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CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Cultural Resources chapter of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describes cultural resources known to be located within the Bohemia Retail project (proposed project) area. Prehistoric resources are those sites and artifacts associated with indigenous, non-Euroamerican populations, generally prior to contact with people of European descent. Historical resources include structures, features, artifacts, and sites that date from Euroamerican settlement of the region. The extent to which development of the proposed project could remove, damage, or destroy existing cultural resources is evaluated.

Information presented in this chapter is taken from the *Placer County General Plan (PCGP)*,¹ the *PCGP EIR*,² the *Auburn/Bowman Community Plan (ABCP)*,³ the *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Auburn Bohemia Property (Cultural Resources Assessment)* (See Appendix F) prepared by Peak & Associates, Inc.,⁴ and the *Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Bohemia Lumber Company Site (Cultural Resource Evaluation)* prepared by Foothill Archaeological Services.⁵

All impacts in the Bohemia Retail Initial Study were identified as *potentially significant* and are therefore addressed within this chapter (See Appendix C).

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The following environmental setting discussion for the proposed project consists of a historic overview of the project location, a description of the project area, and overview of the existing cultural resources in the project area.

Historic Overview

The following discusses the primary historical periods as identified in the PCGP EIR, the Cultural Resources Assessment prepared by Peak & Associates, Inc, and the Cultural Resource Evaluation prepared by the Foothill Archaeological Services.

Prehistory

Many of the prehistoric sites recorded within the Auburn Reservoir include milling stations, surface lithic scatters, small, and single-component sites. Spring Garden Ravine site is an important archaeological reconnaissance that recorded three well-defined strata which has been used to define the cultural sequence in the Auburn region. The lowest stratum (C) has been radiocarbon dated at about 1400 B.C., with a collection comparable to Martis Complex and those found in high-elevation sites in the Sierra. Artifacts found in the lowest stratum included large projectile points, atlatl weights, core tools, and a variety of grinding tools. Stratum (B) appears to represent a transition between cultures represented by the upper and lower strata with two radiocarbon dates between A.D. 1039 ± 80 and 976 ± 90. The upper stratum (A) is comparable to

artifacts found in the northern foothills, containing small projectile points, arrowheads, and hopper mortars. Stratum A collection is greatly influenced by ancestral Nisenan, the Indian group inhabiting the area at the time of Euro-American contact.

Ethnography

The proposed project area is located within territory occupied by the Nisenan also known as the Southern Maidu. The Nisenan were Penutian-speaking people that occupied the upper drainages of the Yuba, forks of the American River, and the upper north side of the Consumnes River. Nisenan villages ranged from communities of 15 to 25 people and up to 500 people for villages that resided in the Valley. Villages for the Hill Nisenan were located on ridges and flats along major streams and rivers. The Nisenan relocated to higher elevations during the hot summer months where women and children would gather numerous species of nuts, roots and berries, and men would hunt and fish for food. Most Nisenan never left the territory of their village, however, in larger villages, some individuals engaged in extensive trade with several valley groups.

Historic Context

In 1848, the discovery of gold at Auburn led immediately to exploration and intensive Placer mining and became one of the earliest mining camps in California. Mining dominated the economy and kept the town prosperous. The period immediately following the Gold Rush between the 1860s and 1870s, Auburn had a reputation as a health resort with social and cultural centers including a private normal school and a college. Auburn was considered a major transportation center, providing access to gold mines in the earlier days, toll roads for stagecoaches and freight wagons, and railway transportation on the Central Pacific. The city was a major transportation and supply center for mining areas and was later replaced by orchard crops and animal husbandry. After the depression, mining activities ceased and did not reopen after the war. However, agriculture grew after the introduction of artificial water supplies was developed. F. Birdsall built a plank reservoir that held over one million gallons of water in the mid-1880s and installed a thirteen inch pipe from the dam in Auburn to Pino in 1888 and was later sold to the South Yuba Water Company in 1889. This system was later taken over by PG&E with later additions of the Wise Canal, Rock Creek Dam, and associated canals. In addition to the Auburn Bohemia Property, the Cal-Ida Lumber Company was built during the World War II producing crates for fruits and vegetables shipped through the Central Valley. Cal-Ida was sold to the DeGeorgio Corporation in 1969 and later sold to the Bohemia Lumber company in 1978. The lumber company operated the mill until their closure in 1985.

Project Area Description

The project area includes approximately 18 acres of land, located northeast of State Route 49 (SR 49) and Luther Road. The project site is bordered by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Wise Canal, the Union Pacific Railroad line, residential subdivisions, and commercial/industrial development. The project area is crossed by the Wise Canal and the Fiddler Green Canal, which transports water from Rock Creek Lake. The site is located in Section 33, Township 13 North, Range 8 East and Auburn 7.5' USGS quadrangle.

Existing Historical Resources

Three potential historical resources are located on and/or bordering the project site. A business that previously occupied the project site was the Cal-Ida Lumber Mill, which was later sold to the Bohemia Lumber Company, which operated from the 1940s until 1985. Initially, the mill mainly manufactured produce boxes for valley growers shipping fruit and vegetables to markets. In later years, the mill manufactured moldings, doors, and windows. Upon closing the mill, all equipment was relocated and the building destroyed, leaving only remnants of the mill in existing building pads, dirt/gravel roads, and parking areas. The second potential historical resource is the Fiddler Green Canal, which dates back to the historic mining era and transported waters from Rock Creek Lake to the Wise Forebay. The canal is located within the current project area, bisecting the western and eastern portions of the parcel, and is monitored by the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). The third potential historical resource is Wise Canal, which borders the project site. Wise Canal was constructed in approximately 1913 by PG&E and is a later addition to the local water delivery system. Wise Canal was used primarily for power generation, and was indirectly associated with the agricultural industry and the South Yuba Water Company.

6.2 PALEONTOLOGICAL SETTING

According to the PCGP EIR, the sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock sedimentary materials that are present throughout the County could contain fossil remains of prehistoric animal and plant life. Fossilized animal remains could be present in caves associated with the limestone geology that is found in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In addition, fossils of terrestrial vertebrates have been found in sediments associated with the Mehrten Formation in the Roseville area. Other information sources that characterize the significance or extent of paleontological resources do not currently exist.

6.3 REGULATORY SETTING

Federal, State, and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that may be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are the basic federal and State laws governing preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, State, and local significance.

Federal Regulations

The following are the federal environmental laws and policies relevant to cultural resources.

Section 106 for the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966

Federal regulations for cultural resources are governed primarily by Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966. Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing

regulations, “Protection of Historic Properties,” are found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites, which are determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The criteria for determining NRHP eligibility are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Amendments to the Act (1986 and 1992) and subsequent revisions to the implementing regulations have, among other things, strengthened the provisions for Native American consultation and participation in the Section 106 review process. While federal agencies must follow federal regulations, most projects by private developers and landowners do not require this level of compliance. Federal regulations only come into play in the private sector if a project requires a federal permit or if it uses federal funding.

State Regulations

The following are the State environmental laws and policies relevant to cultural resources.

California Environmental Quality Act

State historic preservation regulations affecting this project include the statutes and guidelines contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 and Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines). The California Environmental Quality Act requires lead agencies to carefully consider the potential effects of a project on historical resources. “Historical resources” include, but are not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant (Public Resources Code Section 5020.1). Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines specifies criteria for evaluating the importance of cultural resources, including:

- The resource is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California history;
- The resource is associated with the lives of important persons from our past;
- The resource 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; or
- The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, important information in prehistory or history.

Advice on procedures to identify such resources, evaluate their importance, and estimate potential effects is given in several agency publications, such as the series produced by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR).⁶ The technical advice series produced by OPR strongly recommends that Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested persons and corporate entities including, but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associations, and societies be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, State law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods regardless of the antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains.

Local Regulations

The following are the local government's environmental policies that are intended to protect cultural resources by mitigating the potential impacts of new development in areas containing important archaeological, historic, or paleontological resources.

Auburn/Bowman Community Plan

The ABCP identifies the following policies to provide further protection to cultural and historical resources.

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| Policy E.3.a | Identify and protect from destruction and abuse all representative and unique historical, cultural, and archaeological sites and their immediate environment. |
| Policy E.3.e | Protection of significant cultural resources is a priority over recordation and/or destruction. |

6.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Standards of Significance

In accordance with CEQA, the effects of a project are evaluated to determine if they would result in a significant adverse impact on the environment. For the purposes of this Draft EIR, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5;
- Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature;
- Potential to cause a physical change, which would affect unique ethnic cultural values;
- Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Method of Analysis

Determinations of impacts to cultural resources were based on information from the PCGP EIR, the Cultural Resources Assessment prepared by Peak & Associates, Inc., and the Cultural Resource Evaluation prepared by Foothill Archaeological Services.

As stated earlier, all impacts in the Bohemia Retail Initial Study were identified as *potentially significant* and are therefore addressed within this chapter.

Archaeological Inventory Survey

All of the project area was subjected to pedestrian survey, accomplished by walking back and forth across the property. An archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted on February 5, 1988 by Foothill Archaeological Services for the Bohemia Lumber Company site, reviewing the boundaries and development of the site, as well as Wise Canal and Fiddler Creek. In addition, three other pedestrian surveys were conducted; one survey was a partial pedestrian survey of the project area, which was conducted on June 29, 2006 by Robert Gerry, and included surveying northeast of the Fiddler Green Canal for additional focus on the canal.

Information Center Records Search

The records of the North Central Information Center of the California Historic Resources Information System were examined for existing recorded prehistoric and historic sites and previous archaeological surveys within or near the project area. According to the results of the records search, the entire project area was surveyed by Foster and McAleer (1988), a portion southwest of Rock Creek Canal/Fiddler Green Canal was surveyed by Jones and Stokes (1995), and most of the area was surveyed again by Peak & Associates, Inc. (2005). In addition, previous Caltrans projects resulted in three surveys along the frontage of SR 49.

Information was gathered from published text for information on significant sites located in the project area. Properties located in or adjacent to the project area are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historic Places.

Native American Heritage Commission Consultation

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted during the processing of the previous application for the project site. The previous proposed project was subject to Senate Bill (SB) 18, leading Peak & Associates to consult with the NAHC. In conjunction with the records search for the previous proposed project, the NAHC was contacted and requested to check their sacred lands file to identify any known conflicts within the project area. It was determined that the previous proposed project would not disturb sacred lands identified by the NAHC. Letters were written to additional Native American representatives and organizations requesting that they supply specific information they may have concerning archaeological sites or features, or areas in which traditional activities might be ongoing or in which sacred land listings are present. Peak & Associates did not receive any responses.

Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures

6-1 Disturbance or destruction of historical resources on the project site.

Three potential historical resources are located on and/or bordering the project site, including the remnants of the Cal-Ida Lumber Mill, the Fiddler Green Canal, and the Wise Canal. A business that previously occupied the project site was the Cal-Ida Lumber Mill, previously known as the Bohemia Lumber Company. The mill manufactured produce boxes for valley growers shipping fruit and vegetables to markets and in later

years, manufactured mouldings, doors, and windows. The Cal-Ida Lumber Mill was once an important part of the Auburn commercial district; however, since the company's final closure, all equipment and facilities have been removed, leaving only remnants of the mill in existing building pads, dirt/gravel roads, and parking areas. During the 1988 field investigation survey by Foothill Archaeological Services, historic sites and/or features were not recorded and all observed objects dated back to the 1940-1960 period of the Cal-Ida Lumber Mill operation. The objects were not deemed historically significant. Although the operation of the Cal-Ida Lumber Mill was important to the early development of the immediate area, the existing remnants lack integrity of historical resources, as defined by Section 15063.5(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. Integrity, as defined for the California Register of Historical Resources, is "[...] the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance." (California Office of Historic Preservation 2005:2) An historical resource must keep enough historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historic and reflect the era in which the resource was historically important.

The second potential resource is Fiddler Green Canal, which dates back to the historic mining era and transported waters from Rock Creek Lake to the Wise Forebay. The canal bisects the western and eastern portion of the project site and is monitored by PCWA. PCWA holds records of the Fiddler Green Canal with aerial photos dating back from the 1960s to present time. Fiddler Green Canal lacks physical historical integrity, as defined by Section 15063.5(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines due to regular maintenance by PCWA and does not reflect the era in which the resource was historically important.

The third potential resource is Wise Canal, which borders the project site, and was constructed in approximately 1913 by PG&E. According to the Cultural Resources Assessment, the canal is part of the South Yuba Water Company system, which is an operation of great historical importance in the development of Placer County mining and agriculture. However, Wise Canal was constructed after the primary mining era and after the South Yuba System had already made a contribution to the economic development of the County. Therefore, it was determined that Wise Canal is not eligible for the National Register of Historical Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

The assessments prepared for the project site did not identify the three resources as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places or the California Register of Historic Places. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the disturbance or destruction of historical resources, and would thus have a *less-than-significant* impact.

Mitigation Measure(s)

None required.

6-2 Disturbance or destruction of previously unknown archaeological and paleontological resources on the project site.

According to the PCGP EIR, sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock sedimentary materials are present throughout the County and could contain fossil remains of prehistoric animal and plant life. Therefore, paleontological resources could exist on the project site.

Peak & Associates, Inc. contacted and requested the NAHC, Native American representatives, and organizations to check their sacred lands file to identify any known conflicts within the project area. Communication with the NAHC, Native American representatives, and organizations revealed that the project would not disturb sacred lands. However, as stated in the Cultural Resources Assessment, due to the previous heavy surface disturbances of the project area by the operations of the Bohemia Lumber Company, possible buried resources could exist on the project site.

It should be noted that the proposed project would include the construction of the infrastructure that would be necessary to provide sewer service to the project site, which would include the following improvements: remodeling an existing manhole in Canal Street; construction of a sewer line that would run northerly and westerly along the rear and the northerly side of the proposed building to a point in the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way (ROW), then run parallel to the UPRR across Wise Canal to a point that aligns with a sewer in a newly constructed project at New Airport Road and State Route (SR) 49; and boring of the new sewer under the UPRR and connection to the final leg of the sewer, which would run to New Airport Road. It should be noted that although the project would include construction of off-site sewer infrastructure, the improvements would be entirely contained within the UPRR ROW or other paved ROW, both of which are already highly disturbed, and impacts to potential archaeological or paleontological resources would not result.

Paleontological and archaeological resources have not been identified in the immediate project vicinity; however, the possibility exists that previously unknown resources could be discovered on the project site during construction activities. Therefore, construction activities associated with buildout of the proposed project could uncover undocumented paleontological and archaeological resources that could affect the unique ethnic cultural values of the site. Should areas containing evidence of prehistoric or historic period activity, such as buried hearths, areas of discolored sediment containing shell, broken fragments of silicate rock, bone, sacred land, or concentrations of historic period (greater than 45 years old) refuse or features be uncovered, a *potentially significant* impact could result.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce the following impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

- 6-2(a) *During ground disturbance activities, if any earth-moving activities uncover any concentrations of stone, bone or shellfish, any artifacts of*

these materials, or any evidence of fire (ash, charcoal, fire altered rock, or earth), work shall be halted in the immediate area of the find and shall not be resumed until after a qualified archaeologist, in coordination with the County Planning Department, has inspected and evaluated the deposit and determined the appropriate means of curation.

- 6-2(b) *During construction, if any bone is uncovered that appears to be human, the County Coroner shall be notified. Should human remains be found, all work shall be halted until final disposition by the Coroner. Should the remains be determined to be of Native American descent, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted to identify most likely descendants.*

Endnotes

¹ Placer County. *Countywide General Plan Policy Document*. August 16, 1994.

² Placer County. *Countywide General Plan EIR*. October 1993.

³ Placer County. *Auburn/Bowman Community Plan*. 1994 (updated 1999).

⁴ Peak & Associates, Inc. *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Auburn Bohemia Property*. July 3, 2006.

⁵ Foothill Archaeological Services. *Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Bohemia Lumber Company Site*. February 11, 1988.

⁶ State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research. *CEQA and Archaeological Resources*. 1994.