
Chapter 7
Recreational and Cultural Resources

CHAPTER 7

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

7.1 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

This section describes the likely effects of development under the *General Plan* on Placer County's recreational resources. Specifically, this section focuses on how development, and associated population growth, will affect the demand for recreational facilities and services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Numerous federal, state, and local jurisdictions and private entities provide recreation opportunities in Placer County. Major recreation areas and park facilities are listed in Table 8-1 and shown in Figure 8-1 in the *Background Report*. Placer County park and recreation amenities are categorized by subregions (western, central, and eastern county areas) to express the regional availability of park and recreation facilities and features throughout Placer County. The western county subregion generally consists of the portion of the county west of Colfax. The central county subregion consists of the portion of Placer County east of Colfax and west of the Donner Lake Area (at the Placer/Nevada County boundary). The eastern county subregion consists of the remainder of Placer County, including a portion of the Tahoe Basin east to the California/Nevada state line. Generalized jurisdictional boundaries of public agencies that provide recreation services and independently formulate recreation policy are shown in Figure 8-2 of the *Background Report*.

Federal Lands

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) manages lands and operates recreational facilities in Placer County on over 300,000 acres in portions of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) and Eldorado National Forest (ENF), and portions of the Tahoe Basin, encompassing much of central and eastern Placer County. TNF has 197 developed campgrounds, picnic areas, and organization sites on 1,843 acres within Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties. ENF has developed recreation facilities that are capable of accommodating nearly five million recreation visitor days per year in Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties.

A comprehensive list of all USFS recreational facilities, access roads and trails, and open space features is provided in the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests Land and Resource Management Plans (U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 1988 and 1990). Most of these facilities are located along the Interstate 80 (I-80) and State Highway 89 corridors, and near rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes. The Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests provide a wide variety of dispersed outdoor recreation experiences, including primitive- and developed-area camping, recreation residence use, hunting, fishing, hiking, alpine and nordic skiing, snow play, off-road vehicle use, boating, snowmobile use, and a wide variety of historic and prehistoric and nature appreciation and interpretation opportunities.

The Granite Chief Wilderness is a federally designated wilderness area. This designation provides protection for the outstanding natural features contained in the wilderness area. For example, no vehicular access is allowed in the Granite Chief Wilderness. The Pacific Crest Trail bisects Placer County near the eastern boundary of the Granite Chief Wilderness.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages nearly 12,000 acres of land in Placer County, most of which is generally located west of national forest lands. BLM contributes a minor amount of developed land for recreation purposes in Placer County.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) operates eight state parks and recreation areas throughout Placer County (see Table 8-1 and Figure 8-1 in the *Background Report*). These regional recreation and public access facilities provide outdoor recreation opportunities such as camping, hiking, boating, and swimming. State parks consist of large regional recreation areas, such as the Folsom Lake and Auburn State Recreation Areas, and small, specialized park lands, such as the Kings Beach and Tahoe State Recreation areas, Gatekeeper's Museum State Park, Burton Creek State Park, and Ward Creek State Park.

Tahoe Basin Recreation

The Tahoe Basin is a major destination for a regional and statewide population that is drawn to the area to experience the natural beauty of Lake Tahoe and its surrounding watershed. Recreation pursuits include water-oriented activities such as water skiing, sailing, boating, jet skiing, fishing, and beach activities; and land-based recreation activities such as hiking, bicycling, equestrian pursuits, camping, alpine and nordic skiing, driving for pleasure, and golf.

Recreation providers in the Placer County portion of the Tahoe Basin include the State of California, North Tahoe Public Utilities District (NTPUD), Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), USFS, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and private recreation entities (see Figure 8-2 in the *Background Report* for the general service areas of these providers).

Local Parkland

Local parkland is defined as park and recreation facilities that are oriented primarily towards serving neighborhood, community, or district recreation needs. The traditional classification of parks includes mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks. Table 8-2 in the *Background Report* summarizes the local parkland acreage in Placer County by type, operator, and county subregion and the following paragraphs briefly summarize local recreation opportunities by subregion.

Western County

Local parks in the western portion of the county are provided primarily by Placer County, the Auburn Recreation District (ARD), and incorporated cities, such as Roseville, Rocklin, and Lincoln. The combined County and ARD local parkland acreage in the western county is approximately 439 acres. These parks are concentrated mainly along the I-80 corridor between Roseville and Auburn.

County-operated recreation facilities in the western county primarily serve communities for which community plans have been developed or for which a County Service Area (CSA) has been created (e.g., Sabre City CSA). A number of the small, unincorporated communities along I-80, such as Granite Bay, Penryn, Newcastle, Applegate, and Weimar, depend on nearby community facilities or incorporated city park facilities for local park and recreation facilities and programs. Placer County also relies on conjunctive use of school facilities as a supplemental source of turf play fields, hard court play areas, and indoor meeting places.

The ARD provides park facilities in a 100-square-mile service area encompassing Auburn and unincorporated communities to the north and northeast, including Bowman, Christian Valley, and Meadow Vista.

Central County

Placer County is the main public provider of local park facilities in the central county, with the Alta-Dutch Flat pool and community center and the Foresthill Community park. This subregion, which is the county's least populated, has a relatively small amount of local park acreage.

Eastern County

The eastern county subregion contains the most abundant and heavily used recreation facilities in the county. Local park and recreation facilities serving the non-tourist, resident population are provided primarily by the North Tahoe Public Utilities District, the Tahoe City Public Utility District, Placer County, and numerous private entities.

The regional tourism draw, the non-resident influx of recreationists during peak periods, and a second-home population in the Lake Tahoe Basin place a great demand on local-serving park facilities that is not reflected in comparisons of resident population levels and local park acreages.

Other Recreational Resources

Joint Use of School Facilities

In addition to County park facilities, Placer County has developed agreements with local school districts for public "after-hours" use of school facilities. The program involves the use of park dedication fees collected from development within 16 fee districts. Rural areas with low population and average parcel sizes of 100-200 acres are generally not included within these park dedication fee districts. Some of the park dedication fees generated within the fee districts are used to fund facility rehabilitation or enhancement projects on school grounds in return for the agreement to make these facilities available for informal public and organized team recreational use when the schools are not in session. Under these agreements, Placer County has developed or rehabilitated playing fields, playgrounds, and irrigation systems. To date, most of these projects have been outdoor recreation facilities, but gymnasium improvements have been made at a school in Newcastle and a swimming pool may be developed at a proposed high school site in Granite Bay. This joint-use program is currently implemented on a project-by-project basis with projects initiated either by Placer County, the schools, or special districts such as the Auburn Recreation District.

City Facilities

The Cities of Roseville, Rocklin, Loomis, and Lincoln and other communities provide local neighborhood and community park sites. Park facilities are supplemented by conjunctive use of school facilities in most cities.

Private Recreation Facilities

The extent of private recreation areas in Placer County has not been inventoried recently. Private sector recreation opportunities, however, account for a substantial portion of the annual recreation visitor days

in Placer County. The private sector primarily provides camping facilities, hunting areas, golf courses, court sport areas, fishing access, ski resorts, and horseback-riding areas. Recreational residences also occur throughout Placer County with considerable concentrations in the Tahoe Basin and along I-80.

Parkland Availability

The *Background Report* assesses local parkland availability and needs by applying Placer County's current ratio of 5 acres per 1,000 population to the population that is currently served by Placer County, ARD, TCPUD, and NTPUD, the primary public operators that provide local park facilities and recreation services in the county's unincorporated area. Except for the City of Auburn, city park and recreation facilities were excluded from the *Background Report* evaluation to simplify the analysis and to focus the analysis on the availability of parkland in unincorporated rural communities that are under County jurisdiction. The City of Auburn was included because the greater Auburn area is served by the ARD.

Using the currently adopted parkland standard of 5 acres of active parkland per 1,000 population and based on Placer County's 1991 unincorporated population of 96,085 (excluding all incorporated cities except Auburn), the *Background Report* analysis determined that total active parkland in the county should be approximately 480 acres. Table 8-2 in the *Background Report* indicates that the total local park acreage provided by Placer County, the ARD, NTPUD, and TCPUD is approximately 648 acres or approximately 6.7 acres per 1,000 population. Since this ratio exceeds Placer County's current, parkland standard, as well as standards suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association, it appears that local parkland is reasonably available to Placer County's unincorporated population.

METHODOLOGY

For purposes of determining the impacts of development under the *General Plan*, the park acreage standard proposed in the *Policy Document* (i.e., 5 acres of active parkland and 5 acres of passive open space per 1,000 population) has been applied to assumed population growth estimates for each of the county's six regional analysis areas.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAND USE DIAGRAM

Table 7-1 shows the amount of parkland, both active and passive, that the increase in population that the *General Plan* could accommodate would require according to the standard stated in the *Policy Document* (i.e., 5 acres of active parkland and 5 acres of passive open space per 1,000 population).

TABLE 7-1

**POPULATION CHANGES AND NEW PARK/OPEN SPACE ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS
1990, 2010, and 2040**

| Regional Analysis Area ¹ | 1990 Pop | 2010 Pop | 1990-2010 Pop Change | New Park Acreage ² 2010 | 2040 Pop | 2010-2040 Pop Change | New Park Acreage ² 2010-2040 | 1990-2040 Pop Change | New Park Acreage ² 1990-2040 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Tahoe Basin | 9,257 | 12,000 | 2,743 | 27.4 | 14,400 | 2,400 | 24.0 | 5,143 | 51.4 |
| Sierra Resorts | 4,442 | 5,450 | 1,008 | 10.1 | 6,400 | 950 | 9.5 | 1,958 | 19.6 |
| Sierra | 3,883 | 4,250 | 367 | 3.7 | 4,500 | 250 | 2.5 | 617 | 6.2 |
| Lower Sierra | 15,523 | 20,910 | 5,387 | 53.9 | 26,600 | 5,690 | 56.9 | 11,077 | 110.8 |
| Auburn-Foothills | 28,515 | 41,550 | 13,035 | 130.4 | 50,100 | 8,550 | 85.5 | 21,585 | 215.9 |
| South Placer | 21,319 | 44,375 | 23,056 | 230.6 | 70,800 | 26,425 | 264.3 | 49,481 | 494.8 |
| Unincorporated Total | 82,939 | 128,535 | 45,596 | 456.1 | 172,800 | 44,265 | 442.7 | 89,861 | 1,351.6 |

¹Excluding incorporated cities

²Assumes 5 acres of active parkland and 5 acres of passive open space per 1,000 population

Source: *Placer County Countywide General Plan Policy Document*; J. Laurence Mintier & Associates, July 1994.

As Table 7-1 indicates, at 2010 the estimated increase in population resulting from unincorporated development would require that a total of approximately 456 acres of parkland and open space would have to be provided to satisfy the *Policy Document's* standard. Approximately half of this acreage would be in the South Placer regional analysis area. At 2040, new development will require approximately 442 additional acres of combined parkland and open space to satisfy the policy standard. As with the 2010 totals, the majority of this acreage is in the South Placer regional analysis area (264 acres/60 percent).

GENERAL PLAN POLICY RESPONSE

Section 5 of the *Policy Document* specifies policies and programs to guide the provision of both active and passive recreation opportunities for existing and future residents and visitors. The following policies and programs address the implications of the *Land Use Diagram* on recreational resources.

Policies

- 5.A.1. *The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a standard of 5 acres of improved parkland and 5 acres of passive recreation area or open space per 1,000 population.*
- 5.A.2. *The County shall strive to achieve the following park facility standards:*
- a. *1 tot lot per 1,000 residents*
 - b. *1 playground per 3,000 residents*
 - c. *1 tennis court per 6,000 residents*
 - d. *1 basketball court per 6,000 residents*
 - e. *1 hardball diamond per 3,000 residents*
 - f. *1 softball/little league diamond per 3,000 residents*

- g. *1 mile of recreation trail per 1,000 residents*
 - h. *1 youth soccer field per 2,000 residents*
 - i. *1 adult field per 2,000 residents*
 - j. *1 golf course per 50,000 residents*
- 5.A.3. *The County shall require new development to provide a minimum of 5 acres of improved parkland and 5 acres of passive recreation area or open space for every 1,000 new residents of the area covered by the development. The park classification system shown in Table 5-1 should be used as a guide to the type of the facilities to be developed in achieving these standards.*
- 5.A.4. *The County shall consider the use of the following open space areas as passive parks to be applied to the requirement for 5 acres of passive park area for every 1,000 residents.*
- a. *Floodways*
 - b. *Protected riparian corridors and stream environment zones*
 - c. *Protected wildlife corridors*
 - d. *Greenways with the potential for trail development*
 - e. *Open water (e.g., ponds, lakes, and reservoirs)*
 - f. *Protected woodland areas.*
 - g. *Protected sensitive habitat areas providing that interpretive displays are provided (e.g., wetlands and habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.)*
- Buffer areas are not considered as passive park areas if such areas are delineated by setbacks within private property. Where such areas are delineated by public easements or are held as common areas with homeowner/property owner access or public access, they will be considered as passive park areas provided that there are opportunities for passive recreational use.*
- 5.A.5. *The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with state law (Quimby Act) to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. The fees are to be set and adjusted as necessary to provide for a level of funding that meets the actual cost to provide for all of the public parkland and park development needs generated by new development.*
- 5.A.13. *The County shall ensure that recreational activity is distributed and managed according to an area's carrying capacity, with special emphasis on controlling adverse environmental impacts, conflict between uses, and trespass. At the same time, the regional importance of each area's recreation resources shall be recognized.*
- 5.A.14. *The County shall encourage federal, state, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service.*
- 5.A.17. *The County should be directly involved in the development and operation of community and neighborhood park facilities. These include outdoor recreation facilities to support traditional pursuits such as baseball, soccer, basketball, hiking, walking, riding and picnicking. Where appropriate, the County should consider cooperative agreements with a local park or recreation district to operate County facilities where this would enhance the efficient delivery of parks and recreation services to county residents.*

- 5.A.18. *The County shall encourage local special purpose agencies in areas not served by a recreation district which are not currently supplying recreation services to examine the feasibility of supplying such services.*
- 5.A.20. *The County shall promote cooperation between agencies to ensure flexibility in the development of park areas and recreational services to respond to changing trends in recreation activities.*
- 5.A.22. *The County shall encourage compatible recreational use of riparian areas along streams and creeks where public access can be balanced with environmental values and private property rights.*
- 5.C.1. *The County shall support development of a countywide trail system designed to achieve the following objectives:*
- a. Provide safe, pleasant, and convenient travel by foot, horse, or bicycle;*
 - b. Link residential areas, schools, community buildings, parks, and other community facilities within residential developments. Whenever possible, trails should connect to the countywide trail system, regional trails, and the trail or bikeways plans of cities;*
 - c. Provide access to recreation areas, major waterways, and vista points;*
 - d. Provide for multiple uses (i.e., pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle);*
 - e. Use public utility corridors such as power transmission line easements, railroad rights-of-way, irrigation district easements, and roadways;*
 - f. Whenever feasible, be designed to separate equestrian trails from cycling paths, and to separate trails from the roadway by the use of curbs, fences, landscape buffering, and/or spatial distance;*
 - g. Connect commercial areas, major employment centers, institutional uses, public facilities, and recreational areas with residential areas; and*
 - h. Protect sensitive open space and natural resources.*
- 5.C.4. *The County shall require the proponents of new development to dedicate rights-of-way and/or the actual construction of segments of the countywide trail system pursuant to trails plans contained in the County's various community plans.*
- 5.C.5. *The County shall encourage the preservation of linear open space along rail corridors and other public easements for future use as trails.*

Programs

- 5.1. *The County shall work with local, state, and federal agencies to complete a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation areas and services in the county and to identify other areas suitable for park acquisition and development. The County shall consider preparation of a County park and recreation master plan to provide a policy framework for independent implementation by the cooperating agencies.*
- 5.2. *As new development occurs, the County shall consider forming county service areas (CSAs) that have the authority to receive dedications or grants of land or funds, plus the ability to charge fees for acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of parks, open space, and riding, hiking, and bicycle trails.*
- 5.3. *The County should prepare and periodically update a trails plan in conjunction with each community plan and/or specific plan. Trail plans should designate trail components for*

equestrians, hikers, and cyclists on mountain and non-mountain bikes; contain trail design, access, and construction standards; establish specific plan lines for trails; and identify financing options.

These policies establish park and park facility standards and require new development to dedicate land or funding to meet these standards. These policies also provide for the location of these facilities where they are needed while minimizing environmental impacts and conflicts with other uses. The policies and programs call for the creation of new recreation districts and county service areas where needed to provide and maintain recreational facilities. Policies and programs promote a countywide trail system and require new development to contribute to a trail system.

IMPACTS

With full application of the policies and implementation of the programs outlined above, the County should be able to ensure that all residents of Placer County have access not only to active recreational opportunities, but also open space areas for their passive enjoyment. The impact of development under the *General Plan* in terms of the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities for existing and future residents is, therefore, less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are necessary.

7.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section summarizes the potential effects of development permitted under the General Plan on Placer County's cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Placer County contains a rich cultural resource heritage that includes archeological, historical, and paleontological sites and resources. Many archeological and historical sites and resources have been identified and evaluated, and are available for study and enjoyment by county resident and visitors. Given the rich heritage of the area, however, many archeological, historical, and paleontological sites and resources may remain undiscovered. The *Background Report* describes information regarding these resources as described in the County Cultural Resources Inventory, which was derived largely from research conducted by the the California Archaeological Inventory, North Central Information Center, at California State University, Sacramento.

Archaeological Sites

In November 1991, North Central Information Center initiated a survey of archaeological sites in Placer County. The survey collected information on areas that archaeologically field-surveyed from the North Central Information Center, Tahoe and El Dorado National Forest Supervisors and District offices, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Supervisors Office, and the Folsom District Office of the Bureau of Land Management. This survey was completed in June 1992.

The North Central Information Center's research identified 634 recorded prehistoric and historical archaeological sites in Placer County. The Center had records for another 601 archaeological sites in Placer County, the great majority of which had not been formally recorded. Taking into account these sites, there was a total of 1,235 recorded archaeological sites in Placer County as of November 1991.

Of the 634 records reviewed, 456 represented prehistoric archaeological sites; 143 represented historical archaeological sites; and 35 represented archaeological sites with prehistoric and historical components.

A wide range of archaeological sites are represented in the North Central Information Center's work. Prehistoric sites include midden deposits, lithic scatters, petroglyphs, housepits, rock shelters, and bedrock mortars representing large and small villages, cemeteries, resource procurement and processing, quarries, and ceremonial sites, workshops, temporary campsites sites.

Historical archaeological sites include grave sites, rock alignments, foundations, wells, hydraulic pits, corrals, homestead complexes, prospect pits, railroad remains, bridges, outhouses, quarries, a variety of residential and commercial building remains, trash pits, log cabins, mine shafts, ditches, ranch complexes, check dams, tailings, canals, mining complexes, cellars, and scatters of glass, metal, wood, and ceramics.

As of June 1992, a minimum of 276 square miles (176,699 acres) had been archaeologically field-surveyed in Placer County. This represents 18 percent of the county's total area of 1,506 square miles (964,140 acres). A map depicting surveyed areas is on file with the Placer County Department of Museums and the Placer County Planning Department.

Historic Buildings and Sites

Few early gold rush era buildings are left in Placer County because early miners and immigrants generally lived outside or in cloth tents. A number of the buildings, structures, and features are left from the later mining era; some of these include Griffith's granite quarry and office in Penryn (now a state landmark), the clay pits northwest of Lincoln, an abandoned kiln in the middle of the Black Oak Golf Course, the Sisley mine industrial mill outside of Penryn, and the Big Ben Mine buildings north of Lincoln. Some other mining era buildings include an adobe or rammed earth building on Virginiatown Road, a few abandoned mines like the Hathaway Mine in the Ophir District, and the Whiskey Diggings Ditch that still carries water through the foothills of western Placer County.

Many other buildings, artifacts, and properties are associated with later phases of mining activity, including mine workers' and owners' residences, warehouses, old mining buildings, gold camp sites, stamp mills, mining structures, mining ditches, and miles of streambank dredge tailings. Two earth berms associated with an early railroad are evident in the Fruitvale District.

Structures associated with early lumber mills include old railroad tressels, tunnels, water flumes, and wooden bridges. Several buildings from this period on the Cal Ida Lumber Company property are considered locally significant.

An important early rancher, J. Parker Whitney, established the 18,100-acre Spring Valley Ranch, now known as Stanford Ranch, north of Roseville. Original rock walls, a hand-hewn granite bridge, and a mausoleum in which Whitney is buried are located at Stanford Ranch. Buildings and other features are associated with the fruit-growing industry of the county. Some of these properties include early fruit stands; the Citrus Colony House on Del Mar Avenue west of Penryn; fruit sheds in Loomis, Newcastle, Auburn, and Colfax; orchard remnants; and the palm trees that line area roads.

Numerous small Depression-era concrete bridges built by laborers from the Work Projects Administration are located throughout the county. Other historical resources include early school houses, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residences, commercial buildings and districts, community halls, churches and cemeteries.

The DeWitt Center, north of Auburn, was a U.S. Army hospital built in 1944 that was later bought by the State of California and converted to a mental hospital. In the 1970s, the facility was sold to Placer County to house county offices.

Figure 8-4 in the *Background Report* shows the location of major concentrations of historically important structures in the county.

Paleontological Resources

Fossil remains of prehistoric plant and animal life could be found in the sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock sedimentary materials that are present throughout western Placer County. Sediments associated with the Mehrten Formation in the Roseville area have been found to contain fossils of terrestrial vertebrates. Fossilized animal remains also may be present in caves associated with the limestone geology that can be found in the central part of the Sierra Nevada foothills. No inventory or other information source exists that characterizes the extent, sensitivity, or significance of paleontological resources in Placer County. Such an inventory should be conducted to provide information necessary to guide the land development process and facilitate preservation and mitigation of these resources as appropriate.

METHODOLOGY

This section describes the assumptions and thresholds of significance developed to assess impacts resulting from development that would be expected to occur under the 2010 general plan growth scenario. The analysis was conducted qualitatively, by considering known and anticipated cultural resources and locations described in the *Background Report* and identified in the survey prepared by the North Central Information Center in relationship to the areas designated for development on the *Land Use Diagram*.

Assumptions

1. More archeological resources remain undiscovered in Placer County than have been previously identified. Only about 18 percent of the county has been field-surveyed, with surveys resulting in a total of 1,235 recorded archeological sites of all types. Assuming the remaining unsurveyed portions of the county have a similar density of sites, a minimum of 5,535 unrecorded sites can be anticipated. This indicates that future development under the General Plan could be expected to result in the discovery of a substantial number of new archaeological resource sites.
2. Except for areas of extremely rugged terrain and no water, prehistoric archaeological sites can be expected throughout the county. Most archaeological sites have, however, been found on gentle to moderately-sloping sites below 1,500 feet within 500 feet of surface water sources. New development in these areas may be expected to have a greater impact on undiscovered cultural resources.
3. Paleontological resources are associated with sedimentary, metasedimentary, and alluvial geology, which is found mostly in the western half of the county, where most future development would also occur. New development in these areas may be expected to have a greater impact on undiscovered paleontological resources.
4. The number of cultural resources considered historic (greater than 45 years old under guidelines published by the State Office of Historic Preservation and policies stated in the *Policy Document*) will be constantly increasing throughout the county as existing structures age.
5. Placer County probably contains many unidentified properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic places.

6. Certain development projects to be approved under the General Plan are expected to include federal funding or other federal involvement which would require project-level compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thresholds of Significance

Impacts are considered significant and adverse if the General Plan would do any of the following:

- Disrupt or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site determined to be an "important archeological resource" as defined by Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines;
- Disrupt or adversely affect a property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social group;
- Disrupt or adversely affect a paleontological site; or
- Disrupt or adversely affect a property that may eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic places.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DIAGRAM

As indicated above, most identified archeological sites in Placer County have been found on gentle to moderately sloping sites below 1,500 feet within 500 feet of surface water sources. Since the *General Plan* calls for substantial new development in these areas with these characteristics, specifically in the Auburn Foothills and the South Placer area, including in the new growth areas. Loss or damage to prehistoric or historic archeological sites or paleontological resource sites could, therefore, result from development facilitated by the General Plan. Such loss or damage would be considered a significant impact.

GENERAL PLAN POLICY RESPONSE

The *Policy Document* incorporates several policies and programs that are intended to protect Placer County's cultural resources by mitigating the potential impacts of new development in areas containing important archaeological, historic, or paleontological resources. The following policies and programs address the potential implications of the *Land Use Diagram* on cultural resources.

Policies

- 5.D.5. *The County shall use, where feasible, incentive programs to assist private property owners in preserving and enhancing cultural resources.*
- 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 countywide cultural resource data base, to be maintained by the Department of Museums.*
- 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.

- 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.*
- 5.D.9. *The County shall use the State Historic Building Code to encourage the preservation of historic structures.*
- 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.*
- 5.D.12. *The County shall consider acquisition programs 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 Nature Conservancy, and the Placer Land Trust.*

Program

- 5.5. *The County shall develop preservation incentive programs for owners of important cultural and paleontological resources, using such mechanisms as the Mills Act, the Historic Preservation Easement program, the Certified Local Government program, and the Heritage Tourism program.*

These policies promote the identification and preservation of cultural resources, including requiring new development projects to identify and to be designed to protect important cultural resources. Policies also promote the use of acquisition programs to preserve significant cultural resources.

IMPACTS

The cumulative effect of increased development, and thus human population and associated activity, could result in occasional accidental disruption and adverse effect to unidentified important sites, in spite of County's best efforts, as expressed in the above-listed policies and programs. The cumulative impact of development permitted under the General Plan is, therefore, unavoidable. This impact is considered potentially significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are available that would reduce the possibility of occasional accidental disruption of important archaeological, historic, or paleontological sites to a less-than-significant level.