

## 3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

### 3.5.1 Background and Methodology

#### 3.5.1.1 Regulatory Context

##### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies.<sup>1</sup> CEQA states that it is the policy of the State of California to "take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with... historic environmental qualities...and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history."<sup>2</sup> Under the provisions of CEQA, "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment."<sup>3</sup> More information regarding CEQA regulatory context is presented in **Appendix I**. However, to summarize, there are four ways in which a resource may qualify for consideration as a historical resource under CEQA:

1. A resource is listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources;
2. A resource is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code;
3. An object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript is determined by a lead agency to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (see next section); or
4. A resource is determined by a lead agency to be an historical resource, regardless of whether the resource is listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code).

##### **California Register of Historical Resources**

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The California Register helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources<sup>4</sup>, and indicates which properties are to be protected, to

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<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, *Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act*, sections 15002(i).

<sup>2</sup> California Public Resources Code Section 21001, subd., (b) and (c).

<sup>3</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, *Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act*, section 15064.5(b).

<sup>4</sup> California Office of Historic Preservation, *File Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California*, 1988.

the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.<sup>5</sup> Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register is to be taken into consideration during the CEQA process. The California Register was modeled after the National Register, and the California Register significance and integrity criteria are consistent with those of the National Register. A cultural resource is evaluated under four California Register criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to possessing one or more of the associations identified above, a resource must retain integrity, which is the ability to convey the reasons for its significance. Those resources that have significant historical associations and can convey those associations are eligible for inclusion in the California Register.

### ***Public Resources Code***

California Public Resources Code 5097.5 prohibits excavation or removal of any “vertebrate paleontological site...or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands.”<sup>6</sup> Public lands are defined to include lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the state or any city, county, district, authority or public corporation, or any agency thereof. Section 5097.5 states that any unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological materials or sites located on public lands is a misdemeanor.

### ***Sonoma County Landmarks Commission and General Plan Open Space and Resource Conservation Element***

The Sonoma County Landmarks Commission was established on April 23, 1974, under Ordinance No. 1768, the same ordinance that provided the procedure for designation of Historic Structures (i.e., Historic Landmarks) and Historic Districts. The Ordinance establishes that the Commission shall consist of one resident from each Supervisorial District, appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department assigns one Staff to the Commission. Among the duties and responsibilities of the Landmarks Commission are designating landmarks and historic districts; conducting architectural and design review for proposed projects; pursuing historic preservation grants; and maintaining historic resource inventory records.

The Sonoma County General Plan contains goals, objectives, and policies intended to identify, inventory, and protect significant resources that reflect and embody the history of Sonoma County. The following policies regarding cultural resources are included in the General Plan:

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<sup>5</sup> California Public Resources Code, Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 2, *Historical Resources*, section 5024.1(a).

<sup>6</sup> California Public Resources Code, Division 5, Chapter 1.7, *Archeological, Paleontological, and Historical Sites*, section 5097.5.

- *Policy OSRC-19a:* Designate the County Landmarks Commission to review projects within designated historic districts.
- *Policy OSRC-19b:* Refer proposals for County Landmark status and rezonings to the Historic Combining District to the County Landmarks Commission.
- *Policy OSRC-19c:* The County Landmarks Commission shall review Historic Building Surveys and make recommendations for designation of structures or cemeteries as County landmarks.\*
- *Policy OSRC-19d:* Include a list of historic structures proposed for designation as County landmarks in Specific or Area Plans or Local Area Development Guidelines and refer the list to the Landmarks Commission for their recommendations.
- *Policy OSRC-19e:* Refer applications that involve the removal, destruction or alteration of a structure or cemetery identified in a historic building survey to the Landmarks Commission for mitigation. Measures may include reuse, relocation, or photo documentation.
- *Policy OSRC-19f:* Use the Heritage or Landmark Tree Ordinance and the design review process to protect trees.
- *Policy OSRC-19g:* Pursue grant funding for the preparation and updating of historic resource inventories.
- *Policy OSRC-19h:* Designate the County Landmarks Commission to administer a preservation program for stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic structures.
- *Policy OSRC-19i:* Develop a historic resources protection program that provides for an ongoing process of updating the inventory of historic resources. Such a program should include: (1) Periodic historic building surveys, (2) Formalized recognition of the inventory of historic resources as recommended by the State Office of Historic Preservation, including rezoning to the Historic Combining District (HD), and (3) Procedures for the protection of recognized historic resources for both ministerial and discretionary permits.
- *Policy OSRC-19j:* Develop an archaeological and paleontological resource protection program that provides: (1) Guidelines for land uses and development on parcels identified as containing such resources, (2) Standard project review procedures for protection of such resources when discovered during excavation and site disturbance, and (3) Educational materials for the building industry and the general public on the identification and protection of such resources.
- *Policy OSRC-19k:* Refer applications for discretionary permits to the Northwest Information Center to determine if the project site might contain archaeological or historical resources. If a site is likely to have these resources, require a field survey and preparation of an archaeological report containing the results of the survey and include mitigation measures if needed.
- *Policy OSRC-19l:* If a project site is determined to contain Native American cultural resources, such as sacred sites, places, features, or objects, including historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, cemeteries, and ceremonial sites, notify and offer to consult with the tribe or tribes that have been identified as having cultural ties and affiliation with that geographic area.
- *Policy OSRC-19m:* Develop procedures for consulting with appropriate Native American tribes during the General Plan adoption and amendment process.
- *Policy OSRC-19n:* Develop procedures for complying with the provisions of State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if applicable, in the event of the discovery of a burial or suspected human bone. Develop procedures for consultation with the Most Likely Descendant as identified by the California Native American Heritage Commission, in the event that the remains are determined to be Native American.

### **3.5.1.2 Methodologies**

This section is based on a reconnaissance-level cultural resources technical study. The study consisted of background research, contact with potentially interested parties, and a field survey. All tribal governments or organizations with interests in the management of cultural resources in the project area were contacted, including the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the Lytton Rancheria of California. On March 24, 2011, a field meeting was held among representatives of the Airport, the County, the FAA, LSA, and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (represented by Mr. Ken Tipon) to discuss the Proposed Project and potential impacts to cultural resources.

### **3.5.1.3 Thresholds of Significance**

The criteria for determining the significance of potential impacts to cultural resources are contained in Question V of Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* Environmental Checklist. Cultural resource impacts associated with the project would be considered significant if they would:

1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource (as defined in CCR Subsection 15064.5).
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource (pursuant to CCR Subsection 15064.5).
3. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
4. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

## **3.5.2 Existing Conditions**

The following is a general overview of the prehistory, ethnography, and history of the regional in which the Airport vicinity.

### **3.5.2.1 Prehistory**

The Paleo-Archaic-Emergent cultural sequence developed by Fredrickson (1974) is commonly used to interpret the prehistoric occupation of Central California. Using radiocarbon determinations, the sequence is broken into three broad periods: the Paleo-Indian period (11,550 to 8550 B.C.); the three-staged Archaic period, consisting of the Lower Archaic (8550 to 5550 B.C.), Middle Archaic (5550 to 550 B.C.), and Upper Archaic (550 B.C. to 1100 A.D.); and the Emergent period (A.D. 1100 to 1769).

The Paleo-Indian Period began with the first entry of people into California. These people probably subsisted mainly on big game, minimally processed plant foods, and had few or no trade networks. During the Lower Archaic, milling stones appear in abundance and hunting is less important than plant foods. Artifacts are made predominately from local materials, suggesting that few if any extensive trade networks were established at this time. The subsistence base begins to expand and diversify during the Middle Archaic with a developing acorn economy, as evidenced by the mortar and pestle, and the growing importance of hunting. Status and wealth distinctions are evidenced in the Upper Archaic archaeological record; regional exchange networks are well established at this time with goods and ideas, such as *Kuksu* ceremonial practices involving spirit impersonations, exchanged. Increased social complexity continued during the Lower Emergent. Territorial boundaries were well established by this time with regularized inter-group exchanges involving more and varied goods, people,

and ideas. Bow and arrow technology was also introduced. By the Upper Emergent, a monetary system based on the exchange of clamshell disk beads was established.

### 3.5.2.2 Ethnography

The project area is ethnographically attributed to the Southern Pomo, one of seven distinct Pomoan groups, each of which spoke a different, mutually unintelligible language. Southern Pomo territory extended about five miles south of Santa Rosa northward for about 40 miles. The Southern Pomo held a stretch of coastline extending from Gualala to just north of Stewarts Point, and their easternmost extent included the Big Sulphur Creek drainage west of Cobb Mountain.

The Southern Pomo groups who lived in the vicinity of the project area were the *Ūpawan'i* and *Cīōhūtmō'kōnī*. These groups lived in tribelets, or “village communities,” which were generally situated near the Russian River and its numerous tributaries. These communities consisted of a principal village, where the chief resided, with outlying secondary settlements. A village community, ranging in population from 100 to 2,000 persons, claimed communal lands in which members could hunt, fish, or gather plant food without limitations of private ownership. Although the structure of Pomo chieftainship varied, generally three levels of chieftainship existed: elected tribelet chiefs, kin-group chiefs, and assistant kin-group chiefs. Although there were exceptions, the tribelet chiefs were usually male. The tribelet chiefs arranged for and presided over ceremonies, entertained visitors, provided advice, and consulted with kin-group chiefs regarding community welfare.

Fish and game were obtained through individual and communal efforts, which ranged from small-scale snare trapping and the bow and arrow, to more complex undertakings such as constructing fish weirs and dams or brush fences to guide deer during hunting drives. The Southern Pomo economy focused on the acorn, a major staple of the California culture area Indians, and at some point, probably more than 2,000 years ago, native Californians “discovered or acquired a technology enabling them to concentrate on the magnificent acorn crops.” The Pomo used acorns from seven different species of oaks. Other plant resources include fresh or stored included buckeyes, berries, grass seed, roots, bulbs, and greens. Seaweed and kelp were considered delicacies.

### 3.5.2.3 History

By the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century, intensive Hispanic exploration of the Bay Area radically transformed Southern Pomo culture. Spanish settlement of California included the establishment of the mission system. Missions effectively rounded up native peoples, baptized them as Catholic, and created a work-force for maintaining the Spanish hold on Alta California. Local mission San Francisco de Asís was founded in 1776, and Mission San Rafael Arcangel was founded in 1817. In hopes of stemming Russian settlement inland, the Spanish founded Mission San Francisco de Solano in 1823 in the town of Sonoma. In 1812, the Russians established Fort Ross on the Sonoma Coast as an agricultural base to supply their northern settlements engaged in the fur trade with Alta California.

Following the secularization of the California missions in 1834, many Pomo lived on ranchos working in the burgeoning agricultural industry. Large ranchos were established by Mexican citizens throughout California, including 23 land grants in Sonoma County. Cattle ranching and timber grew to be the economic mainstays of Sonoma County until the Gold Rush, when a large population influx created a demand for other consumer products, most notably dairy products.

Sonoma was one of the original counties formed when California became a state in 1850. Its original county seat was in the town of Sonoma, but was changed to the more centrally located and bustling agricultural center of Santa Rosa in 1854. After the arrival of the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad in 1870, Santa Rosa eventually surpassed Petaluma as the region's population and commercial center. The railroad had a stop in the community of Mark West, which provided farmers with a means to transport their produce to market and fostered growth of agriculture in the region. The City of Santa Rosa continued to grow in the 20th century, despite the nearly total destruction of downtown brought about by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

In 1941, County of Sonoma purchased over 330 acres of agricultural land and began constructing an airport runway in anticipation of the coming hostilities. With the start of World War II, the United States recognized our nation's critical defense needs and increase the construction of auxiliary airfields dedicated to training military pilots. In 1942, the U.S. Army took over the airport and expanded to over 1,160 acres, extended the runway, and built a second runway and other facilities. From 1943 to 1946, the U.S. Army Air Corps operated the Santa Rosa Army Airfield as an advanced flight training center for combat aircrew, providing training primarily to fighter groups and squadrons. At its peak of operation, approximately 300 to 500 aircraft and 10,000 personnel were based on the army field. In 1946, after the war had ended, County of Sonoma resumed operation of the airport as a civil facility.

On and off since the late 1960s, the Sonoma County Airport has offered passenger commuter service, but it also has accommodated general aviation uses serving private/recreational and business/corporate aircraft. In 2000, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to change the name to Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport in honor of the famous "Peanuts" comic strip cartoonist who lived in the county for many years. Today, the Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport offers regularly scheduled, non-stop flights to a number of regional destinations.

#### **3.5.2.4 Archaeological Cultural Resources**

A records search, which is a review of known information about resources and resource studies in a given area, was conducted for the project area at the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University. The Northwest Information Center is the official state repository for cultural resource records and studies for Sonoma County. The records search identified three archaeological cultural resources (CA-SON-1322, P-49-2795, and P-49-3564) within the Airport Study Area. One additional archaeological cultural resource (LSA-RSQ-0901-01) was identified during LSA's field survey. These resources are described below.

- CA-SON-1322 is a prehistoric archaeological site originally located on the south bank of Airport Creek. The site measures 40 meters (east-west) by 25 meters (north-south) and consists of a sparse to moderate scatter of obsidian and chert flakes, with fire cracked rock. Artifacts include one obsidian flake, an obsidian projectile point base (collected), and a basalt mortar fragment.<sup>7</sup>
- P-49-2795 is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century site originally located northeast of the intersection of Windsor Road and Mark West Station Road. The site measures 100 feet (east-west) by 75 feet (north-south) and consists of a concrete building pad, a U-shaped piece of concrete, a depression, and a pile of rusted ferrous roll-up doors.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Origer, Thomas M., and Paul Amaroli, *Archaeological Site Record for CA-SON-1322*, 1981.

<sup>8</sup> Gillies, Sara E.P., and Christina MacDonald, *California Department of Parks and Recreation Form 523 Records for P-49-2795*, 2000.

- *P-49-3564* is a mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century refuse deposit located on the east side of Slusser Road, just south of its intersection with Laughlin Road. The deposit, discovered during trenching, measured approximately 20 feet in length and was seven feet below the current road surface. The artifacts included condiment and alcohol bottles, automotive-related sheet metal, and wire fencing.<sup>9</sup>
- *LSA-RSQ-0901-01* is a prehistoric archaeological site located on the north bank of Airport Creek identified during surveys of the Airport Study Area. The site measures 40 meters (east-west) by 15 meters (north-south) and consists of a sparse to moderate scatter of obsidian flakes.

### 3.5.2.5 Architectural Cultural Resources

The following nine built environment cultural resources in the Regional Study Area are depicted on historical topographic quadrangles, and brief summary descriptions of each resource are presented in **Table 3.5-1**. A full description of each historical resource is included in **Appendix I**.

### 3.5.2.6 Paleontological Resources

No paleontological resources were identified in the Airport Study Area. However, one of the geological formations underlying the Airport Study Area is sensitive for paleontological resources.

A fossil locality search was conducted on November 3, 2009.<sup>10</sup> The purpose of this search was to identify previous studies and known paleontological sites within and near the Airport Study Area and to identify the geologic formations and types of fossils that might be expected within and adjacent to the Airport Study Area based on the existing geological and paleontological data. There are no recorded fossil localities within or adjacent to the Airport Study Area.

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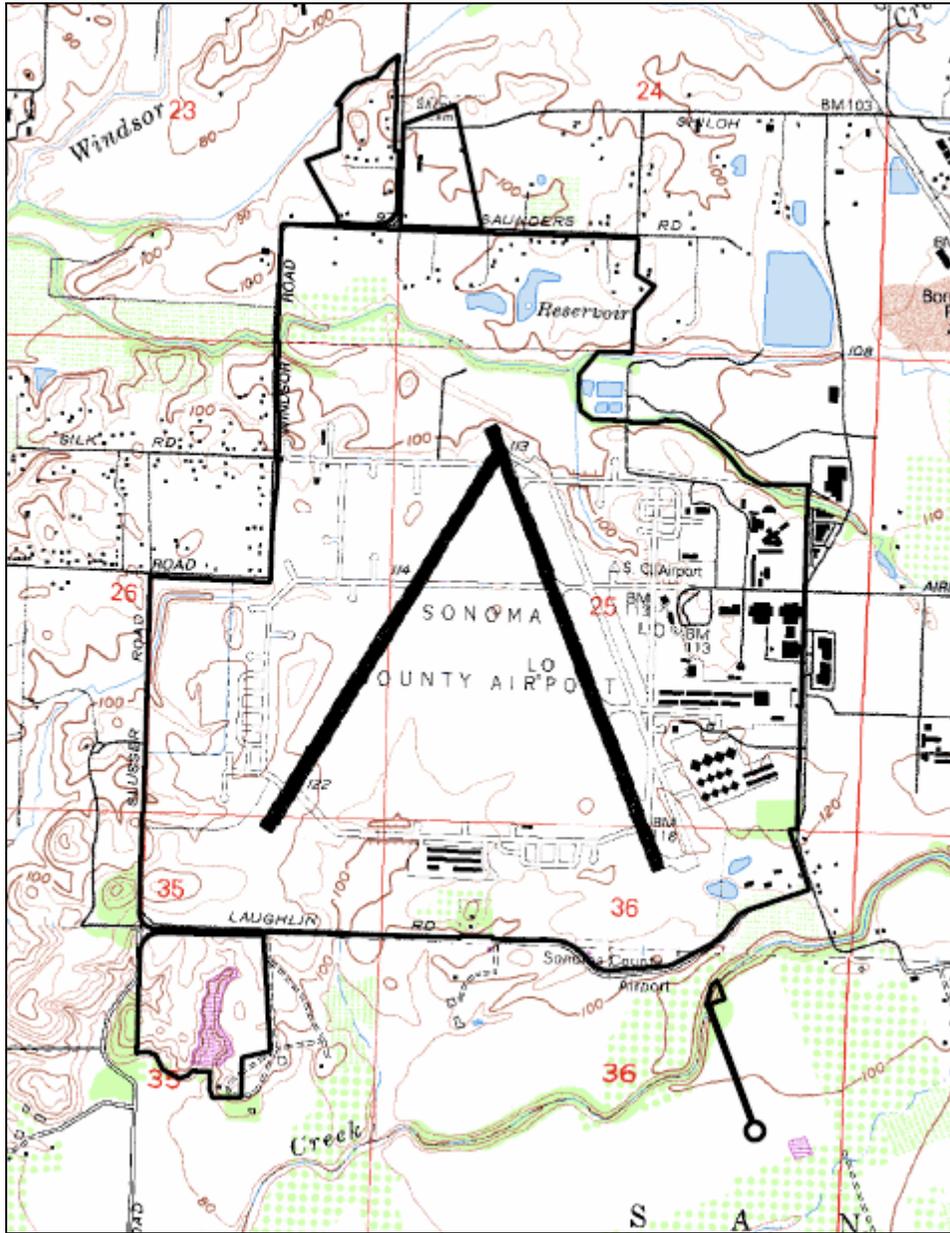
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<sup>9</sup> Longfellow, Joy, *California Department of Parks and Recreation Form 523 Records for P-49-3564*, 2000.

<sup>10</sup> Dr. Pat Holroyd of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP), Berkeley.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

Figure 3.5-1  
AIRPORT STUDY AREA FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES ANALYSIS



SOURCE: LSA, 2011  
PREPARED BY: LSA, 2011

*Table 3.5-1*  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE AIRPORT STUDY AREA**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
Sonoma County Airport	ca. 1941	Airfield, hangars, buildings	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
Shiloh Cemetery	ca. late 1800s	Historical cemetery	<i>May meet Eligibility requirements</i>
1754 Sanders Road	Built 1945	Highly modified with a mix of old and new windows and sliders	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
1640 Sanders Road	Built 1947	Highly modified with new vinyl windows on log cabin, recently replaced roof	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
1696 Sanders Road	Built 1946	Highly modified with dormers on the rear, new windows, enclosed and attached shed patio	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
1670 Sanders Road	Built 1946	Highly modified with a recently replaced roof and new windows	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
7007 Windsor Road	Built 1961	Typical architecture of this area from 1960s era	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
3117 N. Laughlin Road	Appears on 1955 Healdsburg, Calif. quadrangle	Appears 50 years or older	<i>May meet Eligibility requirements</i>
3725 Laughlin Road	Appears on 1955 Healdsburg, Calif. quadrangle	Appears 50 years or older	<i>May meet Eligibility requirements</i>
CA-SON-1322 <sup>/a/</sup>	Prehistoric	Archaeological site	<i>May meet Eligibility requirements</i>
LSA-RSQ0901-01 <sup>/a/</sup>	Prehistoric	Archaeological site	<i>May meet Eligibility requirements</i>
P-49-2795 <sup>/b/</sup>	Historic-period	Concrete building pad	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>
P-49-3564 <sup>/b/</sup>	Historic-period	Refuse deposit	<i>May not meet Eligibility requirements</i>

/a/ subject to short-term project elements  
/b/ subject to long-term project elements

SOURCE: LSA Associates Inc., 2011  
PREPARED BY: LSA Associates Inc., 2011

### **3.5.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

#### **Impact 3.5.1: Impacts to Known Archaeological Cultural Resources as a Result of Short-Term Project Elements**

The short-term project elements of the Proposed Project would likely disturb two archaeological resources (CA-SON-1322 and LSA-RSQ0901-01). The Proposed Project was redesigned to avoid direct ground disturbance inside the boundaries of these resources, but it is possible that ground-disturbing construction may occur in previously unknown portions of the resources that extend beyond the recorded boundaries. If disturbance to the resources would occur, this would be considered a potentially significant impact because the Proposed Project would affect

archaeological cultural resources that are potentially eligible for listing in the California Register. This impact can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the following measure:

### **Mitigation Measure 3.5.1**

An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology* (36 CFR Part 61) shall be on-site during earth moving activities within 50 feet of the recorded boundaries of the two identified archaeological cultural resources with the assigned responsibility to monitor construction activities. If earth-moving activities uncover artifacts, or unusual amounts of non-human bone, work shall be halted within 25 feet of the find and shall not be resumed until after the trained individual has inspected and evaluated the deposit and determined the appropriate means of action. If avoidance is not feasible, the archaeological cultural resources shall be evaluated for their eligibility for listing in the California Register, and whether they qualify as "unique archaeological resources" under CEQA. The County shall:

- contact a qualified archaeologist to assess the situation;
- consult with descendant communities and interested parties (as appropriate); and
- develop and implement an approach for the treatment of the discovery.

The assessment of the find's significance, the potential that it will be affected, and potential treatment approaches shall be accomplished through discussions and exchanges of information with appropriate tribal jurisdictions (if the find is prehistoric in nature). Project personnel should not collect or move any archaeological materials.

Upon completion of the assessment and (if warranted) treatment, the archaeologist shall prepare a report documenting the methods and results, and provide recommendations for additional study, as necessary. The report shall be submitted to the County and the Northwest Information Center (NWIC).

This mitigation measure would reduce the impact of the Proposed Project on archaeological cultural resources to a less-than-significant-level.

### **Impact 3.5.2: Impacts to Unknown Archaeological Cultural Resources and Human Remains as a Result of Short-Term Project Elements**

The earthmoving activities of the short-term project elements of the Proposed Project could result in the discovery of previously unknown archaeological cultural resources. This is considered to be a potentially significant impact because the Proposed Project could affect archaeological cultural resources that are potentially eligible for listing in the California Register. These resources, based on site distribution patterns in this portion of Sonoma County, would likely occur at or near watercourses and, in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, on slight rises at or near 80 feet above sea level. The same earthmoving activities for short-term project elements could also disturb human remains. If such disturbance were to occur, it would be considered a potentially significant impact. These impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the following measure:

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.2A**

In the event that deposits of prehistoric or historical archaeological materials are discovered during earthmoving activities, the same procedures and requirements contained in Mitigation Measure 3.5.1 shall be implemented. This mitigation measure would reduce the impact of the Proposed Project on archaeological cultural resources to a less-than-significant-level.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.2B**

If human remains are discovered during project activities, work within 25 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and the Sonoma County Coroner notified immediately. At the same time, an archaeologist, if not present, should be contacted to assess the situation and consult with the tribal communities and the Coroner. Project personnel should not collect or move any human remains and associated materials, and no project activity shall occur in the 25-foot exclusion area around the discovery until the Coroner has finished his/her analysis.

If the human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.

Upon completion of the assessment, the archaeologist shall prepare a report documenting the methods and results, and provide recommendations for the treatment of the human remains and any associated cultural materials, as appropriate and in coordination with the recommendations of the MLD. The report shall be submitted to the County and the NWIC.

The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to human remains to a less-than-significant level.

**Impact 3.5.3: Impacts to Architectural Cultural Resources as a Result of Short-Term Project Elements**

The short-term elements of the Proposed Project would not affect any of the potential architectural cultural resources within the Regional Study Area. Therefore, no impacts to architectural cultural resources would occur.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.3**

No mitigation is warranted.

**Impact 3.5.4: Impacts to Paleontological Resources as a Result of Short-Term Project Elements**

Although no paleontological resources are known to exist in the Airport Study Area, paleontological resources *could* exist in the Pleistocene alluvium, which underlies the surface soils and Holocene alluvium (10,000 years B.P. to present). The Pleistocene alluvium is found at a depth of 20 feet and greater underneath the Airport Study Area. Some of the types of fossils that could be encountered may include mammoth, ground sloths, saber-toothed cats, dire wolves, horses, cave bears, rodents, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Although Pleistocene alluvium underlying the Airport Study Area is sensitive for paleontological resources, it is unlikely that project activities will extend below the depth (20 feet) at which the alluvium is found. Should this eventuality occur, however, the disturbance of paleontological

resources would be a potentially significant impact. These impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of the following measure:

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.4**

If paleontological resources are encountered during subsurface construction, all ground-disturbing activities within 25 feet should be redirected and a qualified paleontologist contacted to assess the situation, consult with the County, and make recommendations for the treatment of the discovery. Project personnel should not collect or move any paleontological materials.

If the paleontological resources are found to be significant in consultation with the County, and if project activities cannot avoid affecting the resources, significant impacts to paleontological resources shall be mitigated. Mitigation may include monitoring, recording the fossil locality, data recovery and analysis, a final report, and accessioning the fossil material and technical report to a paleontological repository. Public educational outreach may also be appropriate.

Upon completion of the assessment, a report documenting methods, findings, and recommendations should be prepared and submitted to the County of Sonoma for review, and, if paleontological materials are recovered, a paleontological repository, such as the University of California Museum of Paleontology.

The implementation of this mitigation measure will reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to a less-than-significant level.

**Impact 3.5.5: Impacts to Archaeological Cultural Resources as a Result of Long-Term Project Elements**

The long-term project elements of the Proposed Project would not disturb any known archaeological resources. However, it is possible that earthmoving activities associated with the long-term project elements could result in the discovery of previously unknown archaeological resources. If such disturbance were to occur, this would be considered to be a potentially significant impact.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.5**

The implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5.2 would reduce this potential impact to a less-than-significant level.

**Impact 3.5.6: Impacts to Architectural Cultural Resources as a Result of Long-Term Project Elements**

The long-term elements of the Proposed Project could affect potential architectural cultural resources within the Regional Study Area.

Based on information provided by the County, the Airport and associated flight operations facilities have been significantly altered over time, and only four buildings remain from the 1940s. These buildings include the Butler Hangar (with new adjacent development); the Redwood Hangar (modified over the years and new adjacent development); the Airport Maintenance Shop (heavily modified over the years); and the Pacific Coast Air Museum entrance and gift shop. The following summary lists by decade the substantial improvements made to the facility through the years that have altered its appearance since its time as an operation U.S. Army Air Corps airfield during WWII.

**1950s**

- T Hangar construction on Apron D

**1960s**

Terminal, road, and parking lot construction

- ATCT construction
- Apron D hangar construction

**1970s**

- Apron C improvements
- Apron D hangar construction and tie down ramp
- Apron E ramp and hangar construction
- Instrument landing system construction
- General aviation tie down ramp (currently the long term parking lot)
- Taxiway lighting and ramp lighting improvements

**1980s**

- Apron A ramp construction
- Airfield drainage improvements
- Apron F ramp construction (including the relocation of port-a-port hangars to apron F)
- Apron E hangar construction
- ARFF building construction
- Airport Industrial park construction
- Perimeter fencing

**1990s**

- Shade hangars on Apron D
- Cal Fire building and aircraft parking areas between taxiways A and H
- Apron E fire protection water line
- Apron E hangar construction
- Perimeter fencing

**2000s**

- Runway 14/32 and taxiways rehabilitation
- Apron E hangar construction
- Apron F hangar construction
- Sonoma Jet Center office
- Kaiser Air Ramp and remodel of office and hangar
- Perimeter fencing

Due to these improvements, the visual and physical form of the Airport has been substantially altered since its genesis and operation in the 1940s. As such, it is unlikely that it retains sufficient integrity to qualify as a historical resource under CEQA.

The existing passenger terminal building, which may be eligible for the California Register, may be re-used or demolished as part of a long-term project element. Specific development plans have not been prepared for the terminal building at this time. Until the precise scope and design for the terminal building is more clearly defined, any attempt to quantify impacts to the existing building would be purely speculative. The impacts to the existing terminal building would be dependent on the proposed design and use of the structure. The terminal building will be

studied in a focused project-level environmental analysis before it is approved or implemented. Any potential impacts to historical resources would be determined at that time, and appropriate mitigation would be implemented.

The long-term project elements include the acquisition of parcels in the Airport vicinity. Some of these parcels contain structures that are more than 50 years old. Demolition of these structures could occur as part of this long-term project element; however, no determination has been made regarding the need to demolish any such structures. These impacts would be determined when a decision is made regarding the acquisition of these parcels and an additional CEQA analysis would be required.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.6**

No mitigation is warranted.

**Impact 3.5.7: Impacts to Paleontological Resources as a Result of Long-Term Project Elements**

Although no paleontological resources exist in the Airport Study Area, the soils type indicates that paleontological resources could exist. Earthmoving activities could encounter previously unknown resources and, if this were to occur, this would be a potentially significant impact.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5.7**

The implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5.4 would reduce this potential impact to a less-than-significant level.