

E. CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section summarizes the cultural resources present on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FRP). The EIR analysis evaluates potential impacts to cultural resources, and recommends mitigation measures where appropriate. The information presented below is a compilation cultural resource information from previous cultural resource surveys conducted on the site, and include the *Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for the East West Ranch Project in Cambria, San Luis Obispo, California* (Singer, 1995) and *Phase II Archaeological Investigations for the Cingular Wireless Project* (Singer, 2003). These reports are on-file with the Cambria Community Services District; however, pursuant to federal, state, and local regulations the reports are confidential and are not available for public review.

1. REGULATORY SETTING

a. FEDERAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

b. STATE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1) Office of Historic Preservation

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is the governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. The Mission of the OHP and the State Historical Resources Commission, in partnership with the people of California and governmental agencies, is to “preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter of public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social, and environmental benefits will be maintained and enriched for present and future generations.” The OHP's responsibilities include:

- Identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties;
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations;
- Cooperating with traditional preservation partners while building new alliances with other community organizations and public agencies;
- Encouraging the adoption of economic incentives programs designed to benefit property owners; and,
- Encouraging economic revitalization by promoting a historic preservation ethic through preservation education and public awareness and, most significantly, by demonstrating leadership and stewardship for historic preservation in California.

The Central Coastal Information Center under contract to the State Office of Historic Preservation helps implement the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). It integrates information on new resources and known resources into the CHRIS, supplies

information on resources and surveys to government and supplies lists of consultants qualified to do historic preservation fieldwork within the area. The California Archaeological Site Inventory is the collection of Site Records, which has been acquired and managed by the Information Centers and the OHP since 1975.

2) Senate Bill 18 Consultation

Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) was signed into law in September 2004 (effective January 2005), and requires local governments (city and county) to consult with California Native American tribes to aid in the protection of traditional tribal cultural places through local land use planning. The State Tribal Consultation Guidelines (November 2005) states that the intent of SB 18 is to provide California Native American tribes an opportunity to participate in local land use decisions at an early planning stage, for the purpose of protecting, or mitigating impacts to, cultural places. The purpose of involving tribes at these early planning stages is to allow consideration of cultural places in the context of broad local land use policy, before individual site-specific, project-level land use decisions are made by a local government.

Local governments are required to consult with tribes prior to making certain planning decisions and to provide notice to tribes at certain key points in the planning process. Applicable planning decisions include the adoption and amendment of general plans and specific plans.

The CCSD is not an official city or county government agency, and project approval of the proposed *Community Park Master Plan* would be under consideration by the County of San Luis Obispo; however, as the CEQA Lead Agency, project information was submitted to Chumash and Salinan representatives, and the CCSD consulted with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council in June 2006. The Northern Chumash Council noted that there are significant cultural resources on the FRP, and considers the FRP a cultural place and sacred site (Fred Collins, June 1, 2006). Fred Collins toured West FRP with CCSD representatives, including Ben Boer, FRP Manager in March 2007 and provided suggestions on trail realignments and educational signage.

3) California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.) requires consideration of a project's impacts on significant historical and archaeological resources. Significant impacts on such resources are to be avoided or mitigated to less than significant levels. Other state laws govern actions affecting cemeteries and human remains. Similarly, the City and County of San Luis Obispo require protection of archaeological and historical resources to the greatest extent feasible.

c. LOCAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The project site is located within an area designated as Archaeologically Sensitive (AS) by the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan (*North Coast Area Plan and Local Coastal Plan*, 2002). This designation identifies areas known for the potential to contain cultural resources. The County of San Luis Obispo Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) includes ordinance requirements, including completion of a surface survey within AS-designated areas, protection of known cultural resources, and implementation of mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts to known and unknown resources.

In addition to General Plan and ordinance requirements, *Coastal Plan Policies* (1988) include policies for the protection of cultural resources consistent with the requirements of the *California Coastal Act* (1976). Although the project CEQA lead agency is the CCSO, the project site is located within the County of San Luis Obispo and within the Coastal Zone; therefore, the project is regulated by these local policies and ordinances.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

a. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS

1) Archaeological Resources

The FRP is located within the community of Cambria, within the territory historically occupied by the Obispoño Chumash. Archaeological investigations conducted within Diablo Canyon and in Cambria have demonstrated that the Chumash and their ancestors have occupied the central California coastal region for over 9,000 years. By 1995, over 50 historic and prehistoric sites had been recorded in the Cambria area, including two ethno-historic Chumash villages, *Satahoyo* (or *Stajahuayo*) and *Zaha Saltanal*.

Chumash populations generally followed an annual cycle of fishing, hunting, and harvesting. Populations consisted of several related families and extended kin groups, and lived in permanent villages and towns along the coast and within interior canyons and valleys. An extensive commerce system developed, including consumer products and foods. Aboriginal Chumash culture was significantly affected by colonization in the late 18th century, including the introduction of epidemic diseases, establishment of missions, and incarceration or death of Chumash populations.

2) Historical Resources

The community of Cambria was established in the mid-1800's. Since the beginning of the 19th century, cattle ranching was the primary activity in the area. After 1850, forests were harvested for lumber, and the area also supported whaling, otter hunting, mercury mining, and coastal shipping industries. Dairy cattle operations were established in 1870; dairy operations gave way to beef cattle. During the 1960's, the Pacific Coast Highway was improved and realigned, and the area's beaches and Hearst Castle attracted tourists.

3) Paleontological Resources

Underlying geologic units include alluvial deposits, terrace deposits, cretaceous sandstone, and Franciscan mélangé. With the exception of alluvial deposits, the geological formations onsite have the potential to contain significant paleontological resources.

b. LOCAL CONDITIONS

The East and West FRP were surveyed in 1994 by Clay Singer, and results were documented in the *Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for the East West Ranch Project in Cambria, San Luis Obispo, California* (Singer, 1995).

1) West FRP(a) West FRP - Archaeological Resources

Surface surveys conducted in 1994 documented the presence of twelve archaeological sites on the West FRP. Documented resources included the following: prehistoric shell midden deposits; a series of rock ovens and small middens; bedrock mortars; chert flakes; and, stone tools and cores.

The following table summarizes the cultural resource sites documented on the West FRP. Generally, a majority of the archaeological sites have been disturbed by erosion, ground squirrels, pedestrians, and looting of surficial artifacts. These sites likely have retained their subsurface integrity, and are considered significant cultural resources.

TABLE V-7
Summary of Archaeological Sites
West FRP

Site Designation	Size (square meters)	Site Contents	Condition
CA-SLO-367	2,500	Prehistoric shell midden deposit, historic glass beads, burnt rocks, flakes, possible scraper and pestle.	Isolated and undisturbed, possibility for human remains.
CA-SLO-369	2,000	Prehistoric shell midden, tools, cores, flakes, likely a temporary camp.	Partially off-site, onsite portion undamaged, looting of surface deposits has occurred, possibility for human remains.
CA-SLO-460	41,000	Prehistoric midden deposits, rock-lined cooking ovens, bedrock mortars, mano and metate tools, flakes, Chinese seaweed farm.	Partially damaged.
CA-SLO-1006	20,000	Prehistoric midden deposits, rock-lined ovens, mortar fragment, flakes.	Partially damaged and looted.
CA-SLO-1007	5,000	Metate, scraper, flakes.	Relatively undisturbed.
CA-SLO-1650*	5,000	Habitation deposits, flakes, scrapers, core fragments, cobbles, reamers, blades.	Some disturbance from vegetation clearance and looting.
CA-SLO-1651*	900	Flakes, spall, pebble fragment, chert cores.	Highly disturbed by looting.
CA-SLO-1652*	600	Flakes, projectile point, core fragments, trimmed pebble.	Disturbed by vegetation removal and looting, poorly defined boundary.

Site Designation	Size (square meters)	Site Contents	Condition
CA-SLO-1653*	500	Flakes, cobble and pebble fragments, core fragments, scraper, blade, projectile point fragment, anvil, biface edge fragment.	Disturbed by vegetation removal and looting.
CA-SLO-1654*	1,500	Flakes, projectile point fragment.	Poorly defined.
CA-SLO-1655	3,250	Likely habitation area, flakes, metate fragment.	Disturbed by vegetation removal and looting.
CA-SLO-1656	15,000	Likely habitation site, shell midden, flakes, metate fragment.	Disturbed by vegetation removal.
<i>*Phase II Subsurface Survey Conducted</i>			

Source: Singer, 1995.

An application for a wireless telecommunications facility, located on the West FRP, is currently under consideration by the County of San Luis Obispo. Proposed components include two equipment shelters, transmission towers and excavation of trenches for utility installation. The proposed facility would be located within and adjacent to five known archaeological sites. The County of San Luis Obispo required Phase II Subsurface testing to determine the boundaries and significant of these sites. Subsurface investigations of five of the fifteen cultural sites on the ranch resulted in the discovery of over 1,500 flakes, 58 tools, and nine manuports (objects displaced by Native Americans). Based on the significant of these resources, implementation of a Phase III data recovery program and construction monitoring were recommended to mitigate impacts to archaeological resources to less than significant.

(b) West FRP - Historical Resources

Surface surveys conducted in 1994 documented the presence of three historic sites on the West FRP. Documented findings include the remains of a small structure and associated refuse, water pumping facility, creamery, a historic ranch complex, and a Chinese seaweed farm. The complex includes houses, sheds, and other structures.

Table V-8 summarizes the cultural resource sites documented on the West FRP. Generally, a majority of the archaeological sites have been disturbed by erosion, ground squirrels, pedestrians, and looting of surficial artifacts. These sites likely have retained their subsurface integrity, and are considered significant cultural resources.

**TABLE V-8
Summary of Historic Sites
West FRP**

Site Designation	Size (square meters)	Site Contents	Condition
CA-SLO-1657H	600	Previous location of small cabin (1930s), cut pad with poured concrete, concrete block, red bricks, steel water pipe, and refuse including burned glass, iron, and ceramics	Structure destroyed.
CA-SLO-1658H	3,750	Remains of water control and storage system (1926) including two cast concrete cisterns, destroyed concrete dam, brick and cobblestones, two cast concrete water troughs	Destroyed.
CA-SLO-1659H	10,000	Historic Fiscalini Ranch complex (early 1900's), remains of seven buildings, cut pads, roadways, concrete and stone foundations, and refuse including bricks, concrete, milled lumber, steel pipes, barbed wire, sheetmetal roofing, wire nails, window glass	Abandoned since the 1960s, in a derelict condition.

Source: Singer, 1995.

(c) West FRP - Paleontological Resources

The West FRP is underlain by deposits of Cretaceous sandstones, Franciscan mélangé, and terrace deposits. These formations have been known to produce significant paleontological resources within San Luis Obispo County. Proposed site disturbance would be limited to surficial trail improvements and restoration projects. Based on the type of development proposed on the West FRP, and lack of significant grading activities, it is unlikely that significant paleontological resources would be encountered.

2) East FRP

Based on cultural resource surveys, no archaeological or historical resources were observed on the East FRP. The underlying geology consists of alluvial deposits, which are typically too young to produce significant paleontological resources.

3. THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

CEQA guides lead agencies to protect and preserve resources with cultural, historic, scientific, or educational value. Appendix G of the CEQA *Guidelines* puts forth the following questions to be used in determining a project's impact on cultural resources.

Would the project:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- 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?

Generally, intact cultural and historic deposits are considered significant. Severely disturbed or mixed deposits often are not considered significant but may have educational value. Human remains and associated goods are accorded special consideration, even when fragmentary and are considered significant.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND METHODOLOGY

Archaeological surveys are typically phased to maximize the potential for planning and management of archaeological resources. Phase One surveys include a records search and field surface survey. When significant cultural resources are identified and cannot be feasibly avoided, a Phase Two survey is conducted. Phase Two surveys include subsurface investigations to define the boundary, depth, and significance of identified resources. If the site is significant, a Phase Three data recovery program is implemented, which includes excavation and preservation of cultural resources.

A Phase One surface survey was conducted by Clay Singer in 1994 (*Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for the East West Ranch Project in Cambria, San Luis Obispo, California*, 1995). The survey was conducted throughout both the East and West FRP properties. The survey included a records search and on-site examination of the project site for evidence of historic and prehistoric cultural materials. As described in the report, exposed and accessible surfaces were examined on foot, and linear and zigzag transects spaced 10 to 15 meters apart were conducted in open fields and grassland. During the survey, five cultural sites identified in the records search were confirmed, and ten additional sites were identified.

Maps identifying the location of significant historic and prehistoric resources were compared with the adopted Public Access and Management Plan and proposed *Community Park Master Plan*.

5. WEST FRP - IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

a. WEST FRP - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES – DIRECT IMPACTS TO KNOWN RESOURCES

Proposed improvements requiring disturbance of soils within areas of known archaeological and historical sensitivity would result in direct impacts to these resources, including destruction and displacement. Based on proposed plans, several trails including the Ridge Trail, Creek to Forest Trail, Terrace to Ridge Trail, Meander Trail, and Forest Loop Trail may result in direct disturbance of known archaeological sites. The Bluff Trail, constructed in 2005-2006 was also located in close proximity to significant cultural resources. Construction monitoring by a County-approved archaeologist was completed during ground disturbance activities. The Marine Terrace Trail was constructed in 2006, and is located within areas of known cultural resources.

CULT Impact 1 Development of the Ridge Trail, Forest Loop Trail, Meander Trail, Creek to Forest Trail, Santa Rosa Creek Trail (west), and Creek to Ridge Trail would result in direct disturbance of known significant archaeological sites, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

CULT/mm-1 Upon preparation of grading and construction plans for the Ridge Trail, Forest Loop Trail, Meander Trail, Creek to Forest Trail, Santa Rosa Creek Trail (west), and Creek to Ridge Trail and prior to application for construction permits from the County of San Luis Obispo for these trails, the CCSD or its designee shall submit plans showing the avoidance of known archaeological sites. The plan shall note the boundaries of the site as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area” (ESA), and shall include a 50-foot buffer around the ESA. No grading, storage of materials or equipment, or use of equipment shall occur within the ESA or ESA buffer.

- a. If due to other significant environmental constraints, any known archaeological sites (ESAs) cannot feasibly be avoided, the CCSD or its designee shall retain a County-approved, qualified subsurface archaeologist to conduct a Phase II subsurface survey. The Phase II subsurface survey shall provide recommendations, if necessary, for further study, which may include a Phase III data recovery program. The CCSD or its designee shall implement the recommendations proposed in the Phase II subsurface survey report.

CULT/mm-2 Prior to application for construction permits from the County of San Luis Obispo (or prior to approval of final plans by the CCSD) for trail construction on the FRP, the CCSD or its designee shall submit a monitoring plan, prepared by a subsurface-qualified archaeologist, for the review and approval by the County Environmental Coordinator. If a County permit is not required, the plan shall be approved by the CCSD. The monitoring plan shall be integrated with other required site specific monitoring plans and the SWPPP (BIO/mm-1, BIO/mm-2, and BIO/mm-3) and shall include at a minimum with regard to cultural resources:

- a. List of qualified cultural resources personnel involved in the monitoring activities;
- b. Description of how the cultural resources monitoring shall occur;
- c. Description of frequency of monitoring (e.g. full-time, part time, spot checking);
- d. Description of what resources are expected to be encountered;
- e. Description of circumstances that would result in the halting of work at the project site (e.g. What is considered “significant” archaeological resources?);
- f. Description of procedures for halting work on the site and notification procedures;
- g. Description of monitoring reporting procedures.

CULT/mm-3 Prior to site disturbance, the applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist (approved by the CCSD and County Environmental Coordinator) and Native American to monitor all earth disturbing activities, per the approved monitoring plan. If any significant archaeological resources or human remains are found during monitoring, work shall stop within the immediate vicinity (precise area to be determined by the archaeologist in the field) of the resource until such time as the resource can be evaluated by an archaeologist and any other appropriate individuals. The applicant shall implement the mitigation as required by the Environmental Coordinator.

CULT/mm-4 Upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, the consulting archaeologist shall submit a report to the CCSD and County Environmental Coordinator summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met.

Secondary Impact

Sensitive biological habitats and special-status plant species are present on the West FRP. Trail realignment to avoid one type of resource may result in significant impacts to other resources. Final trail design would depend on site specific studies, including botanical studies and subsurface investigation of cultural deposit sites.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

CULT Impact 2 **Realignment of trails to avoid significant cultural sites may result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources, including sensitive habitats and special-status plant species.**

Implement BIO/mm-1 and BIO/mm-13.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

b. WEST FRP - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES – DIRECT IMPACTS TO UNKNOWN RESOURCES

Several trails, including the Victoria Lane Trail, Wallbridge Trail, and Terrace to Ridge Trail are located in proximity to known significant cultural resource sites. Proposed trail construction, improvement, and maintenance activities may result in the disturbance and destruction of these known resources.

CULT Impact 3 Construction, improvements to, and maintenance of the proposed Victoria Lane Trail, Wallbridge Trail, and Terrace to Ridge Trail may result in the disturbance and destruction of unknown subsurface cultural resources, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

CULT/mm-5 Prior to preparation of grading and construction plans for the Victoria Lane Trail, Wallbridge Trail, and Terrace to Ridge Trail and prior to application for construction permits from the County of San Luis Obispo for these trails, the CCSD or its designee shall submit plans showing the avoidance of known archaeological sites. The plan shall note the boundaries of the site as an ESA and shall include a 50-foot buffer around the ESA. No grading, storage of materials or equipment, or use of equipment shall occur within the ESA.

Implement CULT/mm-2, CULT/mm-3, and CULT/mm-4.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

c. WEST FRP - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES – INDIRECT IMPACTS

As noted above and in previously prepared archaeological survey reports, many cultural resource sites have been disturbed by ranching operations, vegetation removal, and looting over the past century. Improvements to the ranch would increase the number of visitors, and potentially the amount of looting of cultural resources. The potential for increased disturbance related to pedestrian and visitor use would result in a potentially significant impact.

CULT Impact 4 Implementation of the proposed Management Plan on the West FRP may result in increased looting of significant cultural materials, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

CULT/mm-6 Upon implementation of proposed trail and amenity improvements, the CCSD or its designee shall implement a sign program for the protection of environmental resources. Signage shall include the following, or similar, language: “Please stay on designated trails. Disturbance of sensitive biological habitats and collection of artifacts such as arrowheads, old

bottles, and other materials is extremely damaging”. At a minimum, signage shall be placed at trailheads.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

d. WEST FRP - HISTORIC RESOURCES

The proposed Creek to Forest Trail, Santa Rosa Creek Trail (west), and Creek to Ridge Trail would be located within the Fiscalini Ranch Complex near Santa Rosa Creek and Highway 1. The proposed management plan does not include removal of these structures; however, trail construction and improvements may result in the destruction of historical resources within this area, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

CULT Impact 5 Implementation of the proposed Creek to Forest Trail, Santa Rosa Creek Trail (west), and Creek to Ridge Trail may result in the disturbance of historical artifacts, resulting in a potentially significant impact.

Implement CULT/mm-2.

CULT/mm-7 Prior to site disturbance associated with the Creek to Forest Trail, Santa Rosa Creek Trail (west), and Creek to Ridge Trail, the applicant shall retain a qualified historical archaeologist (approved by the CCSD and County Environmental Coordinator) to monitor all earth disturbing activities, per the approved monitoring plan. If any significant archaeological resources or human remains are found during monitoring, work shall stop within the immediate vicinity (precise area to be determined by the archaeologist in the field) of the resource until such time as the resource can be evaluated by an archaeologist and any other appropriate individuals. The applicant shall implement the mitigation as required by the Environmental Coordinator.

CULT/mm-8 Upon completion of all monitoring/mitigation activities, the consulting historical archaeologist shall submit a report to the CCSD and County Environmental Coordinator summarizing all monitoring/mitigation activities and confirming that all recommended mitigation measures have been met.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

6. EAST FRP – IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant archaeological or historical resources have been observed or documented on the East FRP; therefore it is unlikely that significant cultural resources would be impacted. Based on the cultural sensitivity of the West FRP, there is a minimal possibility for the discovery of unknown cultural materials on the East FRP

CULT Impact 6 **During construction activities associated with the Santa Rosa Creek Trail and community park, unknown cultural resources may be discovered. Disturbance, destruction, or looting of such resources would result in a potentially significant impact.**

CULT/mm-9 In the event archaeological or historical resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following shall apply:

- a. Construction activities shall cease, and the CCSD or its designee, the County Environmental Coordinator, and County Planning Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist or historian (as applicable), and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.
- b. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the CCSD, County Environmental Coordinator, and County Planning Department so proper disposition may be accomplished.
- c. Implement CULT/mm-1 through CULT/mm-8 as applicable.

Residual Impact With implementation of mitigation, this impact would be considered *less than significant with mitigation, Class II*.

7. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed project is located within an area of known cultural significance. Coastal areas within the County typically exhibit evidence of significant archaeological and historical resources. The County of San Luis Obispo Local Coastal Plans (LCP) designate areas of known or likely cultural sensitivity as Archaeologically Sensitive. The LCP, County Coastal Policies, and the CZLUO require archaeological surveys and subsequent implementation of mitigation measures if cultural resources are present. Although development within culturally sensitive areas will continue to occur, including proposed improvements on the East and West FRP, implementation of these standard requirements would mitigate potential cumulative impacts to cultural resources to less than significant.

LIST OF ABBREVIATED TERMS

Abbreviation	Term
AS	Archaeologically Sensitive
CCSD	Cambria Community Services District
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CZLUO	Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
LCP	Local Coastal Plan
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
SB 18	Senate Bill 18
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

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