Section 4.5
Cultural Resources

Introduction

This section describes existing cultural resources in the project area. *Cultural resources* include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, historic districts with multiple buildings or structures, districts of archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and traditional cultural properties, and resources of interest to Native American groups. The *project area* as used in this section is defined as the entire project alignment, including the area within the Proposed River Crossing. To ascertain the project's potential to disturb cultural resources, a 0.25-mile area beyond the limits of the project alignment was reviewed. This area is referred to as the *area of potential effects* (APE). The section analyzes potential project-related impacts within the APE.

No significant cultural resources are known to be present within the areas proposed for project element construction. However, particular areas within the project corridor are considered highly sensitive for the presence of prehistoric, ethnohistoric, and historic cultural material and/or subsurface deposits. Consequently, it is possible that undocumented cultural resources, including human remains, could be present. Implementation of applicant-proposed measures will ensure that impacts are less than significant.

Methodology

Key sources of data used in the preparation of this section include:

- Records maintained at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California;
- A pedestrian cultural resources survey;
- The sacred lands database and Native American contacts list of the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC);
- Unpublished reports on file in ICF Jones & Stokes' in-house cultural resources library; and
- Published literature on the prehistory, ethnography, history of the project area.

Information on the prehistory, ethnography, and history of the Hollister area and project corridor were drawn from the published literature.

To assess the potential for cultural resources within the project area, an ICF Jones & Stokes archaeologist conducted a records search and literature review on June 13, 2006, at the NWIC of CHRIS located at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. On June 7, 2006, the California NAHC was contacted to request a search of their sacred lands database and a list of Native American representatives for the project area vicinity. The ICF Jones & Stokes in-house cultural resources library also was consulted for pertinent cultural resources reports for projects within the Santa Clara Valley and Hollister region.

Pre-Field Research

Records Search

On June 13, 2006, Jones & Stokes conducted a records search at NWIC. NWIC maintains the State of California's (State's) official records of previous cultural resource studies and recorded cultural resources for a 16-county area that includes Monterey and San Benito Counties. The records search was conducted by examining the NWIC base maps of previous studies and recorded cultural resources, by mapping the limits of studies and resources onto the appropriate 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles for the project area, and by mapping a 0.25-mile radius around the project area. In addition to the base maps, the following sources at NWIC and the ICF Jones & Stokes cultural resources library were examined:

- Archeological Determinations of Eligibility (California Office of Historic Preservation 2005a:110–111; 2005b:158),
- Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006:1–12),
- Historic maps (U.S. Geological Survey 1923, 1971, 1973, 1993a, 1993b),
- Cultural resource overviews and maps of Native American villages (Breschini et al. 1983, Kroeber 1925:Figure 42),
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR),
- California Historical Landmarks (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1996),
- California Points of Historical Interest (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976),

- The California Inventory of Historic Resources, and
- The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Records Search Results: Hollister Tower Segment

The records search indicates that four previous cultural resources studies have been conducted in the Hollister Tower Segment (Bourdeau 1985, Cartier 1999, Doane and Breschini 2004, Gilbert 1992). One previously recorded cultural resource (CA-SBn-143H – El Camino Real en Medio) crosses under the power line, and eight previously recorded cultural resources are located within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area (Table 4.5-1). Approximately 1.5 miles of the Hollister Tower Segment has been surveyed for the presence of cultural resources (Bourdeau 1985:Map1). This study was comprehensive, and survey coverage was unusually intense (survey transects were spaced only 9 feet apart). The age of the study (21 years), however, indicates that additional features in this portion of the project area may have achieved historic status (50 years or older) since 1985.

Records Search Results: Hollister Pole Segment

The records search indicates that two previous cultural resources studies have been conducted in the Hollister Pole Segment (Cartier 2001c, Doane and Breschini 2004). These studies covered only a small area of the project alignment; Doane and Breschini (2004) did not conduct an archaeological survey, and Cartier (2001c) surveyed only 300 feet of the project alignment. Therefore, this portion of the project area is effectively unsurveyed. No previously recorded cultural resources are located in this portion of the project area, although a historic ranching property (P-35-304) is located within a 0.25-mile radius of the segment.

Native American Consultation

On June 7, 2006, a Jones & Stokes archaeologist contacted the California NAHC. A search of their Sacred Lands database and a list of Native American representatives for the San Benito area were requested. On July 7, 2006, the NAHC faxed a response indicating that no cultural resources were found within the project area in their database, and they provided a list of Native American representatives and their contact information. On July 17, 2006, letters were sent to the Native American representatives on the NAHC list with a project description and a map delineating the proposed project area location. On September 16, 2008, a second request was sent to the NAHC to ensure that the Sacred Lands database search information is up to date. To date, no response has been received. Documentation of Native American consultation can be found in Appendix C.

Table 4.5-1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Vicinity of the Hollister Tower Segment

Resource Number/Name	Resource Type	Dimensions	Distance from Project Alignment	Landform	Reference
CA-SBn-143H, El Camino Real en Medio	Historic road	600 meters (m) by 4 m	0 m	Stream terrace at the toe of a hill	Bourdeau 1985:17
CA-SBn-144H	Historic oil drilling site	3 m by 1 m	0.3 mile (mi) east of alignment	Slope above drainage	Bourdeau 1985:17, Appendix IV
CA-SBn-145H	Historic cabin and gravesite	30 m by 30 m	0.25 mi east of alignment	Bluff	Bourdeau 1985:17, Appendix V
CA-SBn-146H, McAbee Ranch complex	Historic artifacts and features	5.5 acres (ac)	0.1 mi east of alignment	Confluence of two unnamed streams	Bourdeau 1985:16–17, Appendix VI
P-35-328	Unknown	5 m by 5 m	0.3 mi west of alignment	Along pipeline alignment, hills	Northwest Information Center (NWIC) base map
P-35-148H, Spadoni Ranch complex	Historic landscaping features	100 m by 60 m	0.6 mi west of alignment	Roadside flat	Bourdeau 1985: Appendix VIII
P-35-266	Historic road	Linear	Adjacent	Ephemeral drainage terrace	NWIC base map
P-27-2483, Lagunitas School	Historic buildings	2 ac	0.5 mi south of alignment	Floodplain of tributary to Gibson Creek	NWIC base map

Field Surveys

On July 6, 12, and 13, 2006, a Jones & Stokes archaeologist conducted a field visit in support of a constraints analysis of the proposed project area. The visit was limited to public roads; notes were taken on accessibility, terrain type, ground visibility, and any other apparent constraints.

A pedestrian cultural resources survey of the project area was conducted in August and September 2008. Systematic transects no wider than 20 meters were used to ensure maximum coverage in a timely manner. Areas with steep, rocky terrain, particularly along the Hollister Tower Segment, were subjected to cursory survey focusing on flat terraces. No prehistoric resources were found from the survey. One historic-era resource (CR-H-01) was located at the southern extent of the Hollister Tower Segment. This resource is a circular rock- and mortar-lined water trough that measures approximately 7 feet in diameter

and 3 feet in depth. The trough is no longer functioning and is filled with refuse, including cans and bottles from the 1950s and 1960s. Site location and characteristics were recorded on the appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms and were photographed and mapped. Resource Ca-SBn-143H (El Camino Real en Medino), a historic-era roadway, was relocated during the survey. The segment of road east of the project area is an improved, paved road that is still under use until it reaches Avenida del Piero. The segment of roadway west of the project area (and Avenida del Piero, which roughly follows the project alignment) has been destroyed by recent construction of a housing subdevelopment.

Hollister Tower Segment

The Hollister Tower Segment trends south, is approximately 7 miles long, and traverses a series of steep hills with low-lying grasses that obscure the ground surface in some areas. Visibility generally ranged from good to moderate. Access via public roads along this alignment is limited. Access to the project area was gained via a PG&E gate near the intersection of the power line and SR 156, on the north side of the alignment. The only access point at the southern terminus of the power line was a PG&E gate near the intersection of Crazy Horse Canyon Road and Grade Road. The terrain in this area consists of steep hills and narrow valleys with low dense grasses. Visibility was good to moderate. Several areas were deemed unsafe to survey due to steep, rocky hillsides. Surveyable areas were accessed by a series of unmapped private dirt roads.

Hollister Pole Segment

The Hollister Pole Segment is an approximately 9-mile stretch of power line that runs from the Lagunitas Switches in Monterey County and extends northerly to Anzar Junction, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the City of San Jan Bautista in San Benito County. The Hollister Pole Segment extends easterly to the Hollister Substation, located north of the City of Hollister and approximately 0.25 mile west of San Felipe Road. The Hollister Pole Segment traverses the San Andreas Rift Zone before entering the San Juan Valley. The line continues easterly through agricultural fields before crossing the San Benito River and entering the Flint Hills. The line continues in the Flint Hills for several miles, then traverses agricultural fields and crosses the Union Pacific Railroad before reaching the Hollister Substation.

The substation is located approximately 0.25 mile west of SR 156 in a flat, highly disturbed agricultural area. At several points in the agricultural areas, the project area was accessed by public roads. Ground visibility in the agricultural fields was generally good, and soil disturbance high. Access to the project area was found at the intersections of the power line with San Justo Road and again at the San Juan Highway. The stretch of power line through the Flint Hills has limited access beyond the terminus of Buena Vista Road. Ground visibility in the stretch

of alignment in the Flint Hills was medium to poor, with low, dense grasses obfuscating the surface.

Affected Environment

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

Federal Antiquities Act

The federal Antiquities Act of 1906 was enacted with the primary goal of protecting cultural resources in the United States. It explicitly prohibits appropriation, excavation, injury, and destruction of "any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity" located on lands owned or controlled by the federal government, without permission of the secretary of the federal department with jurisdiction. It also establishes criminal penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, for these acts. As such, the Antiquities Act represents the foundation of modern regulatory protection for cultural resources.

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires that federal agencies assess whether federal actions would result in significant effects on the human environment. The Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations further stipulate that identification of significant effects should incorporate "the degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources" (40 CFR 1508.27[b][8]).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Based on the alignment's proximity to several watercourses and other aquatic features, ICF Jones & Stokes anticipates that PG&E will need to obtain a Clean Water Act permit from the Corps, which qualifies all or portions of the proposed project as a federal project or undertaking. As such, the project would be subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (hereafter referred to as *Section 106*). Specific regulations (36 CFR 800) regarding compliance with Section 106 state that, although the tasks necessary to comply with Section 106 may be delegated to others, the federal agency is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Section 106 process is completed according to

statute. The Section 106 process is a consultation process that involves the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) throughout; Section 106 also calls for including Native American tribes and interested members of the public, as appropriate, throughout the process. Implementing regulations for Section 106 (36 CFR 800) detail the following five basic steps.

- Initiate the Section 106 process.
- Identify and evaluate historic properties.
- Assess the effects of the undertaking on historic properties within the APE.
- If historic properties are subject to adverse effects, the lead federal agency, the SHPO, and any other consulting parties (including Native American tribes) continue consultation to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) is usually developed to document the measures agreed upon to resolve the adverse effects.
- Proceed in accordance with the terms of the MOA.

State of California

California Environmental Quality Act Protection for Historical (Cultural) Resources

CEQA requires that public or private projects financed or approved by state or local public agencies be assessed to determine their potential to affect historical resources. CEQA uses the term *historical resources* to include buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts—each of which may have historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance. CEQA states that, if implementation of a project would result in significant effects on historical resources, alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed (14 CCR 15064.5, 15126.4). Therefore, before impacts and mitigation measures can be identified, the significance of historical resources must be determined.

The State CEQA Guidelines define three ways that a property may qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA review:

- The resource is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR.
- The resource is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1[k] of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1[g] of the PRC, unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
- The lead agency determines the resource to be significant as supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (14 CCR 15064.5[a]).

Each of these ways of qualifying as a historical resource for the purpose of CEQA is related to the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the CRHR (PRC 5020.1[k], 5024.1, 5024.1[g]). A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR if it meets any of the following conditions:

- The resource is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- The resource is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- The resource 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.
- The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP are considered eligible for listing in the CRHR and thus are significant historical resources for the purpose of CEQA (PRC 5024.1[d][1]).

According to CEQA, a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant impact on the environment (14 CCR 15064.5[b]). Under CEQA, a *substantial adverse change* in the significance of a resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the historical resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would *materially impair* the significance of a historic resource are any actions that would demolish or adversely alter the physical characteristics that convey the property's historical significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR or in a local register or survey that meet the requirements of PRC 5020.1(k) and 5024.1(g).

California Health and Safety Code – Treatment of Human Remains

Under Section 8100 of the California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burials at one location constitute a cemetery. Disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Health and Safety Code Sec. 7052).

Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code requires that construction or excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains until the County Coroner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner must then contact the NAHC, which has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 5097 of the PRC.

When human remains are discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains may take place until the County Coroner has been informed and made the following

determinations. The County Coroner must determine (1) that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and (2) if the remains are of Native American origin, that (a) either the descendants of the deceased Native American(s) have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC 5097.98; or (b) the NAHC was unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being notified by the commission.

Project Setting

This section discusses the cultural resources setting for the project area vicinity, including a brief summary of the prehistory, ethnographic information pertaining to the local Native American population, and a general history of the region—beginning with Spanish settlement. The project is located in the California Coast Ranges just south of the Santa Clara Valley and east of Monterey Bay.

Prehistory

The Santa Clara Valley was a region of intense human occupation long before the first European explorers arrived in the 18th century. The area encompassed three main environments: tidal marshland, grassland prairie, and oak woodland. The estuaries, bayshore, riparian corridors, and oaks provided numerous resources—ranging from shellfish, fish, and waterfowl to terrestrial mammals, seeds, and acorns. These habitats supported large populations of people due to the resource base they provided. Long-term residential use of particular areas resulted in the accumulation of shellfish, soil, and other debris, which has resulted in the creation of large mounds along the tidal marsh and bayshore (Erlandson and Jones 2002). These shell mounds have created much of the basis of archaeological research in the southern Bay Area.

Archaeological investigations within the project area vicinity and the surrounding region have shown that the area was inhabited by mobile hunter-gatherers. Over time, their foraging strategies became more focused on the locally obtainable resources and their lives became increasingly more sedentary. These changes are reflected in the cultural sequence developed by Fredrickson and Bennyhoff, which identifies three basic cultural patterns prevalent throughout the Bay Area and interior Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta for the period between 4500 B.P. and 500 B.P. (Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987).

Windmiller Pattern (4500–3000 B.P.)

The Windmiller Pattern (4500–3000 B.P.) is thought to reflect a mixed economy of game procurement and the use of wild plant foods. The archaeological record contains numerous projectile points associated with a wide range of faunal remains. Hunting was not limited to terrestrial animals, as shown by tools

included in the artifact assemblage associated with the Windmiller Pattern, such as fishing hooks and net weights (Moratto 1984: 201). Plant resources were also used as indicated by the presence of stone tools such as milling slabs and handstones. The Windmiller Pattern reflects a seasonal adaptation in which habitation sites in the valley were occupied during the winter months and summer camps are found in the surrounding foothills (Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987).

Berkeley Pattern (3000–1500 B.P.)

The Windmiller Pattern shifted to the Berkeley Pattern, which spanned from about 3000 B.P. to 1500 B.P. A decrease in the presence of milling slabs and handstones and a shift to mortar and pestle technology are evident in the archaeological record and indicate an increased dependence on acorns. Large shell mounds are found near water sources, and the presence of projectile points and atlatls suggests that hunting was still an important part of subsistence (Fredrickson 1973: 125a-126). Within the southern Bay Area, the Berkeley Pattern is illustrated by a heavy reliance on the bayshore environment, as is evidenced by the increase in size and number of shell mounds and the types of faunal remains recovered by archaeologists.

Augustine Pattern (1500–700 B.P.)

The Augustine Pattern followed the Berkeley Pattern around 1500 B.P. This adaptation was adopted by the ethnographically known people of the historic period. The Augustine Pattern exhibits an increase in ceremonialism, social organization, and stratification. Trade was an important element of this adaptation and can be seen in the different types of obsidian and shell beads from other regions. The presence of smaller, shaped projectile points indicates use of the bow and arrow. The increase in ceremonialism is indicated in the presentation of flexed burials with the association of artifacts, including shellbeads, mortars and pestles, shaped hematite figurines, and projectile points.

Throughout the Late Holocene, the environment of the southern Bay Area continued to evolve into what became tidal marsh/wetlands. The prehistoric inhabitants created large shell mounds in which the dominant species of shellfish were hornsnail, oyster, clam, and bay mussel. Sites closer to the bay demonstrate subsistence based on tidal marsh resources while the interior valley sites to the west reveal an emphasis on terrestrial resources (Hylkema 1998:31).

The Emergent or Protohistoric Period (700 B.P.–A.D.1777)

The Emergent Period (700 B.P.–A.D. 1777) in the southern Bay Area is characterized by an elaborate social organization and the formation of small autonomous sociopolitical groups called *tribelets*. An economic relationship was maintained among the many small groups, and trade was frequent between the

coastal groups and the valley/bayshore groups. The Augustine Pattern tool kit is found through the Emergent Period. Artifacts from this period include well shaped mortars and pestles, decorated olivella shell beads, rectangular olivella beads, tubular stone pipes, and many small projectile points that were used with the bow and arrow. Haliotis shell pendants and large amounts of olivella beads are found in association with graves as well (Hylkema 1998).

Ethnography

At the time of European contact, the San Benito Valley was occupied by a group of Native Americans whom the ethnographers referred to as the Ohlone or Costanoan. The Ohlone are a linguistically defined group composed of several autonomous tribelets speaking eight different, but related languages. The Ohlone languages, together with Miwok, compose the Utian language family of the Penutian stock. The territory of the Ohlone people extended along the coast from Golden Gate in the north to just beyond Carmel in the south and as much as 60 miles inland. This territory encompasses a lengthy coastline as well as several inland valleys (Levy 1978).

The Ohlone were hunter-gatherers and relied heavily on acorns and seafood. They also exploited a wide range of other foods, including various seeds (the growth of which was promoted by controlled burning), buckeye, berries, roots, land and sea mammals, waterfowl, reptiles, and insects. The Ohlone used tule balsas for watercraft, bow and arrow, cordage, bone tools, and twined basketry to procure and process their foodstuffs (Levy 1978).

Aboriginally, the Ohlone were politically organized by tribelet, each having a designated territory. A tribelet consisted of one or more villages and camps within a territory designated by physiographic features. Tribelets generally had from 100 to 250 members (Kroeber 1925). The office of tribelet chief was inherited patrilineally and could be occupied by a man or a woman. Duties of the chief included providing for visitors; directing ceremonial activities; and directing fishing, hunting, gathering, and warfare expeditions. The chief served as the leader of a council of elders, which functioned primarily in an advisory capacity to the community (Levy 1978).

The territory of the Ohlone people extended along the coast from San Francisco Bay in the north to just beyond Carmel in the south and about 97 kilometers inland. This territory encompassed a lengthy coastline and several inland valleys (Breschini et al. 1983:34). At least two distinct groups of related communities of Mutsun-language speakers inhabited the project area up to the point of early contact with the Spanish: the Unijaima and Ausaima (Milliken 1995:236, 258, Map 5). From linguistic evidence, it appears that Ohlone ancestors moved into the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas in approximately A.D. 500. Most likely, they moved south and west from the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta.

Seven Spanish missions were founded in Ohlone territory between 1777 and 1797. While living within the mission system, the Ohlone commingled with

other groups, including Esselen, Yokuts, Miwok, and Patwin. Mission life was devastating to the Ohlone population. It has been estimated that, when the first mission was established within Ohlone territory in 1770, the Native American population numbered around 10,000. The population rapidly declined to less than 2,000 by 1832 because of introduced disease, harsh living conditions, and reduced birth rates. After the secularization of the missions, circa 1830, Indians gradually left the missions; many went to work as wage laborers on ranchos, in mines, and in domestic positions. There was a partial return to aboriginal religious practices and subsistence strategies, but the Ohlone culture was greatly diminished (Levy 1978). Nonetheless, descendants of the Ohlone still live in the area, and many are active in maintaining their traditions and advocating for Native American issues.

Historic Context

Spanish Colonization

The Spanish colonization effort of Alta California began in the late 1700s and focused on three institutions: the presidio, the mission, and the pueblo. The *presidio* was a military base used to enforce Spanish control of the area. The Spanish government sent military expeditions to present-day California to explore the region for harbors that could provide secure sites for the presidios. The presidios were important for colonization of an area and protection of the settlers.

The missions were the central economic units of the colonial system. The goal of the mission system was to convert the native peoples to Catholicism, gain control of the native population, and establish self-sufficient communities. The military presence of the presidios supported the missions with a force of arms that helped control the native people. Despite a high death rate among the native population due to disease and abuse, the combination of the mission priests and the military worked to make the missions productive institutions for many years.

Mission Santa Clara was established in the Santa Clara Valley after several expeditions to the area. Don Gaspar de Portola, the leader of the first Spanish expedition, found both Monterey and San Francisco Bays and crossed through Santa Clara Valley; Father Juan Crespi, whose objective was to assess the area's suitability for a Franciscan mission, accompanied Portola. In the Santa Clara Valley region, they found rich soil, good potential pasture lands, and a large number of Native Americans who were supported by the excellent water source (Guadalupe River) and rich resource base in the area. These factors provided optimum conditions for a mission. When an expedition headed by Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza crossed the Guadalupe River in 1776, the riverside site was chosen for Mission Santa Clara. The mission was officially established on January 12, 1777; at that time, more than 40 rancherías of Native Americans were within a radius of approximately 10 miles (Spearman 1963). The

Guadalupe River became the central feature of the Spanish colonial settlement in the valley.

The pueblo was the third institution essential to the Spanish colonization effort. *Pueblos* were civil settlements that supplied agricultural products and provided an example of "proper" Spanish society to the natives. Pueblo San Jose de Guadalupe, established on November 29, 1777, was the first pueblo in the Santa Clara Valley and consisted of 66 settlers and retired soldiers. Some of the pueblo farmlands were situated directly across the Guadalupe River from the mission. Both the pueblo and the mission were later moved to higher ground because of flooding.

The Mexican Period

Mexico won independence from Spain in 1824 and subsequently became a republic of states. One of the first acts of the new government was to secularize the missions and redistribute the mission land holdings. The former mission holdings were redistributed in the form of land grants to individuals who promised to work the land, primarily by raising cattle. Although secularization was intended to distribute the mission lands to the settlers and native population, the large-scale cattle ranchers or *rancheros* claimed the bulk of the resources, and few Native Americans received land parcels. These cattle ranches became the driving force of the economy and the dominant culture of California as a whole. The ranchero economy was fueled by native laborers, who produced tallow and hides for trade to the United States and England.

The American Period

The latter half of the 19th century was a dynamic period of history in the Bay Area. The region saw great change in a short time. First was the United States military occupation of California after the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga in 1847. In 1848, the United States won the Mexican-American war and as a result gained approximately 50 percent of Mexico's territory, a region that would become the states of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado. Within weeks of the end of the war, gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada foothills. By the summer of 1849, word of the gold deposits had spread, and thousands of people were arriving in California in search of their fortunes.

Americans who flooded into California at this time sought to acquire the vast land grant holdings of the Californios. A land commission was soon established by the federal government to decide the legality of all the land grants, the outcome of which dealt a heavy blow to the Californios. Most land grants were judged invalid, and the land was subject to sale. Californios lost much of their land, either from land commission decisions or as payment to lawyers to defend their claims in court. The opening of large acreages of land resulted in a change of ownership and the transformation from cattle ranches to farms, to supply the growing demand for fresh foods. The population in the Bay Area boomed, and the region soon became one of the most densely populated areas in California.

In the southern Bay Area, a combination of wheat-barley production, dairy farms, and orchards dominated agricultural use of the valley floor throughout the 1860s and 1870s. Until the collapse of the world-wide wheat market in the late 1870s, Santa Clara County was one of a number of counties with large amounts of acreage devoted to the crop. Beginning in the 1870s, a transition occurred from grain farming to fruit farming in the region. During this period, many experiments with horticulture and other crops took place. In the years following 1875, successful agricultural experiments and the overall expansion of agricultural markets via rail encouraged the further development of horticulture. In an ever more populous valley, horticulture permitted the use of smaller parcels of land for cultivation and provided a labor-intensive but profitable product (Basin Research Associates 1995).

Transportation was an essential element in the growth of fruit farming. The development of the refrigerated railroad car in the 1880s allowed the transport of agricultural produce to distant markets and greatly increased the development of horticulture in the area. Although few farmers specialized in fruit production in the 1870s, by the 1890s it was the dominant agricultural activity in the Santa Clara Valley and Hollister area. Farmers who planted large orchards were often successful, and the trend caught on quickly. As a result, between the 1870s and 1940s, fruit production became a major industry. From 1875 onward, expanding markets nationwide led to innovations in fruit preservation and shipping, including drying and canning fruit for long-term storage and transportation, as well as shipment of fresh fruit in refrigerated cars. This created a wider economic boom in the southern Bay Area, which attracted many new residents to the area. Even with rapid growth, the City of Hollister retains a small town feel, and agriculture is still the region's main industry.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resource Sensitivity

Although no prehistoric resources and one historic era resource were found as a result of the field survey, sufficient information is available through records search data (including site records and previous studies), soils maps, and topographical maps to assess the likelihood that buried cultural resources are present in the project area.

An examination of Table 4.5-1, as well as the accompanying discussion of previous cultural resources studies, indicates that cultural resources distribution in the proposed project area is patterned. Table 4.5-1 notes the landform or locational context of each previously identified cultural resource. For expediency's sake, broad categories were used to categorize the locational context of each resource, relying on two common constraints to human land use and occupation: type of topographic relief and proximity to water. The four basic categories used are floodplains and low stream terraces of present-day watercourses, plains (presumably older alluvial and colluvial fans and high

terraces), plain-upland interfaces, and uplands (hills, ridges, and topographic features therein). These categories anticipate a number of factors in human land use. Floodplains and low terraces, although subject to flooding, are prime locations for a variety of human activities and occupation types throughout human history. Cultural resources may have been located on the alluvial and colluvial landforms represented by plains in proximity to now-relic surface water features in order to remain above flood-prone areas, or for specific resource-extraction purposes. Plain-upland interfaces are desirable areas for human land use because springs and other water sources are common in these contexts, frequently offer access to multiple resource sets, and can provide windbreaks. Uplands have been used throughout human history for occupation and resource extraction.

Areas deemed sensitive for cultural resources identified by the records search, soils maps, and topographical features include areas situated along low stream terraces or floodplains of present-day watercourses such as the Pajaro River. Previously identified cultural resources on floodplains and low stream terraces are primarily prehistoric archaeological sites, although historic-era cultural resources are present and as likely to be identified as prehistoric resources. Much of the project area is located on low terraces and floodplains, including some overlap with the plain-upland category. The majority of previously identified cultural resources on floodplains and low terraces have been recorded along the Pajaro River between the Sargent Hills and Lomerias Muertas. These areas are marked on the accompanying Cultural Resources Sensitivity Maps (Figures 4.5-1 through 4.5-4) as "High Archaeological Sensitivity." The second most sensitive locational context is the uplands category. Historic-era cultural resources seem to dominate the uplands category, although prehistoric resources also are likely to be identified in uplands.

Some portions of the project area have moderate potential to contain buried archaeological deposits. Cartier (2001c:5, Surface Reconnaissance Map), for example, observed a buried A horizon (often termed *paleosol*) on the northern bank of the San Benito River from 7 to10 feet below ground surface. This paleosol represents a relic land surface, once available for human habitation, which was later buried by fluvial sediments. The southern bank of the San Benito River within the Hollister Pole Segment (mapped as Metz soil units) probably contains paleosols because it is located in the same depositional environment, and soil scientists have observed paleosols about 5 feet below ground surface in Metz series soils (Isrig 1969:32, Sheets 11–12). Previous archaeological research along the Pajaro River suggests that high potential for buried archaeological deposits exists on the Pajaro River floodplain/terrace (Cartier 2001b). In addition, paleosols may occur at depths of about 7 feet below ground surface in Willow series soils, which are present in portions of the project area (Isrig 1969:52, Sheets 6, 13). Prior to Spanish, Mexican, and American land-use practices, however, this area was probably marshland and thus not especially suited to human habitation in the late prehistoric period (Breschini 1988: Map 2). The Willow series soil units in the project area should therefore be regarded as moderately sensitive for the presence of paleosols and archaeological deposits rather than highly sensitive.

Environmental Effects

This section describes potential impacts relating to cultural resources within the APE. It lists the thresholds used to conclude whether an impact was considered significant; the criteria are based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Applicant-proposed measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts are described, as applicable.

Significance Criteria

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact was considered to be potentially significant and to require mitigation if it would result in any of the following:

- Substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that is
  - Listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP;
  - Listed, or eligible for listing, in the CRHR; or
  - Included in a local register of historical resources, or otherwise identified as an important resource by a local jurisdiction or agency.
- Substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource meeting the above qualifications.
- Substantial adverse change in a *unique archaeological resource* as defined in Section 21083.2(g) of the PRC.
- Disturbance of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential disturbance of documented and undocumented cultural resources, including human remains – less-than-significant impact

Two historic era cultural resources were found to be located within the proposed project area. No significant cultural resources are known to be present within the areas proposed for project element construction. However, as discussed above, particular areas within the project corridor are considered highly sensitive for the presence of prehistoric, ethnohistoric, and historic cultural material and/or subsurface deposits. Consequently, it is possible that undocumented cultural resources, including human remains, could be present. If present, these resources could be affected during ground-disturbing activities required for project construction. Depending on the nature of the materials involved and the extent of the disturbance and/or damage, impacts could be significant. PG&E will implement the following measures to ensure that any impacts will be less than significant.

APM CR-1: AVOID EXISTING CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Although not subjected to formal evaluation, for purposes of this project, cultural resource CR-H-01 is assumed to be a significant resource. Effects to CR-H-01 will be avoided through the development of an ESA protective zone around the site. Prior to construction, a qualified archaeologist will direct this measure to be implemented in a manner that will physically protect the site (e.g., signage and temporary protective fencing). Resource Ca-SBn-143H is an existing paved roadway that will not be affected by the proposed project. Therefore avoidance measures such as an ESA protective zone are not necessary.

APM CR-2: IMPLEMENT CONSTRUCTION MONITORING.

PG&E will retain a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professional archaeologists to monitor ground-disturbing activities in areas of high sensitivity for archaeological resources. Monitoring will occur for all activities in areas that have been deemed as highly sensitive for cultural resources (Figures 4.5-1 through 4.5-4) and the area within 100 feet of resource CR-H-01. The monitor will be empowered to temporarily halt construction in the immediate vicinity of a discovery while it is evaluated for significance. With the archaeologist's approval, work may continue on other portions of the site. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional measures will be implemented; these may include avoidance, capping beneath a layer of sterile soil, or data recovery through archaeological excavation (PRC 21083).

APM CR-3: STOP WORK IF PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES ARE DISCOVERED.

If buried cultural resources such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, or building foundations are inadvertently discovered during site preparation or construction activities, work will stop in that area and within 100 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with PG&E and other appropriate agencies. (With the archaeologist's approval, work may continue on other portions of the site.) PG&E will be responsible for ensuring that the archaeologist's recommendations for treatment are implemented.

APM CR-4: STOP WORK IF HUMAN REMAINS ARE DISCOVERED.

If human remains are encountered during site preparation or construction, work will stop within a 100-foot radius of the find and the County Coroner will be notified immediately, as required by state law (California Health and Safety Code 7050.5) and County Ordinance No. B6-18. A qualified archaeologist also will be notified immediately. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the NAHC, pursuant to Section 7050.5[c] of the California Health and Safety Code. There will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably

suspected to overlie human remains until the County Coroner has determined that (1) no investigation of the cause of death is required; and (2) if the remains are of Native American origin, the descendants of the deceased Native Americans have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treating or disposing of with appropriate dignity the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in PRC 5097.98—unless the NAHC was unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation within 48 hours after being notified by the commission.

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