

4.6 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.6.1 ALTERNATIVE A – PROPOSED PROJECT

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternative A would not have a significant effect on known cultural resources. One site, remnants of a historic farm complex (AES-01-5-1) on the property has been identified, recorded, and evaluated as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The evaluation of the historical and architectural significance of the Daulton Farm found that it does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the NRHP. Furthermore, this site is located outside the proposed developed area of the Madera site. Therefore, Alternative A would not affect known historic resources.

There is a possibility that previously unknown archaeological resources will be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries. Adoption of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The significance of paleontological resources is determined in part in terms of compliance with the Antiquities Act of 1906 (PL 59-209; 16 United States Code 431 *et seq.*; 34 Stat. 225), which calls for the protection of historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on Federal land. Additional provisions appear in the Archaeological and Historic Data Preservation Act of 1974, as amended, related to the survey, recovery, and preservation of significant scientific, prehistoric, historic, archaeological, or paleontological data, in such cases where this type of data might be otherwise destroyed or irrecoverably lost as a result of Federal projects. Paleontological resources are important for their scientific and educational value. Fossil remains of vertebrates are considered significant resources. Invertebrate fossils are considered significant if they function as index fossils. Index fossils are those that appear in the fossil record for a relatively short and known period of time, allowing geologists to interpret the age of the geological formations in which they are found.

No known paleontological or unique geological resources exist on the Madera site. Given disturbance over time, primarily due to grading from agricultural operations, the upper layer of soils underlying the Madera site are not known to contain paleontological resources and have a low probability of containing unknown paleontological resources. However, the discoveries at the Fairmead Landfill site discussed in **Section 3.6** contribute to the potential for significant paleontological deposits to be present beneath the ground surface. Therefore, there is a possibility that unknown paleontological resources could be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5**

for the protection and preservation of unanticipated discoveries of paleontological resources. Adoption of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.6.2 ALTERNATIVE B – REDUCED INTENSITY

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternative B would not have a significant effect on known cultural resources. One site, remnants of a historic farm complex (AES-01-5-1) on the property has been identified, recorded, and evaluated as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This site is also located outside the proposed developed area of the Madera site. Therefore, Alternative A would not affect known historic properties.

There is a possibility that previously unknown archaeological resources will be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No known paleontological or unique geological resources exist on the Madera site. Given disturbance over time, primarily due to grading from agricultural operations, the upper layer of soils underlying the Madera site are not known to contain paleontological resources and have a low probability of containing unknown paleontological resources. However, the discoveries at the Fairmead Landfill site discussed in **Section 3.6** contribute to the potential for significant paleontological deposits to be present beneath the ground surface. Therefore, there is a possibility that unknown paleontological resources could be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the protection and preservation of unanticipated discoveries of paleontological resources. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.6.3 ALTERNATIVE C – NON-GAMING USE

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternative C would not have a significant effect on known cultural resources. One site, remnants of a historic farm complex (AES-01-5-1) on the property has been identified, recorded, and evaluated as not eligible for the NRHP. This site is also located outside the proposed developed area of the Madera site. Therefore, Alternative A would not affect known historic properties.

There is a possibility that previously unknown archaeological resources will be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are

presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No known paleontological or unique geological resources exist on the Madera site. Given disturbance over time, primarily due to grading from agricultural operations, the upper layer of soils underlying the Madera site are not known to contain paleontological resources and have a low probability of containing unknown paleontological resources. However, the discoveries at the Fairmead Landfill site discussed in **Section 3.6** contribute to the potential for significant paleontological deposits to be present beneath the ground surface. Therefore, there is a possibility that unknown paleontological resources could be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the protection and preservation of unanticipated discoveries of paleontological resources. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.6.4 ALTERNATIVE D – NORTH FORK LOCATION

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Although seven archaeological sites have been previously identified on the North Fork site (**Section 3.6.5**), only one site is located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area of the North Fork site. P-20-2358 is a prehistoric resource composed of two granitic bedrock mortar outcrops and a sparse lithic scatter. One outcrop contains 9 cups and one contains 2 cups. The site is located on the north side of a seasonal draw, just west of an open area of steeply sloped granitic outcrops and boulders and may be impacted by slope stabilization activities. P-20-2358 could be effected by construction activities. This would be a significant impact. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Additionally, there is a possibility that previously unknown archaeological resources will be encountered during construction. This would be potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No known paleontological or unique geological resources are known to exist in the project area. Geologic formations that underlie the North Fork site have a low probability of containing paleontological resources. Therefore, no significant effects are expected to known paleontological resources.

There is always the likelihood that previously unknown paleontological resources would be encountered during construction. This would be a potentially significant effect. Mitigation measures are presented in **Section 5.2.5** for the protection and preservation of unanticipated discoveries of paleontological resources. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.6.5 ALTERNATIVE E – NO ACTION

Under Alternative E, no change in existing land use is expected either on the North Fork or Madera sites. Given that existing rural residential and agricultural uses are relatively low-impact land uses and are not known to have resulted in the degradation of known cultural resources to date, no significant effects to cultural or paleontological resources would occur as a result of Alternative E.