

Sites Reservoir Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement

State Clearinghouse #2001112009

Prepared by

**The Sites Project Authority and
US Bureau of Reclamation**



August 2017

18. Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources

18.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the cultural resources setting for the Extended, Secondary, and Primary study areas. Cultural resources are sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that may have traditional or cultural value. This broad range of resources includes archaeological sites that reflect the prehistoric and historic-era past; historic-era resources, such as buildings and structures; landscapes and districts; and traditional cultural properties (TCPs), i.e., those resources that are historically rooted in a community's beliefs, customs, and practices.¹ Tribal cultural resources (TCRs), which were established by the State of California under Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and are similar resources that have specific cultural value to Native Americans, are also addressed. Descriptions and maps of these three study areas are provided in Chapter 1 Introduction.

Permits and authorizations for cultural and tribal resources are presented in Chapter 4 Environmental Compliance and Permit Summary. The regulatory setting for cultural resources is presented in Appendix 4A Environmental Compliance.

This chapter focuses primarily on the Primary Study Area. Potential impacts in the Secondary and Extended study areas were evaluated and discussed qualitatively. Potential local and regional impacts from constructing, operating, and maintaining the alternatives were described and compared to applicable significance thresholds. Mitigation measures are provided for identified potentially significant impacts, where appropriate.

18.2 Affected Environment

18.2.1 Extended Study Area

18.2.1.1 Prehistoric Context

Archaeologists study the physical evidence of past human behavior called “material culture.”² The archaeologists look for changes in material culture over time and across geographic regions to reconstruct the past. Change occurs in material culture because the culture of a single group of people has evolved in place due to environmental factors, population changes that include socioeconomic dynamics within the group, or influences from “outside” populations. There is evidence that neighboring populations shared ideas that are reflected by material culture traits. In some cases, a culture was replaced by a new group of people who arrived with artifacts that reflected their unique culture.

Archaeological evidence currently indicates that people arrived in California around 13,000 years ago. Engaged in the hunting of large game and gathering of plant foods, these early nomadic groups entered the region not only by land, but also by sea, following the coastline in boats (Moratto and Chartkoff, 2007). There is a minimal record of the earliest inhabitants, and their presence is demonstrated mainly by

¹ Traditional cultural properties (TCPs) are a resource type that fall under the purview of the National Register of Historic Places and must be addressed under the National Historic Preservation Act. Tribal cultural resources (TCRs) are similar types of resources established by the State of California under Assembly Bill (AB) 52 as resources that must be addressed under Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The definitions of TCPs and TCRs overlap but are not the same; therefore, a resource that is a TCP may not be a TCR, and vice versa.

² Material culture refers to artifacts or other items that reflect a group's culture. Examples of material culture include, but are not limited to, items such as tools of flaked stone (e.g., arrowheads, scrapers), pottery, bone fish hooks, and shell beads.

- GCID Main Canal Connection to the TRR
- TRR to Funks Creek Pipeline
- Delevan Pipeline Complex:
 - Previously inaccessible portions of the Delevan Pipeline Complex. The entire pipeline route may require a survey if the Alternative D pipeline is 150 feet south of the proposed Alternative A alignment.
 - The proposed substation near Colusa for Alternative D
- Overhead Power Lines and Substations:
 - Previously unsurveyed portions of the Sites/Delevan Overhead Power Line parallel to the Delevan Pipeline for Alternatives A, B, and C, and the Delevan Overhead Power Line route for Alternative D.
 - Substation associated with an overhead power line tie-in to the existing WAPA or PG&E transmission lines in the vicinity of Funks Reservoir
 - Various previously unsurveyed, low-voltage overhead power line routes within the Proposed Project area
- Project Buffer:
 - Previously unsurveyed portions within the Sites Reservoir Complex buffer, primarily east of the inundation area

Previously unsurveyed area within the Holthouse Reservoir Complex buffer

An inventory of the built environment resources outside of the proposed Sites Reservoir Inundation Area was conducted in the fall of 2012 by URS Corporation (URS) (Jimenez, 2013). This inventory identified and recorded 15 resources on DPR 523 forms within the Primary Study Area. An evaluation of the resources recommended that six appear eligible for listing in the NRHP and the CRHR, and nine do not appear eligible for the NRHP or CRHR. Two resources, Funks Dam and the Tehama-Colusa Canal, were found to be less than 45 years old and were not recorded. However, both resources are considered contributing elements to the CVP, which Reclamation has determined eligible for listing the NRHP (Perry, 2017). A listing of the recorded and evaluated resources is presented in Table 18-1. Descriptions of the resources are presented in the “Historic-era Resources” section

Table 18-1
Built Environment Resources Identified Outside of the Sites Reservoir Inundation Area in the Primary Study Area

Property Type	Site Name/Location	County	Owner	Description	Evaluation Recommendation
Farmstead	Huffmaster Road Farmstead (1), Antelope Valley	Colusa	Private Ownership	Two circa 1964 and 1962 ranch-style houses, pre-1952 barns, non-historic period outbuildings	Ineligible
Farmstead	Huffmaster Road Farmstead (2), Antelope Valley	Colusa	Private Ownership	Circa 2006 single-family house, circa 1920 barn and 1970 shop	Ineligible

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