

CULTURAL RESOURCES

■ CONTEXT

Partial site surveys and literature research indicate that no archaeological sites, prehistoric cultural resources, or historic structures have been found in the University Community planning area. A representative of the Native American Heritage Commission indicates: “a search of the sacred lands file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate UCP area.” An evaluation of the Le Grand and Fairfield Canals concludes that “neither of the canals appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register or State Register because they are not significant historically or for their engineering, and because they lack integrity to their periods of significance.”

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal

Protection of any archaeological, prehistoric, historic, Native American, or other cultural site or structure and paleontological resources that may be found in the University Community.

Objective

C I.0 To establish a process for the identification and protection of archaeological resources.

Policies

C I.1 Require that an intensive archaeological survey of the University Community planning area be conducted concurrent with the preparation of sub-area Specific Plans in accordance with CEQA §15064.5. (*Imp 2.5*)

C I.2 Require that, prior to ground disturbance, developers shall notify contractors that they are required to watch for potential archaeological sites and artifacts and to notify the County of Merced immediately upon any find. Evidence of potential archaeological sites and artifacts includes, but is not limited to, aboriginal or historic skeletal remains, chipped stone, groundstone, shell and bone artifacts, concentrations of fire cracked rock, shell, bone and historic features such as privies, trash pits or concentrations, and building foundations. (*Imp 2.7*)

C I.3 Require that, should a previously unidentified cultural resource be discovered during grading, trenching, or other on-site earthwork, construction activity be stopped within 100 feet of the identified

materials until a professional archaeologist certified by the Registry of Professional Archaeologists RDA), and the County of Merced evaluates the significance of the find and suggest appropriate mitigation(s), as determined necessary. (*Imp 2.7*)

Objective

- C 2.0** To establish a process for the identification and protection of paleontological resources.

Policy

- C 2.1** Require that, prior to construction, construction personnel shall be informed of the potential for encountering significant paleontological resources. All construction personnel shall be informed of the need to stop work in the vicinity of a potential discovery until a qualified paleontologist has been provide the opportunity to assess the significance of the find and implement appropriate measures to protect or scientifically remove the find. Construction personnel shall also be informed of the requirement that unauthorized collection of fossil resources is prohibited. (*Imp 2.7*)