

3.11 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes the existing cultural resources setting for the Project region, including a discussion of the prehistoric and historic-era sites documented in the Project corridor, a review of the research methodology, and a summary of applicable State and local policies. It then assesses the potential effects of the proposed Project restoration activities (both construction and post-construction) on these uses. Mitigation measures are identified as applicable.

To determine if any recorded sites, features, or artifacts that could be affected by Project ground disturbances are located along and near lower Putah Creek, Solano Archaeological Services conducted a record search through the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) in 2014. CHRIS serves as an archive for California Department of Parks and Recreation Series 523 archaeological site records and other data on archaeological and historic resources throughout California. The results of this record search document the existence of prehistoric and historic-era resources in areas previously surveyed within the watershed, and provide a basis for assessing the cultural resource sensitivity of specific areas along Putah Creek. No field studies have been performed for this Project.

3.11.1 Setting

Environmental Setting

Archaeological and Ethnographic Context

Native Americans have inhabited coastal and interior portions of California for over 10,000 years. The Putah Creek watershed, with its varied topography and rich floral and faunal resources, has been an important area for settlement and subsistence for at least 5,000 years. Although no direct evidence for the earliest inhabitants has been found in the Putah Creek area, the Paleo-Indian Period (10,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C.) was the time frame that saw the first entry of humans into California. Many of the earliest sites were probably located along the postglacial coastal shoreline. Rising water levels have now covered those sites and most interior sites that remain are situated along lakeshores, or areas that used to be lakeshores. While Paleo-Indian artifacts have never been found in the Putah Creek or Solano County regions, it is likely that these people at least traveled through the region, hunting the prolific game that would have lived in the area and gathering seasonally available plant materials.

Other cultural groups appear to have occupied the region during later prehistoric periods. However, the area encompassing Putah Creek and from the town of Princeton south to San Pablo Bay and Suisun Bay, was occupied by the Patwin and their descendants from late prehistoric era to the present day. Their traditional territory covered three physiographic regions from east to west: both banks of the Sacramento River and its dense tree, vine, and brush vegetation interspersed with great tule marshes; flat open grassland plains with occasional oak groves; and the lower hills of the eastern Coast Range. Most of the population was concentrated along the river in large villages and in smaller settlements along the Putah Creek and Cache Creek drainages. Villages along Putah Creek included *Chemocu*, Putato (or *Poo-tah-toi*), and *Liwai* where the present-day cities of Davis and Winters now stand.

The prehistoric sites that are known within the Project corridor have been identified, in general, as relatively intensive occupation sites. Given the local natural setting that includes the proximity of potable water, habitats supporting a rich variety of flora and fauna, and the gentle nature of the terrain, it is not surprising that local Native Americans made relatively concentrated use of the area. The intensity of this landscape use is reflected in the occupation/mound sites as reported in **Table 3.11-1** below. While burials have not been identified in any of these sites, the possibility that they could be encountered in the area must be taken into consideration.

In general, the prehistoric sites noted in and near the Project Area often exhibit dark, rich midden soils accumulated over centuries of occupation. Most of these sites contain the remnants of stone and/or bone tools and tool manufacture, food remains, food processing areas, and the like. One site, CA-Yol-164, may be the remains of a village that was occupied and documented in the earliest days of European settlement in the area. Two other sites, CA-Sol-253 and CA-Sol-255, had glass trade beads along with historic artifacts, suggesting that these sites also were occupied by Native Americans early in the Historic period. Several of these sites have been adversely affected by agricultural activities, road construction, or residential development. However, remains of these sites can still be identified and several of them may well be larger than is currently known. In addition, it is likely that other sites, as yet undiscovered, lay within the Putah Creek corridor. These may well have been buried by floodwater deposition, farming, or other factors, and would only be uncovered by construction, utility trenching, farming, or similar ground disturbing activities.

Table 3.11-1 Previously Recorded Sites in the APE

P#/Trinomial	Author	Description	CRHR Eligibility	Date(s) Recorded
P-48-017/ CA-SOL-9	W.C.M., Goins	Prehistoric burial site	Potentially eligible	1946
P-48-018/ CA-SOL-10	W.C.M.	Prehistoric habitation site with hearth	Potentially eligible	1946
P-48-112/ CA-SOL-274/H	Johnson, Ross	Prehistoric burial and habitation site, historic-era structure	Potentially eligible	1971, 2003
P-48-549	Les, et al.	Historic-era Southern Pacific Railroad segment	Ineligible as segment	1986-2011
P-48-678	Bartoy	Prehistoric “Sunburn Terrace Campsite” lithic scatter	Potentially eligible	2004
P-48-750	Coleman	Historic-era Harris House	Ineligible	2006
P-48-785	Cervantes	Historic-era Stevenson Bridge Refuse Dump	Ineligible	2007
P-48-866	Bowen and Kuzak	Historic-era 4531 Putah Creek Road	Ineligible	2006
P-48-899	Berg and Brink	Prehistoric isolated handstone	Ineligible	2011
P-48-955/ P-57-642	Bowen and Kuzak	Historic-era Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge	Eligible	2006
P-48-965	Grijalva	Historic-era refuse scatter	Ineligible	2012
P-57-132	Les, et al.	Historic-era landscape (orchard)	Ineligible	1986, 2007, 2012
P-57-436	Bartoy	Historic-era Putah Creekbank Trash Dump	Ineligible	2004

Note: CRHR = California Register of Historical Resources

Source: Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), Database Search, December 2014

Historic Context

While the Gold Rush of the mid-19th century clearly prompted the large scale European settlement of the Central Valley, mass settlement of Putah Creek and its vicinity did not occur until after the California Pacific Railroad line was built in 1868 and the establishment of Davisville (Davis) that year. Residents in Davisville and the surrounding area saw additional benefits from railroad expansion in 1868 when the California Pacific Railroad built a junction and depot on land purchased from Isaac Davis. This facility, along with branch lines extending into the Napa Valley, greatly improved transportation throughout northern California and further established the Davis area as an important agricultural center. In fact, the construction of the junction and depot was a major consideration in the decision to establish the University Farm in Davisville in 1907.

Well before the arrival of the railroad, the Putah Creek region was recognized as a prime agricultural area thanks in large part to John Wolfskill. Although only one of many farmers and ranchers in the Putah Creek area, he was one of the most prominent and his influence on Central Valley agriculture can be seen to this day. Wolfskill's success in horticulture and viticulture established the towns of Davis and Winters as prime areas for fruit and nut cultivation. In 1937, a land donation formed the basis for a horticultural experiment station currently operating in connection with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

The area's first town, Buckeye, was established ca. 1865, approximately 2 miles northeast of Winters. This fledgling community was short-lived, however, and by 1875 was abandoned when the Vaca Valley Railroad bypassed the small town and extended its line into Yolo County. The railroad, having received the commitment of land from Theodore Winters and D.P. Edwards, and financial assistance from area landowners, made plans for a new depot and town-site named Winters, after the local entrepreneur.

The town of Winters grew rapidly at this time, largely due to its status as the northeastern terminus of the Vaca Valley Railroad. By the late 1870s, Winters had become a busy agricultural and commercial center with three trains daily and rapid business and residential development, some of which were established and owned by a local Chinese population. Having originally come to the area in the 1870s to work on the railroad, some Chinese settled in the Winters area and established a small commercial district of their own along Putah Creek. By the 1890s, many Japanese had also come to the region to work on local farms and ranches, and before long, established themselves in the small Asian community. Apricots, peaches, cherries, plums, pears, oranges, almonds, figs, barley, wheat, and vegetables were all grown and harvested in the area, with agriculture being the primary source of economic activity for all segments of the community.

Putah Creek itself, long before the establishment of ranches, farms, towns, and railroads, was a major attraction for Native Americans and Europeans residing in the area. As agricultural endeavors, fruit orchards in particular, increased in the Davis and Winters areas, the need for additional control of the waters flowing in Putah Creek became evident. A severe drought in the early and mid-1930s and severe flooding in 1935 prompted the planning and construction of a dam across the creek by the town of Winters for water storage and flood control. The Putah Creek percolation dam was finally approved and ultimately built by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration. When completed in 1938, the dam served to moderate area flooding.

Further alterations of Putah Creek in the following decades included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Putah Creek project, including construction of the Putah Creek South Fork channel in the 1940s to prevent flooding in the Davis area. Various channel-altering gravel mining operations also occurred that operated well into the 1970s. However, probably the single greatest change to the creek itself occurred with the construction of the Solano Project by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The facilities included the Monticello Dam, the Putah Diversion Dam, and the Putah South Canal. By the early 1960s, the project was complete and the Monticello Dam (named for the small town it ultimately inundated) flooded the Berryessa Valley, destroying a prime agricultural valley, but creating an important water and recreational resource.

Cultural Resources Documented in Project Area

Thirteen cultural resources including sites and isolates have been documented by the NWIC to be located within the Putah Creek corridor (Table 3.11-1). Another site, the Stevenson Bridge, was documented by Caltrans in 2013. An additional 27 sites or isolated artifacts have been found within ¼-mile of Putah Creek, but these are situated far from any potential impacts resulting from activities related to the watershed and are not listed in Table 3.11-1.

The sites formally documented in the Putah Creek corridor include two bridges, a railroad segment, a historic farmstead (Chambers Farmstead), and several prehistoric sites and artifacts. The Southern Pacific Railroad bridge (P-48-955), constructed in 1923, was evaluated by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) engineers and found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Caltrans, 1990). Another bridge, the “Stevenson Bridge” is located within the Project Area and was recommended NRHP eligible by Caltrans in 2013. Four of the prehistoric sites (P-48-017, P-48-018, P-48-112, and P-48-678) are likely eligible for NRHP listing based on the documented presence of human remains and/or the possibility that they retain significant physical integrity and data potential. These significant resources are described below. Cultural resources recommended not NRHP/CRHR eligible are not discussed further as any Project-related disturbances to them would not constitute significant impacts per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- **P-48-017/CA-SOL-9:** Recorded in 1946 by W.C.M. and John Goins, this one-page site record describes the site location along the south side of Putah Creek on a narrow neck of land. Alluvial soils yielded pestle fragments, clam-shell beads, and glass beads, indicating a proto-historic presence to the site chronology. Someone named Mr. Hemingway reported that this site contains prehistoric burials in light, friable soils in contrast to the surrounding alluvium. As the site to date has never been

archaeologically tested or updated, and may contain significant intact archaeological deposits, Solano Archaeological Services (SAS) preliminarily recommends site P-48-017/CA-SOL-9 is potentially eligible for listing in the CRHR.

- **P-48-018/CA-SOL-10:** Originally recorded in 1946 by W.C.M., this one-page record states that this site was found along the south bank of Putah Creek on the edge of a stream terrace above the floodplain. Alluvial soils yielded habitation material including obsidian projectile points, *Olivella* shell beads, clam-shell beads, modified animal bone tools, and numerous ash lenses. Other material included chert and quartzite. The record indicates that the site has been partially disturbed by grading activities. As the site to date has never been archaeologically tested or updated, and may contain significant intact archaeological deposits, SAS preliminarily recommends site P-48-018/CA-SOL-10 has potentially eligible for listing in the CRHR.
- **P-48-112/CA-SOL-271/H:** This site was originally recorded in 1971 by Patti Johnson. Located along the south bank of Putah Creek approximately 1 mile east of Pedrick Road, the site was reported to contain an open midden on a slight rise with a historic-era (late 1800s) on top of the mound. The midden area measures approximately 90 meters by 60 meters. Prehistoric features included ash deposits, and at least three burials (two adults and an infant) scattered by post-depositional trenching for irrigation. Artifacts include obsidian, chert, and basalt debitage, a *Haliotis* ornament fragment, a modified bone tool, several charmstones, red ochre, and flake scrapers. The site record contains a handwritten note that Johnson conducted test excavations at the site in 1973, but the results are not indicated anywhere on the record or at the NWIC. In 2003 the site was updated by J. Ross. According to Ross, during the site relocation attempt neither the midden, small house, nor any concentrations of artifacts were observed. Several artifacts were observed along a dirt access road in the vicinity, likely along the western portion of the originally recorded site by Johnson. The observed artifacts included a charmstone fragment, a pestle fragment, and assorted lithic debris. Ross excavated eight shovel probes to only 50 centimeters (cm) deep in the area where the artifacts were recovered, but only found a single obsidian flake. The update indicates that the site may be either destroyed or significantly impacted. Based on analyzing the written documentation for site CA-SOL-271/H, it is in the opinion of SAS that sufficient archaeological testing has not been conducted to adequately assess the site's overall integrity and CRHR eligibility. Subsurface excavation was only conducted down to 50 cm in a location off-set from the original descriptions of the site by Johnson. It is entirely possible that at least a portion of the site lies intact subsurface below 50 cm. Additionally, research can be conducted on the history of

the removal of the original house structure. As such, SAS recommends site P-48-112/CA-SOL-271/H as preliminarily eligible for the CRHR.

- **P-48-955/P-57-642:** This site consists of the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge in the City of Winters. This resource has two primary numbers due to its location in two counties (Solano and Yolo). According to the records provided by Mark Bowen and Chris Kuzak in 2006, the bridge, a steel pratt truss design, was originally evaluated in 1989 and 2004 (see Caltrans Bridge Inventory below). The record by Bowen and Kuzak indicate that the California Office of Historic Preservation deemed the bridge as eligible for the NRHP in that it served as a reminder of the enormous impact that bridging the Putah Creek by the first railroad (Vaca Valley Railroad) has on the birth and development of Winters. The construction of the bridge, however, is not uncommon. Bowen and Kuzak evaluated the bridge for CEQA criteria, and found it to also be eligible on under Criterion 1 for its association with the Vaca Valley Railroad and its role in providing a means of transporting fruit grown in Winters as a desired export to local agricultural communities in the area. SAS concurs with all of the aforementioned recommendations.
- **P-48-678:** Recorded by Kevin Bartoy in 2004, this prehistoric site consists of a prehistoric lithic scatter south of Putah Creek on a level terrace above the creek bank. Most of the material was observed on a dirt road extending in an east-west direction for approximately 500 meters, but due to dense ground vegetation the north-south boundaries were estimated to be approximately 100 to 200 meters. Identified cultural material includes an obsidian hand tool, a green chert hand tool, seven flakes of red chert, and a single fragment of calcined faunal remains. The record did not discuss the potential for subsurface discovery, but elaborated that all of the artifacts were recovered along the ground surface. Given the record's lack of discussion on site integrity and possible subsurface deposition, SAS recommends preliminarily site P-48-678 as potentially eligible for CRHR listing.
- **Stevenson Bridge:** The concrete Stevenson Bridge (Dixon Historic Property Directory #046218), Caltrans Structure Maintenance & Investigations (SM&I) #23C0092. This structure was recommended eligible for NRHP listing by Caltrans in the 2013 SM&I index. This structure is one of only three such remaining bridges in California that utilizes an architectural design known as the "overhead tie arch."

NAWCA/Mariani

Two documented significant cultural resources (P-48-017 and P-48-018) are known to be located within the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) reach on the south bank of Putah Creek. Site P-48-017 was documented in 1946 as containing

human remains and ethnographic-era materials such as glass trade beads. This site has also not been re-recorded since the original 1946 site record. Documentary evidence and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping suggests much of this Project site has been heavily impacted by gravel mining and P-48-017 may have been destroyed. However, pending additional research it must be assumed that the site remains as originally documented.

Site P-48-018 was also originally documented in 1946 and was noted to contain human remains and artifacts such as shell beads. The site has not been re-recorded since the original documentation in 1946. Due to the presence of human burials and possibly undisturbed features and archaeological materials, this site appears to be eligible for CRHR listing and is considered a Historical Resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Duncan-Giovannoni

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Winters Putah Creek Nature Park

The historic Southern Pacific railroad bridge (P-48-955/P-57-642) is located in this reach.

East of 505

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Warren

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Upper McNamara

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Lower McNamara

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

MacQuiddy (Lester)

One documented significant cultural resource (P-48-678) is known to be located within the MacQuiddy (Lester) project reach on the south bank of Putah Creek. Site P-48-678 was originally documented in 2004 as a large lithic scatter measuring approximately 500 meters east-west and 200 meters or more north-south. No subsurface investigations were undertaken in 2004 and it is not presently known if the site retains additional subsurface and potentially intact archaeological materials and/or human interments.

Consequently, pending additional research it must be assumed that the site retains important scientific data and is eligible for listing on the CRHR.

Russell Ranch

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Stevenson Bridge

One documented significant cultural resource (Caltrans SM&I Bridge #23C0092, Dixon Historic Property Directory #046218) is known to be located within the Stevenson Bridge project reach. This structure, the Stevenson Bridge, was recommended eligible for NRHP listing by Caltrans in the 2013 SM&I index.

Glide Ranch

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Nishikawa

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Olmo-Hammond-UCD

One documented significant cultural resource (P-48-112) is known to be located within the Olmo-Hammond-UCD project reach on the south bank of Putah Creek. Site P-48-112 was originally documented in 1971 and was revisited in 2003. The site was noted as containing midden soils and human burials but with only limited subsurface investigations having taken place in 2003 it is not presently known if the site exhibits additional subsurface and potentially intact archaeological materials and human interments. Consequently, pending additional research it must be assumed that the site retains important scientific data and is eligible for listing on the CRHR.

I-80 to Old Davis Road

One documented significant cultural resource (P-48-955/P-57-642) is known to be located within the I-80 to Old Davis Road project reach. This structure, a Southern Pacific Railroad bridge, was recommended eligible for NRHP and CRHR listing in 1989, 2004, and 2006.

Old Davis Road to Mace

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Mace to Road 106A

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Road 106A to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

There are no known cultural resources in this reach.

Regulatory Setting

Multiple State and federal laws govern the treatment of cultural resources. Both CEQA and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024 apply to State-owned resources and state sponsored projects. Because the proposed Project includes actions that involve issuance of federal permits, there is a federal nexus and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800, 36 CFR 60, and 36 CFR 63) is required.

Section 106 – National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, sets forth national policy and procedures for historic properties, defined as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects included in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on those undertakings, following regulations issued by the Council (36 CFR 800).

Under Section 106, cultural resource significance is evaluated in terms of eligibility for listing in the NRHP. The NRHP criteria for evaluation are defined at 36 CFR 60.4 as follows: The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meet the following:

- Are associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- Are associated with the lives of people significant in our past;
- Embody the distinct 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

- Have yielded, or are likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4).

If historic properties are identified in the Project Area, effects of the proposed Project on those properties must be assessed. If effects would be adverse, the federal agency would continue working with the consulting parties to resolve the adverse effects through modifications to the proposed Project, avoidance, minimization, or mitigation (36 CFR 800.5-800.6).

California Environmental Quality Act—Statute and Guidelines

CEQA requires that public agencies that finance or approve public or private projects must assess the Project's impacts on cultural resources (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5). "Cultural resource" is a general term that encompasses CEQA's definition of historical resources (PRC Section 21084.1) and unique archaeological resources (PRC Section 21083.2). CEQA requires that alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered if a project would result in significant effects on important cultural resources; only significant cultural resources, however, need to be addressed (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 [a][3]). Therefore, prior to the development of mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources with the potential to be impacted by the proposed Project must be determined. The criteria for determining historical significance are defined in PRC Section 5024.1.

CEQA Guidelines also require that a lead agency make provisions for the accidental discovery of historical or archaeological resources. Pursuant to Section 15064.5, subdivision (f), these provisions should include "an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation should be available. Work could continue on other parts of the building site while historical or unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place."

California Public Resources Code Sections 5024.1

PRC Section 5024.1 establishes the CRHR, which is the authoritative guide for identifying the state's historical resources to indicate what properties are to be protected, if feasible, from substantial adverse change. In order for a resource to be eligible for the CRHR it must be over 50 years old, retain its historic integrity, and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

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

Discoveries of Human Remains under California Public Resources Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b-c) and 5097.98(a)

In the event of discovering human remains, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the remains until they are examined by the County Coroner. The Coroner has two working days to determine the nature of those remains. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American archaeological remains, he/she would contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by telephone within 24 hours.

Once the NAHC has been notified of the discovery of Native American human remains, it shall immediately notify those persons believed to be the most likely descended (MLD). The MLD may inspect the site of the discovery and recommend to the owner methods of treating, with dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site.

3.11.2 Significance Criteria

The criteria used for determining the significance of an effect on recreational resources are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) and professional standards and practices. Effects on both historic and prehistoric resources may be considered significant for purposes of CEQA if an alternative would result in any one of the following conditions.

- A substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5.
- A substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CCR Section 15064.5.
- Disturb human remains, including remains interred outside of established cemeteries. For the purposes of this analysis disturbance may consist of direct

excavation or damage through compaction even where the resource is not directly excavated.

- Under Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800.5 (a)(1), an adverse effect on an historic property is found when an activity may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of an historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP. The alteration of characteristics is considered adverse if it may diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.

Local Regulations

Yolo County Code

Chapter 8 of the Yolo County Code provides guidance for the treatment of local historic landmarks and historic districts. Overseen by the Historic Resources Commission, this section of the code provides for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of cultural resources within the County that reflect elements of its cultural, agricultural, social economic, political, aesthetic, military, maritime, engineering, archaeological, religious, ethnic, natural, architectural and other heritage. Criteria used in defining a landmark or historic district consist of the following:

- A building, structure, object, particular place, vegetation, or geology, may be designated a County historic landmark if it meets one or more of the following criteria:
- It exemplifies or reflects valued elements of the County's cultural, agricultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, military, religious, ethnic, natural vegetation, architectural, maritime, engineering, archaeological, or geological history; or
- It is identified with persons or events important in local, State, or national history; or
- It reflects significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth and particular transportation modes; or
- It embodies distinguishing characteristics or an architectural style, type, period, or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or
- It is representative of the notable work of a builder, designer or architect; or
- It represents an important natural feature or design element that provides a visual point of reference to members of the community.

Yolo County General Plan

The Conservation, Open Space Element, Land Use, and Community Character Element sections of the 2030 Yolo County General Plan include policies and actions related to cultural resources. These policies and actions are extensive and include the following presented here as examples:

Policy CC-1.15: The following features shall be protected and preserved along designated scenic roadways and routes, except where there are health and safety concerns:

- Trees and other natural or unique vegetation
- Landforms and natural or unique features
- Views and vistas
- Historic structures (where feasible), including buildings, bridges and signs

Policy CO-4.1: Identify and safeguard important cultural resources.

Policy CO-4.2: Implement the provisions of the State Historical Building Code and Uniform Code for Building Conservation to balance the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act with preserving the architectural integrity of historic buildings and structures.

Action CO-A56: Establish an inventory and map of known significant historic and cultural resources, as well as sensitive areas where such resources are likely to occur. Work with the Rumsey and Cortina Tribes to identify sacred sites and develop a cultural sensitivity map. This information is protected as confidential under State law.

Action CO-A61: Require cultural resources inventories of all new development projects in areas where a preliminary site survey indicates a medium or high potential for archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources. In addition, require a mitigation plan to protect the resource before the issuance of permits. Mitigation may include:

- Having a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist present during initial grading or trenching;
- Redesign of the Project to avoid historic or paleontological resources;

- Capping the site with a layer of fill; and/or
- Excavation and removal of the historical or paleontological resources and curation in an appropriate facility under the direction of a qualified professional.

Solano County General Plan

Chapter 4 of the Solano County General Plan addresses resources, including “substantial historic and prehistoric sites.” Its purpose is to identify the goals and policies Solano County will implement in its daily decision-making process to protect resources. Included in the General Plan are the following goals and policies pertaining to cultural resources:

Goal RS.G-1: Manage and preserve the diverse land, water, and air resources of the county for the use and enrichment of the lives of present and future generations.

Goal RS.G-4: Preserve, conserve, and enhance valuable open space lands that provide wildlife habitat; conserve natural and visual resources; convey cultural identity; and improve public safety.

Policy RS.P-38: Identify and preserve important prehistoric and historic structures, features, and communities.

Policy RS.P-39: Tie historic preservation efforts to the County’s economic development pursuits, particularly those relating to tourism.

Policy RS.P-40: Consult with Native American governments to identify and consider Native American cultural places in land use planning.

Additionally, the new General Plan provides implementation programs that identify specific action plans to achieve the goals and policies discussed above.

Implementation Program RS.I-25: Require cultural resources inventories of all new development projects in areas identified with medium or high potential for archeological or cultural resources. Where a preliminary site survey finds medium to high potential for substantial archaeological remains, the County shall require a mitigation plan to protect the resource before issuance of permits. Mitigation may include:

- Having a qualified archaeologist present during initial grading or trenching (monitoring); redesign of the Project to avoid archaeological resources;
- Capping the site with a layer of fill; and/or
- Excavation and removal of the archaeological resources and curation in an appropriate facility under the direction of a qualified archaeologist.
- Alert applicants for permits within early settlement areas to the potential sensitivity if significant archaeological resources are discovered during construction or grading activities, such activities shall cease in the immediate area of the find until a qualified archaeologist can determine the significance of the resource and recommend alternative mitigation.

Implementation Program RS.1-26: Work with federal and state agencies to identify, evaluate and protect the county's important historic and prehistoric resources. Programs administered by such agencies may include:

- California Historical Landmarks
- California Points of Historical Interest
- California Register of Historic Resources
- National Register of Historic Places
- State Historic Building Code

Implementation Program RS.1-27: Refer to the state Senate Bill 18 guidelines and requirements regarding cultural resources. Programs the County will engage in may include:

- Ensuring local and Native American governments are provided with information early in the planning process.
- Working with Native American governments to preserve and protect Native American cultural sites by designating them as open space where possible.
- Providing management and treatment plans to preserve cultural places, and working with Native American groups to manage their cultural places.

Implementation Program RS.1-38: Protect and promote the county's historic and prehistoric resources by:

- Providing educational programs to the public, staff, and commissions that promote awareness of the county’s history and the value in preserving historic or prehistoric resources; and
- Exploring and developing historic or prehistoric sites that can be used appropriately as visitor-oriented destinations.

Implementation Program RS.1-29: Develop historic preservation programs and development guidelines to prevent the loss of significant historic buildings and structures.

3.11.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

General Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact 3.11-1: Construction Impacts to Significant Cultural Resources.

The proposed Project is located in a region where significant prehistoric and historic-era sites have been documented. The presence of documented significant (per CEQA criteria) cultural resources within the Project Area indicates that there is a possibility that additional significant sites, features, and artifacts could be discovered or disturbed as a result of Project-related ground-disturbing activities. Subsurface disturbances could potentially destroy or damage as-yet undiscovered prehistoric or historic-era cultural resources. If these resources were to represent “unique archaeological resources” or “historical resources” as defined by CEQA, a significant impact would occur.

As listed below, construction impacts could occur in the NAWCA, MacQuiddy (Lester), and Olmo-Hammond-UCD project reaches where a total of four significant (per CEQA criteria) cultural resources (P-48-017, P-48-018, P-48-112, and P-48-678) have been documented.

Mitigation Measures 3.11-1 and 3.11-2 would reduce this impact to a **less-than-significant level**.

Mitigation Measure 3.11-1: Establish a Buffer.

In order to minimize or eliminate the possibility that Project-related ground-disturbances would impact the integrity of the documented site components and/or human remains, a buffer of at least 100 feet shall be defined around the presently-mapped boundaries of each archaeological site. No ground-disturbing Project activities

could occur within this buffer or the mapped site boundaries. This would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure 3.11-2: If Unrecorded Cultural Resources are Encountered.

If an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, animal bone, glass, ceramics, structure/building remains, dark soil deposits and charcoal, stone implements and flakes, etc.) is made during Project-related construction activities, ground disturbances in the area of the find shall be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist will be notified regarding the discovery. The archaeologist shall determine whether the resource is potentially significant per the CRHR and develop appropriate mitigation to protect the integrity of the resource and ensure that no additional resources are impacted. Mitigation could include, but not necessarily be limited to preservation in-place, archival research, subsurface testing, or contiguous block unit excavation and data recovery.

Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce potentially significant impacts resulting from inadvertent damage or destruction of unknown cultural resources during construction to a less-than-significant level.

Impact 3.11-2: Construction Impacts to Human Remains.

Subsurface disturbances could potentially uncover unmarked historic-era or prehistoric burials. Any such disturbance would represent a significant impact.

The documented presence of human remains at several recorded sites within the Project Area (P-48-017, P-48-018, and P48-112) indicates that there is a possibility that as-yet undiscovered human remains could be unearthed during ground-disturbing activities. California law recognizes the need to protect historic-era and Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American interments from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Section 7052 and PRC Section 5097. If any human remains were unearthed during Project construction, a significant impact would occur. Mitigation Measure 3.11-3 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure 3.11-3: Human Remains.

The county sheriff/coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and

Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]).

Following the coroner's findings, the property owner, contractor or Project proponent, an archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated MLD shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in PRC Section 5097.9.

The landowner shall ensure that the immediate vicinity (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards and practices) is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until consultation with the MLD has taken place. The MLD shall have 48 hours to complete a site inspection and make recommendations after being granted access to the site. A range of possible treatments for the remains, including nondestructive removal and analysis, preservation in place, relinquishment of the remains and associated items to the descendants, or other culturally appropriate treatment may be discussed. Assembly Bill (AB) 2641 suggests that the concerned parties may extend discussions beyond the initial 48 hours to allow for the discovery of additional remains. AB 2641(e) includes a list of site protection measures and states that the landowner shall comply with one or more of the following:

- Record the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center;
- Utilize an open-space or conservation zoning designation or easement; and/or
- Record a document with the county in which the property is located.

The landowner or their authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance if the NAHC is unable to identify a MLD or the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being granted access to the site. The landowner or their authorized representative may also re-inter the remains in a location not subject to further disturbance if they reject the recommendation of the MLD, and mediation by the NAHC fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner. Adherence to these procedures and other provisions of the California Health and Safety Code and AB 2641(e) will reduce potential impacts to human remains to a less-than-significant level.

Site-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures

NAWCA/Mariani

If archaeological sites P-48-018, and P-48-017 were disturbed or destroyed by Project-related ground-disturbing activities, a significant impact would occur. Mitigation Measures 3.11-1 through 3.11-3 would reduce this impact to a **less-than-significant** level.

Duncan-Giovannoni

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Winters Putah Creek Nature Park

The historic Southern Pacific railroad bridge (P-48-955/P-57-642) would not be affected by Project maintenance activities in this reach. All other restoration improvements proposed for this reach have already been implemented as part of the Winters Putah Creek Project.

East of 505

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Warren

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Upper McNamara

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Lower McNamara

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

MacQuiddy (Lester)

If archaeological site P-48-678 was disturbed or destroyed by Project-related ground-disturbing activities, a significant impact would occur. Mitigation Measure 3.11-1 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. Impacts to unknown cultural resources in this reach would be reduced to **less than significant** by Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3.

Russell Ranch

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Stevenson Bridge

Although the historic Stevenson Bridge is located within the Project Area, no potential ground-disturbing activities would have any effect on this bridge. Consequently, there would be no impacts on this historic resource. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Glide Ranch

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Nishikawa

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Olmo-Hammond-UCD

If archaeological site P-48-112 was disturbed or destroyed by Project-related ground-disturbing activities, a significant impact would occur. Mitigation Measure 3.11-1 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. Impacts to unknown cultural resources in this reach would be reduced to **less than significant** by Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3.

I-80 to Old Davis Road

Although the historic Southern Pacific Railroad bridge is located within the Project Area, no potential ground-disturbing activities would have any effect on this bridge. Consequently, there would be no impacts on this resource and no mitigation is required. Impacts to unknown cultural resources in this reach would be reduced to **less than significant** by Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3.

Old Davis Road to Mace

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Mace to Road 106A

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Road 106A to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

There are no known cultural resources sites in this reach. Mitigation Measures 3.11-2 and 3.11-3 would reduce impacts to any unknown cultural resources in this reach to a **less-than-significant** level.

Table 3.11-2 Summary of Recreation Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Sites	Impact 3.11-1 Construction Impacts to Significant Cultural Resources	Impact 3.11-2 Construction Impacts to Human Remains	Applicable Mitigation Measures
NAWCA/Mariani	SM	SM	MM 3.11-1, 2, 3
Duncan-Giovannoni	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Winters Putah Creek Nature Park	LTS	LTS	n/a
East of 505	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Warren	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Upper McNamara	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Lower McNamara	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
MacQuiddy (Lester)	SM	SM	MM 3.11-1, 2, 3
Russell Ranch	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Stevenson Bridge	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Glide Ranch	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Nishikawa	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Olmo-Hammond-UCD	SM	SM	MM 3.11-1, 2, 3
I-80 to Old Davis Road	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Old Davis Road to Mace	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Mace to Road 106A	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3
Road 106A to YBWA	SM	SM	MM 3.11-2, 3

NI = no impact, LS = LTS = Less than Significant Impact, SM = Significant but mitigatable to less than significant with measures identified in this section, and SU = Significant and Unavoidable, even after mitigation.

