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CULTURAL RESOURCES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Resources chapter of the EIR addresses known historic and prehistoric resources in the vicinity of the proposed project areas. Cultural resources can be categorized into prehistoric or historic resources. Prehistoric resources are those sites and artifacts associated with indigenous, non-Euroamerican populations, generally prior to contact with people of European descent. Historic resources include structures, features, artifacts, and sites that date from Euroamerican settlement of the region. The potential for paleontological resources to occur on the sites is also addressed in the chapter. The chapter summarizes the existing setting with respect to cultural and paleontological resources, identifies thresholds of significance, evaluates project impacts to such resources, and sets forth mitigation measures. Information presented in the chapter is primarily drawn from the Cultural Resources Reports prepared for Whitehawk I (WHI)¹ and Whitehawk II (WHII)², and the Supplemental Letter addressing the proposed emergency vehicle access for WHII³ by Natural Investigations Company (Natural Investigations); the Paleontological Records Search prepared by Kenneth L. Finger (see Appendix E);⁴ as well as the Placer County General Plan,⁵ the Placer County General Plan EIR,⁶ and the Granite Bay Community Plan (GBCP).⁷

7.2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Placer County contains a rich cultural resource heritage that includes archeological, historical, and paleontological sites and resources. Given the rich heritage of the area, many archeological, historical, and paleontological sites and resources remain undiscovered. According to the Placer County General Plan EIR, as of November 1991, a total of 1,235 archeological sites were recorded in Placer County. Of the 634 records reviewed, 456 represented prehistoric archeological sites; 143 represented historical archeological sites; and 35 represented archeological sites with prehistoric and historical components.

According to the Placer County General Plan 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

¹ Natural Investigations Company. *Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment for the Meritage Homes GB-17 Project (APN 048-15-01)*, Placer County, California. September 29, 2014.

² Natural Investigations Company. *Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment for the Meritage Homes GB-32 Project (APN 048-151-51)*, Placer County, California. September 29, 2014.

³ Natural Investigations Company. *Supplemental Letter Report*. May 14, 2018.

⁴ Kenneth L. Finger. *Paleontological Records Search of the Whitehawk I and II Sites, Western Placer County*. July 26, 2016.

⁵ Placer County. *Countywide General Plan Policy Document*. August 1994 (updated May 2013).

⁶ Placer County. *Countywide General Plan EIR*. July 1994.

⁷ Placer County. *Granite Bay Community Plan*. Adopted February 28, 2012.

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 near the project sites. The following environmental setting discussion for the project sites consists of an overview of the prehistory, ethnography, and history of the project area. In addition, the discussion includes a summary of the known cultural resources identified on the WHI and WHII sites, the paleontological context of the sites, and tribal cultural resources in the project area.

Prehistoric Overview

The following section presents the regional prehistory of the project area, including the Middle Archaic Period/Windmill Pattern; Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern; and the Late Prehistoric Period/Augustine Pattern.

Little evidence exists of the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods in the Central Valley. Therefore, this section will focus on the Middle Archaic and subsequent periods. The cultural framework within the greater project region subsequent to the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods is divided into three regionally based “patterns.” Specific to the Central Valley prehistory and the current project region, the regionally based patterns defined by Fredrickson (1973, 1974) are the Windmill, Berkeley, and Augustine. The patterns mark changes in distinct artifact types, subsistence orientation, and settlement patterns.

Middle Archaic Period/Windmill Pattern (5550-550 cal B.C)

The archaeological record in the valley and foothills indicates the subsistence system during the Middle Archaic Period included a wide range of natural resources (e.g., plants, small and large mammals, fish, and waterfowl) that indicate people followed a seasonal foraging strategy. Some researchers suggest populations may have occupied lower elevations during the winter and shifted to higher elevations in the summer. Others also suggest an increased residential stability along Central Valley river corridors during the Middle Archaic.

Excavations at Windmill Pattern sites have yielded abundant remains of terrestrial fauna (deer, tule elk, pronghorn, and rabbits) and fish (sturgeon, salmon, and smaller fishes). Projectile points with a triangular blade and contracting stems are common at Windmill Pattern sites. A variety of fishing implements such as angling hooks, composite bone hooks, spears, and baked clay artifacts, which may have been used as net or line sinkers, are also relatively common. The presence of milling implements (grinding slabs, handstones, and mortar fragments) indicate acorns or seeds were an important part of the Middle Archaic diet. In the foothills, pine nut and acorn remains have been recovered from sites in Fresno and Calaveras counties.

The variety of artifacts recovered from Windmill Pattern sites includes shell beads, ground and polished charmstones, and bone tools, as well as impressions of twined basketry. Baked clay items include pipes, discoids, and cooking “stones” as well as the net sinkers. Burials in cemetery areas, which were separate from habitation areas, were accompanied by a variety of grave goods. The presence of an established trade network is indicated by the recovery of *Olivella* shell beads,

obsidian tools, and quartz crystals. Obsidian sources during the Middle Archaic included quarries in the North Coast Ranges, eastern Sierra, and Cascades.

Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern (500 cal B.C – 1100 cal A.D)

Better understood than any of the preceding periods, the Upper Archaic is characterized by a shift over a 1,000-year period to the more specialized, adaptive Berkeley Pattern. Excavated archaeological sites signal an increase in mortars and pestles, as well as archaeobotanical remains, accompanied by a decrease in slab milling stones and handstones. Archaeologists generally agree mortars and pestles are better suited to crushing and grinding acorns, while milling slabs and handstones may have been used primarily for grinding wild grass grains and seeds. The proportional change indicates a shift during the Berkeley Pattern to a greater reliance on acorns as a dietary staple. Innovations such as new types of shell beads, charmstones, bone tools, and ceremonial blades are additional evidence of the more specialized technology present during the Upper Archaic Period.

The artifact assemblage in Berkeley Pattern sites demonstrates that populations continued to exploit a variety of natural resources. In addition to seeds and acorns, hunting persisted as an important aspect of food procurement. Large, mounded villages that developed around 2,700 years ago in the Delta region included accumulations of habitation debris and features, such as hearths, house floors, rock-lined ovens, and burials. The remains of a variety of aquatic resources in the large shell midden/mounds that developed near salt or fresh water indicate exploitation of shellfish was relatively intensive.

Berkeley Pattern artifact assemblages are also characterized by Olivella shell beads, Haliotis ornaments, and a variety of bone tool types. Mortuary practices continue to be dominated by interment, although a few cremations have been discovered at sites dating to the Upper Archaic Period. Trade networks brought obsidian toolstone to the Central Valley from the North Coast Ranges and the east side of the Sierra Nevada Range.

Late Prehistoric Period/Augustine Pattern (cal A.D. 1100–Historic Contact)

The comprehensive archaeological record for the Emergent or Late Prehistoric Period in the Central Valley shows an increase in the number of archaeological sites associated with the Augustine Pattern in the lower Sacramento Valley/Delta region, as well as an increase in the number and diversity of artifacts. The Emergent Period was shaped by a number of cultural innovations, such as the bow and arrow and more elaborate and diverse fishing technology, as well as an elaborate social and ceremonial organization. Dart and atlatl technology was effectively replaced by the introduction of the bow and arrow. Additionally, the cultural patterns typical of the Augustine Pattern as viewed from the archaeological record are reflected in the cultural traditions known from historic period Native American groups.

The faunal and botanical remains recovered at Emergent Period archaeological sites indicate the occupants relied on a diverse assortment of mammals, fish, and plant parts, including acorns and pine nuts. Hopper mortars, shaped mortars and pestles, and bone awls used to produce coiled baskets are among the variety of artifacts recovered from Augustine Pattern sites. The toolkit

during the Emergent Period also included bone fish hooks, harpoons, and gorge hooks for fishing, as well as the bow and arrow for hunting. Small, Gunther barbed series projectile points have been found at sites dating to the early part of the period, while Desert-side notched points appear later in the period. The Stockton serrated arrow point also appears in archaeological assemblages dating to the Emergent Period and in some parts of the lower Sacramento Valley, Cosumnes Brownware is present. The appearance of ceramics during the Emergent Period is likely a direct improvement on the prior baked clay industry.

During the Emergent Period, numerous villages, ranging in size from small to large, were established along the valley floor sloughs and river channels and along the foothills sidestreams. House floors or other structural remains have been preserved at some sites dating to the Emergent Period. The increase in sedentism and population growth led to the development of social stratification, with an elaborate social and ceremonial organization. Examples of items associated with rituals and ceremonials include flanged tubular pipes and baked clay effigies representing animals and humans. Mortuary practices changed to include flexed burials, cremation of high-status individuals, and pre-interment burning of offerings in a burial pit. Currency, in the form of clamshell disk beads, also developed during the Emergent Period together with extensive exchange networks

Ethnographic Overview

The projects are located in lands historically occupied by the Nisenan (also known as the Southern Maidu). Prior to Euro-American contact, Nisenan territory included the southern extent of the Sacramento Valley, east of the Sacramento River between the North Fork Yuba River and Cosumnes River on the north and south, respectively, and extended east into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Range. Neighboring groups included the Plains Miwok on the south, Southern Patwin to the west across the Sacramento River beyond the Yolo Basin, and Konkow and Maidu to the north. Three Maidu languages, Konkow, Maidu, and Nisenan are regarded as a subgroup of Penutian stock. Ethnographers have also distinguished three Nisenan dialects (Northern Hill, Southern Hill, and Valley).

Ethnographic Nisenan established central villages and smaller satellite villages along the main watercourses in the Nisenan territories. Valley Nisenan villages were generally on low, natural rises along streams and rivers or on gentle, south-facing slopes and Hill Nisenan villages on ridges and large flats along major streams. The semipermanent or winter villages, as well as seasonally occupied campsites were used at various times during the seasonal round of subsistence activities associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering plant resources. The location of the village known as “Ba ka cha,” which was apparently occupied at the time of contact, correlates with the recorded location of a prehistoric site in the southeastern section of the City of Rocklin.

Village population varied and is reported as ranging from 15 to over 500 individuals with the number of residences ranging from 40 to 50 in larger villages, and only three to seven in smaller villages. Traditional village structures included semisubterranean or aboveground conical, circular, or dome-shaped houses, as well as acorn granaries, winter grinding houses, ceremonial or dance houses, and sweathouses. Nisenan mortuary practices included cremation and burial in a separate cemetery area.

Like the majority of Native Californians, the Nisenan relied on acorns as a staple food, which were collected in the fall and then stored in granaries. The Nisenan also relied on a wide range of abundant natural resources that were available. Large and small mammals, such as pronghorn antelope, deer, tule elk, black bears, cottontails, and jackrabbits, among other species, were hunted by individuals or by communal groups. Game birds, waterfowl, and fish, particularly salmon, were also important components of the Nisenan diet. In addition to acorns, plant resources included pine nuts, buckeye nuts, hazelnuts, fruits, berries, seeds, and underground tubers.

Similar to other California Native American groups, the Nisenan employed a variety of tools, implements, and enclosures for hunting and collecting natural resources. The bow and arrow, snares, traps, nets, and enclosures or blinds were used for hunting land mammals and birds. For fishing, they made canoes from tule, balsa, or logs, and used harpoons, hooks, nets, and basketry traps. To collect plant resources, the two groups used sharpened digging sticks, long poles for dislodging acorns and pinecones, and a variety of woven tools (seed beaters, burden baskets, and carrying nets).

Foods were processed with a variety of tools, such as bedrock mortars, cobblestone pestles, anvils, and portable stone or wooden mortars that were used to grind or mill acorns and seeds. Additional tools and implements included knives, leaching baskets and bowls, woven parching trays, and woven strainers and winnowers. Prior to processing, the acorns were stored in the village granaries.

The Nisenan and neighboring groups participated in an extensive east-west trade network between the coast and the Great Basin. From coastal groups marine shell (*Olivella* and abalone) and steatite moved eastward, while salt and obsidian traveled westward from the Sierras and Great Basin. Basketry, an important trade item, moved in both directions.

The traditional culture and lifeways of the Nisenan who inhabited the fertile plains between Sacramento and the Sierra foothills, were disrupted beginning in the early 1800s. Although Spanish explorers entered Nisenan territory as early as 1808, records do not exist of the forced movement of Nisenan to the missions. During the Mexican period, native peoples were affected by land grant settlements and decimated by foreign disease epidemics that swept through the densely populated Central Valley. An epidemic that swept the Sacramento Valley in 1833 caused the death of an estimated 75 percent of the Valley Nisenan population, wiping out entire villages.

In the heart of Nisenan territory, the discovery of gold in 1848 at Sutter's Mill on the American River near Coloma had a devastating impact on the remaining Nisenan, as well as other groups of Native Americans in the Central Valley and along the Sierra Nevada foothills. By 1850, the Nisenan lands, resources, and way of life was overrun by the steady influx of nonnative people during the Gold Rush. The surviving Nisenan retreated to the foothills and mountains or labored for the growing ranching, farming, and mining industries. Nisenan descendants reside on the Auburn, Berry Creek, Chico, Enterprise, Greenville, Mooretown, Shingle Springs, and Susanville rancherias, as well as on the Round Valley Reservation.

Historic Overview

Spanish, Mexican, and American Periods

Post-contact history for the State of California generally is divided into three specific periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). Although brief visits by Spanish, Russian, and British explorers occurred from 1529 to 1769, the beginning of Spanish settlement in California occurred in 1769 at San Diego. Between 1769 and 1823, 21 missions were established by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order along the coast between San Diego and San Francisco. The Spanish expeditions into the Central Valley in 1806 and 1808 led by Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga explored along the main rivers, including the American, Calaveras, Cosumnes, Feather, Merced, Mokelumne, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus. He is said to have named the lower Sacramento River and the valley region “Sacramento” (“the Holy Sacrament”). In 1813, Moraga led another expedition in the lower portion of the Central Valley and gave the San Joaquin River its name. The abundance of wildlife, such as waterfowl, fish, and fur-bearing animals, within or along the banks of the rivers attracted immigrants to the region. The last Spanish expedition into California’s interior was led by Luis Arguello in 1817 and traveled up the Sacramento River, past the future site of the City of Sacramento to the mouth of the Feather River, before returning to the coast. After the end of the Mexican Revolution (1810–1821) against the Spanish crown, the Mexican Period is marked by an extensive era of land grants, most of which were in the interior of the state, as well as by exploration by American fur trappers west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Most of the land grants to Mexican citizens in California (Californios) were in the interior since the Mexican Republic sought to increase the population away from the more settled coastal areas where the Spanish settlements had been concentrated. The largest land grants in the Sacramento Valley were awarded to John Sutter. In 1839, he founded a trading and agricultural empire called New Helvetia that was headquartered at Sutter’s Fort near the divergence of the Sacramento and American rivers in today’s City of Sacramento. Only a small portion of the 48,839-acre New Helvetia land grant was located in Sacramento County; the majority was located in today’s Sutter and Yuba counties on the east and west sides of the Feather River.

The first American trapper to enter California, Jedediah Smith, explored along the Sierra Nevada in 1826 and in 1827, he entered the Sacramento Valley, traveling along the American and Cosumnes rivers. In 1827, Smith also traveled through the San Joaquin Valley. Other trappers soon followed, including employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1832. Between 1830 and 1833, and again in 1837, diseases introduced by the non-indigenous explorers, trappers, and settlers, as well as relocation to the missions, military raids, and settlement by non-native groups, decimated native Californian populations, communities, and tribes in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

The American Period was initiated in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), and California became a territory of the United States. Gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill on the American River in Coloma the same year, and by 1849, nearly 90,000 people had journeyed to the gold fields. In 1850, largely as a result of the Gold Rush, California became the thirty-first state. Four years later, the bustling boomtown of Sacramento became the state capital. In contrast to the economic boom and

population growth that enabled statehood, the loss of land and territory (including traditional hunting and gathering locales), malnutrition, starvation, and violence further contributed to the decline of indigenous Californians in the Central Valley and all along the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Local History

Placer County was organized in 1851 from parts of neighboring Sutter and Yuba counties, and named after its principal economy at that time, placer mining. Auburn was named as the county seat. The town (first known as Woods Dry Diggings, then North Fork Dry Diggings) had been settled after gold was discovered by Claude Chana in Auburn Ravine in 1848 and was the county seat of Sutter County in 1850 before the counties were reorganized. The City of Auburn remains the Placer County seat today.

During the Gold Rush era a number of mining camps lined the banks of the North Fork of the American River east/southeast of the project sites in the Folsom Mining District. The larger camps included Horseshoe Bar, Rattlesnake Bar, and Smith's Bar, which are now covered by Folsom Lake. A small camp known as Granite Bar was located near Horseshoe Bar. In the 1850s and 1860s, extensive placer mining operations were conducted in the Rocklin District along Secret Ravine, followed by granite quarrying in the 1870s and 1880s. The placer mining operations along Secret Ravine focused on the gravel channels of the Tertiary American River that trended southwestward between Penryn and Rocklin. The Lee Drift Mine was one of the principal sources of gold in the Rocklin District during the 1800s, and later when operations at the mine resumed in the 1940s.

The tracks of the Central Pacific Railroad (later Southern Pacific Railroad [SPRR]) reached Roseville and Rocklin in 1864. The railroad built a major locomotive terminal at Rocklin, which became the principal granite-producing point in the Sacramento Valley. The first quarry opened in 1863 and by 1904 at least 15 quarries were in operation, each of which had a spur connecting with the SPRR. The presence of the railroad also contributed to the growth of Placer County's agricultural industry, mainly fruits and nuts, since the rail line provided access to a large market east of the Sierra Nevada. Newcastle and Loomis are examples of towns that began as mining camps that are now major centers of the County's fruit and nut industry. Lincoln and Sheridan continue to support ranching and farming in the county. When the SPRR moved the roundhouse from Rocklin to Roseville in 1908, that town expanded to one of the largest railroad centers in the country.

The year 1898 marks the earliest known use of dredge mining operations in the project region. The Folsom District along the American River in Sacramento County was one of the largest dredging fields in California. Natomas Consolidated of California and the successor, the Natomas Company, operated dragline and bucket-line gold dredges along land holdings along the American and Cosumnes Rivers from 1909 through the 1960s. As part of the Natoma Ground Sluice Diggings Site, the 280-acre area of discontinuous dredge tailing piles that run roughly north-south along the eastern bank of the American River (now Lake Natoma), recorded as Locus C/C-1 of CA-SAC-308H, has been determined by the Bureau of Reclamation as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A, C and D and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the determination in 1999. Conversely, the windrows of dredge

tailings comprising the 5,100-acre Natomas-Aerojet Dredge Fields (CA-SAC- 1013H) and representing the period ca. 1900 to the early 1960s has been determined by the USACE as not eligible for listing in the NRHP or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and the SHPO concurred.

Between 1933 and 1935 during the Depression Era, the price of gold increased from \$20.67 to \$35 per fine ounce. By 1940, many active bucket-line dredges existed and dragline dredges became important producers of placer gold. During the 1930s, drag-line dredging in Placer County in the 1,200-acre Lincoln District, which is considered a major dredging field, recovered a considerable amount of gold. The project sites include the remains of mining activities in the form of dredge tailings along Strap Ravine that, according to historic maps, were produced circa the 1930s. After World War II, gold production in California declined because of rising costs as well as the depletion of places suitable for dredging. The last dredge in the Folsom field shut down in 1962, after more than 60 years of operation.

Topographic maps indicate the segment of Douglas Boulevard to the north of the project sites, east of present day Sierra College Boulevard and west of Folsom Road, was constructed between 1954 and 1967. Maps dated earlier than the 1967 Folsom USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle do not show the segment, indicating vehicles traveled to the south along the east-west alignment of Eureka Road.

Development of a 1960s subdivision named Granite Bay Vista may have contributed to the popularization of the name of the present-day community of Granite Bay. During construction of Folsom Dam, which was completed in 1955, rock quarried from Granite Bar was used as rip-rap in the wing dams. The unincorporated community was officially recognized as “Granite Bay” in 1987.

WHI Identified Resources

Archival research was carried out as part of the Cultural Resources Report prepared for the WHI project by Natural Investigation, including review of available historic documents and a records search. Based on the records search, previously documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, architectural resources, cultural landscapes, or ethnic resources do not exist within the project site. In addition, cultural resources were not identified in the project area or recorded as a result of the field surveys. The records search did indicate that five cultural resources within 0.25-mile of the project site (four historic-era resources and one prehistoric lithic scatter) have been previously recorded. The historic-era resources include two water conveyance ditches, a mining feature, and dredge tailings. The previously recorded resources are not located within the boundaries of the WHI site and have not been listed on, or determined eligible for listing on, the NRHP or the CRHR.

In addition, a field survey of the WHI project area was conducted on August 1, 2014 by Natural Investigations to examine for cultural material, soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings, or historic-era debris. Ground disturbances were also visually inspected. At the time of the field survey, vegetation cover was dense. Shrubs and trees covered the majority (80 percent) of the WHI site, while the remainder was open grassland. Due to the vegetation density, ground visibility was poor (0-20 percent), with the exception of along dirt paths and two-tracks where

ground visibility was excellent (80-100 percent). Strap Ravine, which traverses the WHI site from east to west, was dry at the time of the survey.

During the field survey, one prehistoric resource, a bedrock milling station, was newly identified near the southern extent of the WHI site. In addition, one previously recorded historic-era resource was found to extend into the WHI site and the record for P-31-003337, a concentrated area of dredge tailings, was updated to reflect the new discovery.

Newly Identified Bedrock Milling Station (Bedrock Mortar)

The newly identified resource is a metavolcanic bedrock outcrop that has six conical-shaped mortar cups and is associated with two small manos. Five of the cupules exhibit heavy use wear and range in depth from 12 to 26 centimeters (cm). Mano 1 is located between cupules 3 and 4. Mano 1 measures 10 cm long, 9 cm wide and 3 cm thick and has heavy battering at one end. Mano 2 is located at the edge of the bedrock mortar near cupule 6. Mano 2 is 11 cm long by 8 cm wide, with a thickness of 3.5 cm and heavy battering at one end.

Lichen covers a majority (75 percent) of the outcrop, which is in poor condition and shows advanced signs of weathering. Additionally, two areas of recent damage exist on the southern side and eastern end of the outcrop. The damage appears consistent with being struck by heavy mechanical equipment (e.g., backhoe bucket with metal teeth). Two shovel test probes (STPs) were placed near the edges of the bedrock mortar to test for the presence or absence of subsurface cultural material or deposits. Cultural resources were not found in either STP. The soils in the STPs are consistent with the Caperton-Andregg series gravelly coarse sandy loams. Per Natural Investigations, the small site remains in poor condition, showing signs of weathering. The site has been recently disturbed by heavy mechanical equipment.

Update to P-31-003337 Historic-Era Dredge Tailings

P-31-003337 was originally recorded in 2007 by Peak and Associates as a concentrated area of dredge tailings south of Strap Ravine within the WHII site. However, as part of the survey of the WHI site conducted by Natural Investigations, dredge tailings associated with P-31-003337 were found to extend into the WHI site, and the record for P-31-003337 was updated accordingly. Additional detail regarding the resource is discussed under WHII Identified Resources below.

WHII Identified Resources

Archival research was carried out as part of the Cultural Resources Report prepared for the WHII project by Natural Investigations, including review of available historic documents and a records search. Based on the records search, four historic-era resources have been previously recorded within the WHII site. The previously recorded resources included two water conveyance ditches, a mining feature, and dredge tailings.

In addition, a field survey of the WHII project area was conducted on August 4, 2014 by Natural Investigations to examine for cultural material, soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures

or buildings, or historic-era debris. Ground disturbances were also visually inspected. Strap Ravine, which traverses the WHII site from east to west, was dry at the time of the survey. Ground visibility was excellent (80-100 percent) along the existing dirt paths, two-tracks, and the areas that had been cleared of vegetation. Outside such areas, ground visibility was generally poor (zero to 20 percent) due to the density of the vegetation cover.

During the field survey of the WHII site, one prehistoric resource, a bedrock mortar with two conical cups, was newly identified near the northeastern corner of the WHII site. Four previously recorded historic-era resources were relocated within the WHII site: P-31-000791 (CA-PLA-665H, water conveyance ditch), P-31-003335 (water conveyance ditch), P-31-003336 (mining feature), and P-31-003337 (dredge tailings).

On-Site Resources

Newly Identified Bedrock Milling Station

The newly identified resource is a metavolcanic bedrock outcrop that has two conical-shaped mortar cups. Both of the cupules exhibit heavy use wear and range in depth from 10 to 15 cm. The granitic outcrop measures 4 meters long by 1.5 meters wide. The resource is level with the ground surface on the south side, but extends 1.5 meters above the Strap Ravine creekbed on the north side. Lichen covers a small portion (15 percent) of the outcrop, which is in fair condition and shows mild signs of weathering. Per Natural Investigations, subsurface testing was negative for cultural material. Artifacts or additional features were not found in association with the milling station.

Update to P-31-000791 (CA-PLA-665H) Historic-Era Water Conveyance Ditch

P-31-000791 (CA-PLA-665H) is an earthen water conveyance ditch, originally recorded in 1987 by J.G. Maniery and K. Syda. A 500-foot long segment of the 6-foot wide, relatively shallow (1-foot 10-inch deep) ditch was recorded on the south side of Douglas Boulevard. The segment appears to be only a short segment of a larger system that has been destroyed due to road construction and development in the area. The site record indicates the ditch is located off-site, 1,000 feet north of Strap Ravine. The historic-era resource was relocated within the WHII site, but remains in poor condition. At the time of the survey conducted by Natural Investigations, the earthen ditch was overgrown with grasses and brambles and did not contain water. Artifacts or other cultural features were not found in association with the ditch.

Although the age of the feature is unknown, the earthen ditch is likely related to the mineral extraction activities that occurred along Strap Ravine. As discussed above under WHI Identified Resources, the dredge tailings along Strap Ravine have been recorded as P-31-003337. Based on historic topographic maps and the history of gold mining in the greater project region, the mining along Strap Ravine that created the existing dredge tailings was initially conducted circa the 1930s during the Depression Era and continued at least into the early 1940s through the first years of World War II. Archival sources indicate the comparatively small-scale mining effort was not associated with a known mining district, was not a principal source of gold in the region, and was not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history.

Update to P-31-003335 Historic-Era Water Conveyance Ditch

P-31-003335 is an earthen water conveyance ditch, originally recorded in 2007 by M. Lawson of Peak & Associates. The 550-foot long ditch is approximately two feet wide and two feet deep. Located on the south side of Douglas Boulevard, the ditch and adjacent earthen berm appear to have been designed to transfer water from one small drainage to another. The two drainages, which are located on the eastern and western extents of the ditch, would carry water southward into Strap Ravine. Strap Ravine is approximately 350 feet south of the eastern end of the ditch and less than 90 feet south of the ditch's most southern extent.

Although the age of the feature is unknown, the ditch is likely related to the mineral extraction activities that occurred along Strap Ravine, including dredge tailings recorded as P-31-003337. Similar to P-31-000791, P-31-003335 and other dredge tailings along Strap Ravine were not associated with a known mining district, were not a principal source of gold in the region, and were not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history. Currently, the earthen ditch is overgrown with grasses and brambles and is in poor condition. Except for the remains of mineral extraction in the form of dredge tailings, other disturbances or impacts were not noted in the vicinity of P-31-003335.

Update to P-31-003336 Historic-Era Mining Feature

P-31-003336 is a historic-era mining feature, originally recorded in 2007 by M. Lawson. The feature is an open pit or possible collapsed shaft measuring 10-feet wide, 17-feet long and 15-feet deep. A metal water pipe protrudes from the pit/shaft, and modern fragments of steel and milled timber were found adjacent to the feature. The feature is located 150 feet south of Strap Ravine and north of a concentrated area of dredge mining tailings. The pit/shaft was described as being in fair condition in 2007. The age of the feature is unknown.

Segments of the dredge tailings along Strap Ravine that appear to be associated with the mining pit/shaft have been recorded as P-31-003337. As noted previously, mining along Strap Ravine that created such resources were not associated with a known mining district, were not a principal source of gold in the region, and were not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history. At the time of the survey conducted by Natural Investigations, the pit/shaft was in poor condition, with erosion and tree roots impacting the integrity of the feature. Except for the remains of mineral extraction in the form of dredge tailings, other disturbances or impacts were not noted in the vicinity of the resource. The resource remains essentially as originally recorded with the metal pipe protruding from the pit/shaft and pieces of modern steel and milled lumber nearby.

Update to P-31-003337 Historic-Era Dredge Tailings

P-31-003337 was originally recorded in 2007 by Peak and Associates as a concentrated area of dredge tailings. Artifacts were not observed in association with the recorded 450-foot long and 1,550-foot wide segment of tailings. The record also notes that additional, smaller tailings piles and pits are scattered randomly near the recorded area of concentrated tailings. The recorded segment, which is located within the current WHII site, was described as being in fair condition.

The concentrated areas of dredge tailings in the WHII site vary in width and height and are covered by soil and a variety of shrub vegetation and trees. Although the tailings have been leveled in many areas and are not continuous, the overall condition of the resource in the WHII site is fair. The site record indicates the tailings appear on the 1953 topographic quadrangle and may have been created by a small dredge, likely during the 1930s.

WHII Off-Site EVA and Temporary Construction Area

On May 11, 2018, Natural Investigations conducted a field survey of the 0.44-acre proposed off-site emergency vehicle access (EVA) easement and temporary construction area east of the WHII site. The 0.44-acre area includes 0.33-acre proposed for development with an EVA and 0.11-acre which would be disturbed by temporary construction access for drainage improvements. Vegetation within the 0.33-acre area consisted of annual grasses, oak trees, cottonwoods, brambles, star thistle, and noxious weeds. Due to the dense ground cover (annual grasses, noxious weeds, and leaf duff), ground visibility within the 0.33-acre area was poor (zero to three percent). Within the 0.11-acre area, thick leaf duff (one to five inches) from numerous oak trees resulted in extremely poor ground visibility (zero percent).

Two previously unrecorded historic-era earthen ditch segments were identified in the 0.44-acre area.

Newly Identified Water Conveyance Ditch Segment: NIC Ditch-1

The newly identified resource is a small, shallow, historic-era, earthen water conveyance ditch. The ditch is located at the western end of the off-site EVA easement area, and crosses the EVA corridor in a north-south bearing approximately 85 feet from the western terminus of the easement. The ditch measures three feet wide at the bottom and five feet wide at the top of the bank, and is 69-feet long. The depth of the ditch varies from five inches to two feet. The northern end of the ditch terminates in a small shallow round impression. The southern end stops abruptly near a large oak tree. At the time of the survey, a continuation to the south could not be found. The ditch was dry and was choked with vegetation, duff, and deadfall with heavily eroded banks. Artifacts or other cultural features were not found in association with the ditch.

Newly Identified Water Conveyance Ditch Segment: NIC Ditch-2

The newly identified resource is a 116-foot long segment of a historic-era, earthen water conveyance ditch. The ditch is located within the off-site area for the temporary construction access, traveling north-northwest from the southeastern edge and exiting near the northwestern corner. The recorded segment measures two to five feet wide at the bottom, six to seven feet wide at the top of the bank, and five inches to three feet deep. The bottom is layered with small to medium cobbles, and there are a few downed trees and/or limbs in the recorded segment. It appears that water still flows through the recorded segment with regularity, as the banks are heavily eroded and the bottom was free of vegetation and duff. The recorded segment continues in both directions outside the off-site improvement area. Artifacts or other cultural features were not found in association with the ditch.

Paleontological Context

The University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) database indicates 64 fossil localities have been recorded within Placer County (UCMP 2018). Of these, only three localities have produced vertebrate fossils. A locality near Rocklin yielded a Pleistocene-age mastodon from the Mehrten Formation, while a locality near Lincoln produced three Tertiary-age vertebrates, a bony fish, a mammal, and a reptile. A cartilaginous fish from the Cretaceous was recovered from the third locality in the Sierras. The remaining localities recorded in the UCMP database have produced plant and invertebrate specimens.

According to the Paleontological Records Search on July 26, 2016 by Dr. Kenneth L. Finger, the surface of the project sites consists of the Rocklin Pluton (Kr), dredge tailings (t), and what is questionably identified as the Ione Formation (Ei?). The superposition of these units places the tailings on top of one or both of the other units, and the Ione Formation on top of the pluton.

The Rocklin Pluton consists solely of dioritic rocks, which are of intrusive igneous origin and therefore devoid of fossils. Although the tailings were most likely derived from the adjacent Ione Formation, their status as disturbed deposits excludes them from paleontological evaluation. The identification of the third unit, the Ione Formation, which was not questioned on the previous geologic map of Wagner et al. (1981), is a sedimentary unit and its paleontological potential is addressed in Impact 7-3 below. A major part of the Ione Formation consists of freshwater (mostly fluvial) deposits, but some of the unit is estuarine and marine. The unit is best known for its lignite coal, which accumulated in coastal swamps. Petrified wood specimens were unearthed in the Ione Formation during a recent roadway widening project near the corner of Eureka Road and Sierra College Boulevard, approximately one third of a mile southwest of the project sites.

Off-site Improvement Area

A search of the paleontological records was conducted for the 0.44-acre off-site improvement area by Natural Investigations on May 11, 2018. According to the records maintained by UCMP, geologic rock formations known for containing fossils in Placer County do not exist on the off-site improvement area. In addition, geologic mapping indicates that the off-site area is underlain by historic-era dredge tailings and the Rocklin Pluton. According to Natural Investigations, the process that formed the Rocklin Pluton is too destructive to preserve identifiable fossil remains, and, thus, does not have the potential for containing significant paleontological resources. In addition, the dredge tailings do not have the potential to contain paleontological resources. Thus, the off-site improvement area has low paleontological sensitivity.⁸

Tribal Resources

Based on a search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands file, as described in further detail in the Method of Analysis section below, recorded tribal resources do not exist for the project area or adjacent lands.

⁸ Natural Investigations Company. *Supplemental Letter Report*. May 14, 2018.

Per the NAHC's suggestion, Natural Investigations contacted each of the 11 Native American tribes or individuals indicated by the NAHC to potentially have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area: The letter included a request for assistance developing the best plan of action for preserving the bedrock mortars found on the WHI and WHII sites. Two of the tribes recommended monitoring during ground disturbing activities. The United Auburn Indian Community requested a site visit to look at the bedrock mortar sites, which was subsequently conducted.

AB 52 and SB 18 tribal consultation was also conducted by the County for the projects, as described in the Method of Analysis section below, and no additional tribal cultural resources were identified for the project sites.

7.3 REGULATORY CONTEXT

Many agencies have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources. The following discussion contains a summary review of regulatory controls pertaining to cultural resources, including federal, State, and local laws and ordinances.

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 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 uses federal funding.

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP is the nation's master inventory of known historic resources. The NRHP includes listings of resources, including: buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, State, or local level. Resources over 50 years of age could be listed on the NRHP. However, properties under 50 years of age that are of exceptional significance or are contributors to a district could also be

included on the NRHP. Four criteria are used to determine if a potential resource may be considered significant and eligible for listing on the NRHP. The criteria include resources that:

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

A resource can be individually eligible for listing on the NRHP under any of the above four criteria, or can be listed as contributing to a group of resources that are listed on the NRHP.

A resource can be considered significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Once a resource has been identified as significant and potentially eligible for the NRHP, the resource's historic integrity must be evaluated. Integrity is a function of seven factors: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The factors closely relate to the resource's significance and must be intact for NRHP eligibility.

Historical buildings, structures, and objects are usually eligible under Criteria A, B, and C based on historical research and architectural or engineering characteristics. Archaeological sites are usually eligible under Criterion D, the potential to yield information important in prehistory or history. An archaeological test program may be necessary to determine whether the site has the potential to yield important data. The lead federal agency makes the determination of eligibility based on the results of the test program and seeks concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Effects to NRHP-eligible resources (historic properties) are adverse if the project may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of an historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.

State Regulations

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

California Environmental Quality Act and California Register of Historic Places

State historic preservation regulations include the statutes and guidelines contained in CEQA (Public Resources Code sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 and sections 15064.5 and 15126.4 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines). CEQA requires lead agencies to consider the potential effects of a project on historic resources and unique archaeological resources. A "historic resource" includes, but is 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). Under Section

15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, a resource is considered “historically significant” if one or more of the following CRHR criteria have been met:

1. The resource is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California history;
2. The resource is associated with the lives of important persons from our past;
3. 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
4. The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, important information in prehistory or history.

CEQA requires preparation of an EIR if a proposed project would cause a “substantial adverse change” in the significance of a historical resource. A “substantial adverse change” would occur if a proposed project would result in physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1)).

In addition to historically significant resources, which can include archeological resources that meet the criteria listed above, CEQA also requires consideration of “unique archaeological resources.” If a site meets the definition of a unique archaeological resource, the site must be treated in accordance with the provisions of Public Resources Code section 21083.2. Under Public Resources Code section 20183.2(g), an archaeological resource is considered “unique” if it:

- 1) Is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
- 2) Can provide information that is of demonstrable public interest and is useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable research questions;
- 3) Has a special kind or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;
- 4) Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or
- 5) Involves important research questions that can be answered only with archaeological methods.

CEQA also includes specific guidance regarding the accidental discovery of human remains. Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) requires that if human remains are uncovered, excavation activities must be stopped and that the county coroner be contacted. If the county coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC identifies the most likely descendent, and that individual or individuals can make recommendations for treatment of the human remains under the procedures set forth in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

California Register of Historic Places

The SHPO maintains the CRHR. Properties that are listed on the NRHP are automatically listed on the CRHR, along with State Landmarks and Points of Interest. The CRHR can also include

properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

Tribal Consultation Guidelines (Senate Bill (SB) 18)

SB 18, authored by Senator John Burton and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2004, requires local (city and county) governments to consult with California Native American tribes, when amending or adopting a general plan or specific plan, or designating land as open space, in order to aid in the protection of traditional tribal cultural places (“cultural places”). The intent of SB 18 is to provide California Native American tribes an opportunity to participate in local land use decisions at an early planning stage, for the purpose of protecting, or mitigating impacts to, cultural places. The consultation and notice requirements apply to adoption and amendment of both general plans (defined in Government Code §65300 et seq.) and specific plans (defined in Government Code §65450 et seq.). The proposed projects include a General Plan/Community Plan Amendment, and, thus, are subject to SB 18 consultation requirements.

Assembly Bill 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 adds Tribal Cultural Resources to the categories of cultural resources in CEQA, which had formerly been limited to historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources. “Tribal cultural resources” are defined as either:

- (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
 - (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- (2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Under AB 52, a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource is defined as a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. Where a project may have a significant impact on a Tribal Cultural Resource, the lead agency’s environmental document must discuss the impact and whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures could avoid or substantially lessen the impact. AB 52 (PRC 21080.3.1) requires lead agencies to provide notice to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if they have requested notice of projects proposed within that area. If the tribe(s) requests consultation within 30 days upon receipt of the notice, the lead agency must consult with the tribe(s). Consultation may include discussing the type of environmental review necessary, the significance of Tribal Cultural Resources, the significance of the project’s impacts on the Tribal Cultural Resources, and alternatives and mitigation measures recommended by the tribe(s).

AB 52 consultation was conducted for the projects as described in the Method of Analysis section of this chapter.

Local Regulations

Applicable goals and polices from the Placer County General Plan and the GBCP are discussed below.

Placer County General Plan

The Placer County General Plan goals and policies relating to the protection of cultural resources that are applicable to the proposed projects are presented below.

Goal 5.D.1 To identify, protect, and enhance Placer County's important historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

Policy 5.D.1 The County shall assist the citizens of Placer County in becoming active guardians of their community's cultural resources.

Policy 5.D.2 The County shall solicit the cooperation of the owners of cultural and paleontological resources, encourage those owners to treat these resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage the support of the general public for the preservation and enhancement of these resources.

Policy 5.D.3 The County shall solicit the views of the Native American Heritage Commission, State Office of Historic Preservation, North Central Information Center, and/or the local Native American community in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or to sites of cultural importance.

Policy 5.D.4 The County shall coordinate with the cities and municipal advisory councils in the County to promote the preservation and maintenance of Placer County's paleontological and archaeological resources.

Policy 5.D.5 The County shall use, where feasible, incentive programs to assist private property owners in preserving and enhancing cultural resources.

Policy 5.D.6 The County shall require that discretionary development projects identify and protect from damage, destruction, and abuse, important historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment. Such assessments shall be

incorporated into a County-wide cultural resource data base, to be maintained by the Division of Museums.

- Policy 5.D.7 The County shall require that discretionary development projects are designed to avoid potential impacts to significant paleontological or cultural resources whenever possible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever possible, shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be mitigated by extracting maximum recoverable data. Determinations of impacts, significance, and mitigation shall be made by qualified archaeological (in consultation with recognized local Native American groups), historical, or paleontological consultants, depending on the type of resource in question.
- Policy 5.D.8 The County shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.
- Policy 5.D.9 The County shall use the State Historic Building Code to encourage the preservation of historic structures.
- Policy 5.D.10 The County will use existing legislation and propose local legislation for the identification and protection of cultural resources and their contributing environment.
- Policy 5.D.11 The County shall support the registration of cultural resources in appropriate landmark designations (i.e., National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Local Landmark). The County shall assist private citizens seeking these designations for their property.
- Policy 5.D.12 The County shall consider acquisition programs (i.e. Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program) as a means of preserving significant cultural resources that are not suitable for private development. Organizations that could provide assistance in this area include, but are not limited to, the Archaeological Conservancy, the Native American community, and local land trusts.

Granite Bay Community Plan

The relevant goals and policies from the GBCP related to cultural resources are presented below.

Goal 7.1.1 Preserve all significant cultural resource sites and features.

- Policy 7.1.1 Emphasize protection and stabilization of existing cultural resource sites and features over removal or replacement.
- Policy 7.1.2 Encourage retention, integration and adaptive reuse of significant historical resources.

7.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following section describes the standards of significance and methodology used to analyze and determine the proposed projects' potential impacts related to cultural resources. In addition, a discussion of the project's impacts, as well as mitigation measures where necessary, is also presented.

Standards of Significance

Consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the County's General Plan and Initial Study Checklist, and professional judgment, a significant impact would occur if the proposed projects would result in the following:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature;
- Have the potential to cause a physical change, which could affect unique ethnic cultural values;
- Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area;
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries; and/or
- Cause a substantial change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code, Section 21074.

Method of Analysis

Both the WHI and WHII cultural resources reports prepared by Natural Investigations included a cultural resources literature search at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at California State University, Sacramento, on July 30, 2014. The records search was conducted to determine if prehistoric or historic cultural resources were previously recorded within the project sites, the extent to which the project sites had been previously surveyed, and the number and type of cultural resources within a 0.25-mile radius of the project sites. The archival searches of the archaeological and historical records, national and state databases, and historic maps included:

- NRHR: listed properties;
- CRHR;

- Historic Property Data File (HPDF) and Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (ADOE) for Placer County (2013);
- California Inventory of Historical Resources (1976 and updates);
- California Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates);
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates);
- 1865 Government Land Office (GLO) Plat for Township 10 North, Range 7 East;
- 1914, 1954 and 1967 Folsom USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles; and
- 1941 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 15-minute quadrangle.

Field Survey Methods

Both the WHI and WHII sites underwent an intensive-level pedestrian survey conducted by Natural Investigations archaeologist, Cindy Arrington, on August 1, 2014 and August 4, 2014, respectively. In addition, on May 11, 2018, a pedestrian survey was conducted for the 0.44 off-site EVA improvement area. Survey transects were spaced at intervals less than 15 meters. The entirety of both sites was carefully examined for cultural resources. All visible ground surface was carefully examined for cultural material (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, or fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., postholes, foundations), or historic-era debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances (e.g., dirt walking trails and two-tracks, animal burrows, etc.) were visually inspected. Two newly identified resources were recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) series 523 forms.

Shovel test pits (STPs) were placed near the edges of both newly identified bedrock mortars to test for the presence or absence of subsurface cultural material or deposits. The location of each STP was recorded using the handheld GPS and the excavation documented with digital photographs. Each STP was excavated by hand with a round-tip shovel and a Marshalltown trowel. STP 1 used at the WHI site measured 30 cm in diameter and STP 2 measured 27 cm in diameter. At the WHII site, each STP measured 30 cm in diameter. All the STPs were dug in 10-cm arbitrary levels and terminated after two culturally sterile levels. Each STP was terminated at 30 cm below the surface. All soil from the STPs was screened through 1/8-inch hardware cloth. Records of each STP detail the number, diameter, soil texture and color, any cultural constituents identified, and any comments.

Paleontological Assessment

Kenneth L. Finger, Ph.D., prepared a Paleontological Records Search on July 26, 2016 for the project sites, in order to determine the projects' potential to impact significant paleontological resources.⁹ The Paleontological Assessment included investigation of the surficial geology of the project sites, as well as a review of the UCMP database.

⁹ Kenneth L. Finger. *Paleontological Records Search of the Whitehawk I and II Sites, Western Placer County*. July 26, 2016.

Off-site Improvement Area

Natural Investigations conducted a Paleontological Records Search of the paleontological records maintained by the UCMP on May 11, 2018 for the off-site EVA improvement area.

Sacred Lands File Coordination Methods

As noted previously, Natural Investigations contacted the NAHC on July 29, 2014 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File for the project areas. The Sacred Lands File is populated by members of the Native American community who have knowledge about the locations of tribal resources. The NAHC replied that the search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands in the immediate vicinity. Per the NAHC's suggestion, Natural Investigations contacted each of the 11 Native American tribes or individuals indicated by the NAHC to potentially have knowledge of cultural resources in the project areas.

Native American tribes understood to be traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area pursuant to the statutory requirements of Senate Bill 18 (Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) and Assembly Bill 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) were notified by Placer County of the WHI and WHII projects. The letters sent to the tribes notified them of the unidentified bedrock and mortars discovered. Response letters were received from Daniel Fonseca, Shingle Springs Rancheria, dated January 12, 2016, and from Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC), dated February 8, 2016. Shingle Springs Rancheria requested continued consultation updates, as the project progresses, and asked for copies of all completed records searches and/or surveys that were done in or around the project area up to/and including environmental, archaeological, and cultural reports. UAIC requested copies of all archaeological reports completed for the project, as well as copies of future environmental documents in order to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources. In addition, the UAIC's preservation committee requested consultation on the proposed projects in order to discuss the identified cultural resources in the project area, including the bedrock mortars.

Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures

As discussed in Chapter 3, Project Description, of this EIR, although the County has elected to evaluate both the WHI and WHII projects in a single EIR, it is reasonable to consider WHI and WHII as separate projects under the independent utility test, given that each proposal has independent utility and is not necessary for the other to proceed. As such, the following discussion analyzes the potential impacts of the WHI and WHII projects separately. In addition, each impact statement includes an analysis of the combined effects of the two projects.

7-1 Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5. Based on the analysis below and with implementation of mitigation, the impact is *less than significant*.

WHI Identified Resources

Update to P-31-003337 Historic-Era Dredge Tailings

As noted previously, P-31-003337 was originally recorded in 2007 by Peak and Associates as a concentrated area of dredge tailings south of Strap Ravine within the WHII site. However, as part of the survey of the WHI site conducted by Natural Investigations, dredge tailings associated with P-31-003337 were found to extend into the WHI site, and the record for P-31-003337 was updated accordingly. Additional detail regarding the resource is discussed under WHII Identified Resources below. As noted therein, based on the updated evaluation of P-31-003337 conducted by Natural Investigations, P-31-003337 was found ineligible through survey evaluation for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any criterion of eligibility listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property or a historical resource. Further, the dredge tailings are not a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g).

Conclusion

As described above, the WHI identified resources do not meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR as individual resources. Although the resources are not considered historical resources, and additional historical resources were not discovered, the potential exists to encounter previously unknown buried resources on the WHI site during construction activities. Therefore, construction activities associated with buildout of the proposed single-family homes could uncover undocumented archaeological resources. As such, the WHI project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a significant impact could occur.

WHII On-Site Identified Resources

The eligibility of the two historic-era water conveyance ditches, the historic-era mining feature, and the historic-era dredge tailings identified within the WHII site are discussed in further detail below in the context of development of the WHII project. In addition, the two earthen water conveyance ditches located within the proposed off-site improvement area for WHII are discussed.

Update to P-31-000791 (CA-PLA-665H) Historic-Era Water Conveyance Ditch

The earthen ditch is overgrown with grasses and brambles and is in poor condition. Except for the remains of mineral extraction in the form of dredge tailings, other disturbances or impacts are not noted in the vicinity of the resource.

Based on historic topographic maps and the history of gold mining in the greater project region, the mining along Strap Ravine that created the existing dredge tailings was initially conducted circa the 1930s during the Depression Era and continued at least into the early 1940s through the first years of World War II. Archival sources indicate the comparatively small-scale mining effort was not associated with a known mining district, was not a principal source of gold in this region, and was not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history (Clark 1970).

According to Natural Investigations, P-31-000791 does not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor does the site appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource. In addition, the resource has been fully recorded and does not have potential to yield any additional information.

Update to P-31-003335 Historic-Era Water Conveyance Ditch

Similar to P-31-000791, P-31-003335 is currently overgrown with grasses and brambles and is in poor condition. Except for the remains of mineral extraction in the form of dredge tailings, other disturbances or impacts are not noted in the vicinity of the resource. For reasons discussed under P-31-000791, according to Natural Investigations, P-31-003335 does not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor does the site appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource. In addition, the resource has been fully recorded and does not have potential to yield any additional information. Natural Investigations has also noted that the prior report that identified and recorded the earthen ditch in the area of potential effect (APE) concluded P-31-003335 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any significance criteria.¹⁰

Update to P-31-003336 Historic-Era Mining Feature

P-31-003336 is in poor condition, with erosion and tree roots impacting the integrity of the feature. Segments of the dredge tailings along Strap Ravine that are likely associated with the mining pit/shaft have been recorded as P-31-003337 (discussed below). For reasons discussed under P-31-000791, according to Natural Investigations, P-31-003336 does not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor does the site appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource. In addition, the resource has been fully recorded and does not have potential to yield any additional information. Natural Investigations has also noted that the prior report that identified and

¹⁰ Natural Investigations Company. *Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment for the Meritage Homes GB-32 Project (APN 048-151-51), Placer County, California* [pg. 20]. September 29, 2014.

recorded the mining feature in the APE concluded P-31-003336 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any significance criteria.¹¹

Update to P-31-003337 Historic-Era Dredge Tailings

The WHII project would include ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the dredge tailings associated with P-31-003337 in the vicinity of Strap Ravine.

The use of dredge mining operations in the gold mining districts in the greater project region began in 1898. However, Granite Bay does not include a recorded mining district, nor are dredge mining operations chronicled at the nearby Rocklin District (Clark 1970). The dredge tailings in the APE are situated between two areas of gold dredging operations that occurred in the Lincoln District to the north and the extensive Folsom District to the southeast. Between 1933 and 1935 as the price of gold increased from \$20.67 to \$35 per fine ounce, there was an increase in the operation of bucket-line dredges and dragline dredges in the region. At the 1,200-acre Lincoln District, drag-line dredging during the 1930s recovered a considerable amount of gold (Clark 1970). In the Folsom District, dragline and bucket-line dredges operated by the Natomas Company continued from 1909 through the 1960s along the American River. Dredging operations generally lasted until the World War II period when gold production declined due to rising costs and the depletion of places suitable for dredging.

Based on the historic topographic maps and the history of gold mining in the greater project region, it appears likely that the dredge mining along Strap Ravine that created the existing tailings in the APE was initially conducted circa the 1930s during the Depression Era and continued at least into the early 1940s through the first years of World War II. Archival sources indicate the comparatively small-scale mining effort was not associated with a known mining district, was not a principal source of gold in this region, and was not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history (Clark 1970).

Evaluation Criteria

Although the dredge tailings along Strap Ravine were part of a local effort to recover gold, the recorded tailings did not play an important role in the history of gold mining in California or Placer County, in general, or in the region's settlement and economic growth. The recorded segment is not significantly associated with dredge mining operations and, per Natural Investigations, does not appear to be eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under Criterion A/1.

An argument cannot be made for a significant association with the lives of important persons. Research failed to uncover the names of any significant individuals or companies that worked the tailings along Strap Ravine. The recorded

¹¹ Natural Investigations Company, *Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment for the Meritage Homes GB-32 Project (APN 048-151-51)*, September 29, 2014, p. 21.

segment is not associated with historically significant persons and, per Natural Investigations, does not appear to be eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under Criterion B/2.

The recorded tailings are the common and ordinary remains of dredging operations that are very similar to windrows of dredge tailings elsewhere in the Sacramento Valley. The resource does not meet the distinctive characteristics for NRHP or CRHR significance under Criterion C/3.

Artifacts, buildings, or other structures have not been found in association with the tailings. In the absence of such elements, per Natural Investigations, the recorded segment does not appear to be eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under Criterion D/4 since it is not likely to yield any additional information important in history.

Per Natural Investigations, the recorded segment of Strap Ravine dredge tailings does not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR because it lacks integrity of setting, feeling, association, workmanship, and materials to convey its period of significance circa the 1930s and early 1940s. Although the resource retains integrity of physical location, since their abandonment, the tailings have been overgrown by vegetation, have been leveled in many areas, and are no longer continuous. The sense of time and place has been diminished by modern intrusions, particularly suburban growth. The urbanized setting no longer evokes a feeling of the early to mid-20th century, the period when historic maps indicate dredging operations occurred.

Based on the foregoing assessment, P-31-003337 was found ineligible through survey evaluation for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any criterion of eligibility listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property or a historical resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g).

Conclusion

Similar to WHI, the WHII identified resources do not meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR as individual resources. Although the resources are not considered historical resources, and additional historical resources were not discovered, the potential exists to encounter previously unknown buried resources on the WHII site during construction activities. Therefore, construction activities associated with buildout of the proposed single-family homes could uncover undocumented historic resources. As such, the WHII project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a significant impact could occur.

WHII Off-Site EVA and Temporary Construction Area

Water Conveyance Ditch Segments: NIC Ditch-1 and NIC Ditch-2

The WHII project would include off-site construction of a 20-foot unpaved emergency vehicle access within a 25-foot easement from the eastern property line for approximately 500 feet east to Quartzite Circle, as well as utilization of a temporary construction area for drainage improvements. As noted previously, two earthen water conveyance ditches were discovered in the off-site improvement areas as part of surveys conducted by Natural Investigations. Aerial photographs, the earliest of which dates to 1952, indicate the land within the off-site improvement areas was not used for agricultural purposes. More likely, the ditches were once associated with the mineral extraction activities that occurred in the project region. Archival sources indicate the comparatively small-scale, mining effort was not associated with a known mining district, was not a principal source of gold in this region, and was not associated with important individuals or companies in the region's gold mining history. In addition, both ditches are in poor condition. Both ditches have been fully recorded and do not have the potential to yield any additional information.

According to Natural Investigations, earthen Ditch-1 and Ditch-2 do not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor do the ditches appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). The resources therefore do not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource.

Conclusion

Although the resources are not considered historical resources, and additional historical resources were not discovered, the potential exists to encounter previously unknown buried resources within the off-site EVA improvement and temporary construction areas. As such, work within these off-site areas could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a significant impact could occur.

WHI and WHII

While some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface historic find at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to a cultural resource at another site due to development of another project. Rather the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent.

Combined development of the WHI and WHII projects would not result in the disturbance of any known historic resources, as such resources do not exist within the project sites. However, the potential exists to encounter previously unknown buried historic resources on either site during ground-disturbing activities associated with project construction. Therefore, construction activities associated with the WHI and WHII projects could

uncover undocumented historic resources, potentially resulting in an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5.

Conclusion

As described above, the WHI, WHII, and off-site identified historic resources do not meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR as individual resources. The resources are not considered historical resources, and additional historical resources were not discovered. However, the proposed projects, either individually or combined, have the potential to encounter previously unknown buried historic-era resources during construction activities. As such, the proposed projects could cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a *significant* impact could occur.

Mitigation Measure(s)

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

WHI and WHII (including WHII Off-Site EVA Improvement Area and Temporary Construction Area)

7-1 *The possibility exists that previously unknown historic resources are located below the ground surface. In the event that historic resources are discovered during construction, construction operations shall stop within a 100-foot radius of the find and a qualified archaeologist (36 CFR Part 61) shall be consulted to determine whether the resource requires further study. The archaeologist shall make recommendations concerning appropriate measures that will be implemented to protect the resources, including but not limited to, excavation and evaluation of the finds in accordance with Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. Historical resources could consist of, but are not limited to, trash scatters containing historic-era mining tools and equipment, dredge tailings, adits, and other historic-era mining-related features. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction within the project area should be recorded on appropriate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms and evaluated for significance in terms of CEQA criteria.*

- 7-2 Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5. Based on the analysis below and with implementation of mitigation, the impact is *less than significant*.**

WHI

Newly Identified Prehistoric Bedrock Milling Station

This newly identified bedrock milling station contains six mortar cups and two manos found adjacent to the feature. Subsurface testing was negative for cultural material and no additional features were found in association with the feature. The small site remains in poor condition, showing signs of weathering, and the site has been recently disturbed by heavy mechanical equipment. The site has been fully recorded and has no potential to yield any additional information.

According to Natural Investigations, the resource does not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor does the site appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). Consequently, the bedrock milling station does not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource. Notwithstanding this, the project has been designed to preserve-in-place the bedrock milling station.

While the bedrock milling station does not qualify as a unique archeological resource, the bedrock milling station is near the water source, Strap Ravine. During the prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic periods, people established temporary resource gathering or processing camps or permanent settlements near fresh water sources. Watered locations also provided habitat for large and small game, waterfowl, and fish. In addition, the Nisenan who historically occupied the region relied on acorns as a staple food, and the oak grassland on the property today is undoubtedly similar to historic woodlands. The bedrock mortars and milling implements recorded at the prehistoric site on the WHI site are evidence of processing acorns or seeds for consumption. Although subsurface cultural material was not found during the subsurface testing near the bedrock milling station, the site has a high sensitivity for buried archaeological resources, and intact, buried cultural features or deposits may be present within additional areas within the WHI site that have not been previously disturbed by dredging operations. The WHI project would include mass grading and soil disturbance in the areas that may contain previously unknown buried artifacts. Therefore, construction and development activities related to the WHI project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of unique archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a significant impact could occur.

WHII

Newly Identified Bedrock Milling Station

This newly identified bedrock milling station contains two mortar cups. Subsurface testing was negative for cultural material and no artifacts or additional features were found in association with the cultural feature. The site is in fair condition, showing signs of weathering on the bedrock outcrop. The site has been fully recorded and has no potential to yield any additional information.

According to Natural Investigations, the resource does not appear eligible for NRHP or CRHR inclusion under any of the criteria (A/1–D/4) listed at 36 CFR 60.4 or PRC Section 5024.1(c)(1-4), nor does the site appear to be a unique resource as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). The resource therefore does not qualify as a historic property, historical resource, or unique archaeological resource. Notwithstanding this, the project has been designed to preserve-in-place the bedrock milling station.

For reasons discussed under WHI, the WHII site has a high sensitivity for buried archaeological resources, and the possibility exists that intact, buried cultural features or deposits may be present within additional areas within the WHII site that have not been previously disturbed by dredging operations. The WHII project would include mass grading and soil disturbance in the areas that may contain previously unknown buried artifacts. Therefore, construction and development activities related to the WHII project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of unique archaeological resource. As such, the WHII project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a significant impact could occur.

WHII Offsite EVA and Temporary Construction Area

The WHII project would include off-site construction of a 20-foot unpaved EVA within a 25-foot easement from the eastern property line for approximately 500 feet east to Quartzite Circle, as well as utilization of a temporary construction area for drainage improvements. While the field survey and records search conducted by Natural Investigations did not reveal any evidence of archaeological resources on the off-site EVA improvement area or temporary construction area, cultural resources have been identified on the WHI and WHII sites. Given that archeological resources were found nearby, the possibility exists for undiscovered archeological resources to occur on the off-site improvement areas. Construction of the proposed off-site EVA and use of the temporary construction area could potentially damage or destroy such unknown archaeological resources. Should any previously undiscovered archaeological resources be found during construction a substantial change in the significance or destruction of such resources could occur.

WHI and WHII

As discussed above, while some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface archaeological find at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to a cultural resource at another site due to development of another project. Rather the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent. Nonetheless, combined development of the WHI and WHII projects could result in impacts related to an adverse change in the significance of unique archaeological resource.

Conclusion

Based on the above, both proposed projects could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, and a *significant* impact could occur.

Mitigation Measure(s)

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

WHI and WHII

7-2(a) *The project applicant shall preserve in place the recorded bedrock milling stations, with a maximum 5-foot wide buffer zone established around their boundary. No ground-disturbing activities shall take place within the buffer zones. In order to ensure that no disturbance occurs to the resources during project construction, temporary, protective orange field fencing shall be installed around the established buffer zones.*

Additionally, the applicant shall install a small, permanent plaque for each bedrock milling station describing the resource and its association with indigenous Native Americans. As requested, the applicant shall consult with the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria regarding the wording on the plaques.

A qualified archaeologist shall monitor the installation and removal of protective orange field fencing to be installed around the buffer zones established for the bedrock milling stations. The qualified archaeologist shall also periodically monitor the fencing to ensure it remains upright and intact during construction and ground-disturbing activities for the projects.

The language of this mitigation measure shall be included on any future grading plans, utility plans, and improvement plans.

WHI and WHII (including WHII Off-Site EVA Improvement Area and Temporary Construction Area)

7-2(b) *Prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities, qualified archaeologists shall conduct a short awareness training session for all construction workers and supervisory personnel. The course would explain the importance of, and legal basis for, the protection of significant archaeological resources. Each worker would also learn the proper procedures to follow in the event cultural resources or human remains/burials are uncovered during construction activities, including work curtailment or redirection and to immediately contact their supervisor and the archaeological monitor. The worker education session shall include visuals of artifacts (prehistoric and historic) that might be found in the project vicinity, and shall take place on the construction site immediately prior to the start of construction. Proof of training completion shall be submitted to the Placer County Planning Services Division.*

7-2(c) *During construction activities on the project site, a qualified archaeologist (pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 61) shall monitor any ground-disturbing activity in native soils or sediments. The United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria shall be apprised of the construction schedules in order to provide Tribal Monitors, if desired, to monitor during construction or ground-disturbing activity in native soils or sediments for the project. In the event of a discovery, ground-disturbing activities shall halt within a 100-foot radius of the find to evaluate eligibility, assess effects, and determine appropriate treatment methods. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, preservation in place shall be the preferred manner of mitigating impacts to archaeological sites. Preservation in place maintains the relationship between artifacts and the archaeological context. Preservation may also avoid conflict with religious or cultural values of groups associated with the site.*

When data recovery through excavation is the only feasible mitigation, a data recovery plan, which makes provisions for adequately recovering the scientifically consequential information from and about the historical resource, shall be prepared and adopted by the lead agency and involved tribe(s), if applicable, prior to any excavation being undertaken. Such studies shall be deposited with the California Historical Resources Regional Information Center.

The language of this mitigation measure shall be included on any future grading plans, utility plans, and improvement drawings approved by the Placer County Engineering and Surveying Division for the proposed project.

7-3 Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Based on the analysis below and with implementation of mitigation, the impact is *less than significant*.

WHI

According to the Paleontological Records Search performed for the WHI and WHII sites, the UCMP database lists no vertebrate or plant localities in the Ione Formation within Placer County or the adjacent counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, which suggests that the unit is nonfossiliferous in the area. However, fossils of significance have been recovered from the Ione Formation in the immediate vicinity. One half mile southwest of the sites, abundant opalized tree trunks were found including in-place logs of tropical hardwoods. In November 2015, excavations for the widening of Eureka Road at Sierra College Boulevard, southwest of the project sites, encountered a large specimen of petrified wood, roughly 1.5 feet in diameter, at six to eight feet below the surface. On this basis, the Ione Formation, which covers portions of the sites and likely extends beneath the dredge tailings, is currently assigned a high paleontological potential and sensitivity in the area. As such, construction activities associated with buildout of the WHI site could uncover undocumented paleontological resources or unique geological features. Because the WHI project could directly or indirectly destroy unknown unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features, impacts would be considered significant.

WHII

As noted above, the Ione Formation, which covers portions of the WHI and WHII sites and likely extends beneath the on-site dredge tailings, is currently assigned a high paleontological potential and sensitivity in the area. Accordingly, construction activities associated with buildout of the WHII site could uncover undocumented paleontological resources or unique geological features. Because the WHII project could directly or indirectly destroy unknown unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features, impacts would be considered significant.

WHI and WHII

As noted above, while some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface paleontological resource at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to paleontological resources at another site due to development of another project. Rather the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent. Nevertheless, given that construction activities associated with the WHI and WHII projects could directly or indirectly destroy unknown unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features, impacts associated with combined development of both projects would be considered significant.

WHII Off-Site EVA and Temporary Construction Area

As previously mentioned, the UCMP database search did not identify any known vertebrates or plant localities within the off-site EVA or temporary construction area or in similar rocks around the project vicinity. Furthermore, as noted above, the off-site improvement areas are situated upon dredge tailings and Rocklin Pluton, a body of plutonic igneous rock, within which fossil resources are not preserved. Thus, the off-site improvement areas have low paleontological sensitivity and are not expected to contain any paleontological resources or unique geologic features. Based on the above, construction of the proposed off-site emergency vehicle access and use of the temporary construction area would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Conclusion

As noted above, the WHI and WHII projects, either individually or combined, could directly or indirectly destroy unknown unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features, and a *significant* impact could occur.

Mitigation Measure(s)

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

WHI and WHII

7-3(a) *Once grading plans are available, a qualified professional paleontologist (as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists, 2010), shall determine the level of monitoring necessary based on formations to be impacted by grading and other earthmoving. Monitoring is required for all earth-disturbing construction activities that impact the Ione Formation.*

If major paleontological resources are discovered, which require temporary halting or redirecting of grading, the paleontologist shall report such findings to the project applicant, the Placer County Division of Museums, and Placer County Planning Services Division. Should fossils be discovered, increased monitoring shall occur. The monitor shall have the authority to divert away from exposed resources temporarily in order to recover the specimens.

The paleontologist shall determine appropriate protocols which ensure proper exploration and/or salvage of all fossils. Excavated finds shall be offered to a State-designated repository such as Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, the California Academy of Sciences, or any other State-designated repository. Otherwise, the finds shall be offered to the Placer County Division of Museums for purposes of public education and interpretive displays. Such actions, as well as final mitigation and

disposition of the resources shall be subject to approval by the Division of Museums. The paleontologist shall submit a follow-up report to the Division of Museums and Planning Services Division, which shall include the period of inspections, an analysis of the fossils found, and repository of the fossils.

7-3(b) *Within 90 days following the end of project excavations, the project paleontologist shall prepare a final report, summarizing the complete mitigation program, describing and illustrating any fossils recovered, along with their significance, and certifying that the paleontological resource impact mitigation program resulted in insignificant impacts on paleontological resources as required by CEQA. The acceptance of the final report by the County Planning Services Division shall complete the mitigation program.*

7-4 Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. Based on the analysis below and with implementation of mitigation, the impact is less than significant.

WHI

According to Natural Investigations, human remains are not known to be buried at the WHI or WHII sites, nor were any indications of human remains present during site surveys. In addition, the field surveys conducted by Natural Investigations did not detect human remains, cultural sites or artifacts of ceremonial significance within the WHI and WHII sites; however, the potential for unknown human remains to be discovered during construction cannot be eliminated given the known prehistoric occupation of the vicinity by Native American tribes. As a result, ground-disturbing activity associated with development of the WHI project could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, and impacts would be considered significant.

WHII

Although Natural Investigations did not detect human remains, cultural sites or artifacts of ceremonial significance within the WHII site. Nevertheless, the potential exists for unknown human remains to be discovered on the WHII site during construction activities. As a result, ground-disturbing activity associated with development of the WHII project could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, and impacts would be considered significant.

WHI and WHII

As noted above, while some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface human remains at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to human remains at another site due to development of another project. Rather the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent.

Nevertheless, given that construction activities associated with the WHI and WHII projects could directly or indirectly disturb human remains, impacts associated with combined development of both projects would be considered significant.

WHII Off-Site EVA and Temporary Construction Area

According to Natural Investigations, human remains or burials have not been identified within the proposed WHII off-site improvement area and temporary construction area. However, similar to the WHI and WHII sites, the potential exists for unknown human remains to be discovered within the WHII off-site improvement areas during construction activities. As a result, ground-disturbing activity associated with development of the proposed off-site EVA and use of the temporary construction area could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, and impacts would be considered significant.

Conclusion

Although Natural Investigations did not detect human remains, cultural sites or artifacts of ceremonial significance within the WHI site or the WHII site, the potential for unknown human remains to be discovered during construction cannot be eliminated given the known prehistoric occupation of the vicinity by Native American tribes. As a result, the WHI and WHII projects could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, and impacts would be considered *significant*.

Mitigation Measure(s)

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

WHI and WHII (including WHII Off-Site EVA Improvement Area and Temporary Construction Area)

- 7-4 *If human remains are encountered on the proposed project sites or off-site improvement area during construction activities, all work within 100 feet of the find must cease, and any necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area must be taken. The Placer County Coroner shall be immediately notified. If the Coroner determines the remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. The NAHC shall determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the MLD. The MLD shall be afforded 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the NAHC of the discovery. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the MLD's*

recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC.

- 7-5 Have the 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 cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code, Section 21074. Based on the analysis below and with implementation of mitigation, the impact is *less than significant*.**

WHI

A search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File in 2014 failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands or traditional cultural properties within the immediate area of the proposed project sites. However, bedrock milling stations have been identified on both WHI and WHII and observed by UAIC during site visits conducted in 2014. UAIC recommends preservation-in-place of the bedrock milling stations, to which the applicant has agreed. UAIC also requested monitoring of the parcels during ground disturbance, particularly grubbing and clearing given that ground visibility at the sites is limited. Other known Tribal Cultural Resources have not been identified on the project sites.

As discussed previously, as a result of AB 52 tribal notification efforts conducted by the County, letters were received from Daniel Fonseca, Shingle Springs Rancheria, dated January 12, 2016, and from Gene Whitehouse, UAIC, dated February 8, 2016. Shingle Springs Rancheria requested continued consultation updates, as the projects progress, and asked for copies of all completed records searches and/or surveys that were done in or around the project area up to/and including environmental, archaeological, and cultural reports. UAIC requested copies of all archaeological reports completed for the projects, as well as copies of future environmental documents in order to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources. In addition, the UAIC's preservation committee requested consultation on the proposed projects in order to discuss the identified cultural resources in the project area, including the bedrock mortars located on the WHI and WHII sites.

In addition to the bedrock mortars discovered on the WHI site a potential exists for unrecorded Tribal Cultural Resources to be discovered within the WHI site during construction given their high sensitivity for buried archaeological resources, as determined by Natural Investigations. Consequently, ground-disturbing activities associated with development of the WHI project could have the 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 cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code, Section 21074. Thus, a significant impact could occur.

WHII

Similar to the WHI project, ground-disturbing activities associated with development of the WHII project could potentially disturb the bedrock mortars located on the site. In addition, the potential exists for unrecorded Tribal Cultural Resources to be discovered within the WHII site during construction given their high sensitivity for buried archaeological resources, as determined by Natural Investigations. Thus, a significant impact could occur.

WHI and WHII

As noted above, while some cultural resources may have regional significance, the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to subsurface resources, including Tribal Cultural Resources, at one project site would not generally be made worse by impacts to resources at another site due to development of another project. Rather the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent. Nevertheless, given that construction activities associated with the WHI and WHII projects could affect unique ethnic cultural values, restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area, or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource, impacts associated with combined development of both projects would be considered significant.

WHII Off-Site EVA and Temporary Construction Area

Per Natural Investigations, Tribal Cultural Resources have not been identified within the proposed off-site improvement areas. Nonetheless, the potential exists for unrecorded Tribal Cultural Resources to be discovered within the off-site improvement areas during ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the proposed EVA and use of the temporary construction area. Thus, a significant impact could occur.

Conclusion

Based on the above, the WHI and WHII projects could, individually or combined, result in a **significant** impact related to affecting unique ethnic cultural values, restricting existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area, or causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code, Section 21074.

Mitigation Measures(s)

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

WHI and WHII (including WHII Off-Site EVA Improvement Area and Temporary Construction Area)

7-5 *Implement Mitigation Measures 7-2(a) through 7-2(c).*