

4.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) considers and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan Update on historical, cultural, and paleontological resources. Cultural resources are defined as prehistoric and historic sites, structures, and districts or any other physical evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations that have produced fossil material.

For analysis purposes, cultural resources may be categorized into four groups: archaeological resources (prehistoric and historical); historic properties, buildings, and districts; areas of importance to Native Americans; and paleontological resources (fossilized remains of plants and animals). Cultural resource impacts include those to existing historic resources (i.e., historic districts, landmarks, etc.) and to archaeological and paleontological resources.

CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY FOR EVALUATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following definitions are common terms used to discuss the regulatory requirements and treatment of cultural resources:

- *Cultural resources* is the term used to describe several different types of properties: prehistoric and historical archaeological sites; architectural properties such as buildings, bridges, and infrastructure; and resources of importance to Native Americans.
- *Historic properties* is a term defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property.
- *Historical resources* as described in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) includes buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, prehistoric, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance and is eligible for listing or is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or a local register of historical resources. The CRHR includes resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, as well as some California State Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest.
- *Paleontological resource* is defined as including fossilized remains of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, fossil tracks and trackways, and plant fossils. A unique paleontological site would include a known area of fossil-bearing rock strata.

4.10.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's master inventory of known historic resources. The NRHP is administered by the National Park Service and includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level. Structures, sites, buildings, districts, and objects over 50 years of age can be listed in the NRHP as significant historic resources. However, properties under 50 years of age that are of exceptional

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importance or are contributors to a district can also be included in the NRHP. The criteria for listing in the NRHP include resources that:

- a) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history (events);
- b) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (persons);
- 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 (architecture); or
- d) Have yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history (information potential).

STATE

CEQA Guidelines

Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the effects of their actions on both “historical resources” and “unique archaeological resources.” Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21084.1, a “project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.” Section 21083.2 requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources.

“Historical resource” is a term with a defined statutory meaning (PRC, Section 21084.1; determining significant impacts to historical and archaeological resources is described in the State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15064.5[a] and [b]). Under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a), historical resources include the following:

- 1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code, Section 5024.1).
- 2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, will be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
- 3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource will be considered by the lead agency to be historically significant if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code, Section 5024.1), including the following:

- a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
 - b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - c) 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
 - d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- 4) The fact that a resource is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code), or identified in a historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

As noted above, CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether projects will impact unique archaeological resources. Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, subdivision (g), states that unique archaeological resource means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Section 7050.5(b) of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) specifies protocol when human remains are discovered. The code states:

In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27492 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of death, and the recommendations concerning treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, subdivision (e) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native

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Americans, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, the lead agency must consult with the appropriate Native Americans, if any, as timely identified by the Native American Heritage Commission. Section 15064.5 directs the lead agency (or applicant), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the Native Americans for the treatment and disposition of the remains.

In addition to the mitigation provisions pertaining to accidental discovery of human remains, the State CEQA Guidelines also require that a lead agency make provisions for the accidental discovery of historical or archaeological resources, generally. Pursuant to Section 15064.5, subdivision (f), these provisions should include "an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation should be available. Work could continue on other parts of the building site while historical or unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place."

Senate Bill 18 (Government Code, Sections 65352.3 and 65352.4) requires that, prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or specific plan proposed on or after March 1, 2005, a city or county must consult with Native American tribes with respect to the possible preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, specified Native American places, features, and objects located within that jurisdiction. The City of South Lake Tahoe has contacted the Native American community pursuant to the stipulations of Senate Bill 18.

REGIONAL

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin

Developed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Plan describes the needs and goals of the region and provides statements of policy to guide decision-making as it affects the region's resources and remaining capacities. The plan with all of its elements, as implemented through agency ordinances and rules and regulations, provides for the achievement and maintenance of the adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities (thresholds) while providing opportunities for orderly growth and development. The Conservation Element of the Regional Plan provides for the identification and protection of cultural resources. Goal 1 addresses the identification and preservation of sites of historical, cultural, and architectural significance in the region. Policies 1 and 2 require identification and protection of significant historic resources in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

TRPA Code of Ordinances

The Code of Ordinances is a compilation of all TRPA laws and ordinances established to implement the goals and policies of the Regional Plan. The Code of Ordinances represents the coordination of a series of documents relating to land use regulation and environmental protection in the Tahoe region including the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (as amended), the environmental threshold carrying capacities adopted in Resolution 82-11, the Goals and Policies Plan, the Plan Area Statements and Maps, and other TRPA plans and programs. The Code of Ordinances establishes the minimum standards applicable throughout the Tahoe region with which all projects and activities must comply.

The Code of Ordinances also includes guidelines for the recognition, protection, and preservation of the region's significant historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources. These guidelines are presented in Chapter 29 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances. In addition, Chapter 64 of the Code of Ordinances at 64.8 provides measures to protect historic resources inadvertently discovered during grading activities.

LOCAL

Current City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan

The current City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan, adopted in 1999, provides the overall framework for translating broad community values and expectations into specific strategies for managing growth and enhancing the quality of life in the city. The Conservation Element includes objectives, goals, and actions for the protection of cultural resources.

4.10.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PREHISTORY

The archaeology of the north-central Sierra Nevada is complex and also related to surrounding areas such as the Central Valley, Southern Sierra Nevada, and Great Basin. Past archaeological studies of the eastern Sierra Nevada have documented an archaeological chronology dating back almost 11,000 years, comprising four prehistoric phases. From most recent to earliest, these are termed the Washoe/Kings Beach, Martis, Spooner, and Tahoe Reach prehistoric phases; each of these phases is characterized by collections of ground and flaked stone artifacts, including projectile points and stone tools. The Kings Beach phase is commonly divided into Early Kings Beach (AD 1250–650), and Late Kings Beach (1800–1250). Although not precisely aligned chronologically, this phase sequences into the Proto-Historic/Late Archaeologic period of California prehistory. The Martis Phase is divided into the Late (650 AD–2050 BC) and Early (2050–4050 BC), approximately corresponding to the Late Archaic and Middle Archaic Periods of California Prehistory. The Spooner Prehistoric Phase (3050–6050 BC) corresponds approximately with the Early/Pre-archaic period of California prehistory. Artifacts from this period are relatively sparse, which has led to difficulties in establishing dates for those that have been found. The Tahoe Reach phase (6050–8050 BC) corresponds with the Late Pre-archaic phase of California prehistory; artifacts from this phase are sparser even than those from the Spooner Phase (Town of Truckee, 2006; City of South Lake Tahoe, 2008.)

Between 7,000 and 2,000 years ago, there was a large increase in the physical evidence of people in the Sierra Nevada area. Archaeological sites found from this period increase dramatically from those found from previous periods. During this time period, populations expanded into areas only minimally visited previously. The Late Archaic period began about 1,500 years ago and is considered to be the final time period of prehistoric occupation. More distinctive local cultures and adaptations occurred. In the project area and the overall Lake Tahoe area, this time period is termed the Kings Beach Phase and represents the Washoe ethnographic pattern (Jensen, 2002.)

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ETHNOGRAPHY

The project area falls in the center of historic Washoe territory, with primary use by the northern Washoe. Washoe territory encompassed the area between the Great Basin to the east and the Sierra Nevada mountain range area to the west, which is the upper and more fertile drainage of the Truckee and Carson rivers. Their community lived a mobile lifestyle due to the requirements of the seasons and increases and decreases of food sources. The Washoe often spent the winter months at residential base camps, with several known to be located along the Truckee River and Donner, Cold, and Martis creeks. During the spring season, younger members of the community moved from the base camps in the valleys to Lake Tahoe to fish. By late spring and early summer, it is likely that all Washoe had gathered around Lake Tahoe (Jensen, 2002; Kroeber, 1925).

The ethnographic record suggests that during the mild season, small groups traveled through high mountain valleys collecting edible and medicinal roots, seeds, and marsh plants. In the higher elevations, men hunted large game and trapped smaller mammals. Suitable toolstone was quarried at various locales. The Washoe have a tradition of making long treks across the Sierran passes for the purpose of hunting, trading, and gathering acorns. These aboriginal trek routes, patterned after game trails, were often the precursors of historic and modern road systems. Archaeological evidence of these ancient subsistence activities are found along the mountain flanks. Washoe are unique in that they span both the California and Great Basin culture areas. They exploited environments and resources in both areas and possess general cultural traits attributable to groups occupying both regions. The cultural origins of the Washoe are unclear, but linguistic evidence suggests relations to other groups in California. Even into the 20th century, the Washoe were not completely displaced from their traditional lands. According to Kroeber (1925), they seemed to have suffered less as a result of the settlement of their territory than other California Native Americans (City of South Lake Tahoe, 2008.)

HISTORY

Euroamerican contact with Native American groups living in coastal areas and the Central Valley of California began during the last half of the 18th century. The Spanish period in California lasted from about 1769 to 1821. This was a time when the Spanish missions dominated lives of both the Spanish and the Native Americans in those areas in California. However, the effect of the Spanish on the Washoe has not been documented. The Mexican Period (ca. 1821–1848) in California is an outgrowth of the Mexican Revolution, and its accompanying social and political views affected the mission system. Spanish exploration of the Central Valley did not begin until the late 1700s, and the eastern edges of the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada were not explored until the early 1800s. In 1808 Gabriel Moraga explored the Mokelumne, Cosumnes, and American rivers, passing near modern-day Folsom. Subsequent exploration of the general area is credited to mountain men such as Jedediah Smith, who crossed the Sierra Nevada into California in 1826. Smith traveled along the American, Sacramento, and Cosumnes rivers and also probably passed through current Pleasant Valley. Other explorers such as Ewing Young, Joseph Walker, John Fremont, and Christopher “Kit” Carson soon followed Smith. In 1844, Fremont crossed the Sierra Nevada near Lake Tahoe and descended the west slope in proximity to the American River, which he eventually followed to Sutter’s Fort. Many of the trails used by these early explorers and subsequent immigrants were not newly discovered routes, but rather Native American trails that were already in use (City of South Lake Tahoe, 2008; Jensen, 2002).

Early explorations of the Sierra Nevada and its flanks were soon followed by groups of immigrants moving west. The first of these immigrant groups was the Bartleson-Bidwell party that crossed the Sierra Nevada in 1841 and followed the Stanislaus River into the Central Valley. The Joseph Chiles

and Joseph Walker parties followed the crossing of the Sierra Nevada by the Bartleson-Bidwell party in 1843. Chiles crossed the Sierra Nevada following the Malheur and Pit rivers into the Central Valley and then traveled south along the Sacramento River. Walker, however, traveled south along the eastern front of the Sierra Nevada to Walker Lake where he crossed into Owens Valley and eventually the Central Valley using what is now known as Walker's Pass. Subsequently, in 1844 the Stevens-Murphy party crossed the Sierra Nevada and probably is the first immigrant group to enter California via the Truckee and Bear rivers. Subsequently, the Gold Rush in 1849 dramatically increased the numbers of immigrants passing through the Lake Tahoe Basin to reach the gold fields in California (City of South Lake Tahoe, 2008).

At the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, there was a growing demand for roads that linked local communities and also California and Nevada. Initial road construction generally followed immigrant trails and other routes used by overland stage traffic and the Pony Express. One such road connecting Placerville and Nevada was constructed near the location of South Lake Tahoe. This road eventually became Placerville Road. The passage of the State Highways Act in 1909 authorized the creation of a highway network within states and linking adjoining states. The Placerville Road was incorporated into the developing highway system. Subsequently in 1913, the Placerville Road was incorporated into the intercontinental Lincoln Highway system. The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1925 created our current system of numbered interstate highways and the Lincoln Highway became US Highway 50. The City of South Lake Tahoe was incorporated in 1965 by combining the previously unincorporated communities of Al Tahoe, Bijou, Bijou Park, Stateline, Tahoe Valley, and Tallac Village.

KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

A records search completed at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento for the General Plan Background Report in 2008 identified 75 prehistoric sites within the Planning Area.

The State Office of Historic Preservation's California Historical Resources database was searched for historical properties located in the Planning Area. This database contains properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest. In addition, several historic sites of local interest are known to occur in the Planning Area based on previous study and information obtained. These historic sites are listed in **Table 4.10-1** below.

**TABLE 4.10-1
HISTORICAL SITES WITHIN THE PLANNING AREA**

Site	Location	Year Constructed	Status
Within City Limits			
Tahoe Meadows	Ski Run Boulevard	1925	Listed on NRHP and CRHR
Woodburn's Mill	East of Pioneer Trail	1860	Historic Site of Local Interest
First State Highway Bridge	Pioneer Trail and Trout Creek	1906	Historic Site of Local Interest
Lake Valley Railroad		1885	Historic Site of Local Interest
Sierra House	Pioneer trail south of Cold Creek	1858	Historic Site of Local Interest
Miller House	Pioneer trail north of Heavenly Valley Creek	1862	Historic Site of Local Interest

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Site	Location	Year Constructed	Status
Dixon's House	Pioneer trail north of Heavenly Valley Creek	1861	Historic Site of Local Interest
McComber's	Pioneer trail south of Ski Run Blvd	1865	Historic Site of Local Interest
Lapham's Hotel	Pioneer Trail and US 50	1860	Historic Site of Local Interest
Taylor's Landing (Bijou pier)	Lake shore near Ski Run Blvd	1861	Historic Site of Local Interest
Lake House (Rowland's Station)	Lake shore near Lake Tahoe Blvd (US 50)	1859	Historic Site of Local Interest
Al Tahoe Hotel (Globin's)	Lake shore near Lake Tahoe Blvd (US 50)	1908	Historic Site of Local Interest
Lake Valley Schoolhouse	US 50 south of Trout Creek	1932	Historic Site of Local Interest
Within Planning Area (Outside City Limits)			
Camp Richardson	SR 89		Listed on NRHP and CRHR
Vista Point	SR 89		Historic Site of Local Interest
Celio Ranch	Upper Truckee Road	1863	Historic Site of Local Interest
Osgood's Toll House	Upper Truckee Road near US 50	1859	Historic Site of Local Interest
Yank's Station	Pioneer Trail and US 50	1851	Historic Site of Local Interest
Pine Grove House	Pioneer Trail	1863	Historic Site of Local Interest
Tallac Resort	SR 89		Historic Site of Local Interest

Notes: Historic sites of local interest are not formally listed
 Source: Office of Historic Preservation, September 6, 2007

PALEONTOLOGICAL SETTING

Paleontology is defined as a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas. This resource can be an important educational resource for the reasons mentioned before and is nonrenewable once destroyed. CEQA offers protection for these sensitive resources and requires that they be addressed during the DEIR process. A search of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) collections database identified 22 paleontological resource finds in El Dorado County. However, none were identified in the City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan Planning Area. Formal paleontological investigations, however, have not been conducted in the General Plan Planning Area and paleontological resources have been identified in other areas in El Dorado County. It is possible that significant paleontological resources may be located in the South Lake Tahoe General Plan Planning Area.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

PMC requested a sacred lands search and a list of Native American contacts from the Native American Heritage Commission for the Background Report. The sacred lands search did not identify any sensitive Native American cultural resources in the General Plan Planning Area. The City contacted all groups and/or individuals on the list provided by the NAHC. The City, to date, has not received any comments regarding the General Plan Update.

4.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, the TRPA Initial Environmental Impact Checklist, and the TRPA Code of Ordinances, the proposed General Plan Update would be expected to result in a significant impact on cultural resources if the project would:

1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, respectively.
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in PRC Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, respectively.
3. Adversely impact a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA official maps or records.
4. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would adversely affect unique ethnic cultural values.
5. Have the potential to restrict historic or prehistoric religious or sacred uses;
6. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature.
7. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

METHODOLOGY

Efforts to identify cultural resources which could be affected by the project included review of the records search completed at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento for the General Plan Background Report in 2008. In addition, the Office of Historic Preservation's California Historical Resources database was searched for historical properties located in the City of South Lake Tahoe. A sacred lands file search was completed by the NAHC, and Native American representatives were mailed written correspondence requesting information regarding cultural resources. In addition, a search of the UCMP collections database was completed. The potential impacts of the project and its alternatives on cultural resources were evaluated by considering both construction and operational impacts.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource (Standards of Significance 1, 3, 4, and 5)

- Impact 4.10.1** Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or structure. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

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Implementation of the proposed 2030 General Plan Update does not specifically propose the demolition of any historic structures in the city or the Planning Area and is not expected to adversely affect or change the current use of any historical buildings, districts, or sites. Proposed General Plan Update policy provisions identified below would ensure that no significant impacts to designated local, TRPA, state, and federal historic resources are impacted from General Plan implementation. Thus, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Proposed General Plan Update Provisions that Provide Mitigation

The following list includes those provisions that contain specific, enforceable requirements and/or restrictions and corresponding performance standards that address the potential historic resource impacts.

Policy NCR-4.1: Significant Site Preservation: The City shall preserve sites of historical, cultural and architectural significance within the city.

Policy NCR-4.2: Historic Landmark Designation: The City shall designate structures or sites having special character or special historic, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value as local historic landmarks. The City shall protect local historic landmarks from demolition and inappropriate alterations, develop criteria for evaluating the appropriateness for sites or structures to be designated as local historic landmarks, and provide incentives for preservation of local historic landmarks.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource or Disturbance of Human Remains (Standards of Significance 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7)

Impact 4.10.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the potential disturbance of unknown archaeological resources (i.e., prehistoric archaeological sites, historical archaeological sites, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. This impact would be **potentially significant**.

Archaeological resources, features, and human remains may be accidentally discovered and damaged from subsequent development activities in the city. This could in turn result in the loss of these resources and their associated ethnic and cultural values.

The Natural and Cultural Resources Element of the proposed General Plan does not include policies which addressing archaeological resources, beyond Policy NCR-4.1 shown above. Therefore, this impact is potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM 4.10.2a The City will add the following as a policy to the Natural and Cultural Resources Element:

The City will require archaeological investigations for all applicable discretionary projects, in accordance with CEQA regulations, for areas not previously surveyed and/or that are determined sensitive for cultural resources

(e.g., undeveloped parcels near water features). The City shall require the preservation of discovered archaeologically significant resources (as determined based on TRPA, state, and federal standards by a qualified professional) in place if feasible or provide mitigation (avoidance, excavation, documentation, curation, data recovery, or other appropriate measures) prior to further disturbance.

MM 4.10.2b The City will add the following as a policy to the Natural and Cultural Resources Element:

The City will require/condition projects and other ground-disturbing activities to notify the City if human remains are discovered and to halt work. The County Coroner will be notified according to Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission and the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would ensure that potential accidental discovery of archaeological resources would not result in significant impacts to these resources or their cultural and ethnic value. Thus, this impact would be mitigated to a **less than significant** level.

Potential Destruction or Damage to Paleontological Resources (Standard of Significance 6)

Impact 4.10.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). This impact would be **potentially significant**.

A search of the University of California Museum of Paleontology collections database indicated that fossilized remains of plants, invertebrates, and mammals have been discovered in the county. Development under the proposed General Plan Update could impact undiscovered paleontological resources.

There are currently no policies proposed in the proposed General Plan Update that address potential disturbance of paleontological resources. Therefore, this impact is potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM 4.10.3 The City will add the following as a policy to the Natural and Cultural Resources Element:

The City will require that a paleontological resource evaluation be prepared and measures to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources shall be identified (avoidance, preservation in place, excavation, documentation, and/or data recovery) when fossils are discovered during ground-disturbing activities.

Implementation of above mitigation measure would reduce potentially significant impacts resulting from inadvertent damage or destruction to unknown paleontological resources to **less than significant**.

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