

4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

For the purpose of this discussion, the term “cultural resources” is employed as a general heading that encompasses those resources labeled ethnographic (Native American), archaeological (prehistoric), historical (post-European contact), and paleontological (although such resources are not cultural). Each of these topics is discussed below with regard to Segment 1 of the Antelope Transmission Project. Figures 4.6-1, 4.6-2, and 4.6-3 illustrate the overall Study Area, the sample points along the T/L routes, and the Archaeological Sensitivity Index (ASI) model, respectively, developed by the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) (see Section 4.6.1.6 below; also see Appendix E). These figures demonstrate the most archaeologically sensitive areas of the project as determined by the ASI model.

The known cultural resources in the project area have the potential to be significantly impaired by disturbance. Therefore, access to archaeological site location data is restricted. Designating an archaeologically sensitive area keeps archaeological site content and location information confidential by prohibiting (i) archaeological information to unauthorized individuals and (ii) inclusion in publicly distributed documents (California Government Code Section 6354.10).

The following information is summarized from the report entitled *Phase I Archaeological and Paleontological Assessment of the Tehachapi Wind Power Transmission System Project for Southern California Edison, Kern and Los Angeles Counties, California* submitted to SCE by the CAR in September 2004. The project has since been renamed the Antelope Transmission Project, which is the name used below. Further details related to Sections 4.6 and 5.6 herein are available in that report (see Appendix E). This proposal addresses the proposed Segment 1 500 kV T/L and Alternative 1 routes. Segments 2 and 3 of the Antelope Transmission Project are addressed in a separate CPCN Application/PEA.

4.6.1 Proposed 500 kV T/L Route and Alternative 1

4.6.1.1 Ethnographic Resources

At the time of European contact, the Tataviam occupied the southwest portion of the Project Area. Most of the information that is available about the Tataviam derives from comparisons to neighboring groups and from the archaeological work conducted at Vasquez Rocks in Los Angeles County (King et al., 1974). A brief synopsis of Tataviam culture was provided by King and Blackburn (1978). For more details, refer to the archaeological and paleontological report for the Antelope Transmission Project.

The Tataviam occupied much of the upper reaches of the Santa Clarita River drainage, although their territory included part of the Sawmill Mountains to the north and the south-western edge of the Antelope Valley (Johnson and Earle, 1990; King and Blackburn, 1978). Tataviam territory was bounded on the west by the Chumash and on the south by the Gabrielino (King and Blackburn, 1978:535). Most of their territory is situated between 1,500 and 3,000 feet above sea level, with the territorial core comprised of the slopes of the Liebre and Sawmill mountains. As the result of this slope and exposure, the Tataviam likely relied more heavily on yucca as a major resource than did neighboring groups.

Tataviam villages “appear to have varied in size from large centers with perhaps 200 people to small settlements containing 10-15 people” (King and Blackburn, 1978:536). These large villages were dispersed, with smaller villages located adjacent to the one of the major centers (King and Blackburn, 1978:536). The most important vegetal foods were the buds of *Yucca whipplei*, acorns, sage seeds, juniper berries, and holly-leaf berries. Small mammals and deer were the primary animal foods (King and Blackburn, 1978:536).

King et al. (1974:24) maintained that the organization of Tataviam cemeteries reflects differential treatment of the deceased and wealth concentration. They also observed that “it is probable that the social organization was similar to that of the Southern Serrano,” in which lineages were organized into moieties (King et al., 1974:34). The names of individuals were frequently titles and such naming practices “reveals information concerning pre-conquest political organization” (Northwest Economic Associates and King, 2004:6).

Little is known about external interactions between the Tataviam and other groups, although based on what is known of other southern California populations during protohistoric and historical times, it seems likely that there were hostilities with people to the north and south, and friendly relations with those to the east and west (King and Blackburn, 1978:536). Tataviam material culture and technology appears to have consisted of items such as shaped mortars, hopper mortars, metates, manos, shell and stone beads, knives and projectile points (made of chert, chalcedony, jasper, rhyolite, and obsidian), and cores (King et al., 1974).

4.6.1.2 Archaeological Resources

Very little research has been conducted in the western San Gabriel Mountains, which are part of the Angeles National Forest (ANF). Little information is available regarding the prehistory of the San Gabriel Mountains. As a result, regional chronologies for other parts of Southern California, including the Mojave Desert, have often served as proxy data for the region. Much of what is known about this region was published 30 years ago by King et al. (1974), who reported the results of their work at Vasquez Rocks County Park in Los Angeles County. Since then, the only comprehensive synthesis of the cultural and archaeological

aspects of the ANF is the 1986 unpublished report prepared by Michael McIntyre, USDA Forest Service Program Manager at the ANF. However, as the San Gabriel Mountains are immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the western Mojave Desert, there are likely to be some cultural similarities between these areas.

While no cultural sequence has been developed specifically for the ANF, regional chronologies for other parts of southern California and the Southwest have been employed for this locality (e.g., Elsasser, 1978; Warren and Crabtree, 1986). The general chronology for the ANF, as outlined by McIntyre 1986, includes the Paleoindian Period (ca. 12,000 to 10,000 B.P.), the Post-Pleistocene Period (ca. 11,000 to 4,000 B.P.), the Middle Period (ca. 4,000 to 1,000 B.P.), and the Protohistoric Period (ca. 1,000 B.P. to Historic Contact). This sequence is based largely on the presence of temporally diagnostic artifacts, such as projectile points, pottery, or beads (for more details, see Appendix E).

4.6.1.3 Historic Resources

The project area for Segment 1 incorporates a portion of the western San Gabriel Mountains in the Angeles National Forest (ANF). The first reported European contact for this area was in 1769 when the expedition of Gaspar de Portolá traveled through the neighboring valleys on his way to Monterey, passing through the La Crescenta, San Fernando, and Santa Clarita valleys (McIntyre, 1986). In 1772, Captain Pedro Fages traveled north through Cajon Pass and along the northern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains looking for army deserters. Later, Garcés set out from the San Gabriel Mission in 1776, following the general route traveled by Portolá to the Castaic area, where he crossed northeast through the Liebre Mountains and to Elizabeth Lake Canyon. Father Zalvidea almost circled the ANF in 1806, traveling from the San Joaquin Valley to San Gabriel Mission via the Mojave Desert and Cajon Pass.

In 1771, the mission system was established with the founding of San Gabriel Mission, followed by San Buenaventura Mission in 1782 and San Fernando Mission in 1797, along with their associated *assistencias* (McIntyre, 1986). By 1800, increasing European intrusions forced the native inhabitants to modify their traditional lifeways, primarily due to forced restrictions of their territorial areas, beliefs, and practices (e.g., Castillo, 1978; Heizer, 1974). With the independence of Mexico in 1821, the ANF came under Mexican control (McIntyre, 1986). In 1824, the Mexican government passed legislation to encourage settlement, in the form of land grants. Most of the land for these grants was taken from the missions as they became desecularized.

The earliest instances of overland American intrusion into the area in and around the ANF was by Jedediah Smith in 1826 and Ewing Young in 1832. In 1842, gold was discovered in

Placerita Canyon, precipitating the subsequent gold rush. A large number of traders and settlers soon settled in the area, enticed by the natural beauty and economic possibilities of the area, thus creating an Anglo-American influence (McIntyre, 1986).

In 1892, the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve – the forerunner of the Angeles National Forest (ANF) – was established through Executive Order by President Benjamin Harrison. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered that California’s first federal forest be combined with the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and renamed it the Angeles National Forest. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge reestablished the SBNF by separating it from the ANF.

4.6.1.4 Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources, which are defined as the fossilized remains of prehistoric plants and animals, are non-renewable resources that may include fossilized bones, teeth, shells, tracks, trails, and casts, to name a few. Paleontological analysis for the Project Area was conducted by Dr. Grant Hurlburt, Department of Biology, California State University, Stanislaus, in order to determine the sensitivity of the Project Area with respect to known paleontological resources and the potential for the presence of such resources, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (13 PRC, 2100 et seq), and the Public Resources Code, Section 5097.5 (Stats 1965, c 1136, p. 2,792). This analysis also complies with guidelines and significance criteria specified by the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology. The paleontological technical report from which this section is based is included in Appendix E of this PEA, including details on the study methods and qualifications of those conducting the analysis.

4.6.1.5 Records Search Results

4.6.1.5.1 Archaeology. Archaeological records searches were conducted for the entire Antelope Transmission Project at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Historical Resources Information Center at CSUB (RS No. 03-225), and the South Central Coastal Information Center at CSUF (RS No. 2648). These searches indicated that there are 100 prehistoric archaeological sites and 34 historic archaeological sites, as well as 26 prehistoric isolates and one historic isolate, within a 1-mile radius of the overall project area (including Segment 1 and Segments 2 and 3). In addition, there have been a large number of cultural resource surveys within a mile of the proposed and alternative routes in Los Angeles County.

4.6.1.5.2 Paleontology. Records searches were also conducted for paleontological resources in the project area. At the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Dr. Sam Mcleod identified vertebrate paleontological localities in or near the Project Area from

formations found in the area. Dr. Pat Holroyd, Curatorial Assistant, found no relevant records in a search of the University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology.

4.6.1.6 Field Procedures

The archaeological field work for the project consisted of field checks of selected sample points within the project area. Given the scope and relatively large extent of the Project Area, which extends over several geographic and cultural zones, a detailed methodology was designed in order to maximize field efforts and to obtain spatially sound samples covering all of the proposed alternatives. As part of this methodology, a GIS-based approach was utilized to develop initial locations of sample points.

Based on the records searches and limited field checks conducted as part of the project, an Archaeological Sensitivity Index (ASI) model was developed for the project area to provide baseline data in order to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity based on several types of cultural and environmental variables. The model was intended to assist in determining which of the proposed and alternative T/L routes is least likely to impact archaeological resources. Refer to Appendix E for more information.

The field methodology for the paleontological study of the Project Area included a pedestrian reconnaissance of the T/L routes, along with examination of geological formations. Foot surveys of approximately 20 percent of the routes were conducted, with 100 percent surveys of substations.