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5.3 Cultural Resources

This section analyzes the potential effects the Pecho Energy Storage Center (PESC) or its appurtenances may have on known or previously unrecorded cultural resources located within the study area. The delineation of the study area was performed in accordance with the California Energy Commission's (CEC) *Rules of Practice and Procedure and Power Plant Site Regulations Revisions, Appendix B (g)(2)(C)* (CEC 2007). Cultural resources include prehistoric resources, historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, and sites, and sites and resources of concern to Native American and other ethnic groups.

The Applicant Pecho LD Energy Storage, LLC has proposed an Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage (A-CAES) facility in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, California (CA). Herein, references to the A-CAES facility equate to the location of the proposed approximately 80-acre PESC site. The approximately 80-acre PESC site will occur on a 303-acre parcel located just over one mile east of the City of Morro Bay, CA. The PESC will include a 400-megawatt (MW) x 8-hour energy storage facility that will provide electricity via a 3.75-mile transmission line (Preferred Route) to an existing substation located at the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Morro Bay Power Plant. Generator tie (gen-tie) line Alternate 1 (Alternate 1) is a minor alignment modification that takes a slightly more easterly path just west of the PESC site before intersecting with the Preferred Route prior to the PG&E substation. Gen-tie line Alternate 2 (Alternate 2) is a 4.1-mile interconnection transmission line that parallels an existing PG&E corridor slightly further to the north than Preferred Route.

This section includes the following discussions: Section 5.3.1 describes the cultural resources environment that might be affected by PESC; Section 5.3.2 provides the research design used to guide the records and archival search and subsequent fieldwork phase of the cultural resource inventory for PESC; Section 5.3.3 presents an environmental analysis of construction and operation of PESC; Section 5.3.4 discusses whether there will be any cumulative effects from PESC; Section 5.3.5 presents mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid construction impacts; PESC is not anticipated to require mitigation measures for cultural resources once it is operational; Section 5.3.6 discusses the laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) applicable to the protection of cultural resources; Section 5.3.7 lists the agencies involved and agency contacts, Section 5.3.8 discusses permits, and Section 5.3.9 lists reference materials used in preparing this section. Per CEC Data Adequacy requirements this Section includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 5.3A provides copies of agency consultation letters.
- Appendix 5.3B provides the cultural resource technical report which includes the following elements:
  - California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms for newly recorded and updated resources.
  - Archival research material, including copies of historic maps and aerial photographs of the project and a complete copy of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) literature search results.
  - Copies of previous technical reports occurring within 0.5 mile of PESC and DPR 523 forms for previously recorded resources occurring within 0.5 mile of PESC and 0.5 mile of linear facilities.
- Appendix 5.3C provides names and qualifications of personnel who contributed to this study.

The Applicant will submit Appendix 5.3B separately to the CEC under a request for confidentiality.

This section is consistent with state regulatory requirements for cultural resources pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This study complies with the CEC's cultural resources guidelines, and instructions to CEC Staff for the review of an Application for Certification (AFC). The cultural resources assessment prepared for the PESC project includes the following:

- A description of the Project area, affected environment, and existing site conditions,
- A summary of the ethnography, prehistory, and history of the region,
- A review of site records for previously completed cultural resource investigations and recorded sites within the 0.5-mile study area, and
- The results of the archaeological pedestrian surveys and Native American consultation.

A Register of Professional Archeologist (RPA), Cultural Resource Specialist (CRS), and Architectural Historian conducted the Applicant's study of cultural resources for the PESC project. Ken Victorino, RPA of Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) lead the Applicant's survey of cultural resources. The RPA certified Mr. Victorino as a professional archeologist in 1997. Mr. Victorino has more than two decades of professional experience in cultural resources management and exceeds the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology (U.S. National Park Service [NPS], 1983). Rincon submitted their findings to the Applicant in a cultural resource survey report titled, *Pecho Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage Facility Project Cultural Existing Conditions Report* dated September 2021. Rincon's Cultural Existing Conditions Report is included as Appendix 5.3B.

5.3.1 Affected Environment

For the purposes of this evaluation, the Project area is defined as the PESC site and potential gen-tie line routes, Preferred Alternative, Alternate 1, and Alternate 2. The Project area lies within the Morro Bay South, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and is within Township 29 South, Range 11 East, Sections 32, 33, and 34, and Township 30 South, Range 11 East, Section 4, Mt. Diablo baseline and meridian. The Project site consists of a parcel currently zoned for agriculture and is surrounded by other agricultural land. The San Luis Obispo County Assessor's parcel number for the PESC site is 073-121-009. The approximate center of the PESC site is at latitude 35.352727 °North and longitude 120.798764 °West.

The Project lies in the Central Coast archaeological region (Jones et al. 2007). The Central Coast archaeological region has been defined as extending from south of San Francisco Bay to the northern edge of the California Bight (Jones et al. 2007:125). Cultural historians generally divide the Central Coast's prehistoric cultural chronology into six periods:

- Paleo-Indian (ca. 10,000–8000 Before Common Era (BCE))
- Millingstone/Early Archaic (8000-3500 BCE)
- Early (3500-600 BCE)
- Middle (600 BCE-1000 Common Era (CE))
- Middle-Late Transition (1000-1250 CE)
- Late (1250 CE-historic contact [ca. 1769 CE]) Jones et al. (2007:137)

The following subsections discuss each of these six periods.

5.3.1.1 Cultural Chronology

Several chronological sequences have been devised to understand cultural changes along the Central Coast from the Millingstone Period to historic contact. Jones (1993) and Jones and Waugh (1995) presented a Central Coast sequence that integrated data from archaeological studies conducted since the 1980s. These authors present three periods in their prehistoric sequence after the Millingstone Period: Early, Middle, and Late. More recently, Jones and Ferneau (2002:213) updated the prehistoric sequence following the Millingstone Period to include a Middle-Late Transition period. The archaeology of the Central Coast after the Millingstone Period is distinct from that of the Bay Area and Central Valley, and the region has more in common with the Santa Barbara Channel area during the Middle and Middle-Late Transition periods, but few similarities during the Late Period (Jones and Ferneau 2002:213).

5.3.1.2 Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 10,000-8000 BCE)

When cultural historian William Wallace developed the Early Man horizon, referred to herein as the Paleo-Indian Period, in the 1950s, little evidence of human presence was known for the southern California coast prior to 6000 BCE. Archaeological work in the intervening years has identified numerous sites older than 6000 BCE, including coastal and Channel Islands sites (e.g., Erlandson 1991; Johnson et al. 2002; Moratto 1984).

The earliest accepted dates for occupation are from two of the Northern Channel Islands, located off the southern coast of Santa Barbara County. On San Miguel Island, Daisy Cave clearly establishes the presence of people in this area approximately 10,000 years ago (Erlandson 1991:105). On Santa Rosa Island, human remains from the Arlington Springs site have been dated to approximately 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002).

Only a few archaeological sites along the Central Coast are documented prior to 8,000 years ago. It is likely that earlier coastal sites are presently under water because it is estimated that 10,000 years ago sea levels were 15 to 20 meters lower than today (Bickel 1978:7). Estimates place the shore in central and southern California during this period farther west than today's current coastline (Breschini and Haversat 1991:126).

Recent data from Paleo-Indian sites in southern California indicate that the economy was a diverse mixture of hunting and gathering, with a major emphasis on aquatic resources in many coastal areas (e.g., Jones et al. 2002) and on Pleistocene Lake shores in eastern California (Moratto 1984:90–92). Although few Clovis-like or Folsom-like fluted points have been found in southern California (e.g., Erlandson et al. 1987), it is generally considered that the emphasis on hunting may have been greater during the Paleo-Indian Period than in later periods. A fluted point fragment was recovered from site CA-SBA-1951 on the Santa Barbara Channel coastal plain (Erlandson 1994:44; Erlandson et al. 1987). Another fluted point was reportedly found on the surface in Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County (Mills et al. 2005; Jones et al. 2007).

Large side-notched points of the Central Coast Stemmed series in this area date to as early as 8,000 years ago (Justice 2002). Points of this type have been recovered at Diablo Canyon (Greenwood 1972), Cross Creek (Fitzgerald 2000), Little Pico Creek (Jones and Waugh 1995), and the Honda Beach site (Glassow 1997), among others. At the Metcalf site, in southern Santa Clara Valley, Hildebrandt (1983) recovered two large side-notched points associated with charcoal dates ranging from 9,960 to 8,500 years ago.

Several recent archaeological investigations also provide clear evidence for human occupation of the Central Coast during the Paleo-Indian Period. Sites near Santa Margarita in San Luis Obispo County and Pismo Beach have produced radiocarbon dates from approximately 9,000 years ago (Jones and Ferneau 2002).

5.3.1.3 Millingstone Period (8000-3500 BCE)

The Millingstone Period, as defined by Wallace (1955, 1978) and recognized on the Central Coast by Greenwood (1972), is characterized by an ecological adaptation to collecting that is suggested by the appearance and abundance of well-made milling implements. Millingstones occur in large numbers for the first time in the region's archaeological record and are even more numerous near the end of this period. Aside from millingstones, typical artifacts from this period include crude core and cobble-core tools, flake tools, large side-notched projectile points, and pitted stones (Jones et al. 2007).

As evidenced by their toolkits and shell middens in coastal sites, people during this period practiced a mixed food procurement strategy. Subsistence patterns varied somewhat as groups became better adapted to their regional or local environments. Faunal remains identified at Millingstone Period sites point to broad-spectrum hunting and gathering of shellfish, fish, birds, and mammals, though large faunal assemblages are uncommon.

The Millingstone Period generally corresponds with King's (1981, 1990) Early Period of the Santa Barbara Channel area, although King's Early Period starts later and lasts longer (5500 – 1350 BCE). The Cross-Creek site is a Millingstone Period occupation site in San Luis Obispo County that returned radiocarbon dates ranging between 9,500 and 4,700 years ago. This site represents one of the oldest expressions of the pattern (Jones et al. 2007; Fitzgerald 2000:58).

Along the Central Coast, Millingstone period sites are most common on terraces and knolls, typically set back from the current coastline (Glassow et al. 1988:68, Erlandson 1994:46). However, sites have also been identified in other settings, including rocky coasts, estuaries, and nearshore interior valleys (Jones et al. 2007). The larger sites usually contain extensive midden deposits, possible subterranean house pits, and cemeteries. Most of these sites probably reflect intermittent use over many years of local cultural habitation and resource exploitation. Erlandson has noted that the typical Millingstone tools are not common in contemporaneous Channel Island sites, possibly reflecting an alternate insular resource exploitation pattern (Erlandson 1994:47).

5.3.1.4 Early Period (3500-600 BCE)

An extensive series of shoreline midden deposits within the Central Coast region have been dated to the Early Period, signifying an increase in occupation of the open coast (Jones 1995; Jones and Waugh 1995, 1997). These midden deposits include estuarine sites and open-coast sites in Monterey Bay area. Sites dating to this period are marked by large lithic artifact assemblages that include Central Coast Stemmed Series and side-notched projectile points. Square-stemmed and side-notched points have also been found in deposits at Willow Creek in Big Sur, and Little Pico II on the San Luis Obispo coast (Jones and Ferneau 2002). This trend, first identified by David Banks Rogers in 1929, was confirmed by Greenwood (1972) at Diablo Canyon and it has since been identified at numerous sites throughout the Central Coast. In many cases, manifestations of this trend are associated with the establishment of new settlements (Jones et al. 2007).

The cultural materials recovered from Early Period sites within the Central Coast region provide evidence for continued exploitation of inland plant and coastal marine resources. Artifacts include milling slabs and hand stones, as well as mortars and pestles, which were used for processing a variety of plant resources. Bi-pointed bone gorge hooks were used for fishing. Artifact assemblages also include a variety of *Olivella spp*. shell beads,

bone tools, and pendants made from talc schist. Square abalone (Haliotis spp.) shell beads have been found in Monterey Bay, but not in the Big Sur or San Luis Obispo areas (Jones and Waugh 1997:122).

Shell beads and obsidian are hallmarks of the trade and exchange networks of the central and southern California coasts. The archaeological record indicates a substantial increase in the abundance of obsidian at Early Period sites in the Monterey Bay and San Luis Obispo areas (Jones and Waugh 1997:124–126). Obsidian trade continued to increase during the following Middle Period.

5.3.1.5 Middle Period (600 BCE-1000 CE)

A pronounced trend toward greater adaptation to regional or local resources occurred during the Middle Period. For example, the remains of fish, land mammals, and sea mammals are increasingly abundant and diverse in archaeological deposits along the coast. Related chipped stone tools suitable for hunting were more abundant and diversified, and shell fishhooks became part of the toolkit during this period. Larger knives, a variety of flake scrapers, and drill-like implements are common during this period. Projectile points include large side-notched, stemmed, and lanceolate or leaf-shaped forms. Bone tools, including awls, are more numerous than in the preceding period, and the use of asphaltum adhesive became common. Sites from this period show the continued use of stemmed points and the disappearance of larger side-notched points (Jones and Klar 2007; Jones et al. 2007).

Complex maritime technology also proliferated during this period. Notable artifacts introduced during this period included circular shell fishhooks (Jones and Klar 2007:466), the compound bone fishhook between 300 and 900 CE, and the wooden plank canoe (tomol or tomolo) by at least 400 to 700 CE (Arnold 1995; Jones and Klar 2007:466; Kennett 1998:357; King 1990:87–88; Rick et al. 2002). Hand-hewn plank canoes, sewn together with cordage and then sealed with asphaltum, were “a uniquely sophisticated craft for prehistoric North America” (Jones and Klar 2007: 461). These large canoes were used extensively for travel and trade between the Channel Islands and the mainland; however, no evidence of their use north of Point Conception is known.

The introduction of shell fishhooks and plank canoes, their subsequent modifications, and the increased use of other capture devices such as nets appear to have led to a substantial focus on fishing in most coastal areas. A seasonal settlement pattern was still followed; however, large, permanently occupied settlements, particularly in coastal areas, appear to have been the norm by the end of the period (Kennett 1998).

5.3.1.6 Middle-Late Transition Period (1000-1250 CE)

The Middle-Late Transition Period is marked by relative instability and change, with major changes in diet, settlement patterns, and interregional exchange. The relatively ubiquitous Middle Period shell midden sites found along the Central Coast were abandoned by the end of the Middle-Late Transition Period, so most Middle-Late Transition Period and Late Period sites were first occupied during those periods (Jones and Ferneau 2002:213, 219).

During the Middle-Late Transition Period within the Central Coast region, projectile points diagnostic of both the Middle and Late Periods are found (Jones and Ferneau 2002:217). The points include large, contracting-stemmed types typical of the Middle Period, as well as Late Period small, leaf-shaped points, which likely reflect the introduction of the bow and arrow.

5.3.1.7 Late Period (1250 CE-Historic Contact)

Late Period sites are marked by small, finely worked projectile points, such as Desert side-notched and Cottonwood points, as well as temporally diagnostic shell beads. The small projectile points are associated with bow and arrow technology and indicate influence from the Takic migration into southern California. The Chumash only adopted useful technology from the Takic culture, as compared to the broad culture change that occurred to the south. Although shell beads were typical of coastal sites, trade brought many of these maritime artifacts to inland locations, especially during the latter part of the Late Period (Jones et al. 2007).

Common artifacts identified at Late Period sites include bifacial bead drills, bedrock mortars, hopper mortars, lipped and cupped Olivella shell beads, and steatite disk beads. The presence of beads and bead drills suggests that low-level bead production was widespread throughout the Central Coast region (Jones et al. 2007).

Unlike the large Middle Period shell middens, Late Period sites are more frequently single-component deposits. There are also more inland sites, with fewer and less visible sites along the Pacific shore during the Late Period. However, one Late Period shell midden has been identified on the coast in Morro Bay. The settlement pattern and dietary reconstructions indicate a lesser reliance on marine resources than observed for the Middle and Middle-Late Transition periods, as well as an increased preference for deer and rabbit (Jones 1995). An increase in sites with bedrock mortars during the Late Period further suggests that nuts and seeds began to take on a more significant dietary role (Jones et al. 2007).

5.3.1.8 Ethnographic Setting

The Project vicinity was historically occupied by the Obispeño Chumash, so called after their historic period association with Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa (Gibson 1983; Kroeber 1925). The precise location of the boundary between the Chumashan-speaking Obispeño Chumash and their northern neighbors, the Hokan-speaking Salinan, is debatable (Milliken and Johnson 2005); however, Jones and Waugh (1995:8) note that “those boundaries may well have fluctuated through time in response to possible shifts in economic strategies and population movement.”

The Chumash spoke six closely related Chumashan languages, which have been divided into two broad groups—Northern Chumash (consisting only of Obispeño) and Southern Chumash (Purisimeño, Ineseño, Barbareño, Ventureño, and Island Chumash) (Mithun 2004:389). The Chumashan language currently is considered an isolate stock with a long history in the Santa Barbara region (Mithun 2004:304). Groups neighboring the Chumash included the Salinan to the north, the Southern Valley Yokuts and Tataviam to the east, and the Gabrielino (Tongva) to the south. Chumash place names in the Project vicinity include Pismu (Pismo Beach), Tematatimi (along Los Berros Creek), and Tilhini (near San Luis Obispo) (Greenwood 1978:520).

Only a general outline of the lifeways of the Obispeño Chumash is known based on the limited ethnographic information (Greenwood 1978). Although their language was closer to Southern Chumash groups, the material culture and lifeways of the Northern Chumash appear to have been more like their northern neighbors, the Salinan. Accordingly, their populations in this area are thought to have been substantially lower than in the Santa Barbara Channel area, their villages smaller, and their livelihood based less on intensive use of marine fisheries (Glassow et al. 1988; Greenwood 1978).

Permanent Chumash villages included hemispherical dwellings arranged in close groups, with the chief having the largest dwelling for social obligations (Brown 2001). Each Chumash village had a formal cemetery marked by tall painted poles and often with a defined entrance area (Gamble et al. 2001:191). Archaeological studies have identified separate sections for elite versus common families within the cemetery grounds (King 1969).

The acorn was a dietary staple for the mainland Chumash, though its dominance varied by coastal or inland location. Chumash diet also included cattail roots, fruits and pads from cactus, and bulbs and tubers of plants such as amole (Miller 1988:89). On the coast, the wooden plank canoe (tomol) was employed in the pursuit of marine mammals and fish. The tomol not only facilitated marine resource procurement but also facilitated an active trade network maintained by frequent crossings between the mainland and the Channel Islands.

European colonization and missionization decimated Chumash populations (Johnson 1987). Traditional lifeways largely gave way to laborer jobs on ranches and farms in the Mexican and early American periods. Today, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is the only federally recognized Chumash tribe, though many people of Chumash descent continue to live throughout their traditional territory.

5.3.1.8.1 Historic Setting

Cultural historians generally divide post-European contact history for the state of California into three periods: the Spanish Period (1769–1822), the Mexican Period (1822–1848), and the American Period (1848–present). The following summarizes each of these three periods.

Spanish Period (1769-1822)

Initial European entry into the San Luis Obispo region began with the Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo Expedition in 1542. Cabrillo sailed along the coast, possibly landing in Morro Bay, and then continued as far north as San Francisco Bay (Chesnut 1993). In 1587, Pedro de Unamuno landed in what was most likely Morro Bay, but suffered casualties during an attack by Native Americans and left (Bean 1968). Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeño entered the San Luis Obispo region in 1595 as part of his exploration of the Alta California coast (Jones et al. 1994). The earliest detailed descriptions of the area come from members of Gaspar de Portolá's land expedition, which passed through the region in 1769 (Squibb 1984). Early travelers in the Central Coast region reported seeing no large Native American villages like those noted in the Santa Barbara Channel area.

Gaspar de Portolá and Franciscan Father Junípero Serra established the first Spanish settlement in Alta California at Mission San Diego de Alcalá in 1769. This was the first of 21 missions erected by the Spanish between 1769 and 1823. Portolá continued north, passing through the Project vicinity, and reaching San Francisco Bay in 1769. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, the fifth of 21 missions established by the Spanish in the California, was founded in 1772 (Rolle 2003).

Mexican Period (1822-1848)

The Mexican Period commenced when news of the success of the Mexican Revolution (1810-1821) against the Spanish crown reached California in 1822. This period saw the federalization of mission lands in California with the passage of the Secularization Act of 1833. This Act enabled Mexican governors in California to distribute former mission lands to individuals in the form of land grants. Successive Mexican governors made more than 700 land grants between 1822 and 1846, putting most of the state's lands into private ownership for the first time (Shumway 2007).

The secularization of the missions during the Mexican period resulted in approximately 500,000 acres of former mission lands being granted to Mexican citizens in San Luis Obispo County (San Luis Obispo 2006). Mexican governor Manuel Micheltorena granted six leagues to Pedro Narvaez in 1844. This grant came to be known as Paso de Robles (Shumway 2007). The Project site is located within this land grant.

American Period (1848-Present)

The American Period began with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, in which the United States agreed to pay Mexico $15,000,000 for the conquered territory, including California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. This period saw increased settlement throughout the state. Many Mexican ranchos were sold or otherwise acquired by Americans, and most were subdivided into agricultural parcels or towns. Rancho Paso de Robles was patented in 1866 to Petronillo Rios who then sold the land to James H. Blackburn, Daniel Drew Blackburn, and Lazarus Godehaux in 1857 for $8,000 (Shumway 2007; City of Paso Robles 2014).

5.3.1.8.2 County of San Luis Obispo

The County of San Luis Obispo was founded in 1850 (San Luis Obispo 2006). Roads were constructed throughout the County in the 1870s, primarily by Chinese laborers, leading to increased mobility throughout the County. In 1872, Captain John Harford began construction on the Pacific Coast Railway.

Dumke (1944) described San Luis Obispo County during the California land boom of the 1880s as “the great butter and cheese belt of southern California,” initially with land affordably priced between $18 and $25 per acre. By April 1887, an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people inhabited the region, and land prices increased dramatically. In 1894, the Southern Pacific Railroad completed a line from San Jose to San Luis Obispo encouraging trade and further settlement of the region.

In the early twentieth century, Port Harford was renamed Port San Luis and oil from the Santa Maria and Taft-Coalinga fields was shipped to areas outside the County from the port beginning in 1907 and 1913, respectively. The California Polytechnic School was established in 1901 as a high school and eventually became California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). The County’s agriculture and ranching production supplied U.S troops during World War I and helped its residents weather the Great Depression of the 1930s. At the start of World War II, the U.S. War Department transferred nearly 100,000 military personnel to bases at Morro Bay, Camp San Luis Obispo, Camp Roberts, and Cambria.

5.3.1.8.3 City of Morro Bay

In 1864, Franklin Riley visited Morro Bay while traveling the coast. Riley knew that there was a pocket of public land between Don Canet’s Rancho San Bernardo and the coast, so he decided to homestead this land and later founded the City of Morro Bay in 1870. Few roads led to Morro Bay, so transportation relied on steamers. Riley built the Embarcadero and planned the town next to the bay to accommodate sea trade and travel. Throughout the 1870s, the town grew rapidly because of trade along the Embarcadero (Hammond 2010).

Land development became very important in Morro Bay in the early 1900s, with several real estate developers promoting the city. During the 1920s, numerous housing developments were carved out of ranches and farms (Hammond 2010). The Morro Bay Power Plant was constructed in the 1950s, providing jobs and tax revenue. Morro Bay was incorporated as a general law city in 1964 and elected its first City Council (Morro Bay Online 2013).

5.3.2 Resources Inventory

The Applicant's archeologist performed a cultural resources inventory, which included archival research, architectural reconnaissance, and a surface pedestrian survey for the project. The study area for PESC was determined in accordance with CEC Rules of Practice and Procedure & Power Plant Site Certification Regulations for assessing potential impacts on archaeological and architectural resources (CEC 2007). The archaeological survey area includes the PESC site and generator tie-line corridors, a 200-foot buffer around the PESC site, and a 50-foot buffer around all PESC linears. The following subsections present the results of the resource inventory.

The Applicant's architectural historian conducted a desktop analysis to identify built environment properties which may require formal recordation and evaluation as permitting efforts with the CEC continues. A buffer around the Project elements was established in accordance with CEC guidelines to identify built environment properties which may require evaluation. This included a 0.5-mile buffer around the PESC site, which is in an area that is rural in character. The gen-tie line alternatives generally follow existing utility corridors and lead to the City of Morro Bay, which is more urbanized in character. As such, the study area included the linear facility routes and the adjacent parcel to either side.

5.3.2.1 Archival Research

The Applicant's archeologist conducted a cultural resources records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) utilizing information obtained from the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara in August 2021. The search was performed to identify previously conducted cultural resources studies and previously recorded cultural resources within the Project area and a 0.5-mile radius surrounding it. This search radius encompasses the entire research area required by the CEC for archaeological and architectural resources.

The CCIC records search identified 165 previous cultural studies within the 0.5-mile records search radius, 15 of which included portions of the Project area. **Table 5.3-1** presents the 15 studies that intersect the project area. The previous studies include literature reviews, field surveys, impact assessments, cultural resources monitoring reports, and archaeological excavations. CCIC data indicates that eight of the 15 previous cultural studies intersect gen-tie route Preferred Alternative near Highway 101 and downtown Morro Bay; five include the southern portions of gen-tie line routes Preferred Alternative and Alternate 1; and two include portions of the PESC site. Additionally, the Applicant's archaeologist noted the presence of two previously recorded archaeological sites within the study area. Appendix 5.3B includes copies of all reports required for data adequacy.

Table 5.3-1: Previous Cultural Resource Studies that Intersect the Project Area

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Affiliation
SL-01246	Singer, Clay and Atwood, J.	1988	Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for the Williams Brother's Project, Near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California.	Singer & Associates
SL-01529	Dills, Charles	1990	Archaeological potential of 10-acre parcel on Quintana Road, Chorro Valley	None given
SL-01730 (other ID: 02769)	Singer, Clay	1991	Cultural resources survey and impact assessment for the coastal streams Project, Phase II, San Luis Obispo County, California	Singer & Associates
SR-02217	Parker, John	1992	Archaeological Investigation of the Proposed Chorro Flats Enhancement and Management Plan	Parker & Associates
SR-02834	Gibson, Robert O.	1995	Results of phase one archaeological surface survey for the main street to Highway 41 bikeway Project, Morro Bay, California	None given
SR-03583	Parker, John	1999	Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Morro Bay Power Plant Property	Parker & Associates
SR-04051	Unknown	2000	Phase I Archaeological Survey Along Onshore Portions of the Global West Fiber Optic Cable Project	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
SR-04051A	Unknown	2000	Appendix A: Project Route Maps and Photographs Associated with Project Route as of July 1999; Appendix B: Project Route Maps and Photographs Associated with Project Route as of December 1999; Appendix C: Project Route Maps and Photographs Associated with Project Route as of March 2000	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
SR-04451	Parker, John	2001	Cultural Resource Investigation of the Proposed Off-Site Satellite Parking Area, Duke Power Plant APN 073-128-025	Parker & Associates
SR-04767	Singer, Clay	2002	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for a 103.7 Acre Property on Canet Road in Chorro Valley, San Luis Obispo County, CA	Singer & Associates
SR-05575	Parker, John	2005	Cultural Resource Investigation of the Wakefield Parcel APN 073-121-015, Along Chorro Creek	Parker & Associates

Report Number	Author	Year	Title	Affiliation
SR-06502	Farrell, Nancy	2007	Archaeological Survey of a Portion of +-40 acres of Little Morro Creek Road, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California	Cultural Resource Management Services
SR-06518	Haydu, Damon M and Price, Barry A	2010	Cultural Resources Inventory for the Morro Bay-Templeton 230 kV Towers Replacement Project, San Luis Obispo County, California	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
SR-07416	Laurie, Leroy	2016	Letter Report for Cultural Resources Monitoring for the Morro Bay Substation Security Fence Installation Project (PM 31014524), Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California / SWCA No. 35803.01	SWCA Environmental Consultants

Source: Rincon 2021.

The Applicant's architectural historian performed a desktop analysis of the built environment in September 2021. As part of the background research for this project the architectural historian reviewed the State Built Environment Resources Directory, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historic Interest, and the California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility.

The desktop analysis included a review of historical aerial photographs and data from the San Luis Obispo County Assessor. The Applicant's architectural historian completed a review of historical topographic maps and aerial imagery to ascertain the development history of the PESC site and potential gen-tie line routes. As part of the archival study, the Applicant's architectural historian reviewed the following imagery: *Google Earth imagery, USGS topographic quadrangles for 1897, 1937, 1943, and 1951 Cayucos; 1900, 1948, and 1958 San Luis Obispo; and 1965, 1976, 1981, 1998, and 2012 Morro Bay South, and aerial photographs dating to 1956, 1959, 1963, 1981, 1994, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012*. The following summarizes the results of the Applicant's architectural historian's desktop analysis of the study area:

- The Built Environment Resources Directory for San Luis Obispo County did not list any properties within 0.5-mile of the Project area which are designated in the NRHP or CRHR.
- A review of the NRHP/CRHR and other local historical databases was negative for listings within the 0.5-mile search radius of the Project area.
- Topographic maps from 1897 to 1937 show the proposed Project site and gen-tie line routes Preferred Alternative, Alternate 1, and Alternate 2 as undeveloped land.
- Development increasing in downtown Morro Bay and along Highway 101 from the 1930s through the 1950s (USGS 2021a-m).
- Historic aerial imagery of the Project site and gen-tie route Preferred Alternative from the 1950s to present shows the land has been used for agriculture and subject to ground disturbances including land clearing, plowing, and tilling, as well as development of adjacent land and construction of roads (NETR 2021).

- Gen-tie route Alternate 2 and approximately 70 percent of gen-tie route Preferred Alternative are located in open space that appears to have remained undeveloped over the years.
- Historic aerial photographs show the northwestern portion of gen-tie Preferred Alternative has been previously graded and disturbed by construction of Highway 101 and the Morro Bay Substation in the mid-1940s.
    - Residential developments east of Highway 101 near gen-tie Preferred Alternative and the northernmost portion of gen-tie Alternate 2 appearing in the 1950s (NETR 2021; UCSB FrameFinder 2021).
- Development of roads, infrastructure, and residential communities have continued to present; however, no buildings or structures were depicted within the Project site or potential gen-tie line routes.

As a result of the desktop analysis, the Applicant's architectural historian identified 39 properties within the study area that are 45 years of age or older. **Table 5.3-2** presents the 39 properties within the study area that were constructed in or before 1976.

Table 5.3-2: Properties in Study Area Which Are 45 Years or Older

APN	Address	Year Built	Source
066-331-036	1281 Embarcadero, Morro Bay	Pre-1956	Aerial
066-331-046	N/A	Pre-1956	Aerial
068-291-052; 068-183-007	1548 Main Street, Morro Bay	1966	Assessor
068-183-033	499 Little Morro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1934	Assessor
068-183-018	485 Little Morro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1963	Assessor
068-152-006	1364 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1969	Assessor
068-152-007	1350 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1956	Assessor
068-152-013	1300 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1967	Assessor
068-152-014	1296 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1972	Assessor
068-152-015	1286 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1976	Assessor
068-152-016	1280 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1969	Assessor
068-152-022	1210 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1971	Assessor
068-152-024	1326 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1972	Assessor
068-152-026	1310 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1976	Assessor
068-152-029	1250 Hillcrest Drive, Morro Bay	1973	Assessor
068-155-001	490 Radcliff Avenue, Morro Bay	1971	Assessor
068-155-013	450 Radcliff Avenue, Morro Bay	1967	Assessor
068-159-001	600 Downing Avenue, Morro Bay	1965	Assessor
068-159-007	540 Downing Avenue, Morro Bay	1959	Assessor

APN	Address	Year Built	Source
068-159-008	530 Downing Avenue, Morro Bay	1958	Assessor
068-159-012	480 Downing Avenue, Morro Bay	1972	Assessor
068-159-018	508 Downing Avenue, Morro Bay	1970	Assessor
068-163-001	448 Radcliff Avenue, Morro Bay	1970	Assessor
068-411-009	N/A	Ca. 1971	Aerial
073-111-016	1500 Little Morro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1973	Assessor
073-121-009	2284 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1970	Assessor
073-121-010	2095 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1931	Assessor
073-121-011	1910 Quinatana Road, Morro Bay	1910	Assessor
073-131-019	465 Chorro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1957	Assessor
073-131-021	460 Chorro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1974	Assessor
073-133-011	475 Chorro Creek Road, Morro Bay	1932	Assessor
073-181-020	2630 Canet Road, Morro Bay	1937	Assessor
073-181-029	2645 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1930	Assessor
073-181-040	2710 San Luisito Creek Road, Morro Bay	1948	Assessor
073-181-044	2746 San Luisito Creek Road, Morro Bay	1974	Assessor
073-181-046	2616 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1954	Assessor
073-181-047	2618 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1936	Assessor
073-181-048	2735 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1961	Assessor
073-182-012	2548 Canet Road, Morro Bay	1963	Assessor

Source: Rincon 2021.

Table 5.3-3 presents a list of properties which may be 45 years pending further research or become 45 years during the PESC planning and permitting phase.

Table 5.3-3: Properties in Study Area Which May Be or Become 45 Years Old

APN	Address	Year Built	Source
068-154-016	1396 Clarabelle Drive, Morro Bay	1978	Assessor
068-164-014	389 Dunbar Street, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial
068-411-017	1405 Teresa Drive, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial
073-131-004	N/A	Ca. 1981	Aerial
073-131-016	445 Chorro Creek Road, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial
073-181-008	2655 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	1977	Assessor
073-181-010	2675 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial
073-181-024	2649 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial
073-181-028	2621 Adobe Road, Morro Bay	Ca. 1981	Aerial

Source: Rincon 2021.

5.3.2.2 Archaeological Field Survey and Results

On September 10, 2021, the Applicant's archeologist conducted a pedestrian field survey of the Project area using 15-meter transects. Exposed ground surfaces were examined for artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, ground stone milling tools), ecofacts (marine shell and bone), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, and historic-period debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Surface scrapes were conducted to improve ground surface visibility and survey reliability. Ground disturbances such as rodent burrows and drainages were also visually inspected.

The Applicant's archeologist-maintained survey accuracy using a handheld Global Positioning Satellite unit and a georeferenced map of the Project area. Archeologists documented site characteristics and survey conditions using field records and a digital camera. The Applicant's archeologist will maintain copies of survey notes and digital photographs at their Ventura, CA office. The pedestrian survey of the PESC site and portions of the proposed gen-tie routes were positive for cultural resources in all surveyed areas.

5.3.2.3 Architectural Survey and Results

The Applicant's architectural historian has not yet performed a field survey of the study area's-built environment.

5.3.2.4 Native American Consultation

The Applicant's archeologist contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 24, 2021, to request a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list of Native Americans culturally affiliated with the Project area. **Appendix 5.3A** includes the correspondence between Rincon and the NAHC. A response from the NAHC was received on September 24, 2021, stating that the results of the SLF search were positive, meaning tribal heritage resources are noted in the Project vicinity (the SLF search is conducted by USGS quadrangle map, an approximately 50 to 70 square mile area). The NAHC does not provide the specific location of any tribal heritage resources. The NAHC provided a list of 16 individuals from ten tribal groups within the region.

5.3.3 Environmental Analysis

This section describes the environmental impacts of PESC's construction and operation.

5.3.3.1 Significance Criteria

Factors typically used to evaluate the significance of project-related impacts are set forth in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Appendix G is a screening tool, not a method for setting thresholds of significance. Appendix G is typically used in the Initial Study phase of the CEQA process, asking a series of questions. The purpose of these questions is to determine whether a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, a Mitigated Negative Declaration, or a Negative Declaration.

As the Governor's Office of Planning and Research stated, "Appendix G of the Guidelines lists a variety of potentially significant effects but does not provide a means of judging whether they are indeed significant in a given set of circumstances." The answers to the Appendix G questions are not determinative of whether an impact is significant or less than significant. Nevertheless, the questions presented in CEQA Appendix G are instructive. Appendix G (V) (a, b, d) indicates that an impact to cultural resources would be significant if the project will have the following effects:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries

5.3.3.2 Construction Impacts

The Applicant's archeologist recommends additional surveys to determine the presence or absence of archaeological materials within the Project area and the incorporation of mitigation measures during construction to limit adverse impacts to cultural resources. With the incorporation of mitigation measures described in Section 5.3.5 and additional surveys, construction impacts to archaeological resources are expected to be less than significant.

5.3.3.3 Operational Impacts

PECS's operations will occur primarily within the main facility and will not require additional ground disturbing activity. Section 5.13, Visual Resources discusses impacts and mitigation measures related to PESC's aesthetics. As such, impacts to cultural resources from the PESC's operations will be less than significant or no impact.

5.3.4 Cumulative Effects

A cumulative impact refers to a proposed project's incremental effect together with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects whose impacts may compound or increase the incremental effect of the proposed project (PRC Section 21083; CCR, Title 14, Sections 15064[h], 15065[c], 15130, and 15355). Most of the projects in the near vicinity of PESC are likely to involve minor modifications to existing buildings and are likely to impact cultural resources that are not significant. PESC is unlikely, therefore, to have impacts that would combine cumulatively with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. As such, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on cultural resources.

5.3.5 Mitigation Measures

5.3.5.1 Undiscovered Archaeological Sites

The Applicant will implement measures, based on state and federal regulations and guidelines, to mitigate any potential adverse impacts that could occur if there were an inadvertent discovery of buried cultural resources. These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Designation of a CRS to investigate any cultural resource finds made during construction,
- Implementation of a construction worker training program,
- Monitoring during initial clearing of the power plant site and excavation at the plant site,
- Procedures for halting construction in the event that there is an inadvertent discovery of archaeological deposits or human remains,
- Procedures for evaluating an inadvertent archaeological discovery, and
- Procedures to mitigate adverse impacts on any inadvertent archaeological discovery determined significant.

5.3.5.1.1 Designated Cultural Resources Specialist

The Applicant will retain a designated CRS who will be available during the earth-disturbing portion of the PESC construction periods. The CRS will inspect and evaluate any finds of buried archaeological resources that might occur during the construction phase. The CRS will meet the minimum qualifications for Principal Investigator on federal projects under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The CRS will be qualified in site detection, evaluation of deposit significance, consultation with regulatory agencies, and plan site evaluation and mitigation activities.

If there is a discovery of archaeological remains during construction, the CRS, in conjunction with the construction superintendent and environmental compliance manager will make certain that construction activity stops in the immediate vicinity of the find. Construction in the find's area will remain stopped until the CRS can evaluate the find and make a significance determination. The CRS will inspect the find and evaluate its potential significance in consultation with CEC staff and CEC compliance project manager (CPM). The CRS will make a recommendation as to the significance of the find and any measures that will mitigate adverse impacts of construction on a significant find. Once the Applicant's CRS has completed the process, construction within the area of the find will resume.

5.3.5.1.2 Construction Worker Training

The Applicant's CRS will prepare a construction worker sensitivity training program to ensure that employees implement mitigation measures if cultural resources are discovered during PESC construction. The Applicant's CRS will provide this training to each construction worker as part of their environmental, health, and safety training. The training will include photographs of various types of historic and prehistoric artifacts, and it will describe the specific steps that workers will take in the event of an unanticipated discovery of cultural material, including human remains. The construction worker sensitivity training program will explain the importance of, and legal basis for, the protection of significant archaeological resources. The training will also be presented in the form of a written brochure.

5.3.5.1.3 Emergency Discovery

If construction staff or others identify archaeological resources during construction, they will immediately notify the CRS and the site superintendent, who will halt construction in the immediate vicinity of the find, if necessary. The archaeological monitor or CRS will use flagging tape, rope, or other means as necessary to delineate the area of the find within which construction will halt. The delineated area will include the excavation trench from which the archaeological finds came and any piles of dirt or rock spoil from that area. Construction will not occur within the delineated find area until the CRS, in consultation with the CEC staff and CEC CPM, can inspect and evaluate the find.

5.3.5.1.4 Site Recording and Evaluation

The CRS will follow accepted professional standards in recording any find and will submit the standard Form DPR 523 and location information to the CHRIS at the CCIC. If the CRS determines that the find is not significant and the CEC CPM concurs, construction will proceed without further delay. If the CRS determines that they need additional information to determine if the find is significant, the designated CRS will, in consultation with the CEC, prepare a plan and a timetable for evaluating the find.

5.3.5.1.5 Mitigation Planning

If the CRS and CPM determine that a find is significant, the CRS will prepare and conduct a mitigation plan in accordance with state guidelines. This plan will emphasize the avoidance, if possible, of significant archaeological resources. If avoidance is not possible, recovery of a sample of the deposit from which archaeologists can define scientific data to address archaeological research questions will be considered an effective mitigation measure for damage to or destruction of the deposit.

The mitigation program, if necessary, will be carried out as soon as possible to avoid construction delays. Construction will resume at the site as soon as the CRS completes the field data collection phase of any data recovery efforts. The CRS will verify the completion of field data collection by letter to the Applicant and the CPM so that they can authorize the continuation of construction activities.

5.3.5.1.6 Curation

The CRS will arrange for curation of archaeological materials collected during an archaeological data recovery mitigation program. Curation will be performed at a qualified curation facility meeting the standards of the California Office of Historic Preservation. The CRS will submit field notes, stratigraphic drawings, and other materials developed as part of the data recovery/mitigation program to the curation facility along with the archaeological collection, in accordance with the mitigation plan.

5.3.5.1.7 Report of Findings

If a data recovery program is planned and implemented during construction as a mitigation measure, the Applicant's CRS will prepare a detailed scientific report summarizing results of the excavations to recover data from an archaeological site. This report will describe the site soils and stratigraphy, describe, and analyze artifacts and other recovered materials, and draw scientific conclusions regarding the results of the excavations. The Applicant's CRS will submit this report to the curation facility with the collection.

5.3.5.2 Inadvertent Discovery of Human Burials

If human remains are found during the PESC's construction, project officials are required by the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5) to contact the San Luis Obispo Coroner. If the coroner determines that the find is Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC. The NAHC, as required by PRC Section 5097.98, determines and notifies the Most Likely Descendant with a request to inspect the burial and make recommendations for treatment or disposal.

5.3.6 Law, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

Among the local LORS discussed in this section are certain ordinances, plans, or policies of the federal government, the State of California, and San Luis Obispo County. **Table 5.3-4** presents a summary of applicable LORS.

Table5.3-4: Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards for Cultural Resources

Jurisdiction	LORS	Requirements / Applicability	Administering Agency	Application for Certification Section Explaining Conformance
Federal	Section 106, NHPA	Applies if the project would require a federal permit (such as a Clean Water Act Section 404d permit). The lead federal agency must consider the effect of issuing the permit on significant cultural resources.	California Office of Historic Preservation	Section 5.3.6.1
State	The Warren-Alquist Act 1974, as amended	Requires cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources be considered in consideration of an AFC. Requires that a portion of any such resources on public land be set aside for public access.	CEC	Section 5.3.6.2
State	CEQA Guidelines	Project construction may encounter archaeological and/or historical resources.	CEC	Section 5.3.6.2
State	California PRC Section 5020-5029.5	Establishes the criterion for the California Register of Historical Resources and creates the	CEC; State Historic Preservation Office; Department of Parks and Recreation	Section 5.3.6.2

Jurisdiction	LORS	Requirements / Applicability	Administering Agency	Application for Certification Section Explaining Conformance
		California Historic Landmarks Committee and authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation to designate Registered Historical Landmarks and Registered Points of Historical Interest; establishes criteria for the protection and preservation of historic resources.		
State	PRC Section 5097.98	Construction may encounter Native American graves; NAHC assigns Most Likely Descendant.	State of California	Section 5.3.6.2
State	PRC Section 5097.5/5097.9	Would apply only if some project lands were acquired by the state (currently no state land).	State of California	Section 5.3.6.2
San Luis Obispo County	Policy CR 3.1 Historic Preservation	The County will provide for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of features that reflect the County's historical, architectural, Native American, archaeological, cultural, and aesthetic heritage.	County of San Luis Obispo Building and Planning	Section 5.3.6.3
San Luis Obispo County	Policy CR 3.2 Historic Preservation Programs	The County supports and encourages historic preservation activities. County agencies should cooperate and coordinate their activities with preservation activities.	County of San Luis Obispo Building and Planning	Section 5.3.6.3

Jurisdiction	LORS	Requirements / Applicability	Administering Agency	Application for Certification Section Explaining Conformance
San Luis Obispo County	Policy CR 4.3 Cultural Resources and Open Space	The County supports the concept of cultural landscapes and the protection and preservation of archaeological or historical resources as open space or parkland on public or private lands.	County of San Luis Obispo Building and Planning	Section 5.3.6.3
San Luis Obispo County	Policy CR 4.4 Development Activities and Archaeological Sites	Protect archaeological and culturally sensitive sites from the effects of development by avoiding disturbance where feasible. Avoid archaeological resources as the primary method of protection.	County of San Luis Obispo Building and Planning	Section 5.3.6.3

5.3.6.1 Federal LORS

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800, requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on federal projects that have an effect on historic properties. This action must take place prior to the expenditure of federal funds or permits. The NHPA only covers historic properties determined to be eligible for listing on the NRHP. Section 106 applies when the following two thresholds are met:

- There is a Federal or federally licensed action, including grants, licenses, and permits.
- That action has the potential to affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP.

5.3.6.2 State LORS

Warren-Alquist Act of 1974, as amended: This Act requires cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources be considered in consideration of an AFC. The Warren-Alquist Act of 1974 requires that a portion of any such resources on public land be set aside for public access.

California Environmental Quality Act: CEQA requires a cultural resource review to determine whether a project will have a significant effect on archaeological sites or a property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic group eligible for inclusion in the CRHR. CEQA equates a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource with a significant effect on the environment and defines substantial adverse change as demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration that would impair historical significance. CEQA requires a lead

agency to identify and examine environmental effects that may result in significant adverse effects. The following public resource codes (PRC) considered under CEQA are relevant to this analysis of archaeological and historical resources:

- **PRC Division 13 Environmental Quality – Chapter 2.6 General**:
  - Section 21084.1 stipulates that any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR is presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Resources listed in a local historic register or deemed significant in a historical resource survey are presumed historically or culturally significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates they are not. A resource that is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, is not included in a local register of historic resources or is not deemed significant in a historical resource survey may nonetheless be historically significant.
  - When an archaeological resource is listed in or is eligible to be listed in the CRHR, Section 21084.1 requires that any substantial adverse effect to that resource be considered a significant environmental effect.
  - Where a project may adversely affect a unique archaeological resource, Section 21083.2 requires the lead agency to treat that effect as a significant environmental effect and prepare an environmental impact report.
- **PRC Division 5 Parks and Monuments - Chapter 1.7 Archaeological, Paleontological, and Historical Sites**:
  - If human remains are discovered, the county coroner must be notified within 48 hours and there should be no further disturbance to the site where the remains were found.
  - Section 5097.94 requires that if a coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner is responsible for contacting the NAHC within 24 hours.
  - Section 5097.98 requires the NAHC immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American so they can inspect the burial site and make recommendations for treatment or disposal.

PESC will comply with these requirements related to cultural resources through the implementation of the mitigation measures described in Section 5.3.5.

5.3.6.3 Local LORS

The Conservation and Open Space Element of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan sets forth the County's goals and policies with regards to the preservation of cultural and historic resources. The intent of San Luis Obispo County's goals and policies are to identify and protect cultural and historical resources. The following policies apply to the construction of the PESC:

- **Policy CR 3.1 Historic Preservation**: The County will provide for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of features that reflect the County's historical, architectural, Native American, archaeological, cultural, and aesthetic heritage.

- **Policy CR 3.2 Historic Preservation Programs**: The County supports and encourages historic preservation activities. County agencies should cooperate and coordinate their actions with preservation activities.
- **Policy CR 4.3 Cultural Resources and Open Space**: The County supports the concept of cultural landscapes and the protection and preservation of archaeological or historical resources as open space or parkland on public or private lands.
  - The identification and interpretation of cultural resources should consider the larger landscape in order to address the relationships between archaeological sites, landscape features and the environment.
- **Policy CR 4.4 Development Activities and Archaeological Sites**: Protect archaeological and culturally sensitive sites from the effects of development by avoiding disturbance where feasible. Avoid archaeological resources as the primary method of protection.
  - In areas likely to contain Native American and cultural resources, include Native Americans in tasks such as Phase I, II, and III surveys, resource assessment, and impact mitigation. Consult with Native American representatives early in the development review process and in the design of appropriate mitigations. Enable their presence during archaeological excavation and construction in areas likely to contain cultural resources.
  - Require cultural resources studies (i.e., archaeological, and historical investigations) by a professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards when development is proposed within an archaeologically or historically sensitive area. These studies will conform to the County's approved guidelines.

5.3.7 Agencies and Agency Contacts

Table 5.3-5 lists the state agencies involved in cultural resources management for the project and a contact person at each agency. These agencies include the NAHC and, for federal undertakings, the California Office of Historic Preservation.

Table 5.3- 5: Agency Contacts for Cultural Resources

Issue	Agency	Contact
Native American traditional cultural properties	Native American Heritage Commission	1550 Harbor Blvd Suite 100, West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 373-3710
Federal agency NHPA Section 106 compliance	California Office of Historic Preservation	Julianne Polanco, SHPO 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816 916-445-7000

5.3.8 Permits and Permit Schedule

Other than certification by the CEC, no state, federal, or local permits are required by PESC for the management of cultural resources. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer will not be required under Section 106 of the NHPA unless PESC requires a federal permit.

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