, removal, or other means deemed appropriate by the qualified archaeologist. In the event of this accidental discovery, the archaeologist may recommend continued monitoring in sensitive areas of the site.

CUL-2. The LAMC will ensure that impacts to cultural resources related to the unanticipated discovery of human remains are reduced to below the level of significance by ensuring that, in the event human remains are encountered, construction in the area of the finding will cease, and the remains will stay in situ pending definition of an appropriate plan. The Los Angeles County Coroner (Coroner) will be contacted to determine the origin of the remains. In the event the remains are Native American in origin, the NAHC will be contacted to determine necessary procedures for protection and preservation of the remains, including reburial, as provided in the State of California Environmental

³⁸ Wood, Rob. July 2006. *Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Sites Record Check for the Proposed Mission College Master Plan EIR, City and County of Los Angeles*. Available at: URS Corporation, 915 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

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Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15064.5(e), “CEQA and Archaeological Resources,” CEQA Technical Advisory Series.³⁹

CUL-3. The potential impact to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature from the proposed project will be reduced to below the level of significance by the presence of a qualified paleontological monitor during all ground-disturbing activities. Any paleontological discoveries will be removed in accordance with standards for such recovery established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. To reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources, the LAMC will:

- Obtain a qualified vertebrate paleontologist to review the project grading plan to identify sediments with a medium or high potential to contain significant paleontological resources within the project sites.
- Require the paleontologist to identify required mitigation and actions to facilitate the recovery of fossil resources to the LAMC through the preparation of a mitigation monitoring program.
- Require a qualified vertebrate paleontological monitor to monitor excavation in areas likely to contain paleontological resources. The monitor will be equipped to salvage fossils as they are unearthed, to avoid construction delays, and to remove samples of sediments that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil vertebrates.
- Prepare recovered specimens to a point of identification, including washing sediments to recover small fossil vertebrates.
- Identify and curate specimens into a museum repository with retrievable storage.
- Prepare a report of findings with an appended, itemized inventory of the specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the appropriate lead agency, signifies the completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources.

3.4.5 Level of Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

³⁹ California Resources Agency. 16 September 2004. California Environmental Quality Act, Article 5, §15064.5(e): “Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archaeological and Historical Resources.” Available at: http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art5.html.