

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include places, object, and settlements that reflect group or individual religious, archaeological, architectural, or paleontological activities. Such resources provide information on scientific progress, environmental adaptations, group ideology, or other human advancements. This section of the Menifee General Plan EIR evaluates the potential for buildout of the Proposed Land Use Plan to impact cultural resources in the City of Menifee. The analysis in this section is based, in part, upon the following technical study:

- *Archival Report for Cultural and Paleontological Resources: City of Menifee, Riverside County*, Discovery Works, Inc., September 2010

A copy of this study is included in Appendix G to this Draft EIR.

Methodology

A records review of the archives was conducted at the Eastern Information Center, Anthropology Department at the University of California, Riverside, and the San Bernardino County Museum, Paleontology Department to determine if the project area has been surveyed for cultural resources. Records reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places database, the California Register of Historical Resources database, California Historical Landmarks database, California Points of Historical Interest database, and other local historical register databases. The purpose of this research was to obtain the background information necessary for an initial identification of issues; develop preservation and mitigation strategies; provide an inventory of all recorded archaeological resources; identify areas that have not been surveyed for archaeological resources; and identify areas that may have a high potential for buried prehistoric archaeological remains.



5.5.1 Environmental Setting

Cultural Setting

Prehistory

Most researchers agree that the earliest occupation of the Menifee area dates to the Early Holocene (11,000 to 8,000 years ago). Early cultures are described as hunting cultures with a flaked-stone industry. Investigations at the Eastside Reservoir at nearby Diamond Valley suggest that people lived in the area at this period. Two other archaeological sites that date to this period have been found in the vicinity of Menifee. One is on the shoreline of Elsinore Lake and the other is in the San Jacinto Valley near Mystic Lake. These sites showed deep, intact deposits with a number of stone tools and features. It should be noted that these early sites are often found along ancient lake terraces.

By 8,000 years ago, the subsistence patterns for prehistoric inhabitants start changing in response to the overall warming trend that changed the plants and animals for the region. Sites from 8,000 to 3,500 years ago are labeled Sayles or Pauma cultures for the general region of western Riverside County, or Archaic cultures from recent investigations for the Eastside Reservoir Project. The archaeological record shows an increased number of ground stone tools and a relative decrease in the number of chipped stone tools. The material culture includes large, bifacially worked dart points and grinding stones, hand-stones, and metates.

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

By 3,500 to 1,500 years ago, the archaeological record again shows a change in the overall prehistoric diet with the introduction of the mortar and pestle. Smaller projectile points are also found from this time period, which suggests technological changes in game hunting.

By 1,500 years ago, the archaeological record again shows artifact changes that suggest new cultural practices for the region. Soapstone bowls, tiny projectile points (arrowheads), pottery vessels, rock paintings, and cremations appear.

The in-depth investigations at the Eastside Reservoir Project refine the chronology for the past 1,500 years into four stages—Saratoga Springs (1500–750 years ago); Late Prehistoric period (750–410 years ago); Protohistoric period (410–180 years ago); and Historic period (within the last 180 years). This research shows continued use of the area over the past 7,500 years. In particular, the research found a large number of sites (semiresidential) during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly beginning at the end of the Saratoga Springs Period and ending by the Late Prehistoric Period. This amount of activity during a warm, dry period suggests that western Riverside County perhaps had a more favorable environment for people than the surrounding regions. In western Riverside County, there are a number of sites that date to this time period (1,500 to about 200 years ago), just prior to Europeans arriving.

Ethnographic Overview

When the Franciscan friars established a mission near the coast between Mission San Juan Capistrano and Mission San Diego, they recruited people from the coastal and inland areas and called them the Luiseño. The Luiseño people were highly organized and occupied a territory that stretched from western San Jacinto Valley to the Pacific Ocean along several major rivers, including the Temecula, Santa Margarita, and San Luis Rey. Menifee lies on the northern and inland portion of the Luiseño territory. The Cahuilla people lived to the east, the Serrano to the north, and the Gabrielino to the west. Each of these groups is part of the same large, linguistic stock, Uto-Aztecan, and all Takic speakers. Because boundaries for these groups were drawn and recorded in the 1800s and 1900s, after disruption and destruction of their native life ways, it is difficult and perhaps impossible to say which group settled in the Menifee area originally. Over the ages, several groups probably utilized this portion of western Riverside County. Today, many Luiseño descendants live in western Riverside County on the Pechanga, Soboba, and Pala reservations. Many rock art sites for western Riverside County have been documented in the area. Western Riverside County has a large number of pictographs and petroglyphs in comparison to other geographic areas.

Historical Setting of Menifee

Soldiers visited the general area that includes Menifee Valley during the period when the Spanish empire extended to Alta California. In 1772, Lt. Pedro Fages, who was the military governor at San Diego, crossed San Jacinto Valley while pursuing some deserters. A few years later, the overland expeditions led by Juan Bautista de Anza (1774 and 1775–1776) also passed through San Jacinto Valley.

In early California history, missions were established at outlying ranches, called *asistencias*, for growing crops and raising livestock. The Mission San Luis Rey (established in 1798) let many Luiseño people reside in their villages while working at the *asistencias*, and some people were brought to live at the mission. The Mission San Luis Rey *asistencias* closest to Menifee were at San Jacinto (near the modern intersection of Ramona Expressway and Warren Road) and at Temecula.

The Spanish authorities and the Mexican governors (after 1821) made large grants of the best grazing and farming lands to favored soldiers, citizens, and to even a few Native Americans. Sixteen land grants were established in Riverside County. However, none of these included the Menifee area, and no structures or

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

features dating from that period are recorded. For the first three-quarters of the 1800s, the land in Menifee Valley remained unclaimed, but it was not unused.

After 1848 and the discovery of gold, prospectors spread throughout the state, including the area around Menifee. In 1880, Luther Menifee Wilson discovered gold about eight miles south of Perris. He called his claim the Menifee Quartz Lode, and the area around it became known as the Menifee Mining District. The discovery drew attention, and soon many other prospectors were filing claims across the district. Gold production (from hard rock mining) increased considerably in western Riverside County from early 1880s through mid 1890s. For the next several decades, there were scattered attempts to start new mines and reopen old mines, but none succeeded for very long. The landscape still shows evidence of past mining activities. Both the “Alice” and “Leon” mines are nearby examples.

From 1847 to 1860, California population estimates show almost a threefold increase in the area to over 300,000 residents. Almost 100,000 people arrived in 1849 alone. Many of those who came to mine for gold found business and farming enterprises safer and more reliable. Farming, ranching, and businesses of all types flourished during the first bloom of the Gold Rush, but it was difficult to bring products to market. Communities competed fiercely for rail lines and gave subsidies and other inducements to railroad companies. When the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, access to rail lines made citrus and other agricultural products important parts of the state economy.

In 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad (now Union Pacific Railroad) reached Los Angeles, giving the city its first rail connection to San Francisco and the rest of the US. In the same year, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (now Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) was completed to Colton. In 1882, the California Southern Railroad completed a rail line from National City to Colton. The rail line went through Oceanside, Temecula, Elsinore, and San Jacinto Canyon (also known as Railroad Canyon). A railroad station was established at Pinacate. The rail line went through Box Springs to Colton. The railroad serviced nearby mines including the “Good Hope” and the “Virginia” in Pinacate. The railroad also made the area more attractive for farming.

Farming in California developed differently than in the Midwest and plains, where homesteaders acquired cheap government land for family farms. In southern California, the best land for farming and ranching had already been taken in large land grants, and most required substantial investments in irrigation and reclamation. Most crops and livestock in southern California were produced by large commercial enterprises employing many workers and fleets of equipment. This pattern held true for Menifee Valley. William Newport was born in England and came to the United States in 1876 at age 20. He lived in Los Angeles for nine years and moved to Menifee Valley in 1885, where he purchased 2,000 acres for large-scale, commercial farming (on the north side of Newport Road between Murrieta and Bradley Roads). By 1906, he was farming 15,000 acres, with 13,000 acres in wheat and barley and 2,000 acres in alfalfa and pasture. Many of the young men in the valley worked for him. Only 200 acres were irrigated (from wells on the property), and the rest was dryland farming using drought-resistant crops and depending on rainfall. In 1890, Newport visited relatives in England and married Kathryn Lloyd before returning to Menifee.

Other early settlers in Menifee built farms and ranches of smaller scale:

- Andrew Kittilson came to the US from Norway and married Myra Morrell and moved with their daughter Norma to Paloma Valley in 1882.
- William Brown came from Illinois around 1891, worked at the Kittilson ranch, and married Norma Kittilson in 1899.



5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Robert Kirkpatrick came to Menifee from Tennessee with his four sons. His ranch was located at Newport and Antelope Roads. Son William, with his wife Callie, built a large house there in 1882 and continued farming.
- William Frank Holland owned a large farm between Scott Road and Garbani Road. His daughter, Rosetta, married Hans Christensen Sr. in 1892; they lived near Antelope and Garbani Roads.
- James B. Ferrell came to Menifee in 1887 from Iowa and homesteaded on the area that became part of the Audie Murphy ranch. His daughter, Ella, was born in Iowa before he moved.
- Henry Evans came from Gilroy, California, married Ella Ferrell, and moved to Menifee in 1890.
- Joseph and Harriet Drake came from Pennsylvania in 1887 and planted wheat on an 80-acre farm near Zeiders and Keller Roads. Joseph died in 1888, and Harriet and two sons continued to run the farm.
- Samuel and Alice Wickerd Walker came to Menifee about 1885.
- Alden Drake came to Menifee with his parents in 1887 and married Zona Walker in 1901.
- Richard and Della Harrison came from England and Ireland, respectively, met in Menifee, and married in 1896.
- Benjamin “Benny” Kohlmier came to Menifee around 1900. His parents bought 640 acres of land that included a ranch.

In most cases, descendants continued to live in Menifee, and many buildings and features from this early period remained in use well into the twentieth century. With a small rural population, commercial centers and residential communities did not develop in Menifee Valley. In 1887, the Menifee post office was established with Darius W. Godfrey as first postmaster. It was in a small store at the intersection of Newport and Bradley Roads. By 1890, there was a blacksmith shop at the intersection, and a new school built on an acre and a half site given by William W. Snoddy. In 1893, the school became part of the new county’s school system. The post office didn’t fare as well. The store burned down in 1893 and the post office moved to a little shanty nearby, but it was discontinued in 1896. In 1900, the post office was briefly reestablished, then closed permanently.

Through the 1880s, additional rail lines were built from Perris, including an 1888 branch line from Perris through Menifee, Winchester, and Hemet to San Jacinto. Railroad companies were subsidized by land grants, which they sold to new homeowners. During the 1880s, new towns were created along major rail lines, and there was a real estate boom reminiscent of the excitement of the Gold Rush in the previous generation. Populations grew and businesses expanded, and in 1893, Riverside County was created from portions of San Diego and San Bernardino Counties. When residents voted on a county seat, the largest city, Riverside, easily received the most votes. But Menifee received the second-highest number.

In the 1890s, railroad workers settled in a small community by the tracks at Ethanac and Matthews Roads. Other workers from the Temescal Water Company of Corona lived there and named the community Ethanac, in honor of Ethan Allen Chase of Chase Nursery. However, the town languished when water was diverted from the area.

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Railroads were the most important link to the outside world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for Menifee Valley. When portions of the California Southern Railroad were washed out in 1883 (in Railroad Canyon) and again in 1884 (in Temecula Canyon), they were repaired to maintain the link between San Diego and the rest of the country. However, by 1888, there was another rail line between San Diego and Los Angeles. It went up the coast and provided an alternative to the troublesome California Southern route. In 1891, that rail line was again washed out through Temecula Canyon to Fallbrook, and it was officially abandoned in 1892. That left no direct access from Perris Valley to northern San Diego County.

At about the same time that the rail line between Temecula and Fallbrook was abandoned, the effort to bring water into the area through the Bear Valley Water System failed. It had been established to provide water from Big Bear Lake, but prior water rights had been sold to irrigation agencies in Redlands, and no water remained. Agriculture was dominated by dryland farming of wheat, barley, and alfalfa, and associated livestock. Fruit, produce, and new homes depended on local well water in Menifee Valley.

Absence of direct rail links and sustainable irrigation helped Menifee maintain its rural character through most of the 20th century. Residents worked hard on their farms, bought self-propelled harvesters when they could, and used horse-drawn equipment when necessary. Electricity came in 1946. New residents came too, including:

- Walter Zeiders, who purchased a 240-acre ranch in 1932 and built a ranch that included a granary with elevator and machine shop.
- The Bouris brothers, George, Sam, and Ted, were born in Greece. George came to Boston in 1904 at age 14 and worked his way across America. From Los Angeles, he sent for his brothers, and in 1922 they purchased a 640-acre farm on Antelope and Keller Roads. They grew grapes, walnuts, oranges, figs, and peaches; processed olives; and made feta cheese.



In 1925, the town of Romoland developed where the small community of Ethanac had been. Perhaps the town was named after Rominio Homonicholai, an immigrant from Greece, who grew oranges and grapes there. Or it may have been named after Romola—in 1925, Pacific Life Insurance Company of California started a community of “Romola Farms” that divided the property into “small ranches of 4 to 5 acres to cultivate figs,” and to eliminate confusion for the post office, the community changed its name to Romoland.

After WWII, automobiles and freeways helped accelerate growth in southern California, but Menifee was not an early participant. Although US 395 had become a major highway between Spokane and San Diego as early as the 1930s, it went through Perris and Temecula, not Menifee. The portion of old US 395 between Riverside and March Air Force Base was made into an expressway in 1942, but I-215 was not completed until the 1980s.

In the 1950s, the population density of Menifee Valley was low, but this began to change. In 1960, Del Webb opened Sun City, a planned retirement community near Phoenix. It was the biggest of its kind and attracted immense attention. That same year, Del Webb looked to his home state and began studying the feasibility of building another Sun City in Menifee Valley. After secretly buying about 14,000 acres, he started Sun City with the King Inn Restaurant and Motel (at Bradley Road and Cherry Hills Blvd.), six model homes, and a town hall on Sun City Boulevard. The development was not incorporated and the residents managed community facilities such as the town hall, auditorium, swimming pool, through the Sun City Civic Association. The residents also were involved in running various clubs and community activities and events.

In 1964, there were 2,500 homes and 4,500 people in Sun City. The goal of 5,000 homes was reached in 1977. Sun City did not grow as fast or as big as initially planned, but it succeeded in becoming a planned

5. *Environmental Analysis*

CULTURAL RESOURCES

community for active retirement lifestyles, a goal that has been duplicated all across the country. Sun City's early structures will soon be 50 years or older, which makes them potentially historical and appropriate for evaluation and possible preservation.

Historical Resources

Historical resources are buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts of significance in history, archaeology, architecture, and culture. These resources include intact structures of any type that are 50 years or more of age. They are sometimes called the built environment and can include, in addition to houses, structures such as irrigation works and engineering features. Historical resources are preserved because they provide a link to a region's past and a frame of reference for a community. Often these sites are a source of pride for a city.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts worthy of preservation. The National Register was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is maintained by the National Park Service. The purpose of the act is to ensure that properties significant in national, state, and local history are considered in the planning of federal undertakings, and to encourage historic preservation initiatives by state and local governments and the private sector. Registration is an integral part of the four essential components of historic preservation: identification, evaluation, registration, and protection. Effects of National Register designation include tax incentives, consideration in federally funded projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; limited protection through environmental review under CEQA; and restrictions imposed locally through CEQA or local zoning and land use planning regulations.

California Register of Historic Resources

The State Historic Resources Commission has designed the California Register of Historic Resources for use by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify, evaluate, register, and protect California's historical resources. The California Register is the authoritative guide to the state's significant historical and archaeological resources. The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance; identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes; determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding; and affords certain protections under the California Environmental Quality Act.

California Historical Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest

Historical landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. In order to be considered a California Historical Landmark, the landmark must meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) 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; 2) associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; 3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values; 4) has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

If a site is primarily of local or countywide interest, it may meet the criteria for the California Point of Historical Interest Program. Points of Historical Interest are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of local (city or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. To be eligible for designation as a Point of Historical

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Interest, a resource must meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) the first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the local geographic region (city or county); 2) associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of the local area; 3) a prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction; or 4) one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in the local region of a pioneer architect, designer, or master builder. Points of Historical Interest designated after December 1997 and recommended by the State Historical Resources Commission are also listed in the California Register. No historical resource may be designated as both a Landmark and a Point of Interest. If a Point of Interest is subsequently granted status as a Landmark, the Point of Interest designation will be retired.

Potential Historic Sites in Menifee

Table 5.5-1 shows many features, residences, and outbuildings that date to the mining and early farming periods of Menifee. Other potentially significant historical property types for the City of Menifee are associated with the planned communities of Quail Valley and Sun City. Quail Valley was started in 1947 by the Pacific Coast Finance Company, and in about 1958, Charles E. Cooper (son of one of the original owners) renamed the lodge the Quail Valley Country Club. This name is associated with the early use of the area as a quail hunting resort.

**Table 5.5-1
Inventory of Potentially Historic Resources**

Primary Number	Property Number	Identification	Site Description	Eligible for Listing
P-33-007652		Quail Valley Country Club	Vernacular Brick house, built in 1956, 28702 Anita Drive, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007653		Quail Valley	Wood frame house, built in 1931, 23790 Clara Drive, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007679	61662	Quail Valley	Vernacular adobe house, built in 1942, 23866 Elsinore Lane, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007698	62469	Christensen Ranch, Clyde C. and Zora Christensen	Vernacular wood frame house, with stucco siding, built in 1907, 31550 Hwy 395, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007699	62470	Gombers Ranch	Vernacular stone house, built in 1918, 24689 Menifee Road, and Vernacular wood farm house and barn which are original Camp Haan World War II barracks; recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007700	62471	Schain Ranch, one of the earliest ranches in the Romoland area.	Vernacular wood frame house, built in 1940, and an original adobe milk house (still standing in 1981), 25781 Ritter Avenue, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007701	62472	Romoland area	Vernacular wood frame Bungalow, built in 1919, 25632 Sherman Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated



5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Table 5.5-1
Inventory of Potentially Historic Resources**

Primary Number	Property Number	Identification	Site Description	Eligible for Listing
P-33-007702	62473	Romoland area	Vernacular stucco house, estimated built in 1919, 24950 Antelope Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007703	62474	Menifee School Site	The site record indicates that this school was constructed in 1890 and that most pioneer families (Kirkpatrick, Christensen, and Zeider) attended. Located at southwest corner of Newport Road and Bradley Road.	not evaluated
P-33-007704	62475	Hills Ranch	Vernacular wood frame house with stucco walls, estimated built in 1938, note the tank house, 28990 Mapes Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007706	62477		Vernacular stone house, estimated built in 1932, 25773 Bundy Canyon Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982. In 2007, the stone building appears replaced by a mobile home or original building in ruins and the mobile home added to the property. Report number RI-07852.	not evaluated
P-33-007707	62478	1922 homestead built by the Walden family.	Vernacular wood frame house (1930s) and an adobe homestead, built in 1922, 25471 Walden Road, in T6S R3W, Section 17, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982. In 2007, the Bundy Canyon widening report suggests re-evaluation for this property.	not evaluated
P-33-007708	62479	Walden West Cabin; this property also may have a prehistoric component. The historical record form refers to an "Indian camp ground" as part of the property.	Vernacular wood frame cabin and house (1924), 25543 Walden Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982. In 2007, the Bundy Canyon widening report re-evaluated this cabin and gardens and determined this structure appears eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Report number RI-07852.	eligible for listing in the NRHP
P-33-007711	62482, 62483, 62484, 62485, 62486		Vernacular wood frame cabin (estimated 1909 construction date) and two barns and a capped mine shaft, 30903 Murrieta Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1982.	not evaluated
P-33-007712	62487, 62488, 62489, 62490, 62491, 62492	The Pinto Ranch, located on the far eastern border of the City of Menifee	Vernacular wood frame house (1945) and out buildings (2 barns) and adobe house estimated 1920s, 33780 Briggs Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983.	not evaluated

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Table 5.5-1
Inventory of Potentially Historic Resources**

Primary Number	Property Number	Identification	Site Description	Eligible for Listing
P-33-007713	62493	Bud Smith House and known as Van Landingham House	Vernacular adobe house, built in 1945, 30250 Gunther Road, William and Florence Van Landingham made the adobe bricks for this house. Recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983.	not evaluated
P-33-007714	62494	T.K. Ranch	Vernacular wood frame cabin, estimated built in 1920s, and windmill and brick house, 27115 Scott Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983. In 2007, the Bundy Canyon widening report re-evaluated this cabin and gardens and determined this structure appears eligible for local listing or designation.	eligible for listing, locally significant
P-33-007715	62495	Al Drake homestead?	Vernacular wood frame cabin, built 1915?, (still standing in 1983), 29621 Scott Road recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983.	not evaluated
P-33-007716	62496	Merle Zeider property	Vernacular wood frame house and other ranch structures, built 1927 (estimated), 33281 Zeiders Road, recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983.	not evaluated
P-33-007717	62497	John Harrison property	Vernacular wood frame house, built in 1890 with associated out buildings and school house moved to this property built in 1910, 33300 Hwy 395 (I-215), recorded by Riverside County Historical Commission, 1983.	not evaluated

Source: Discovery Works 2010.



A coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) tree—the Grandmother Tree—next to Scott Road is one of the largest coast live oak trees known, and is thought to be over 500 years old (*NC Times* 2009).

Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources are the physical remains of past human activities and can be either prehistoric or historic. Archaeological sites contain significant evidence of human activity. Generally a site is defined by a significant accumulation or presence of: food remains, waste from the manufacturing of tools, tools, concentrations or alignments of stones, modification of rock surfaces, unusual discoloration or accumulation of soil, and/or human skeletal remains.

In Menifee, the archaeological records identify resource gathering sites, quarries, hunting sites, small camp sites, rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs) sites, and village settlements. Of special interest for the heritage of the region are the numerous petroglyph and pictograph sites in the City of Menifee. Several of the pictograph sites (CA-RIV- 333, -1025, -1026, -1036, and -1037) have been documented, but many have not been carefully and systematically recorded using the best professional techniques. Until recently, research on local rock art (both painted and pecked designs) has been lacking. Given the number of rock art sites in the City, it is important to highlight their value as part of the cultural heritage of Menifee and of the Luiseño people. In 2004, a large district containing approximately 100 archaeological sites was found to be eligible

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Part of the district (primary number P-33-014370) lies with the City limits.

A granite boulder, the “Ringing Rock,” in the Menifee Valley chimes like a bell when struck with a small stone. Different tones are heard when the rock is struck in different places or with various-sized stones. The ringing rock was within a small prehistoric community of a main village surrounded by six satellite villages; the rock may have been used in Native American religious ceremonies. The rock contains one large circular indentation, surrounded by six smaller circular indentations, which are all thought to have been formed by humans (*Los Angeles Times* 1991). In 1990 Riverside County purchased a 36-acre site including the ringing rock and aims to develop an interpretive park on the site.

In response to the City of Menifee’s tribal consultation letter (March 25, 2010), the Native American Heritage Commission reported that the sacred lands record search identified no Native American cultural resources within the City limits.

Paleontological Resources

A records review at the San Bernardino County Museum, Division of Geological Sciences, was conducted to identify potential paleontological resources in the City of Menifee. Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of organisms from prehistoric environments found in geologic strata. These are valued for the information they yield about the history of the earth and its past ecological settings. There are two types of resources; vertebrate and invertebrate. These resources are found in geologic strata conducive to their preservation, typically sedimentary formations. Paleontological sites are areas that have yielded fossils that have provided important scientific knowledge about past life, about the Earth’s history, and/or about past ecological settings. Often they are simply small outcroppings visible on the surface or sites encountered during grading. Through the sites are important indications, it is the geologic formations that are the most important, since they may contain important fossils. Potentially sensitive areas for the presence of paleontological resources are based on the underlying geologic formation. Fossil remains may occur throughout the City of Menifee, although the area of their distribution is not known. The potential for fossil occurrence depends on the rock type exposed at the surface in a given area.

Topographic highs and lows can be used as a baseline against which to estimate paleontological sensitivity. The hills generally lack potential for significant fossil resources, but the alluvial plains and the sediments flanking the base of the hills have high paleontological sensitivity (see Figure 5.5-1, *Paleontological Resources Sensitivity*).

Low-Lying Areas: The low-lying alluvial plains in the City of Menifee consist primarily of surface exposures of Quaternary sedimentary deposits that range in age from the earliest Pleistocene to the earliest Holocene Epochs. The Pleistocene Epoch extends from 1.8 million years before present (ybp) to 11,500 ybp; the Holocene Epoch extends from 11,500 ybp to the present. These sedimentary rocks are mapped as very old fan deposits of middle to early Pleistocene age, older fan deposits of middle to late Pleistocene age, and young alluvial fan and valley deposits of Holocene and latest Pleistocene age. The very old fan deposits occur at the base and lower flanks of the low hills throughout the City, and the younger Holocene deposits are constrained in washes and shallow arroyos where they form a thin sedimentary veneer over older Pleistocene alluvium. The remainder of the flat-lying areas within the City is middle to later Pleistocene fan deposits. Of these sedimentary units, the young alluvial fan and the valley deposits are too young, geologically, to have any potential to contain significant vertebrate fossils. Thus, these sediments are assigned low paleontological sensitivity. In contrast, Pleistocene alluvial valley deposits and very old fan deposits mapped through the City have high paleontological sensitivity. Fossils from the Pleistocene sediments may include mammoths, mastodons, ground sloths, dire wolves, short-faced bears, sabertoothed

cats, large and small horses, large and small camels, and bison. Paleontological monitoring for the Eastside Reservoir Project (Diamond Valley), east of Menifee, found numerous Ice Age mammals, including mammoths, mastodons, bison, and ground sloths. Several of these finds were only three to five feet below the existing ground surface

Hilly Areas: The low hills throughout the City consist of rock outcrops with low potential to contain significant fossil resources. Outcrops include Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks of the Peninsular Ranges batholith and Cretaceous¹ granitic rocks of the Peninsular Ranges batholith, as well as intermixed Mesozoic schist and Cretaceous granitics. These Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks and Cretaceous granitic rocks have no potential to contain significant fossil resources. However, the hills forming the western border of the City include low-lying areas that are mapped as early to middle Pleistocene older alluvial channel gravels. These sediments have undetermined potential to contain fossil resources.

Regulatory Setting

Federal and State Regulations

National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) authorized the National Register of Historic Places and coordinates public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect the nation's historical and archaeological resources. The National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture.

Section 106 (Protection of Historic Properties) of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Section 106 Review refers to the federal review process designed to ensure that historical properties are considered during federal project planning and implementation. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, administers the review process, with assistance from state historic preservation offices.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is a federal law passed in 1990 that provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items, such as human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

California Public Resources Code

Archaeological, paleontological, and historical sites are protected by a wide variety of state policies and regulations under the California Public Resources Code. In addition, cultural and paleontological resources are recognized as nonrenewable and therefore receive protection under the California Public Resources Code and CEQA.

- California Public Resources Code 5020–5029.5 continued the former Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee as the State Historical Resources Commission. The commission oversees the administration of the California Register of Historical Resources and is responsible for the designation of State Historical Landmarks and Historical Points of Interest.

¹ The Mesozoic Era extends from 65.5 million years before present (mybp) to 251 mybp; the Cretaceous Period extends from 65.5 mybp to 146 mybp.



5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- California Public Resources Code 5079–5079.65 defines the functions and duties of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The OHP is responsible for the administration of federally and state-mandated historical preservation programs in California and the California Heritage Fund.
- California Public Resources Code 5097.9–5097.991 provides protection to Native American historical and cultural resources and sacred sites and identifies the powers and duties of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). It also requires notification of discoveries of Native American human remains and provides for treatment and disposition of human remains and associated grave goods.
- California Public Resources Code 5097.98 states that “in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation...until the coroner...has determined...that the remains are not subject to...provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible.... The coroner shall make his or her determination within two working days from the time the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, notifies the coroner of the discovery or recognition of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and...has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the Native American Heritage Commission.”

California Senate Bill 18

The law provides limited protection for Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places. These places may include sanctified cemeteries, religious, ceremonial sites, shrines, burial grounds, prehistoric ruins, archaeological or historic sites, Native American rock art inscriptions, or features of Native American historic, cultural, and sacred sites.

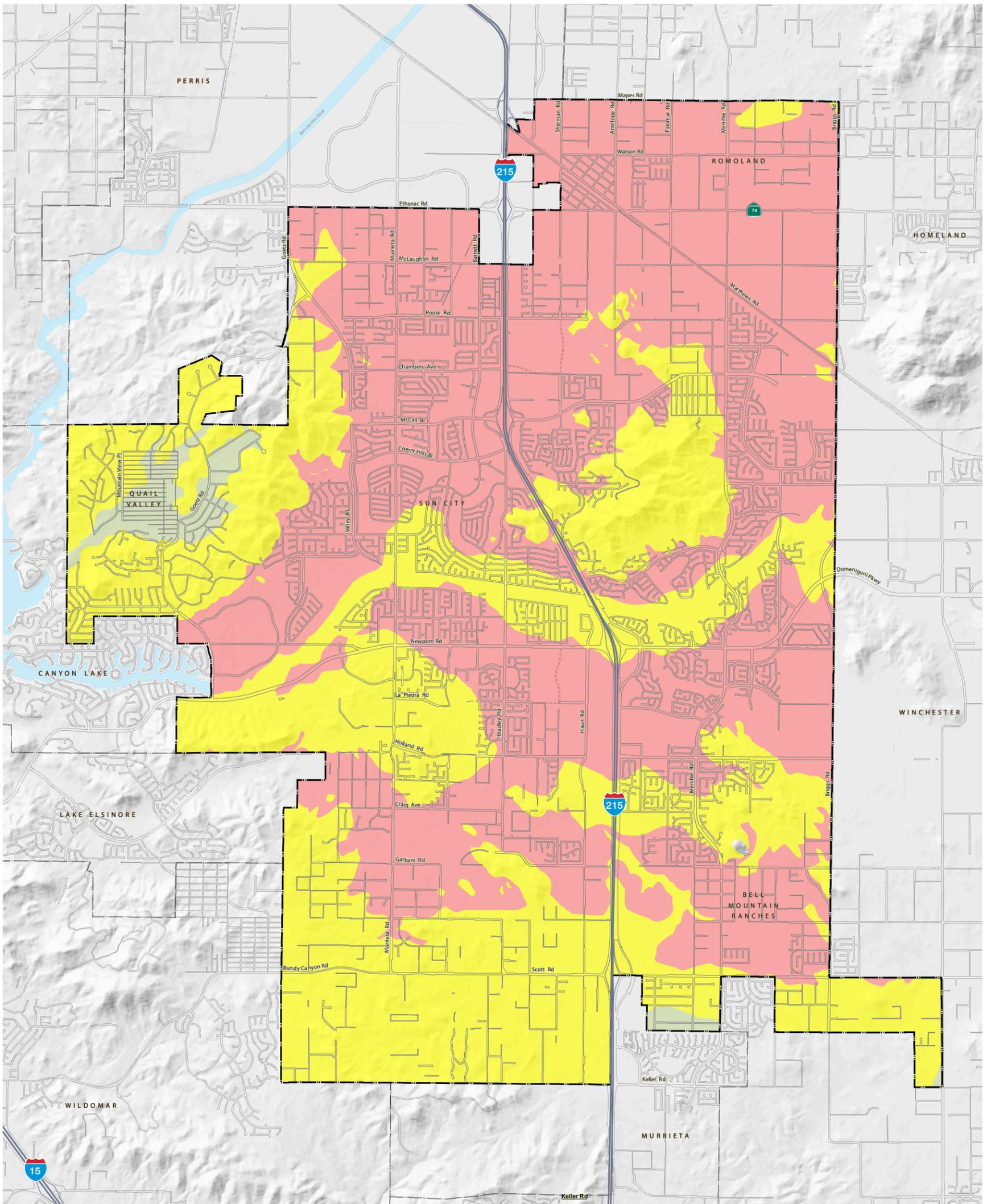
Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) requires a city or county to consult with the NAHC and any appropriate Native American tribe for the purpose of preserving relevant Traditional Tribal Cultural Places (TTCP) prior to the adoption, revision, amendment, or update of a city’s or county’s general plan, specific plan, or designating land as open space. SB 18 provides a new definition of TTCP, which requires that the site must be shown to actually have been used for activities related to traditional beliefs, cultural practices, or ceremonies. In addition, SB 18 law also adds California Native American tribes to the list of entities that can acquire and hold conservation easements for the purpose of protecting their cultural places.

5.5.2 Thresholds of Significance

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 provides direction on determining significance of impacts to archaeological and historical resources. Generally, a resource shall be considered “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852), including the following:

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

Paleontological Resources Sensitivity



Source: Discovery Works, 2010

- Areas of Paleologic Sensitivity
- High Sensitivity
 - Low Sensitivity
 - Undetermined Sensitivity

Note: All areas sensitive for archaeological resources

--- Site Boundary

Source: Discovery Works 2010

City of Menifee General Plan Draft EIR



5. *Environmental Analysis*

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This page intentionally left blank.

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The fact that a resource is not listed or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or is not included in a local register of historical resources, does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource.

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

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

5.5.3 Environmental Impacts

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the Initial Study identified potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

IMPACT 5.5-1: THE CITY OF MENIFEE GENERAL PLAN POLICES AND STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS WOULD ENSURE THAT HISTORICAL RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE IMPACTED ON A PROGRAMMATIC LEVEL. [THRESHOLD CUL-1]



Impact Analysis: Historic structures and sites that are eligible for National Register of Historic Resources listing may be vulnerable to development activities associated with buildout of the proposed Land Use Plan. Table 5.5-1 lists two historic sites that would be eligible for listing on a historic register. In addition, other structures that could meet the National Register criteria upon reaching 50 years of age might be impacted by development activity. Three structures in Romoland over 50 years old are listed in Table 5.5-1 above. Structures in Quail Valley and Sun City are reaching 50 years or more of age, and qualify for consideration as historical resources. As examples of community planning, they may have local or regional importance. At the time development or redevelopment projects are proposed, the project-level CEQA document would need to identify any impacts to known or potential historic sites and structures. The CEQA Guidelines require a project that will have potentially adverse impacts on historical resources to conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Historical Resource impacts would be less than significant.

The additional area that would be designated EDC under the Expanded EDC Scenario is south of Sun City and Quail Valley. Impacts would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.

IMPACT 5.5-2: BUILDOUT OF THE MENIFEE GENERAL PLAN COULD IMPACT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OR PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. [THRESHOLD CUL-2 AND CUL-3]

Impact Analysis: Long-term implementation of the proposed Land Use Plan could allow development and redevelopment, including grading, of sensitive areas.

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological Resources

There are over 250 historical resources (prehistoric, historic archaeological, and historical structures and sites) within the City of Menifee boundaries. Thus, the potential to uncover significant archaeological resources within the City during development activities is considered high. This finding is based on previous finds and the following:

- Many archaeological and historical surveys have been conducted within the City of Menifee; however, the entire area has not been investigated for cultural resources;
- The increase in development and the subsurface grading that ensues would have an adverse impact to unknown archaeological sites and features. Several sites and isolated artifacts already have been recorded where previously surface investigations did not reveal cultural resources. It is anticipated that buried prehistoric sites that date 8,000 to 3,000 years ago also may be found within the City boundaries. Ancient alluvium sediments could contain very early prehistoric sites
- Professional standards for archaeological and historical resource documentation, recordation, and interpretation have improved and will continue to improve. Early archaeological reports did not conduct many of the analyses that are considered standard today, such as faunal, soils, geomorphology, and palynology studies. New techniques for dating will reveal new facts about the prehistory of the area.

The entire City is considered sensitive for archaeological resources.

Paleontological Resources

In addition, the flat-lying alluvial plains (Pleistocene sediments) are highly sensitive for finding significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. Fossils from these sediments may include mammoths, mastodons, ground sloths, dire wolves, short-faced bears, sabertoothed cats, large and small horses, large and small camels, and bison. During excavation of the Eastside Reservoir Project (Diamond Valley Reservoir), to the east of Menifee, numerous Ice Age mammals were found, including mammoths, mastodons, bison, and ground sloths. Several of these finds were between three to five feet below the surface. As a result, the possibility of finding additional paleontological resources within City boundaries (higher elevation than reservoir) is high at depths of 10 feet or more below ground surface (see Figure 5.5-1, *Paleontological Resources Sensitivity*).

Existing federal, state, and local regulations address the provision of studies to identify archaeological and paleontological resources; application review for projects that would potentially involve land disturbance; provide a project-level standard condition of approval that addresses unanticipated archaeological and/or paleontological discoveries; and requirements to develop specific mitigation measures if resources are encountered during any development activity. Protection of archaeological and paleontological resources is also afforded by CEQA for individual projects subject to discretionary actions that are implemented in accordance with the preferred Land Use Plan. Per section 21083.2 of CEQA, the lead agency shall determine whether the project may have a significant effect on archaeological resources. If the lead agency determines that the project may have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources, the EIR shall address those resources and mitigate impacts.

The potential to uncover undiscovered archeological and paleontological resources in Menifee is high. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-5 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Impacts would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.

IMPACT 5.5-3: THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD DISTURB HUMAN REMAINS. [THRESHOLD CUL-4]

Impact Analysis: Long-term implementation of the Menifee General Plan would allow development and redevelopment, including grading, of sensitive areas, possibly disturbing human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries. Existing regulations, including the California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, would afford protection for human remains discovered during development activities. In addition, review and protection are afforded by CEQA for projects subject to discretionary action, particularly for activities that could potentially disturb human remains. SB 18 requires consultation regarding Native American sites and artifacts, but the potential for project-level impacts to unidentified and unrecorded tribal cultural places remains moderate to high. The excavation and grading activities of the proposed project could result in impacts to human remains. However, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, mandates the process to be followed in the event of a discovery of any human remains. Impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

Impacts would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.

5.5.4 Existing Regulations and Standard Conditions

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- California Public Resources Code Sections 5020–5029.5; 5079–5079.65; 5097.9.–5097.98
- California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5
- California Senate Bill 18 (Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004)



Relevant General Plan Policies

Relevant Menifee General Plan policies are in the Open Space and Conservation Element and are listed in Appendix C of this EIR.

5.5.5 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements and compliance with the Menifee General Plan policies and programs, the following impacts would be less than significant: 5.5-1 and 5.5-3.

Without mitigation, the following impacts would be **potentially significant**:

- Impact 5.5-2 Buildout of the Menifee General Plan could impact archaeological resources and/or paleontological resources.

The above significance conclusions would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.

5. Environmental Analysis

CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.5.6 Mitigation Measures

Impact 5.5-2

- 5-1 Prior to project approvals, applicants shall provide cultural resource investigations conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The investigation shall include a records search at the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside, and a field survey for surface archaeological resources. The qualified archaeologist shall conduct monitoring for archaeological resources where required based on the investigation findings. Should any cultural resources be discovered, no further grading shall occur in the area of the discovery until the Community Development Director is satisfied that adequate provisions are in place to protect these resources. Unanticipated discoveries shall be evaluated for significance by a professional archaeologist. If significance criteria are met, then the project archaeologist shall be required to perform data recovery, professional identification, radiocarbon dates, and other special studies; submit materials to a museum for permanent curation; and provide a comprehensive final report including catalog with museum numbers. Confidential information shall be restricted to a separate report that will be held by the City of Menifee and forwarded to relevant Native American tribes, but not made publicly available.
- 5-2 In areas of high sensitivity for paleontological resources, each project shall retain a qualified paleontologist to monitoring ground disturbing activity. Should any potentially significant fossil resources be discovered, no further grading shall occur in the area of the discovery until the Community Development Director is satisfied that adequate provisions are in place to protect these resources. Unanticipated discoveries shall be evaluated for significance by a professional paleontologist. If significance criteria are met, then the project shall be required to perform data recovery, professional identification, radiocarbon dates, and other special studies; submit materials to a museum for permanent curation; and provide a comprehensive final report including catalog with museum numbers to the City of Menifee Community Development Director.
- 5-3 A cultural resources assessment prepared by a qualified archaeologist shall be required for any Specific Plan, or for any project that requires a General Plan amendment. The assessment shall include a records search at the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside, and a field survey for surface archaeological resources. General findings of the cultural resources assessment, such as presence of resources, shall be incorporated into the CEQA documentation. Detailed information on any cultural resources identified, such as locations and types of resources, shall be documented in a separate confidential report that shall be submitted to the City of Menifee and shall not be available to the public; a copy of the report shall be forwarded to relevant Native American tribes.
- 5-4 Prior to the issuance of grading permits for a project for which the CEQA document defines cultural resource mitigation for potential tribal resources, the project applicant shall contact the relevant Native American tribes to notify them of the grading, excavation, and monitoring program. The applicant shall coordinate with the City of Menifee and the tribal representative(s) to develop a monitoring program that addresses the designation, responsibilities, and participation of tribal monitors during grading, excavation, and ground-disturbing activities; scheduling; terms of compensation; and treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains discovered on the site. The City of Menifee shall be the final arbiter of the conditions for projects within the City's jurisdiction.

5.5.7 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impact 5.5-2

Mitigation Measures 5-1 through 5-4 would reduce significant impacts associated with Impact 5.5-2 to less than significant. This significance conclusion would be the same under the Expanded EDC Scenario.



5. *Environmental Analysis*

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This page intentionally left blank.