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## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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#### 4.4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section addresses the proposed Project's potential to result in significant impacts upon cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological and historic resources. On September 20, 2013, the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and the Vertebrate Paleontology Department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County were contacted to conduct a records search for cultural resources within the Project Site at the intersection of Lyons Avenue and Railroad Avenue and extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University and northwest towards the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Arch Street and immediate Project vicinity. The analysis presented below is based on the record search results provided from the SCCIC, dated October 2, 2013, and written correspondence from The Vertebrate Paleontology Department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, dated October 18, 2013. Correspondences from both agencies are included in Appendix E to this Draft EIR.

#### 4.4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

##### **Description of the Study Area**

The Project Site is located at the intersection of Lyons Avenue and Railroad Avenue and extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University and northwest towards the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Arch Street. The Project Site also includes the closure of an at-grade crossing at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

The portion of the Project Site that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University is located in an area of primarily undeveloped land within the city limits of Santa Clarita. The vicinity consists of the single-family residential community of Placerita Canyon and The Masters University campus to the northeast, and the Newhall community (e.g. Old Town Newhall) including commercial and residential land uses to the west. The Project Site encompasses Newhall Creek which flows through the Project Site from northwest to southeast. The Project Site also encompasses a section of the active railroad tracks owned by the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). The SCRRA/UPRR rail tracks run parallel to Railroad Avenue and are perpendicular to Lyons Avenue.

As discussed in the *Downtown Newhall Historic Survey and Specific Plan Impact Analysis*, "the buildings in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan area lack the historic coherence and architectural cohesion necessary to form a historic district."<sup>1</sup> The City of Santa Clarita General Plan and the One Valley One Vision Plan, acknowledges that the City of Santa Clarita is working to maintain the remaining character within Old Town Newhall and many buildings are City Points of Historical Interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Palmer, Christine, *Downtown Newhall Historic Survey And Specific Plan Impact Analysis*, (2005) at page 11.

### **Paleontological Conditions**

Surficial deposits in most of the portion of the Project Site that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University consists of younger Quaternary gravels and sands associated with Newhall Creek that borders on the south and west and the Placerita Creek that flows through the Project Area. Both of these drainages flow into the Santa Clara River just to the northwest of the Proposed Project area. Generally, significant vertebrate fossils are not contained in such recent deposits. However, it is possible that fossils may have been carried to the Project Site area from surrounding hillsides and further upstream. The older deposits to the north of the Project Site may contain fossils. In the more elevated terrain in the southeastern portion of the Proposed Project area there are dissected older Quaternary fluvial and fan deposits as well as exposures of the terrestrial Pliocene Saugus Formation. These deposits may also occur at depth in the Proposed Project area.

There are no fossil vertebrate localities nearby from the younger Quaternary alluvial deposits. The closest vertebrate fossil localities documented are from the Saugus Formation, or possibly the older Quaternary sediments, which are directly north of the Proposed Project. The fossils recorded were of a camel, *Camelidae*, and a horse *Equus* (LACM 6803-6804).

### **Archaeological and Cultural Conditions**

No archaeological sites were identified on the portion of the Project Site that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University or within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site. Two isolates were identified within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site, and no isolates are identified within the Project Site. An isolate is an artifact found occurring by itself and is not indicative of an archaeological site.

Fourteen historic structures were identified on SCCIC maps within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site and no historic structures were identified within the Project Site. The California Point of Historical Interest (SPHI) and California Historical Landmarks (SHL), both within the Office of Historic Preservation within the Department of Parks and Recreation, list no historical structures or landmarks within the Project search radius or within the Project Site boundaries. Additionally, the California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG) and the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP) list no properties within the Project search radius or within the Project Site boundaries. A list of the historical structures identified within the Project search radius can be found with the SCCIC response letter in Appendix E.

### **Historic Setting**

There is little documentation about the specific cultural history of the Project area, including the ethnographic history of the native groups. The Tataviam tribe began occupying the Santa Clara River Valley around A.D. 450 and primarily lived in the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River and northward to the southern part of Antelope Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains. The Tataviam tribe was Uto-

Aztec speakers of Shoshonean descent.<sup>2</sup> Prior to the Tataviam habitation in the Santa Clara River Valley, archaeological discoveries suggest that humans may have occupied the entire Los Angeles region in excess of 20,000 years.<sup>3</sup>

Archaeological studies indicate that the Tataviam have similar patterns and ritual practices to the neighboring Chumash and Gabrielino/Tongva groups. The Gabrielino/Tongva were generally located to the south and the Chumash were generally located to the east of the Tataviam. Tataviam village sites with known names were located at San Francisquito, Piru, Camulos, Castaic Reservoir, Piru Creek, Elizabeth Lake, and in the Newhall environs.<sup>4</sup> The three societies were primarily hunter and gatherer societies and hunted small game and lived in small villages and camps around water sources. The hunter and gatherer groups depended on stone tools and baskets.<sup>5</sup> Seasonal settlements and resource exploration have also been found along the Santa Clara River and Vasquez Rocks, and along natural springs and creeks that drain into the Santa Clara River. Bowers Cave near Val Verde, California (northwest of the Project Site) is of extreme cultural significance. Bowers Cave, discovered in 1884, yielded “one of the most significant assemblages of American Indian religious and ceremonial artifacts ever found in North America.” Spanish explorer, Pedro Fages, first encountered the Tataviam in 1776.<sup>6</sup>

In 1769, Gaspar de Portola led an expedition from San Diego to Monterey and documented the Santa Clarita region. The expedition passed north through the San Fernando Valley to Newhall and the Castaic Junction area. Then the expedition headed west, following the Santa Clara River, to San Buenaventura and travelled north to Monterey. The trail became known as “El Camino Viejo” (The Old Road).

In 1797, the Mission San Fernando used much of Santa Clarita Valley for ranching and became known as the “Estancia de San Francisco Xavier.” The native tribes of the area were displaced from their lands and were relocated on Mission grounds. The native tribes were baptized and forced to work. The Tataviam workers constructed the Estancia buildings near the confluence of Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River. Today, the buildings no longer exist, but the area is still a protected site and is considered archaeologically rich.

The Mexican Revolution in the 1820-1830s secularized the missions in California; and in 1839, Mexican army officer Ignacio del Valle was granted the Rancho San Francisco (comprising roughly 48,000 acres). The land encompasses Newhall and Placerita Creeks. Henry M. Newhall later purchased Rancho San Francisco in 1875.

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<sup>2</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan – One Valley, One Vision, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012.*

<sup>3</sup> *Starzak, Richard, Historic Properties Survey Report for the Proposed Alameda Corridor from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to Downtown Los Angeles, in Los Angeles County. On file, South Central Coast Information Center, California State University-Fullerton. 1994.*

<sup>4</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan – One Valley, One Vision, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012.*

<sup>5</sup> *Lyons Avenue At-Grade Rail Crossing, Impact Science, Inc. Draft EIR, March 2010.*

<sup>6</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan – One Valley, One Vision, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012.*

The first documentation of gold discovery in California occurred in Placerita Canyon in 1842, and nearly 1,300 pounds of gold were retrieved between 1842-1847. The discovery of gold prompted the development of mining camps and settlements throughout the mineral-rich Santa Clarita Valley. At the same time, in 1847, American explorer John C. Fremont arrived in Castaic Junction with his Buckskin Battalion, and he accepted the surrender of California from General Andres Pico. Fremont's crossing point through the Santa Susana Mountains became known as Fremont Pass, and was later renamed as Newhall Pass. In 1854, Fremont Pass was later expanded to allow for stagecoach access and provided a major route from St. Louis to San Francisco throughout the late 1850s.

Oil seeps were discovered in Pico Canyon in 1865, and the area became the first location to be drilled for oil. Soon after Henry M. Newhall purchased Mission of San Francisco land, he opened the land up for the development of the Transcontinental Railroad. This, along with the development of Pico oil field and construction of the Pioneer Oil Refinery in the mid-1870s, prompted an oil boom in the Santa Clarita Valley. Additionally, with the completion of the railroad in the area in 1876, the town of Newhall began forming. From 1875-forward, much of the Valley's history can be tied to Newhall and his heirs.<sup>7</sup>

Henry Newhall died in 1882, and his heirs formed The Newhall Land and Farming Company. Between 1936 through the mid-1950s, the Newhall Ranch underwent a radical change when Atholl McBean, grandson-in-law of Henry Newhall, struck oil. In the late 1950s, McBean shifted the Newhall Ranch into the land-development sector due to the housing patterns occurring in Southern California after World War II. During this transition from open land to master-planned community, the modern district of Newhall within the City of Santa Clarita has a number of historic properties within "Old Town Newhall" (west of the Project Site).<sup>8</sup>

Adding to the rich history of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Valley was commonly used as the setting for many western films during the 1930s and 1940s. Some of these western relics can be found in downtown Newhall, such as the Tom Mix Cottages.

## **Regulatory Setting**

Historic resources fall within the jurisdiction of several levels of government. Federal laws provide the framework for the identification, and in certain instances, protection of historic resources. Additionally, states and local jurisdictions play active roles in the identification, documentation, and protection of such resources within their communities. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) are the primary federal and state laws and regulations governing the evaluation and significance of historic resources of national, state, regional, and local importance. As archaeological resources are also considered historic, regulations applicable to historic resources are also applicable to archaeological resources and are discussed and analyzed in this section. Descriptions of these relevant laws and regulations are presented below.

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<sup>7</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan – One Valley, One Vision, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012.*

<sup>8</sup> *Lyons Avenue At-Grade Rail Crossing, Impact Science, Inc. Draft EIR, March 2010.*

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## ***Federal Regulations***

### *National Register of Historic Places*

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) was established by the NHPA, as “an authoritative guide to be used by Federal, State, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation’s cultural resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment.”<sup>9</sup> The National Register recognizes properties that are significant at the national, state, and/or local levels.

#### *(i) Criteria*

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must be at least 50 years of age (unless the property is of “exceptional importance”) and possess significance in American history and culture, architecture, or archaeology. A property of potential significance must meet one or more of the following four established criteria:<sup>10</sup>

- a) Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b) Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) Yield, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### *(ii) Integrity*

According to National Register Bulletin #15, “to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only be shown to be significant under National Register criteria, but it also must have integrity.” Integrity is defined in National Register Bulletin #15 as “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”<sup>11</sup> Within the concept of integrity, the National Register recognizes the following seven aspects or qualities that in various combinations define integrity: feeling, association, workmanship, location, design, setting, and materials.

#### *(iii) Context*

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must also be significant within a historic context. National Register Bulletin #15 states that the significance of a historic property can be judged only when it is evaluated within its historic context. Historic contexts are “those patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning... within history or

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<sup>9</sup> 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 60.2.

<sup>10</sup> Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60.4 (2011).

<sup>11</sup> National Register Bulletin #15, pp 44. (revised 2002).

prehistory is made clear.”<sup>12</sup> A property must represent an important aspect of the area’s history or prehistory and possess the requisite integrity to qualify for the National Register.

*(iv) Historic Districts*

The National Register includes significant properties, which are classified as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects. A historic district “derives its importance from being a unified entity, even though it is often composed of a wide variety of resources. The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can... be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties.”<sup>13</sup>

A district is defined as a geographically definable area of land containing a significant concentration of buildings, sites, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.<sup>14</sup> A district’s significance and historic integrity should help determine the boundaries. Other factors include:

- Visual barriers that mark a change in the historic character of the area or that break the continuity of the district, such as new construction, highways, or development of a different character;
- Visual changes in the character of the area due to different architectural styles, types, or periods, or to a decline in the concentration of contributing resources;
- Boundaries at a specific time in history, such as the original city limits or the legally recorded boundaries of a housing subdivision, estate, or ranch; and
- Clearly differentiated patterns of historical development, such as commercial versus residential or industrial.<sup>15</sup>

Within historic districts, properties are identified as contributing and noncontributing. A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a district is significant because:

- It was present during the period of significance, relates to the significance of the district, and retains its historical integrity or is capable of yielding importation information about the period; or
- It independently meets the criterion for listing in the National Register.<sup>16</sup>

*Archaeological Resources*

The federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-95) protects archaeological resources and sites on federal and Indian lands, including requirements for issuance of permits by federal land managers to excavate or remove archaeological resources. The Native American Graves and

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> *Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60.3(d). (2011)*

<sup>15</sup> *National Register Bulletin #21, p. 12. (revised 1997)*

<sup>16</sup> *National Register Bulletin #16A, p. 16.*

Repatriation Act (1990) and the Native American Heritage Act (1984 and 1992) provide guidelines for protection of Native American remains and artifacts.

### *Paleontological Resources*

In 2009, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) became law when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) of 2009, Public Law 111-011.<sup>17</sup> The PRPA requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to manage and protect paleontological resources on Federal land using scientific principles and expertise. The PRPA includes specific provisions addressing management of these resources by Federal agencies. It provides authority for the protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands including criminal and civil penalties for fossil theft and vandalism. The PRPA only applies to Federal lands and does not affect private lands.

### *State Regulations*

#### *California Register of Historical Resources*

In 1992, Governor Wilson signed Assembly Bill 2881 into law establishing the California Register of Historical Resources. The California Register is an authoritative guide used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify historic resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse impacts.<sup>18</sup> The California Register consists of properties that are listed automatically as well as those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The California Register automatically includes the following:

- California properties listed in the National Register and those formally Determined Eligible for the National Register;
- State Historical Landmarks from No. 0770 onward; and
- Those California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SOHP) and have been recommended to the State Historical Resources Commission for inclusion on the California Register.<sup>19</sup>

The criteria for eligibility of listing in the California Register are based upon National Register criteria, but are identified as 1-4 instead of A-D. To be eligible for listing in the California Register, a property generally must be at least 50 years of age and must possess significance at the local, state, or national level, under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values; or

<sup>17</sup> *P.L. 111-011, Title VI, Subtitle D on Paleontological Resources Preservation (known by its popular name, the PRPA) (123 Stat. 1172; 16 U.S.C. 470aaa).*

<sup>18</sup> *Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(a).*

<sup>19</sup> *Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(d).*

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

Historic resources eligible for listing in the California Register may include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts. Resources less than 50 years of age may be eligible if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance. While the enabling legislation for the California Register is less rigorous with regard to the issue of integrity, there is the expectation that properties reflect their appearance during their period of significance.<sup>20</sup>

The California Register may also include properties identified during historic resource surveys. However, the survey must meet all of the following criteria:<sup>21</sup>

1. The survey has been or will be included in the State Historic Resources Inventory;
2. The survey and the survey documentation were prepared in accordance with office [OHP] procedures and requirements;
3. The resource is evaluated and determined by the office [OHP] to have a significance rating of Category 1 to 5 on a DPR Form 523; and
4. If the survey is five or more years old at the time of its nomination for inclusion in the California Register, the survey is updated to identify historical resources which have become eligible or ineligible due to changed circumstances or further documentation and those which have been demolished or altered in a manner that substantially diminishes the significance of the resource.

#### *California Office of Historic Preservation Survey Methodology*

The evaluation instructions and classification system prescribed by the OHP in its *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* provide a three-digit evaluation rating code for use in classifying potential historic resources. In 2003, the codes were revised to address the California Register.

The first digit indicates the general category of evaluation. The second digit is a letter code to indicate whether the resource is separately eligible (S), eligible as part of a district (D), or both (B). The third digit is a number, which is coded to describe some of the circumstances or conditions of the evaluation. The general evaluation categories are as follows:

1. Listed in the National Register or the California Register.
2. Determined eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register.
3. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register through survey evaluation.
4. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register through other evaluation.
5. Recognized as historically significant by local government.
6. Not eligible for listing or designation as specified.
7. Not evaluated or needs re-evaluation.

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<sup>20</sup> *Public Resources Code Section 4852.*

<sup>21</sup> *Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(g).*



### *Native American Tribal Consultation*

In 2014 the California legislature added new requirements for tribal cultural resources through the approval of Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Pursuant to the provisions of AB 52, Public Resources Code (P.R.C.) Section 21084.2 establishes that “[a] project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.” To help determine whether a project may have such an effect, CEQA requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. Specifically, P.R.C. Section 21080.3.1(b) states:

*“Prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, the lead agency shall begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation.”*

The tribal notification requirements of AB 52 and P.R.C. Section 21080.3.1 became effective on July 1, 2015, and after the release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this project.<sup>22</sup> To date, no California Native American tribes have requested in writing to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification or have otherwise requested consultation. A copy of the NOP was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (see Appendix B to this EIR for a copy of the NAHC comment letter on the NOP). As recommended by the NAHC, provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archaeological resources have been incorporated into this EIR (See the Archaeological Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources subheadings below).

### **Local Regulations**

#### ***City of Santa Clarita General Plan***

Chapter 2 of the General Plan, Land Use Element, addresses the objectives and policies to guide land uses within the City of Santa Clarita. Specifically, Objective LU 2.2 protects significant community resources from encroachment by incompatible uses, where feasible and appropriate. To achieve this objective, Policy LU 2.2.2 identifies sites and areas of cultural and historical value to the community, and ensure that uses in or adjacent to these areas will not impact their historical integrity.

Additionally, Goal LU 6 aims to protect the community history and natural setting through building a scenic and beautiful urban environment. Objective LU 6.4 protects the Santa Clarita Valley’s historical and cultural resources in a scenic setting through appropriate land use designations. The policies to achieve this goal and objective include: maintaining the historic buildings in Newhall through

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<sup>22</sup> *The NOP was published on August 5, 2013.*

implementation of preservation measures in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan; enhancing the area around historic Land Station; maintain cultural resources from pre-historical Native American habitation and historical settlement in the identified areas around Santa Clarita, including along the Santa Clara River; and maintain the historic area of the Rancho San Francisco Estancia.

Chapter 6 of the General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, addresses the objectives and policies to preserve open space. Goal CO 10 states that the preservation of open space is to meet the multiple objects for resource preservation. Objective CO 10.1 states that areas throughout the Santa Clarita Valley are to be identified and preserved as open space in order to conserve significant resources for long-term community benefit. To accomplish this goal and objective, Policy CO 10.1.4 aims to maintain and acquire, where appropriate, open space to preserve cultural and historic resources.

It should be noted that the General Plan does not indicate any specific policies or goals with respect to preserving paleontological resources.

### ***One Valley One Vision General Plan***

Chapter 15, Goals, Objectives, and Policies, of the One Valley One Vision General Plan for the City of Santa Clarita addresses the objectives and policies to help implement the various goals. Goal CO-5 is to protect the historical and culturally significant resources that contribute to community identity and a sense of history. Objective CO-5.2 is to protect and enhance the historic character of Downtown Newhall. To achieve this goal and objective, the City of Santa Clarita requires that the City supports the Downtown Specific Plan policies to ensure that the character of new development is compatible with and does not detract from the context of historic buildings and block patterns; ensures that all aspects of community design in Newhall are of appropriate for this historic character of the district; and supports the diverse historical resources that illustrate the various phases of settlement within the Santa Clarita Valley.

Objective CO-5.3 aims to encourage conservation and preservation of Native American cultural places, including prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial sites on both public and private lands, throughout all stages of the planning and development process. To achieve this objective, the City of Santa Clarita requires that all proposed development projects that may have a potential impact on Native American cultural resources, provide notification to California Native American tribes, and consider the input received prior to a discretionary decision; and the City requires that studies be conducted on cultural resources for any new grading and development in areas identified as having a high potential for Native Americans resources, and incorporate recommendations to mitigate impacts.

These goals and objects are also included in the Santa Clarita General Plan, Conservation Element.

### ***Downtown Newhall Specific Plan***

Although, the Project Site is not physically located in the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan study area, all fourteen historic structures identified by the SCCIC search are located in the Newhall Specific Plan study area. The Specific Plan states that it is important to preserve the historic resources downtown Newhall to provide value and appeal. This includes the restoration and the preservation of culturally significant

buildings. The Downtown Newhall Specific Plan asks that temporary fencing may be necessary to protect archaeological or historic resources during site preparation and construction.

## **Historic Resources Study Area**

### *History of the Study Area*

For purposes of this analysis, the Project Site and surrounding Add Area properties were identified for evaluation using the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element Historical Resources map and supplemented with additional historical properties identified by SCCIC. The Historic Resources Study Area is identified in Figure 4.4-1, below. The following presents an overview of the history of development within the study area.

### **4.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

#### **Methodology**

The historic resources assessment of the Lyons Avenue / Dockweiler Extension Project involved a multi-step methodology. In conducting the analysis of potential historic resources, SCCIC performed the following tasks:

1. Established the study area for the report as a larger area than the actual portion of the Project Site that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University. A ½-mile radius was established as the study area for the archaeological and cultural search.
2. Reviewed the SCCIC database and maps for historic built-environment resources and archeological resources. Reviewed the California Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), the California Point of Historical Interest (SPHI), the California Historical landmarks (SHL), the California Register of Historical Resources (CAL REG), and the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP) for historical structures within the Project Site boundary and within the ½-mile radius. No historical structures were identified within the Project Site. The HRI found 31 properties that have been evaluated for historical significance within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site. Evaluation of a structure does not independently qualify the structure as historical.
3. Reviewed historic map of Santa Susana, California. The map indicates that in 1903, there was a significant amount of development with the Project Site. The Project Site was located within a dense urban environment with numerous roads and buildings. By 1941, the Project Site was still located within a dense urban environment with several roads and buildings.
4. Identified previous Cultural Resources investigations that were conducted within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site. Twenty-four studies were identified within the ½-mile radius of the Project Site, and eight studies are located within the Project Site.





**LEGEND**



Project Site



Dockweiler Drive Extension (Not Part of the Project Site)

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| <p>① Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge; Ice House; and Wilcox Sewer Corporation<br/>22502-22510 Fifth Street</p> <p>② Newhall Signal Newspaper Office<br/>22506 Sixth Street</p> <p>③ Ray Osborne's Dwelling<br/>22614/16 Ninth Street</p> <p>④ Adam Malinzewski's Dwelling<br/>22621 Thirteenth Street</p> <p>⑤ Sheriff Substation<br/>24238 Main Street</p> | <p>⑥ Seventh Day Adventist Church<br/>24244 Walnut Street</p> <p>⑦ Tom Mix Cottages<br/>24247-24251 Main Street</p> <p>⑧ Erwin House<br/>24287 Newhall Avenue</p> <p>⑨ Ye Olde Courthouse<br/>24307 Railroad Avenue</p> <p>⑩ Commerical Structure<br/>24311-24313 Main Street</p> <p>⑪ Old Newhall Jail<br/>24522 Spruce Street</p> | <p>⑫ William S. Hart Park and Museum<br/>24151 Newhall Avenue</p> <p>⑬ Heritage Junction<br/>Historical Park (includes,<br/>Newhall Ranch House, Mitchell Adobe<br/>School House, Kingsbury House,<br/>Callahan's School House, Ramona<br/>Chapel, Edison House, Pardee House/<br/>Good Templars, and Saugus Depot)<br/>24101 Newhall Avenue</p> <p>⑭ American Legion Hall/American<br/>Theatre Company<br/>24527 Spruce Street</p> |
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Source: Ariel View, Google Earth, 2010



Figure 4.4-1  
Historic Resources Study Area

5. Provides recommendations to minimize potential Project impacts to cultural and archeological resources.

The Vertebrate Paleontology Department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County conducted a Vertebrate Paleontology records search of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County for any fossils vertebrate localities that lie directly within the Project boundaries and the surrounding area for the portion of the Project Site that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University. No vertebrate fossil localities were identified within the Project Site. Two vertebrate fossil localities from the Saugus Formation (or possibly the older Quaternary sediments), directly north of the Project Site, produced fossil specimens of a camel (*Camelidae*) and horse (*Equus*). The Vertebrate Paleontology Department further provides recommendations to minimize potential Project impacts to paleontological resources.

### **CEQA Guidelines Thresholds of Significance**

According to Checklist Questions V(a) through V(d) in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project may have a significant environmental impact if it were to:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries;

The State Legislature has amended CEQA to clarify which properties are significant, as well as which project impacts are considered to be significantly adverse.

A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.<sup>23</sup> A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.<sup>24</sup>

The Guidelines further provide that “the significance of an historic resource is materially impaired when a project... demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources... local register of historic resources... or its identification in a historic resources survey.”<sup>25</sup>

Additionally, in accordance with the amended CEQA Guidelines adopted in response to AB 52, a project

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<sup>23</sup> CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(b).

<sup>24</sup> CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(b)(1).

<sup>25</sup> CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(b)(2).

may have a significant environmental impact if it would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in P.R.C Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- (a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in P.R.C. Section 5020.1(k); or
- (b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of P.R.C. Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of P.R.C. Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

## **Project Impacts**

### ***Cultural and Historic Resources***

A project 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. There are no habitable structures located within the Project Site. The Project Site includes the roadway extension and widening of the intersection of Lyons Avenue and Railroad Avenue and extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University and northwest towards the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Arch Street, the closure of an at-grade crossing at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The portion of the Project Site located at the intersection of Lyons Avenue and Railroad Avenue that extends eastward towards the General Plan alignment for Dockweiler Drive towards The Master's University and northwest towards the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Arch Street would have the potential to adversely impact historic or cultural resources as it includes improving roadway segments and a road extension over undeveloped open space area.

### ***Archaeological Resources***

Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines defines significant archaeological resources as resources that meet the criteria for historical resources, as described above, or resources that constitute unique archaeological resources. A project-related significant impact may occur if the Proposed Project were to affect archaeological resources. Moreover, a significant impact may occur if project activities, such as grading or excavation, were to disturb previously untouched archeological resources or Native American burial sites. No known archeological sites are identified within the Project Site. While, portions of the Project Site are improved with roadways, the Proposed Project will consist of earthwork activities, such as grading and excavation, in areas that are currently undeveloped. Construction-related earthwork activities may result in the accidental discovery of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources or Native American burial sites. In the unlikely event archaeological resources are discovered during excavation, grading, or construction activities, work will be halted in the area of the find until a qualified archaeologist has evaluated the find in accordance with federal, State, and local guidelines, including



those set forth in California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2. State law prohibits the collection or disturbance of any suspected archaeological materials until a qualified archaeologist is contacted to survey the find. Construction activity may continue unimpeded on other portions of the Project site. The found deposits would be treated in accordance with federal, State, and local guidelines, including those set forth in California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(i). Thus, with implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-1, impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

### ***Paleontological Resources***

A significant adverse effect could also occur if grading or excavation activities associated with the project were to disturb any paleontological remains within the Project Site. The records search conducted by the Vertebrate Paleontology Department of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County yielded no known fossil localities within the Project Site. The closest vertebrate fossil localities are from the Saugus Formation, located directly north of the Proposed Project Site. The fossil specimens are of a camel, *Camelidae*, and a horse, *Equus*. While it is possible that fossilized materials may be discovered during site preparation and construction, specifically grading and excavation activities, precautionary measures set forth in Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 would reduce any potential adverse impacts to paleontological resources to a less than significant level.

### **Tribal Cultural Resources**

As noted above, the NOP for the proposed project preceded AB 52 and the CEQA amendments pertaining to the public notification requirements of Native American Tribes. CEQA requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. No California Native American tribes have requested in writing to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification or have otherwise requested consultation. Based on a records search conducted through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) (see Appendix E to this EIR), no archaeological sites have been identified within a ½-mile radius of the Project Site. As such, the Proposed Project would not have a direct impact upon known archaeological resources, including Native American tribal resources. However, as noted in the NAHC's response letter to the NOP, a lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence. As such, provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources would be implemented in accordance with mitigation measure 4.4-1, below. With the incorporation of mitigation measure 4.4-1, impacts upon tribal resources would be less than significant.

#### **4.4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

In accordance with Section 15130(b)(1)(A)(B) of the CEQA Guidelines, an adequate discussion of a project's significant cumulative impact, in combination with other closely related projects, can be based on either: (1) a list of past, present, and probable future producing related impacts; or (2) a summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional, or statewide plan or related planning document that describes conditions contributing to the cumulative effect. The lead agency may also blend the "list" and "plan" approaches to analyze the severity of impacts and their likelihood of occurrence. For purposes of

assessing the Project's cumulative impact with respect to impacts upon cultural resources (including archaeological, paleontological and historic resources), the analysis below is appropriately based on a combination of the plan-based approach and the list-based approach to determine the Project's contributing effect on potential cumulative impacts on cultural resources.

The Proposed Project would result in the development of an undeveloped surrounding area, and provide improved access to The Masters University, Old Town Newhall, and the rural residential community of Placerita Canyon. However, impacts to cultural resources tend to be site-specific and are assessed on a site-by-site basis. Additionally, the historic resource assessment for the Proposed Project concluded that the Project will not result in significant adverse impacts on identified historic resources located within and adjacent to the Project Site following appropriate mitigation. Therefore, the Proposed Project's incremental contribution to a cumulative impact would not be considerable, and cumulative impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant.

#### **4.4.5 MITIGATION MEASURES**

4.4-1 In the event any archaeological materials are encountered during the course of Project development, all construction activity shall halt in the area of the find and the services of a qualified archaeologist shall be secured to assess the discovered material(s) and prepare a survey, study or report evaluating the significance of the materials encountered. The archaeologist's written assessment shall contain a detailed description of the materials encountered, and recommendations if necessary, for the preservation, conservation, or relocation of the resource. Project development activities may resume once copies of the archaeological survey, study or report are submitted to the satisfaction of the Planning Director and copies distributed to the SCCIC Department of Anthropology.

4.4-2 In the event any suspected paleontological materials are encountered during the course of Project development, all construction activity shall halt in the area of the find and the services of a qualified paleontologist shall be secured to assess the discovered material(s) and prepare a survey, study or report evaluating the significance of the materials encountered. The paleontologist's written assessment shall contain a detailed description of the materials encountered, and recommendations if necessary, for the preservation, conservation, or relocation of the resource. Project development activities may resume once copies of the paleontological survey, study or report are submitted to the satisfaction of the Planning Director and copies distributed to the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.

#### **4.4.6 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

With the incorporation of mitigation measures, impacts upon cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological, historic, and Native American Tribal resources would be less than significant.