4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes potential impacts to archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources. The discussion is primarily based on the findings of a Cultural Resources Records Search Summary performed by Historical, Environmental, Archaeological, Research Team (H.E.A.R.T.) (H.E.A.R.T., April 2010) and supplemented by a paleontological study conducted by Rincon Consultants (January 2011). The records search was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University Fullerton, and included a historical map database search with the Geography Department at California State University Northridge, and a consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission. The paleontological resources study consists of a records review of California Geological Survey maps. To ensure the protection of known cultural resources sites identified in the study, the cultural resources report is available for review by qualified personnel at the City's Community Development Department offices.

4.4.1 Setting

a. Archaeological Overview. The overall Los Angeles region has been occupied for over 20,000 years, based on investigations in the Ballona Creek area of the Los Angeles Basin, the La Brea Tar Pits, and Malaga Cove. Chronologies for southern California indicate a generalized hunting and gathering economy in existence at a very early time.

The Millingstone Period dates to over 6000 years ago, and suggests a generalized plant collecting economy, supplemented by hunting and fishing. Regional interaction appears limited when compared with later periods. Around 3,500 years ago, there was an apparent economic shift to more reliance on hunting, as well as an increased exploitation of the acorn. This represents a subtle transition from the prior period where hard seed processing appeared to be more predominant. Sites attributed to this period appear to have been occupied by small groups.

The Intermediate Period dates from 1,000 B.C.-A.D. 1,000. Sites from this time indicate an increased reliance on coastal resources with continued reliance on hunting and collecting. In addition, the advent of the bow and arrow, the appearance of more bone tools, and increased reliance on the mortar and pestle are typical during this time.

The Late Period that begins around A.D. 750-1,000 is characterized by increasing economic and social complexity. Villages tended to be larger, with a more varied assemblage, and there appears to be an increase in smaller satellite sites, established to support the main village, and reflecting seasonal use of a particular area. There seems to be more intensive exploitation of localized resources, and social contacts and economic influences appear to be accelerated through trade and social interaction. There is an increase in the number of sites in the area, which some researchers believe is the result of a population increase. The Late Period is characterized as a time when there are more specialized sites in terms of their location and function, and an amplification of all aspects of the cultural system.

At the time of European contact, the project area was inhabited by the Shoshonean-speaking Gabrielino, as ascribed due to their association with Mission San Gabriel, which was founded in

1771. The Gabrielino are considered one of the most distinctive tribes in all of California, occupying a large area which was bordered on the west by Topanga and Malibu, the San Fernando Valley, the greater Los Angeles basin, the coastal strip down to Aliso Creek south of San Juan Capistrano, and the islands of Catalina, San Clemente, and San Nicolas. They are credited with an extensive and elaborate material culture, their expert craftsmanship in quarrying and manufacturing soapstone, and constructing the plank canoe. Information about the Gabrielino comes from a number of sources. including Kroeber (1925), Boscana (1933), Johnston (1962), Blackburn (1963), Reid (1968), Bean and Smith (1978) and Hill (1985).

b. Historic Overview. The following general information was summarized from Fink (1987). The project area was part of a major land grant received by a Spanish soldier named Juan Jose Dominguez who died in 1809. The 75,000 acre grant was entitled in 1784 and included the entire Rancho Palos Verdes Peninsula. For over 35 years the rancho land supported several thousand heads of cattle and a flourishing hacienda. In 1827, Don Dolores Sepulveda received the Rancho de los Palos Verdes land grant, translated from Spanish to mean range of green trees. Through misfortune and mishaps from 1862 to 1882, stewardship of much of his land passed from the Sepulveda family through various mortgage holders to Jotham Bixby of Rancho Los Cerritos. When his property could no longer be used for only cattle grazing, Bixby leased the land to Japanese farmers for cultivating grains and vegetables. At the close of the 19th Century, the Palos Verdes Peninsula was used by sheepherders. For the most part the mesas and terraces lacked trees, fences, roads and structures. During the early 1900s, the mesa was used for cattle ranching and farming. Japanese families farmed the southern slopes, cultivating beans, peas and tomatoes, while the northern slopes were planted in barley for hay and grain.

By 1913, a consortium of New York investors (Harry P. Davidson of J. P. Morgan and Company; Benjamin Strong, president of the Bankers' Trust Company of New York; and Frank Trumbull, chairman of the board of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad) owned most of the Bixby land. Initially, these investors intended to divide the land into large estates. The founding father of the Peninsula, Frank Vanderlip, was one of these investors. Over the next decade, interest in the Peninsula would wane until Vanderlip allied himself with real estate promoter E. G. Lewis. In 1922, a real estate developer named H.G. Lewis acquired the Palos Verdes Project, which would constitute the future City of Palos Verdes Estates and part of the Miraleste area of the current day City of Rancho Palos Verdes, through exercising an option to acquire the Property from Mr. Vanderlip. The community was called Palos Verdes Estates and had decreased in development area from the original 16,000 acres to 3,225 acres. Vanderlip held onto 13,000 acres in the southern portion of the peninsula for future development.

Vanderlip planned to develop the area above Point Vicente lighthouse as an Italian hillside village. Marble was imported from Italy for the first building in 1928, but the project was never completed. Vanderlip constructed his first residence on the Peninsula in 1916 in the Portuguese Bend area, the "Old Ranch Cottage," now known as the "Cottage." Other buildings were added in the 1920s including a small guest house and garage called "La Casetta" and a larger guesthouse in 1924, known as the "Villetta," now known as "Villa Narcissa." Behind the Villetta, a stairway of 268 steps, lined by cypress trees, soared to a lookout point where a white marble temple was built. Several recreational facilities, however, were constructed early in the development of the Palos Verdes Project.

Six street entrances were planned for the Palos Verdes peninsula, three from the east and three from the north. The main broad street, Granvia La Costa (Palos Verdes Drive), considered a parkway with a landscaped center strip, was designed for the unrealized Pacific Electric Railway to run down its center. The Palos Verdes Golf Club was opened in 1924, and the Palos Verdes Swim Club was opened in 1930. Stables for horseback riding were also constructed in Palos Verdes Estates. The Swim Club was renamed the Roessler Pool, in honor of Fred Roessler, mayor of Palos Verdes Estates for 25 years and who was instrumental in the formation of the city of Palos Verdes Estates in 1939. The original Swim Club utilized recirculated ocean water. The Great Depression, which began in 1929, had an extremely debilitating effect on the Palos Verdes Project. Many lot owners defaulted on their property taxes, and the Palos Verdes Homeowners Association, which maintained the Project, was in deep financial straits. In 1932 the trustee turned over to the residents the responsibility of the Homes Association; only one third of the owners of building sites failed to pay their annual assessments.

With the death of Frank Vanderlip in 1937, control of the Palos Verdes Corporation, which owned the balance of the original Vanderlip property holdings other than what was incorporated in the Palos Verdes Project, was passed to Vanderlip's son. During December, 1939, the voters decided to form a city of the sixth class to have taxing authority. Control of the Palos Verdes Corporation passed in 1943 to Harry Benedict, a friend and business associate of Frank Vanderlip. In 1945, Kevin Vanderlip took control of the Corporation. During World War II Japanese farmers and their families who had lived on the Peninsula since 1910 were sent to internment camps. Defensive positions were established at the Haggarty Estate in Malaga Cove. Battery installations were installed at the current location of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall (also known as the Civic Center or Upper Point Vicente), as well as at Rocky Point in Lunada Bay in 1943 that included two 16-inch guns. Barracks and support buildings were also constructed in Lunada Bay. An underground observation point was also constructed at Punta Place overlooking Bluff Cove and the South Bay. Rancho Palos Verdes was incorporated on September 7th, 1973.

The subject lots within the 112-acre project area were created in the 1940s. Dating from the 1950s, the majority of the lots have been developed with residential, equestrian and horticultural use. The largest developed lot in Zone 2 is occupied by the Portuguese Bend Riding Club, a nonconforming commercial stable that was established prior to the City's incorporation in 1973.

c. Records Search Results. A record search performed by archaeologist Wayne Bonner of the South Central Coastal Information Center on April 15, 2010 indicated that no previously recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic properties exist within the project area. Table 4.5-1 and the bulleted list following the table describe previously recorded prehistoric archaeological resources in proximity to the project site.

Table 4.5-1
Previously Recorded Prehistoric Archaeological Resources in Proximity to the Project Site

Reference	Description
Within a 1000 foot Radius of the Project Site	
CA-LAN-303/ CA-LAN-1019	Recorded by Jay Evans in 1969 and updated by William Hayden in 1995 to be the same site recorded by Martin D.Rosen in 1979. The site contained shellfish, groundstone, charm stone, grooved stones, pestles, flaked tools, chert scrapers, steatite beads, vessels, pendants and bifacial blades. Much of the site has been subject to unauthorized excavation by residents and high school students.
CA-LAN-821	Recorded by Susan Hector and Martin Dean Rosen in 1975 as a light shellfish scatter with no lithic material observed. The site was updated by Joe Simon in 1995 to include the remains of Monterey chert primary flakes.
Within a ½-Mile Radius of the Project Site	
CA-LAn-1735	Possible Quarry Site
CA-LAn-2061	Possible Quarry Site
CA-LAN-103	Small Cave with midden soil and artifacts (destroyed)
CA-LAN-2000	Shell scatter
19-10099	Two chert flakes
CA-LAN-140	Recorded in the early 1900s by N.C. Nelson as a shell refuse located in a partly plowed field near a high bluff. During construction for a parking lot, multiple burials and grave goods were unearthed.
CA-LAN-822	Recorded by S. Hector and M.D. Rosen in 1975 as a lithic and shellfish scatter situated on the bluff.
CA-LAN-884	Recorded by E. Gary Stickel in 1978 as containing shellfish, groundstone, and debitage
CA-LAN-1249	Recorded in 1985 by T.K. McAule as a shell midden eroding out of roadcut face.
CA-LAN-1250	Recorded in 1985 by T.K. McAuley as a shell and lithic scatter
CA-LAN-1251	Recorded by Rechtman and Hickey in 1987 as a dense shell midden with groundstone, chipped stone and tools
CA-LAN-2485	Recorded by David S. Whitley in 1997 as a lithic scatter with habitation debris
CA-LAN-2486	Recorded by David S. Whitley in 1997 as a lithic scatter with habitation debris

Source: H.E.A.R.T., 2010

- Within a half-mile radius, four historic cultural resources have been identified: **19-180589**: Long Point Defense Facility - Observation Post **19-180590**: Long Point Defense Facility - Battery 240; **19-180591**: Long Point Defense Facility - 1936 Monument; and, **19-180592**: Long Point Defense Facility - Nike Air Defense Site
- Ten prior cultural resource studies have been performed: Anon 1995, 1997; Chakurian 2003; Foster 1989; Hayden & Macko 1995a,b; Maki, 1995, 2001; McCauley 1985; McKenna 2001.
- Two of these investigations encompassed 100% of the project area (Anon 1995; Hayden & Macko 1995 a, b; Maki 2001.), with negative results.
- Two National Register of Historic Places have been identified (1979-2005 and supplements to date) within a half-mile radius: The Harry Benedict Estate located at One Peppertree Drive (NR#86002796), and; the **Wayfarers Chapel**, located at 5755 Palos Verdes Dr S, also known as "The Glass Church" was designed by Lloyd Wright (son of Frank Lloyd Wright) in the late 1940s and was built between 1949 and 1951. Additions were built in later years, including a tower and a visitor center (NR# 05000210).
- The California Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) lists one property within a half-mile radius: The Harry Benedict Estate located at One Peppertree Drive.
- No California Register of Historic Resources exists (1992, with supplemental information to date).
- No California Historical Landmarks are listed (1995, with supplemental information to date).
- No California Points of Historical Interest are noted (1992, with supplemental information to date).
- No State Historic Resources Commission issues are presented (1980-present. Minutes from quarterly meeting).
- The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by letter on April 18, 2010 for any information regarding Native American concerns for the project area. No response was received to date.

The following historic maps were consulted:

- Township-Range Plat Survey of the United States Geological Service (1852-1890)
- Map of Private Grants and Public Lands Adjacent to Los Angeles and San Diego- Clinton Day (1869)
- Map of the County of Los Angeles, California - Stevenson/Rowan (1881-1888)
- Map of the Reservoir Lands in the County of Los Angeles - Seebold (1891)
- Santa Ana, California 15-minute USGS topographic map (surveyed in 1894) (1901)
- Rueger's Map of Greater Los Angeles (1902)
- Topographic Map of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and Adjacent Territory (1908)
- Map of Los Angeles County – Blunt (1911)

- Percival's Map of Los Angeles and Vicinity – Thompson (1924)
- Los Angeles and Vicinity Showing Old Adobes and Historic Sites – Giffen (1936)
- Palos Verdes, California 15-minute USGS topographic map (1944)
- Redondo Beach 7.5-minute USGS topographic map (1953)

d. Paleontological Overview. The surface exposures within the project vicinity are mapped as Quaternary Landslides (Saucedo, G. J, et al. 2003), and include the Ancient Portuguese Bend Landslide, the Active Portuguese Bend Landslide, the Abalone Cove Landslide, and the Klondike Landslide. These landslides are all considered to be large, destructive landslides classified as historically active with complex movement and depositional patterns. The overall average thickness of the combined landslides is approximately 130 feet thick and covering over 260 acres. These slides overlay the underlying tuffaceous lithofacies of the Altamira Shale (Haydon 2007) with a low potential of paleontological resources.

4.4.2 Impact Analysis

a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds. This assessment is based on the information gathered and analyzed in the cultural resources study (H.E.A.R.T., 2010). The study consists of an archival records search. As described in the *Setting*, a records search was conducted at SCCIC located on the CSU Fullerton campus.

Cultural resource impacts are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic or archaeological resources, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines*
- *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature*
- *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries*

For purposes of this analysis, cultural (archaeological and paleontological) resources include the following:

- *A resource listed, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing, in the California Register of Historical Resources*
- *A resource included in a local register of historical resources or identified as significant in an historical resource survey*
- *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*

A resource is considered archeologically significant if it:

- *It contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions,*
- *Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest or best available example of its type*

- *Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage*
- *Is associated with the lives of persons important in California's past*
- *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*
- *Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history*

As discussed in the project Initial Study (Appendix A to this EIR), impacts related to historic resources would be less than significant. Therefore, the impact discussion below focuses on archaeological and paleontological resources, and disturbance of human remains.

b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

Impact CR-1 **Potential development that the proposed ordinance revisions could facilitate on the undeveloped lots, which could include up to 1,000 cubic yards of grading per lot, has the potential to disturb as-yet undetected areas of prehistoric archaeological significance. This is considered a Class II, *significant but mitigable*, impact.**

No previously recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic properties were identified within the project area during the cultural resources records search performed for the project. However, several sites of archaeological significance have been identified within ½-mile of the property. The likelihood of finding intact significant cultural resources is low due to historic grading and development on many properties, as well as grading limitations put in place by the Portuguese Bend Community Association and the City's zoning regulations. Nevertheless, construction activity for the residential units that could be allowed under the proposed revisions to the Landslide Moratorium Ordinance would involve earthwork such as grading and trenching, which has the potential to unearth yet-to-be discovered archaeological resources. Therefore, although no significant archaeological resources are expressly known to occur on-site, potential impacts to as-yet undetected archaeological resource impacts are considered significant.

Mitigation Measures. The following measure would mitigate potentially significant impacts relating to the possible discovery of archaeological resources during construction activity such as site grading and trenching.

CR-1 **Archaeological Monitoring**. Prior to the commencement of grading, the applicant shall retain a qualified archeologist to monitor grading and excavation. In the event undetected buried cultural resources are encountered during grading and excavation, work shall be halted or diverted from the resource area and the archeologist shall evaluate the remains and propose appropriate mitigation measures.

Significance After Mitigation. With implementation of the above measure, potential impacts relating to grading within individual lots of the project site to as-yet unknown archaeological resources would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Impact CR-2 **Grading for development that could be facilitated by the proposed ordinance revisions has low potential to disturb any paleontological resources. Impacts to paleontological resources would be Class III, *less than significant*.**

As discussed above under *Setting*, the surface exposures within the project vicinity are mapped as large, destructive landslides classified as historically active with complex movement and depositional patterns. The overall average thickness of the combined landslides is approximately 130 feet thick and covering over 260 acres. These slides overlay the underlying tuffaceous lithofacies of the Altamira Shale (Haydon 2007) with a low potential of paleontological resources. Due to the substantial depth from surface to the marine Altimira Shale, and the low potential for fossils at depth, no paleontological resources are expected to occur within the project boundary either at surface or at a depth commonly associated with construction activities. Therefore, project implementation would not affect any paleontological resources.

Mitigation Measures. None required.

Significance After Mitigation. Impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant without mitigation.

Impact CR-3 **Grading for development that could be facilitated by the proposed ordinance revisions has the potential to disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. With adherence to existing regulations that address discovery of human remains during grading and construction, impacts would be Class III, *less than significant*.**

No previously recorded burial sites were identified within the project area during the cultural resources records search performed for the project. Although the likelihood of finding any human remains is low due to historic grading and development on many properties, construction activity for the residential units that could be allowed under the proposed revisions to the Landslide Moratorium Ordinance would involve earthwork such as grading and trenching, which has the potential to unearth yet-to-be discovered human remains. Therefore, potential impacts to as-yet undetected human remains are considered significant. However, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, all construction or excavation must be stopped in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery until the County coroner or medical examiner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. Section 7052 of the Health and Safety Code states that disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony.

Mitigation Measures. None required.

Significance After Mitigation. With required adherence to existing regulations, potential impacts relating to grading within individual lots of the project site to as-yet unknown human remains would be less than significant.

c. Cumulative Impacts. Cumulative development in the City would continue to disturb areas with the potential to contain as-yet undiscovered cultural resources, including archaeological resources and paleontological resources. Each development proposal is reviewed by the City, and undergoes environmental review when it is determined that potential for significant impacts exist. In the event that significant resources are discovered, impacts to such resources would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis. Thus, cultural resource impacts associated with future cumulative development in the City are expected to be less than significant.

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