3.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section evaluates the potential impacts of the project on known and unknown cultural resources. Impacts associated with Tribal cultural resources are discussed in Section 3.15, "Tribal Cultural Resources."

Cultural resources include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects generally older than 50 years and considered to be important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. They include prehistoric (e.g., precontact) resources and historic-period (e.g., historic-era) resources. Archaeological resources are locations where human activity has measurably altered the earth or left deposits of precontact or historic-era physical remains (e.g., stone tools, bottles, former roads, house foundations). Historical (or built environment) resources include standing buildings (e.g., houses, barns, outbuildings, cabins) and intact structures (e.g., dams, bridges, roads, districts), or landscapes. A cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

No comment letters regarding cultural resources were received in response to the notice of preparation (see Appendix A). Comments associated with Tribal cultural resources are addressed in Section 3.15, "Tribal Cultural Resources."

3.8.1 Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's master inventory of known historic properties. It 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.

The formal criteria (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 60.4) for determining NRHP eligibility are as follows:

1. The property is at least 50 years old (however, properties under 50 years of age that are of exceptional importance or are contributors to a district can also be included in the NRHP);
2. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations; and
3. It possesses at least one of the following characteristics:

   Criterion A Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history (events).

   Criterion B Is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past (persons).

   Criterion C Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant, distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (architecture).

   Criterion D Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (information potential).

For a property to retain and convey historic integrity it must possess most of the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where a historic event occurred. Integrity of location refers to whether the property has been moved since its construction. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Setting is the physical environment of a historic property that illustrates the character of the place. Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in

a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. This is an intangible quality evoked by physical features that reflect a sense of a past time and place. Association is the direct link between the important historic event or person and a historic property. Continuation of historic use and occupation help maintain integrity of association.

Listing in the NRHP does not entail specific protection or assistance for a property but it does guarantee consideration in planning for federal or federally assisted projects, eligibility for federal tax benefits, and qualification for federal historic preservation assistance. Additionally, project effects on properties listed in the NRHP must be evaluated under CEQA.

The National Register Bulletin series was developed to assist evaluators in the application of NRHP criteria. For example, National Register Bulletin #36 provides guidance in the evaluation of archaeological site significance. If a property cannot be placed within a particular theme or time period, and thereby lacks "focus," it will be unlikely to possess characteristics that would make it eligible for listing in the NRHP. Evaluation standards for linear features (such as roads, trails, fence lines, railroads, ditches, and flumes) are considered in terms of four related criteria that account for specific elements that define engineering and construction methods of linear features: (1) size and length, (2) presence of distinctive engineering features and associated properties, (3) structural integrity, and (4) setting. The highest probability for NRHP eligibility exists in the intact, longer segments, where multiple criteria coincide.

STATE

California Register of Historical Resources

All properties in California that are listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP are also listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The CRHR is a listing of State of California resources that are significant in the context of California's history. It is a Statewide program with a scope and with criteria for inclusion similar to those used for the NRHP. In addition, properties designated under municipal or county ordinances are also eligible for listing in the CRHR.

A historical resource must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the criteria defined in the California Code of Regulations Title 15, Chapter 11.5, Section 4850 to be included in the CRHR. The CRHR criteria are tied to CEQA because any resource that meets the criteria below is considered a significant historical resource under CEQA. As noted above, all resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP are automatically listed in the CRHR.

The CRHR uses four evaluation criteria:

Criterion 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.

Criterion 2. Is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.

Criterion 3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values.

Criterion 4. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

Similar to the NRHP, a historical resource must meet one of the above criteria and retain integrity to be listed in the CRHR. The CRHR uses the same seven aspects of integrity used by the NRHP.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires public agencies to consider the effects of their actions on "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 projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources.

Historical Resources

"Historical resource" is a term with a defined statutory meaning (PRC Section 21084.1; 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 CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1).

2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k) or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g), 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 that 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 CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1).

4) The fact that a resource is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to PRC Section 5020.1[k]), or identified in a historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in PRC Section 5024.1[g]) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource as defined in PRC Sections 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

Unique Archaeological Resources

CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether projects will affect unique archaeological resources. PRC Section 21083.2(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 one or more 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.

Public Resources Code Section 21083.2

Treatment options under PRC Section 21083.2(b) to mitigate impacts to archaeological resources include activities that preserve such resources in place in an undisturbed state. PRC Section 21083.2 states:

(a) As part of the determination made pursuant to Section 21080.1, the lead agency shall determine whether the project may have a significant effect on archaeological resources. If the lead agency determines that the project may have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources, the environmental impact report shall address the issue of those resources. An environmental impact report, if otherwise necessary, shall not address the issue of nonunique archaeological resources. A negative declaration shall be issued with respect to a project if, but for the issue of nonunique archaeological resources, the negative declaration would be otherwise issued.

(b) If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts to be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. Examples of that treatment, in no order of preference, may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Planning construction to avoid archaeological sites.

(2) Deeding archaeological sites into permanent conservation easements.

(3) Capping or covering archaeological sites with a layer of soil before building on the sites.

(4) Planning parks, greenspace, or other open space to incorporate archaeological sites.

(c) To the extent that unique archaeological resources are not preserved in place or not left in an undisturbed state, mitigation measures shall be required as provided in this subdivision.

(d) Excavation as mitigation shall be restricted to those parts of the unique archaeological resource that would be damaged or destroyed by the project.

(e) In no event shall the amount paid by a project applicant for mitigation measures required pursuant to subdivision (c) exceed the following amounts:

(1) An amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of a commercial or industrial project.

(2) An amount equal to three-fourths of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of a housing project consisting of a single unit.

(3) If a housing project consists of more than a single unit, an amount equal to three-fourths of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of the project for the first unit plus the sum of the following:

(A) Two hundred dollars ($200) per unit for any of the next 99 units.

(B) One hundred fifty dollars ($150) per unit for any of the next 400 units.

(C) One hundred dollars ($100) per unit in excess of 500 units.

(f) Unless special or unusual circumstances warrant an exception, the field excavation phase of an approved mitigation plan shall be completed within 90 days after final approval necessary to implement the physical development of the project or, if a phased project, in connection with the phased portion to which the specific mitigation measures are applicable. However, the project applicant may extend that period if he or she so elects.

Nothing in this section shall nullify protections for Indian cemeteries under any other provision of law.

California Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites Act

The California Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites Act (PRC Section 5097.9) applies to both State and private lands. The act requires, upon discovery of human remains, that construction or excavation activity cease and that the county coroner be notified. If the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which notifies and has the authority to designate the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased. The act stipulates the procedures the descendants may follow for treating or disposing of the remains and associated grave goods.

Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5

Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code requires that construction or excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains until the coroner conducts an inquiry and can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. If they are determined to be those of a Native American, the coroner must contact NAHC.

Public Resources Code, Section 5097

PRC Section 5097 specifies the procedures to be followed if human remains are unexpectedly discovered on nonfederal land. The disposition of Native American burials falls within the jurisdiction of NAHC. Section 5097.5(a) of the code states:

A person shall not knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure, or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or vertebrate paleontological site, including fossilized footprints, inscriptions made by human agency, rock art, or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over the lands.

LOCAL

City of Roseville 2035 General Plan

The City of Roseville 2035 General Plan (City of Roseville 2020) lists the following policies related to archaeological, historic, cultural, and Tribal cultural resources that may be applicable to the project.

- Policy OS4.1 Consult with local Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with resources that could be affected by City plans or projects, identify areas that may be of cultural or tribal cultural significance, and determine appropriate treatment for the areas.
- Policy OS4.2 When items of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance are discovered within the City, a qualified archaeologist or historian shall be called to evaluate the find and to recommend proper action.
- Policy OS4.4 The City shall coordinate with the appropriate federal, state, local agencies, and Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) Tribes upon discovery of artifacts. The City shall offer the Maidu Museum & Historic Site as a temporary housing location for artifacts that are discovered and subsequently determined to be "removable."

3.8.2 Environmental Setting

The following information is from the *Cultural Resources Assessment Report for the Roseville Industrial Park Project* (Ascent 2022).

REGIONAL PRECONTACT HISTORY

A tripartite classification system for cultural change in California's Sacramento River Valley has been standard since the 1930s. This system has recently been adjusted based on modern calibration curves for radiocarbon dates. Radiocarbon dating is a crucial technique in archaeology for determining the age of organic materials up to approximately 50,000 years old. It relies on the radioactive decay of carbon-14 (^{14}C), a naturally occurring isotope present in all living organisms (plants and animals). By measuring the remaining ^{14}C in a sample, archaeologists can estimate the time since the organism died.

The following classification system has been defined for the pre-contact period: Paleo-Indian (13,500–10,550 calibrated [cal] before present [BP], Lower Archaic (10,550–7550 cal BP), Middle Archaic (7550–2550 cal BP), Upper Archaic (2550–900 cal BP), and Emergent or Late Prehistoric Period (900–200 cal BP).

Subsequent to the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods, the cultural framework is further divided into three regionally based "patterns." Specific to the project area, there are three regionally based patterns. These are the Windmiller, Berkeley, and Augustine patterns. The patterns mark distinct changes in artifact types, subsistence practices, and settlement patterns, which began circa 7550 cal BP and lasted until European contact in the mid-1800s. They were initially identified at three archaeological sites: the Windmiller site near the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County; the West Berkeley site on the east side of the San Francisco Bay in Alameda County; and the Augustine site in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. In general, the patterns conform to three temporal divisions: Middle Archaic Period/Windmiller Pattern, Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern, Late Prehistoric Period/Augustine Pattern.

Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic Periods (13,500–7550 cal BP)

There is little evidence of the Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic periods in the Central Valley. Recent geoarchaeological studies have found that large segments of the Late Pleistocene landscape throughout the California lowlands have been buried or removed by periodic episodes of deposition and erosion. Periods of climate change and associated alluvial deposition occurred at the end of the Pleistocene (approximately 11,000 cal BP) and at the beginning of the early Middle Holocene (approximately 7550 cal BP). Earlier studies had also estimated that Paleo-Indian and Lower Archaic sites along the lower stretch of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River drainage systems had been buried by Holocene alluvium up to 33 feet thick that was deposited during the last 5,000 to 6,000 years. The formation of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta began during the early Middle Holocene. After approximately 3,000 cal BP during the Late Holocene, there were renewed episodes of alluvial fan and floodplain deposition.

The archaeological evidence that is available for the Paleo-Indian Period is primarily defined by basally thinned, fluted projectile points. These points are morphologically similar to well-dated Clovis points found elsewhere in North America. In the Central Valley, fluted points have been recovered from remnant features of the Pleistocene landscape at only three archaeological localities, the Woolfsen Mound in Merced County; Tracey Lake in San Joaquin County; and Tulare Lake basin in Kings County.

Middle Archaic Period/Windmiller Pattern (7550–2550 cal BP)

Archaeological sites dating to the first 3,000 years of the Middle Archaic are relatively scarce in the Sacramento River Valley, mainly due to natural geomorphic processes. On the valley floor, sites are more common after 4550 cal. BP. The archaeological record in the valley and foothills indicates the subsistence system during this period included a wide range of natural resources (e.g., plants, small and large mammals, fish, and waterfowl) indicating people followed a seasonal foraging strategy. Some researchers suggest populations may have occupied lower elevations during the winter and moved to higher elevations in the summer. Others suggest there was increasing residential stability along Central Valley river corridors during the Middle Archaic.

Excavations at Windmiller 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 triangular blades and contracting stems are common at Windmiller 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 points are classified within the Sierra Contracting Stem and Houx Contracting Stem series. The presence of milling implements (grinding slabs, handstones, and mortar fragments) indicate that acorns or seeds were an important part of the Middle Archaic diet.

The presence of numerous exotic trade goods within Middle Archaic assemblages indicate that populations were already part of a complex regional trade network. Obsidian sources include eastern Sierra sources (e.g., Bodie Hills, Casa Diablo, Coso, and Mount Hicks), North Coast Range (e.g., Napa Valley and Borax Lake), and southern Cascades (e.g., Tuscan). Olivella shell beads make their first appearance in the study area during the Early Period, indicating trade with Southern California coastal groups. Lastly, burial complexes with large populations and elaborate grave offerings indicate extended residential occupancy.

Upper Archaic Period/Berkeley Pattern (2550-900 cal BP)

The Upper Archaic is characterized by a shift over a 1,000-year period to the more specialized, adaptive Berkeley Pattern. Excavated archaeological sites dating to the Upper Archaic indicate an increase in mortar and pestle groundstone technology. This change is supported by dated palaeobotanical remains and 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. New types of shell beads, charmstones, bone tools, and ceremonial blades are additional evidence of the more specialized technology present during this period.

The artifact assemblage in Berkeley Pattern sites demonstrates that populations continued to exploit a variety of plant and animal resources from different environmental zones, including grassland, riparian, and freshwater marsh settings. Deposits of this temporal period have a characteristic well-developed brown midden containing hearth features, fire-fractured rock, storage pits, and house floors. These features indicate that Upper Archaic sites were intensively occupied by large populations.

Berkeley Pattern artifact assemblages are also characterized by split, saddle, and saucer shaped Olivella shell beads, Haliotis ornaments, and a variety of bone tool types. Charmstones are fishtail and asymmetrical spindle-shaped. Mortuary patterns are characterized by flexed burials in variable orientations and a paucity of grave goods. Some cremations have also been recorded in Middle Period cemeteries. Inhumations (human burials) are sometimes accompanied by animal bones and animal-only burials have also been recorded. Obsidian from the North Coast Ranges and the east side of the Sierra Nevada Range indicate a slight shift in trade patterns away from more northernly sources.

Emergent Period/Augustine Pattern (900-200 cal BP)

The archaeological record for the Emergent or Late Precontact Period shows an increase in the number of archaeological sites associated with the Augustine Pattern in the Sacramento River Valley, 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 intricate fishing technology, as well as an elaborate social and ceremonial organization. Cultural patterns typical of the Emergent Period appear to be reflected in the cultural traditions known from historic-era period Native American groups.

Faunal and botanical remains recovered at Emergent Period archaeological sites indicate occupants relied on a diverse assortment of mammals, fish, and plant, including acorns and pine nuts. Hopper mortars, shaped mortars, and pestles are among the new technologies that appear during this time period. 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 this period and in some parts of the lower Sacramento River Valley Cosumnes Brownware ceramics are present. The appearance of ceramics during this period is likely a direct improvement on the prior baked clay industry. Complex fishing instruments appear, such as the serrated fish harpoons, composite bone hooks, and the toggle harpoon.

During the Emergent Period, villages were located along major waterways with smaller settlements found in outlying areas. Settlements on natural levees and high spots in floodplains were common. House floors or other structural remains have been preserved at some sites dating to this 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, incised patterned bird bone tubes and whistles, and baked clay effigies representing animals and humans. Mortuary practices changed to include flexed burials (fetal position), cremations with grave goods and offerings, and pre-interment burning in a burial pit. Currency, in the form of clamshell disk beads, also developed during the later part of the period together with extensive exchange networks that included the Pacific Northwest and southern California.

HISTORIC SETTING

Historic land use around Pleasant Grove Creek within the project site has changed little in the last 160 years. The earliest Euro-American use of the project area occurred in late 1840s, when argonauts entered the area searching for placer gold. That played out quickly and as early as 1854, small-scale ranching began. Around this same time, a man named Lee acquired 10,500 acres of land through government script and settled on Pleasant Grove Creek. In 1856, he sold his parcel to Stephen A. Boutwell, who began to acquire other land near the California and Oregon Railroad (now Southern Pacific). Boutwell and his partner, William Dunlap, used their land for a sheep ranch, combining their holdings with those of a new partner, James W. Kaseberg, in 1864. During the 1870s, as many as 30,000 head of sheep were sheared on the ranch each year. The Boutwell, Dunlap, and Kasberg ranch was also home of the first thoroughbred and trotting horses raised in California.

Another important early farming family in the area was the Fiddyments. The Fiddyment family has a long history in the Roseville area and their ranch borders the project site on the east side. Elizabeth Jane Fiddyment came to the Sacramento area from Illinois in 1854, a widow with a four-year-old son, Walter Frederick Fiddyment. Upon arriving in the Elk Grove area in southern Sacramento County, she met and married a local farmer and stock-raiser, George Hill. The new family moved to the Pleasant Grove District in Roseville in 1856 to live and work with her sister's family on their farming operation. Around this time, Elizabeth's brother-in-law repaid a debt to her with a parcel of land, the first of what would eventually become extensive land holdings.

In 1879, Elizabeth's son, Walter, left his mother's home when he married Ella Bond. Walter bought 80 acres in the Pleasant Grove District, the first of 240 acres he eventually owned in the area. When the soil and natural irrigation proved too poor for farming, Walter turned to raising horses and mules, which also proved unprofitable. He then turned to raising cattle and sheep. Walter's son Russell even tried a turkey farm on the ranch in the 1920s. In the 1970s, the family added a pistachio orchard to their endeavors. Today, the family continues to raise cattle and grow pistachios near Pleasant Grove Creek.

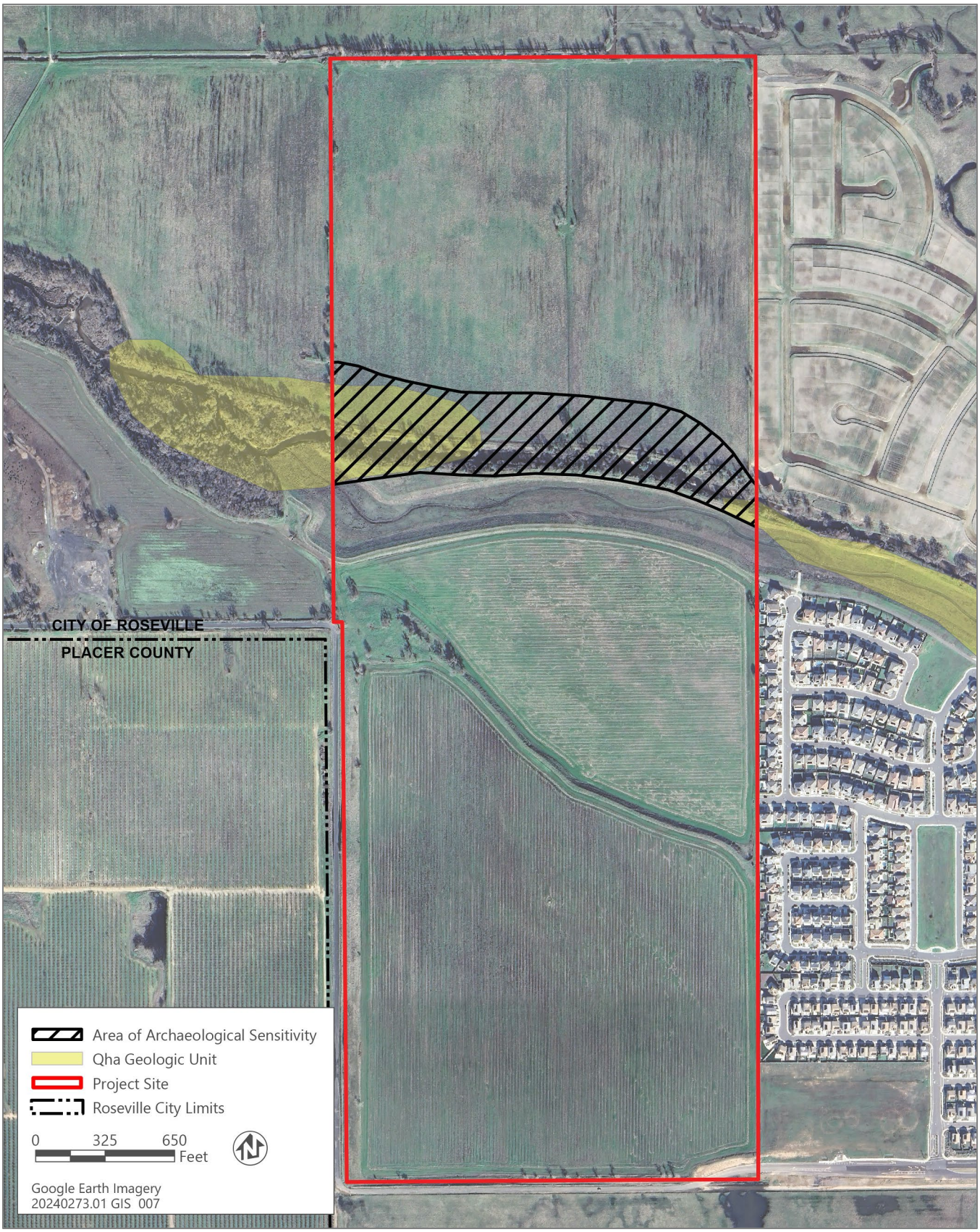
In the mid-1970s, the land in and around the project site began to be re-contoured to accommodate rice cultivation on both sides of Pleasant Grove Creek. Rice cultivation continued up until sometime after 2002 and, in some places, is still ongoing. After that, most of the land was converted to irrigated pasture and a retention basin was excavated just south of Pleasant Grove Creek. Today, the land is still used for agriculture (including rice cultivation) and cattle grazing.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

Three geologic units are present in the project site: the Turlock Lake Formation, the Riverbank Formation, and Holocene alluvium. A preliminary geotechnical study of the project site (Gularte & Associates 2021) found that alluvial silty sands comprise approximately the upper 6 to 13 feet of the project site. Below 13 feet, the project site is underlain with very stiff to hard silt and silty clay with minor beds of very dense silty sand down to approximately 50 feet. North of Pleasant Grove Creek, the soils are composed of interbedded stiff to hard silt, sandy silt, and silty clay with minor beds of very dense silty sand.

In 2008, a comprehensive geoarchaeological study was prepared for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 3, which includes Placer County (Meyer and Rosenthal 2008). The study found that due to the mid-Pleistocene age of the Turlock Lake Formation (450,000 to 600,000 years ago) and the Riverbank Formation (150,000 to 450,000 years ago), the presence of buried archaeological deposits in these formations is extremely unlikely. Conversely, the potential for buried deposits in Holocene alluvium is considered moderate to high depending on the exact age of the deposit. The Caltrans study concluded that the Sacramento River Valley in general has moderate potential for buried sites associated with latest Holocene geological units (Qha). These Holocene soils are typically associated with sites dating to the Upper Archaic and Emergent periods.

Therefore, because the Riverbank and Turlock Lake formation comprise approximately 90 percent of the project site, the majority of the project site has very low sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits. The exception to this is the areas at the west and east ends of the segment of Pleasant Grove Creek (Figure 3.8-1) and under the 13 feet of fill on the north bank of the creek. Although the south bank is composed of the same fill as the north bank, the south area was disturbed past the 13 feet of fill when it was reconfigured into a retention basin. Therefore, the south area of fill has low potential for intact archaeological deposits; the south bank of Pleasant Grove Creek remains sensitive. Figure 3.8-1 depicts the area of archaeological sensitivity within the project site. These areas should be considered to have a moderate sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits.



Source: Data based on information provided by Gularte & Associates Geotechnical Consultants in 2021; adapted by Ascent in 2025.

Figure 3.8-1 Area of Potential Buried Resource Sensitivity

RECORDS SEARCH AND SURVEY

On November 17, 2022, a search of records concerning the project site and a one-quarter-mile radius was conducted at the North Central Information Center (NCIC), at California State University, Sacramento (PLA-22-118). In addition, on September 25, 2025, an additional records search request was conducted, to include the off-site utility corridor, at the NCIC (PLA-25-73). The following information was reviewed as part of the records search:

- site records of previously recorded cultural resources,
- previous cultural studies,
- NRHP and CRHR listings,
- the California Historic Resources Inventory,
- Built Environment Resource Directory for Placer County, and
- Historical Maps (USGS Topographic and GLO Plat maps).

The records search revealed no previously recorded resources within the project site or within a one-quarter-mile radius. The search also found that one previous investigation included the entirety of the project site, four previous investigations included only a portion of the project site, and six investigations have occurred within one-quarter-mile.

Survey

Field work for the project was conducted on July 6 and 7, 2021 by Ascent cultural resources staff. Overall, the survey found no presence of anthropogenic soils (i.e., midden), hearth features, or concentrations of shell, bone, or lithic materials that would have indicated the presence of a pre-contact indigenous archaeological deposit. Similarly, no concentrations of glass, metal, or ceramic that would have indicated the presence of a historic-age archaeological deposit were observed. No buildings were present and no built environment structures or objects which appeared to be 45 years or older were observed; all irrigation and watering features were of modern plastic, metal, and concrete typical for the documented agricultural and grazing use of the property.

Only two isolated archaeological objects were recorded as a result of the survey: a handstone and a concrete pad. Isolates are defined as one or two artifacts occurring by themselves and not associated with an archaeological site. Because they have no historical context, isolates are generally not eligible for listing in CRHR or NRHP and, therefore, were not evaluated for significance and not discussed further in this EIR.

Due to the age of the previous survey effort conducted by Ascent, Peak and Associates conducted supplementary surveys in October 2024 and September 2025 (Peak and Associates 2025). The October 2024 survey resulted in the 6382 Philip Road levees being recorded as a built environment feature. The September 2025 survey was conducted for the off-site utility corridor proposed along Phillip Road and Blue Oaks Boulevard. No new archaeological sites or built environment features were identified during the September 2025 pedestrian survey.

6382 Phillip Road Levees

The bulk of the levees on the property are north of the creek. There are levees along the property boundaries north of the creek and a north-south levee that divides the northern area into two unequal pieces, the west larger than the east. These average about 2 feet high. The north bank creek levee is higher and includes the only water control feature noted in the system. This is a welded steel pipe allowing water to drain from the eastern field into the creek.

The south bank levee is similar to the north, but it has been reinforced with a plastic construction material. An overflow channel from the creek has developed just south of the levee. It starts off the property to the west, so the landowner could not block the flow. Therefore, a new levee was built to control the overflow water. It parallels the main creek channel about 250 feet to the south.

The use of levees for controlling water is common throughout California and many other locations nationwide. The presence of the levees on this property for floodwater management associated with agriculture is in no way

distinctive and does not confer importance to the features. Many better examples exist elsewhere in conjunction with the development of California agriculture (Criterion A/1).

There was no correlation between landowners with the construction of the levees (Criterion B/2). Without a single creator identified, there is no association with persons significant in the past. The levees are simple features, likely constructed on an ad hoc basis, with no formal plan (Criterion C/3). No additional information valuable for local history can be derived from further study of the levees (Criterion D/4).

Therefore, the 6382 Phillip Road levees were recommended not eligible for the NRHP and CRHR.

3.8.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

METHODOLOGY

The impact analysis for archaeological and historical resources is based on the findings and recommendations of the *Cultural Resources Assessment Report for the Roseville Industrial Park Project* (Ascent 2022) and *Determination of Eligibility and Effect for the 6382 Phillip Road Project, City of Roseville, California* (Peak and Associates 2025). The analysis is also informed by the provisions and requirements of federal, state, and local laws and regulations that apply to cultural resources.

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a "unique archaeological resource" as 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 one or more of the following CRHR-related criteria: (1) that it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; (2) that it as a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or (3) that it is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important precontact or historic-era event or person. An impact on a resource that is not unique is not a significant environmental impact under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[c][4]). If an archaeological resource qualifies as a resource under CRHR criteria, then the resource is treated as a unique archaeological resource for the purposes of CEQA.

For the purposes of the impact discussion, "historical resource" is used to describe built-environment historic-period resources. Archaeological resources (both precontact and historic-era), which may qualify as "historical resources" pursuant to CEQA, are analyzed separately from built-environment historical resources.

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project would cause a significant impact related to cultural resources if it would:

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines; or
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER

As described above, no historical resources were identified on the project site. The records search revealed no previously recorded historical resources within the project site. However, a built environment feature, 6382 Phillip Road levees, were recorded and recommended as not eligible for the CRHR and NRHP (Peak and Associates 2025). As a result, these 6382 Phillip Road levees are not considered significant resources for the purposes of CEQA. Therefore, project construction and operation would have no impact on historical resources. This issue is not analyzed further.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact 3.8-1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of Unique Archaeological Resources

Results of the records searches and pedestrian surveys did not result in the identification of archaeological resources within the project site. However, project-related ground-disturbing activities, including off-site roadway and utility improvements, could result in discovery or damage of yet undiscovered archaeological resources as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or PRC Section 21083.2(g). This would be a **potentially significant** impact.

The NCIC records searches revealed that no precontact or historic-era archaeological sites have been previously documented within the project site or within a one-quarter-mile radius. The pedestrian surveys found no anthropogenic soils (i.e., midden), above ground features, or concentrations of shell, bone, or lithic materials that would have indicated the presence of a pre-contact indigenous archaeological deposit. Additionally, no unique archaeological resources as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g) or archaeological resources as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 were identified during the surveys.

As discussed previously, because the Riverbank and Turlock Lake formation comprise approximately 90 percent of the project site, the majority of the site has very low sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits. The exception to this is the areas at the west and east ends of the segment of Pleasant Grove Creek (Figure 3.8-1) and below the 13 feet of fill on the north bank of the creek. These areas have a moderate sensitivity for buried archaeological deposits. For these reasons, there is potential for ground disturbance during project construction in this area to encounter previously undiscovered or unrecorded archaeological sites and materials. These activities could damage or destroy previously undiscovered archaeological resources. This would be a **potentially significant** impact.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 3.8-1a: Develop and Implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program

The City of Roseville shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeologists to prepare a worker environmental awareness training. Prior to the start of any ground disturbing construction activities, a qualified archaeologist shall develop a construction worker awareness brochure for all construction personnel. The brochure will be developed in coordination with representatives from Native American tribes culturally affiliated with the project area. The topics to be addressed in the Worker Environmental Awareness Program will include, at a minimum:

- types of archaeological and Tribal cultural resources expected in the project area;
- what to do if a worker encounters a possible resource;
- what to do if a worker encounters bones or possible bones; and
- penalties for removing or intentionally disturbing archaeological and Tribal cultural resources, such as those identified in the Archeological Resources Protection Act.

Mitigation Measure 3.8-1b: Halt Ground Disturbance Upon Discovery of Subsurface Archaeological Features

In the event that any subsurface archaeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden") and concentrations of charcoal, flaked stone, glass, metal, or ceramic, are discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the find shall be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist shall be retained to assess the significance of the find. If the qualified archaeologist determines the archaeological material to be Native American in nature, the applicant shall contact the appropriate Native American tribe for their input on the preferred treatment of the find (consistent with Mitigation Measure 3.15-1b). If the find is determined to be significant (i.e., because it is determined to constitute a unique archaeological resource), the archaeologist shall develop, and the applicant shall implement, appropriate procedures to protect the integrity of the resource and ensure that no

additional resources are affected. Procedures could include but would not necessarily be limited to preservation in place, archival research, subsurface testing, or contiguous block unit excavation and data recovery.

Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.8-1a and 3.8-1b would reduce impacts associated with archaeological resources to a **less-than-significant** level because they would require the performance of professionally accepted and legally compliant procedures for the discovery and protection of previously undocumented significant archaeological resources.

Impact 3.8-2: Disturb Human Remains

Based on documentary research, no evidence suggests that any precontact or historic-era marked or un-marked human interments are present within or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. However, ground-disturbing construction activities could uncover previously unknown human remains. This would be a **potentially significant** impact.

Based on documentary research, no evidence suggests that any precontact or historic-era marked or un-marked human interments are present within or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. However, the location of grave sites and Native American remains can occur outside of identified cemeteries or burial sites. Therefore, there is a possibility that unmarked, previously unknown Native American or other graves could be present within the project site and could be uncovered by project-related construction activities. This would be a **potentially significant** impact.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 3.8-2: Halt Ground Disturbance Upon Discovery of Human Remains

Should any amount of bone or human remains be encountered during any subsurface development activities, work shall be suspended within 100 feet of the find, and the City of Roseville shall be immediately notified. At that time, the City shall coordinate any necessary investigation of the site with qualified archaeologists as needed to assess the resource and provide proper management recommendations. Possible management recommendations for important resources could include resource avoidance or data recovery excavations. Pursuant to section 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, in the event of the discovery of human remains, the County Coroner shall be immediately notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, guidelines of the Native American Heritage Commission shall be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains.

Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.8-2 would reduce impacts associated with human remains to a **less-than-significant** level because work would be required to be suspended if human remains are encountered during any subsurface development and the project would comply with the appropriate laws and regulations.

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