

IMPACTS ANALYSIS

The proceeding sections address the proposed testing methods for the specific sites within the SRPL ESSR where impacts from construction cannot be avoided, as the project is currently designed. If current construction plans change to accommodate avoidance of any of these sites prior to commencement of project activities, eligibility testing will no longer be required at those particular sites and institution of ESA protection will provide suitable mitigation. Conversely, if design changes to the project result in the potential impacts to any sites not included in the following discussion, then testing methods will need to be provided for those sites with indeterminate eligibility status, data recovery or other appropriate mitigation options would be required if any of the sites are eligible for and/or listed in the NRHP and/or the CRHR. The following discussion of site treatment is divided into two sections; sites within the Suncrest Substation project area, and sites within the remainder of the SRPL ESSR project alignment.

A preliminary evaluation of potential eligibility based on surface information is also provided as a data matrix for each of the currently impacted sites. The matrix is presented as six potential research categories; Chronology, Subsistence, Settlement, Exchange, Technology, History, and Native American Value. For example, sites containing material suitable for absolute dating techniques, such as charcoal or ceramics, would provide chronology data, as would sites with time sensitive diagnostic artifacts, including projectile points and pottery. Technological issues can be addressed through sites such as lithic scatters, as long as the sample size is large enough and/or the assemblage is diverse enough to provide reliable data. Subsistence data could be extracted through methods such as residue analysis of milling features, or from actual floral and faunal remains. Sites containing exotic materials, such as obsidian or non-local chert, could provide data concerning intercommunity exchange, and historic issues could be addressed at historic sites. Finally, sites within areas identified through Native American consultation to as important to local tribes or other groups, namely Sugarloaf Mountain, Jacumba and McCain Valleys, Round Potrero, and the Suncrest Substation area, may contain value concerning Native American cultural heritage. The data matrix is intended to assist in the eligibility evaluation efforts conducted at sites subjected to project impacts as they relate to the research design presented in Appendix B of the SRPL HPMP.

SUNCREST SUBSTATION

Four cultural resource sites are within the proposed Suncrest Substation portion of the SRPL ESSR. Due to the required construction elements associated with the Suncrest Substation none of these resources will be able to be avoided and will require a determination of their eligibility status (Table 1).

REMAINING SUNRISE ALIGNMENT

Of the remaining 33 sites with indeterminate eligibility status that have the potential to be impacted by the SRPL ESSR, one is on BLM property (IMP-4344/4781/8742) and the rest are on private property (Table 1).