

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

| Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less-Than- Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less-Than- Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Existing Conditions

Historical and Archaeological Resources. Cultural resources information for existing conditions in the project area was obtained from the following sources:

- Records searches with the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center (CHRIS/NWIC), California State University Sonoma, Rohnert Park (CHRIS/NWIC File Nos. 88-483, 99-619, 02-105, and 02-941)
- Results of a field inventory of the existing project ROW completed by Basin Research Associates on November 1 and 2, 1988, that covers all areas of impacts for this project, titled *A Cultural Resources Assessment for San Francisco Resource Supply Study (San Mateo Substation to Martin Substation), Daly City to the City of San Mateo, San Mateo County* (PG&E 2002);
- Literature searches of the project right-of-way and adjacent areas conducted in 1988, 1999, and 2002 for background context for prehistory and history;
- Reference materials on file at the Bancroft Library and Map Room of the University of California, Berkeley; and
- Consultations with the San Mateo County Historical Association.

The CHRIS/NWIC has a record of 19 cultural resource studies covering the project corridor, except at the San Mateo, Burlingame, Millbrae, and Martin Substations. In November 2002, PG&E submitted a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) that described the project and requested information on Native American descendants in the project area (see Appendix G). No response had been received from the NAHC as of the preparation of this document.

State and federal inventories list historic properties within or near the project corridor in the City of South San Francisco. These properties include the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and buildings on Grand and Linden Avenues. The 1896 United States Geological Survey (USGS) San Mateo 15'

topographic quad shows buildings within the Martin Substation. There is thus a moderate possibility of identifying historic-period archaeological deposits in the project corridor.

No cultural resources have been recorded or identified in the approximately 140-foot-wide right-of-way. Five sites have been recorded within approximately 800 feet of the project (CA-SMa-102, SMa-243, SMa-317, SMa-326H, and SMa-343H). CA-SMa-317 is the closest site, a recorded shell midden immediately adjacent to the project corridor. A total of 18 recorded archaeological sites and four reported but unrecorded cultural resources are located within a 0.5-mile radius of the centerline of the PG&E lines.

Native American archaeological sites in the project corridor tend to be near the historic extent of the bayshore tidal marshlands and near seasonal and perennial creeks feeding the bay. Some portions of the project corridor, including substations and right-of-way near BART tracks, occur in lands with these characteristics, and one recorded prehistoric archaeological site is adjacent to the project corridor. Given the environmental setting and the proximity of a recorded archaeological site, there is a high potential for Native American sites in the vicinity of the project corridor, although construction of the existing 60 kV power line and substations did not result in discoveries of buried archaeological deposits or buried human remains.

Paleontology. Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains and/or traces of prehistoric plant and animal life exclusive of human remains or artifacts. Fossil remains, such as bones, teeth, shells, and wood, are found in geologic deposits (rock formations). Geologic conditions favorable for the presence of fossils in the project area occur in the Colma and Merced formations. The Pleistocene-age Colma Formation is composed of unconsolidated, sandy estuarine, and coal deposits. Although poorly documented, small marine and nonmarine invertebrate fossils may be present.

The Pliocene- to Pleistocene-age Merced Formation consists primarily of shallow marine and estuarine deposits of fine- to medium-grained sands, which are occasionally silty, clay, or conglomerate. Molluscan, bivalvia, and small amounts of bryozoan remains from the lower bathyal to abyssal depths of the Tejon and Domengine stages are the predominant fossils of the Merced Formation. This formation is usually assigned as low sensitivity for encountering paleontological resources.

Although no paleontological sites have been discovered specifically within the project area, paleontological resources or prehistoric fossils have been discovered throughout San Mateo County, usually on the western coastline.

Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for this analysis is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The project is considered to have a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5;

- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Explanation of Cultural Resources Checklist

a. Adversely Affect Historic Resources No Impact

Known historic resources in the project vicinity occur in South San Francisco. These resources are the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and buildings on Grand and Linden Avenues. Although the transmission line crosses Grand Avenue and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, proposed activities do not involve demolishing these resources or breaking ground at these historic sites. The project would therefore have no impact on historic resources.

b. Adversely Affect Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
Archaeological Resources

Construction activities that could result in ground disturbance and affect archaeological resources include:

- Temporary parking, laydown, and assembly areas;
- Temporary use of 16 pull or tension sites with a maximum area of 200 feet by 200 feet; and
- Auguring to install 18 temporary wood poles for the temporary guard structures including six poles at the Millbrae Substation, four at the MA Substation, and eight at the BART tracks in the West of Bayshore parcel. Auguring would occur within the substations, jurisdictional wetlands, and along the BART right-of-way to depths not exceeding 14 feet.

Activities to be performed outside the right-of-way and access roads, such as auguring holes for the guard structures, would have a potentially significant impact on several construction areas that are near the historic extent of the bayshore marshlands, where there is a high potential for Native American sites. PG&E has proposed APM-62 and APM-63 (see Table B-5) to mitigate potential impacts to archaeological resources. APM-62 involves training construction personnel to recognize resources and the protocol to be followed upon encountering resources. APM-63 involves procedures to be implemented upon discovery of resources. The following mitigation measure provides further detail on procedures for discovery of resources and supersedes APM-63. Potential impacts to archaeological resources would be less than significant with implementation of APM-62 and MM CR-1.

MM CR-1 The following provisions shall be incorporated into the grading and construction contracts to address the potential to encounter currently unknown cultural resources:

- a. If potential historical or unique archaeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity shall be suspended and alteration of the materials and their context shall be avoided pending site investigation by a qualified archaeological or cultural resources consultant retained by the project applicant. The immediate vicinity wherein work shall be suspended shall be approximately 50 feet from the discovery or within an appropriate distance to be determined by the retained

archaeologist or consultant. Construction work shall not commence again until the archaeological or cultural resources consultant has been given an opportunity to examine the findings, assess their significance, and offer proposals for any additional exploratory measures deemed necessary for the further evaluation of and/or mitigation of adverse impacts to any potential historical resources or unique archaeological resources that have been encountered.

- b. If the find is determined to be a historical or unique archaeological resource, and if avoidance of the resource would not be feasible, the archaeological or cultural resources consultant shall prepare a plan for the methodical excavation of those portions of the site that would be adversely affected. The plan shall be designed to result in the extraction of sufficient volumes of non-redundant archaeological data to address important regional research considerations. The work shall be performed by the archaeological or cultural resources consultant, and shall result in detailed technical reports. Such reports shall be submitted to the California Historical Resources Regional Information Center. Construction in the vicinity of the find shall be accomplished in accordance with current professional standards and shall not recommence until this work is completed.
- c. The project applicant shall assure that project personnel are informed that collecting significant historical or unique archaeological resources discovered during development of the project is prohibited by law. Prehistoric or Native American resources can include chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles as well as dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic resources can include nails, bottles, or other items often found in refuse deposits.
- d. If human remains are discovered, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the discovery site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the project applicant has complied with the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e). In general, these provisions require that the County Coroner shall be notified immediately. If the remains are found to be Native American, the County Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. The most likely descendant of the deceased Native American shall be notified by the Commission and given the chance to make recommendations for the remains. If the Commission is unable to identify the most likely descendent, or if no recommendations are made within 24 hours, remains may be reinterred with appropriate dignity elsewhere on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. If recommendations are made and not accepted, the Native American Heritage Commission will mediate the problem.

Construction impacts that may occur within the substations would result from the following activities:

- Minor grading of in-place fill and foundation work for transformer banks;
- Replacement of a control building;
- Paving of an unpaved road or area;
- Excavation for installation of tubular poles and other structures such as steel crossarms, breaker disconnects, a breaker bypass switch, selector switches, and a breaker;
- Pile driving activities; and
- Rearrangement of breakers, switches, and breaker disconnects.

The construction of the existing 60 kV power line and substations did not result in discoveries of buried archaeological deposits or buried human remains. Nevertheless, there is a high potential for Native American sites in the vicinity of substations. Implementation of APM-62 and MM CR-1 would ensure that potential impacts to archaeological resources within or in the vicinity of the substations would be less than significant.

No changes to existing operating or maintenance procedures are anticipated for the project, therefore, no impacts to archaeological resources are anticipated during the continuing operation and maintenance of the power line and substations.

c. Destruction of Paleontological Resources **Less-Than-Significant Impact**

No significant occurrences of fossils are known to exist specifically within the project area. Proposed construction activities could potentially unearth, damage, or destroy paleontological resources associated with the Merced Formation. PG&E has proposed APM-64 (see Table B-5), which requires crew training and compliance with procedures for discovery of paleontological resources. Implementation of APM-64 would ensure that potential impact to paleontological resources would be less than significant. No additional mitigation would be necessary.

d. Disturb Human Remains **Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**

There is a high potential for Native American sites to occur within or around the project corridor. Implementation of APM-62 and MM CR-1 would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.