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## 4.11 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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This section considers and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed General Plan on cultural and paleontological resources. Cultural resources include historical buildings and structures, historical districts, historical sites, prehistoric archaeological sites, other prehistoric and historic objects and artifacts, and human remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas.

### 4.11.1 EXISTING SETTING

#### PREHISTORY

The Central Valley of California has long held the attention of California archaeologists dating to the 1920s. Indeed, archaeological work in the area during the 1920s and 1930s led to the development of the first cultural chronology for Central California. The chronology identified three archaeological cultures, which were named Early, Transitional, and Late. Subsequently the three cultural groups were subsumed into three time periods, designated the Early, Middle, and Late Horizons.

The Windmill Pattern is representative of the Early Horizon in the Rancho Cordova area. The Early Horizon is highlighted by: large, heavy, stemmed and leaf-shaped projectile points made of a variety of materials; charmstones; shell beads and ornaments; trident fish spears; flat slab millstones; small numbers of mortars; and ventrally extended burials oriented toward the west. The Windmill Pattern probably emphasized hunting and fishing, with seed collecting as a supplement to the diet. The Windmill Pattern dates from 4,500-2,500 Before Present (B.P.).

The Cosumnes Culture is representative of the Middle Horizon in the Rancho Cordova area. The Middle Horizon is highlighted by: large, heavy, lanceolate concave base projectile points made of a variety of materials; charmstones; shell beads and ornaments; cobble mortars and evidence of wooden mortars; numerous bone tools and bone ornaments; and tightly flexed burials with variable orientation and red ochre staining. Middle Horizon cultures are generally quite different from the Windmill Pattern, but do continue to exhibit some of the characteristics of Windmill such as similar projectile point forms. The similarities in projectile point forms may be indicative of cultural continuity and/or functional and adaptational success of particular forms. The Middle Horizon dates from 2,500 B.P.-A.D. 500.

The Hotchkiss Culture is representative of the Late Horizon in the Rancho Cordova area. The Late Horizon primarily represents both local innovation and the blending of new cultural traits introduced into the Central Valley primarily from the north. It is distinguished by intensive fishing, extensive use of acorns, elaborate ceremonialism, social stratification, and cremation of the dead. The Hotchkiss Culture dates from A.D. 500-to Euroamerican contact.

For a more detailed description of the prehistoric background of Rancho Cordova and the surrounding area, please refer to the Archaeological and Historical Resources Report for the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (Nadolski 2005).

#### ETHNOGRAPHY

A large population of Native Americans speaking more than 100 different languages and occupying a variety of ecological settings inhabited California prior to the arrival of Euroamericans. Rancho Cordova and the surrounding area are in Valley Nisenan territory.

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The basic social and economic group of the Nisenan was the family or household unit, with the nuclear and/or extended family forming a corporate unit. Among the Nisenan these groups combined to form tribelets, which were their largest sociopolitical unit. Each tribelet had a chief or headman, and tribelet populations were as large as 500 persons living in permanent villages that were usually located on raised areas to avoid flooding.

Valley Nisenan used a variety of utilitarian stone tools, with obsidian being a highly valued material for tool manufacture. Other tools and weapons were made of bone, wood, and plant materials including stirring sticks, mush paddles, pipes, hide preparation equipment, and baskets. Fishing formed a large component of Valley Nisenan subsistence activity. Consequently, they used an extensive assemblage of fishing-related implements including: spears; cordage lines with bone fishhooks; harpoons with detachable points; dams for stream diversion; nets of cordage and basketry; weirs; and an array of fish traps. Other food processing equipment included bedrock mortars and pestles for grinding acorns, buckeyes, pine nuts, seeds, berries, and meat. Valley Nisenan also fostered trading relationships with surrounding groups for commodities such as salt, marine shells, and basketry.

For a more detailed description of the ethnographic background of Rancho Cordova and the surrounding area, please refer to the Archaeological and Historical Resources Report for the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (Nadolski 2005).

### HISTORIC PERIOD

Spanish exploration of the Central Valley dates to the late 1700s, but exploration of the Northern section of the Central Valley and contact with its Native American population did not begin until the early 1800s. At this time, the attention of Spanish missionaries shifted away from the coast and its dwindling Native American population, to the conversion and missionization of interior populations. This time period also marks the beginning of the decline of Native American populations due to Euroamerican diseases and the relocation of many groups to missions, which resulted in not only the loss of life, but also the loss of Native American traditional culture.

The second quarter of the nineteenth century encompasses the Mexican Period (ca. 1821-1848) in California. This period is an outgrowth of the Mexican Revolution, and its accompanying social and political views affected the mission system across California. In 1833, the missions were secularized and their lands divided among the Californians as land grants called ranchos. These ranchos, such as the 35,000-acre Rancho Rio de los Americanos, part of which is located within the Planning Area, facilitated the growth of a semi-aristocratic group that controlled the large ranchos.

During the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century trails were being blazed across the plains and mountains facilitating the westward migration of Euroamericans. Groups such as the 1841 Bartleson-Bidwell party and the 1844 Stevens-Murphy party that traveled to California typify these early immigrants. The commencement of the Mexican-American war in 1846 also affected the exploration and development of California, including the identification of new trails across the Sierra Nevada.

The Rancho Rio de los Americanos was originally granted to William Leidesdorff and subsequently sold to Joseph Folsom. Neither of these individuals, however, developed the rancho, and it does not reflect patterns of rancho development and use that are typical in other parts of California. Regardless, the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in 1848 caused a dramatic alteration of both Native American and Euroamerican cultural patterns in California. Once news of the discovery of gold spread, a flood of Euroamericans began to enter the

region, and gravitated to the area of the "Mother Lode". Initially, the Euroamerican population grew slowly, but soon exploded as the presence of large deposits of gold was confirmed. The population of California quickly swelled from an estimated 4,000 Euroamericans in 1848 to 500,000 in 1850. This large influx of immigrants had a negative effect on Native American cultures, and marks the beginning of a relatively rapid decline of Native American populations and culture.

The second half of the nineteenth century witnessed an ongoing and growing immigration of Euroamericans into the area, an influx also accompanied by regional cultural and economic changes. These changes are highlighted by the development of the Rancho Cordova area associated with expanding business opportunities related to gold mining, agriculture, and/or ranching.

For a more detailed description of the history of Rancho Cordova and the surrounding area, please refer to the Archaeological and Historical Resources Report for the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (Nadolski 2005).

### KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

#### Prehistoric and Historic Native American Cultural Resources

A records search at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento identified eight prehistoric sites and one prehistoric/historic site within the Planning Area (see **Table 4.11-1**). Most of the prehistoric sites are located along the American River and creeks and some of the sites are known to contain human remains. The prehistoric and historic Native American occupation of the Rancho Cordova area is generally related to the Middle and Late Horizon. Prehistoric sites CA-SAC-155/156 and CA-SAC-319 and prehistoric/historic site CA-SAC-320/H are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

#### Historic Resources

A records search at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento identified twenty-three historic resources (e.g., historical archaeological sites, historic buildings, and artifacts) and one prehistoric/historic site within the Rancho Cordova Planning Area (see **Table 4.11-1**). These sites are distributed across the Planning Area and are generally related to the development of transportation networks and agriculture. Historic archaeological site CA-SAC-428-H, prehistoric/historic archaeological site CA-SAC-320/H, the Pfingst Realty building, and the American River Grange Hall are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and the CRHR. The Sigma Test Area (Nike Hercules Rocket Test Area) is also determined potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

### PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Paleontology is defined as a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas. This resource can be an important educational resource for the reasons mentioned before, and are nonrenewable once destroyed. CEQA offers protection for these sensitive resources and requires that they be addressed during the EIR process.

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A search of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) collections database did not identify any evidence of significant paleontological resources in the Rancho Cordova Planning Area. The area does not appear sensitive for the presence of paleontological resources.

While no fossils have been identified in the Planning Area, there have been fossils recovered from the Riverbank Formation. These finds have dated to the late Pleistocene period and include fish, frogs, snakes, turtles and plant species. Other fossil remains have included bison, horse, camel, mammoth, ground sloth and wolf.

**TABLE 4.11-1  
KNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA**

| Trinomial/Address            | Description  | Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places   |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| CA-Sac-155/156               | Prehistoric site with fire-affected rock and debitage; historic refuse (Shields and Williamson Mounds) | Evaluated 1988; <b>eligible</b>                            |
| CA-Sac-157                   | Prehistoric midden site with fire-affected rock and debitage; historic refuse (Wamser Mound #1)        | Not Evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-158                   | Prehistoric habitation site with artifacts (Wamser Mound #2)   | Not Evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-159                   | Prehistoric habitation site with fire-affected rocks and debitage (Wamser Mound #3)                    | Not Evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-205                   | Prehistoric village with groundstone tools and debitage  | Not Evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-308-H                 | Dredge mine tailings (P-34-335)  | Not Evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-319                   | Prehistoric village with groundstone tools and debitage  | Evaluated 1995; <b>eligible</b>                            |
| CA-Sac-320/H                 | Prehistoric village with groundstone tools and debitage; historic Chinese occupation site              | Evaluated 2001; <b>eligible</b>                            |
| CA-Sac-428-H                 | Sacramento Valley Railroad (P-34-455)  | Evaluated 1993; <b>eligible</b> ; Reaffirmed 1997          |
| CA-Sac-435-H                 | Historic refuse scatter  | Evaluated 1994; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
| CA-Sac-469                   | Prehistoric midden with fire-affected rock and debitage  | Not evaluated  |
| CA-Sac-480-H                 | Southern Pacific Railroad, Fair Oaks spur  | Evaluated 1995; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
| PA-99-63                     | Historic well  | Evaluated 1999; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
| PA-99-64                     | Possible historic cellar   | Evaluated 1999; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
|                              | Folsom Boulevard   | Recognized as historically significant to local government |
| 9878 Folsom Blvd             | Pfingst Realty Company building  | Evaluated 1993; <b>eligible</b>                            |
| Dawes Street and Folsom Blvd | Mills Station Building   | Evaluated 1993; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
| 9857 Horn Road               | Silva Brothers Winery (Currently Rascals Restaurant)   | Evaluated 1993; <b>ineligible</b>                          |
| 2720 Kilgore Road            | American River Grange Hall   | Evaluated 1996; <b>eligible</b>                            |
|                              | Aerojet Site 5: Military Personnel Dump  | Not evaluated  |

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| Trinomial/Address   | Description                                      | Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places |
|---|--|--|
|   | Air Force Plant 70                               | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| Rio del Oro Planning Area                                     | Sigma Test Area (Nike Hercules Rocket Test Area) | Evaluated in 2005; <b>potentially eligible</b>           |
| 10595 Folsom Blvd   | Fire Station 61                                  | Ineligible   |
| 12395 Folsom Blvd   | Fire Station 63                                  | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| 12401 Folsom Blvd   | Retail/Restaurants                               | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| 12415 Folsom Blvd   | Demolished                                       | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
|   | Hazel Ave/Nimbus Dam                             | Not evaluated  |
| 2909 Mather Field Rd  | Dominos Pizza/Vacant                             | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| 2919 Mather Field Rd  | Residence  | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| 10298 McCracken Dr  | Residence  | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| State Route 16  | Highway  | <b>Ineligible</b>  |
| White Rock Road   | Road   | Not evaluated  |
| Whiterock Road; 0.2 miles east of Whiterock Road/Sunrise Blvd | 15 Mile House (Demolished)                       | State Historic Landmark #698                             |
| Kilgore Road between Trade Center and Sun Center Drive        | Kilgore Cemetery                                 | Not evaluated  |

### 4.11.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

#### STATE

#### California Environmental Quality Act

Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the effects of their actions on both "historical resources" and "unique archaeological resources." Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." Section 21083.2 requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on "unique archaeological resources."

"Historical resource" is a term with a defined statutory meaning (Public Resources Code, Section 21084.1 and State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5 [a], [b]). The term embraces any resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The CRHR includes resources listed in or formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, as well as some California State Landmarks and Points of Historical Interest.

Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts) or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory may be eligible for listing in the CRHR and are presumed to be "historical resources" for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (Pub. Resources Code, Section 5024.1 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 4850).

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Unless a resource listed in a survey has been demolished, lost substantial integrity, or there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that it is otherwise not eligible for listing, a lead agency should consider the resource to be potentially eligible for the CRHR.

In addition to assessing whether historical resources potentially impacted by a proposed project are listed or have been identified in a survey process (Public Resources Code 5024.1 [g]), lead agencies have a responsibility to evaluate them against the CRHR criteria prior to making a finding as to a proposed project's impacts to historical resources (Public Resources Code, Section 21084.1 and State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5 [a][3]). Following CEQA Guidelines Section 21084.5 (a) and (b) an historical resource is defined as any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that:

- a) Is historically or archeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political or cultural annals of California; and
- b) Meets any of the following criteria:
  - 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
  - 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
  - 3) 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; or
  - 4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Archaeological resources may also qualify as "historical resources". California Public Resources Code 5024 requires consultation with the Office of Historic Preservation when a project may impact historical resources owned by the State.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, subdivision (b)(3) and Section 15126.4 subdivision (b) provide mitigation measures related to impacts on historical resources. Following these mitigation measures, including preservation in place, data recovery through excavation, and the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), a project's impact on any historical resources shall generally be considered mitigated to a level of less than significant. Potential eligibility also rests upon the integrity of the resource. Integrity, following 14 California Code of Regulations Section 4852(c), is defined as the retention of the resource's physical identity that existed during its period of significance. Integrity is determined through considering the setting, design, workmanship, materials, location, feeling and association of the resource.

As noted above, CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether proposed projects will impact "unique archaeological resources." Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, subdivision (g), states that "'unique archaeological resource' means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

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- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person."

Treatment options under Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 include activities that preserve such resources in place in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation under Section 21083.2 include excavation and curation or study in place without excavation and curation (if the study finds that the artifacts would not meet one or more of the criteria for defining a "unique archaeological resource").

Advice on procedures to identify cultural resources, evaluate their importance and estimate potential effects, and consult with Native Americans is given in several agency publications such as the Technical Assistance Series produced by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the Tribal Consultation Guidelines produce by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR). The technical assistance series and the consultation guidelines strongly recommend that Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested persons and corporate entities, including but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associations and societies, be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains and associated grave goods regardless of their antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code and Public Resources Code 5097.9).

When human remains are discovered, the protocol to be followed is specified in California Health and Safety Code, which states:

*In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined, in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 27460) of Part 3 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code, that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27492 of the Government Code or any other related provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner and cause of death, and the recommendations concerning treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.*

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, subdivision (e), requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted within 24 hours. At that time, the lead agency must consult with the appropriate Native Americans, if any, as timely identified by the NAHC. Section 15064.5 directs the lead agency (or applicant), under certain circumstances, to develop an agreement with the Native Americans for the treatment and disposition of the remains.

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In addition to the mitigation provisions pertaining to accidental discovery of human remains, the State CEQA Guidelines also require that a lead agency make provisions for the accidental discovery of historical or archaeological resources, generally. Pursuant to Section 15064.5, subdivision (f), these provisions should include "an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation should be available. Work could continue on other parts of the building site while historical or unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place."

Senate Bill 18 (Cal. Gov. Code Sections 65352.3, 65352.4) requires that, prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan proposed on or after March 1, 2005, a city or county must consult with Native American tribes with respect to the possible preservation of, or the mitigation of impacts to, specified Native American places, features, and objects located within that jurisdiction.

Paleontological resources are classified as non-renewable scientific resources and are protected by state statute (e.g., Public Resources Code Section 5097.5 (a), Removal or Destruction; Prohibition), and Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines. No state or local agencies have specific jurisdiction over paleontological resources. No state or local agency requires a paleontological collecting permit to allow for the recovery of fossil remains discovered as a result of construction-related earth moving on state or private land in a project site.

### LOCAL

#### **Sacramento County General Plan**

The existing Sacramento County General Plan was adopted in December of 1993 and is currently undergoing update. The Planning Area is subject to the County General Plan (Conservation Element). The County General Plan directly governs the Planning Area that is outside the limits of the City of Rancho Cordova; the County General Plan indirectly governs the portion of the Planning Area within the City limits, because the City adopted the County's General Plan upon its incorporation in 2003. Sacramento County General Plan policies CO-155 to CO-171 for cultural resources are applicable to the Planning Area outside the existing city limits of Rancho Cordova.

General Plan policies CO-155 to CO-171 address the identification, protection, inadvertent discovery, and interpretation of archaeological and historical sites and buildings. These policies include: conducting archaeological and historical studies to identify cultural resources; determining the eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources of cultural resources; implementing mitigation measures for the protection of cultural resources; establishing protocols for inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources; establishing architectural preservation standards; and considering the interpretive potentials of cultural resources.

#### **4.11.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

##### STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Following Public Resources Code Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1, and Section 15064.5 and Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, Rancho Cordova considers cultural resource impacts to be significant if a project would:



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- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource or an historical resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, respectively;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 defines “substantial adverse change” as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource is materially impaired.

### METHODOLOGY

Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC) cultural resources staff performed all archaeological and historical investigations associated with the General Plan. These investigations included a records search at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento, archival research at other repositories (e.g., California State Library), and field investigation of the Planning Area. These investigations identified thirty-one cultural resources or prehistoric/historic sites within the Planning Area (see **Table 4.11-1**). The archaeological and historical sensitivity of the Planning Area is depicted on **Figure 4.11-1**.

The General Plan process was proposed prior to March 1, 2005 and is therefore not subject to Senate Bill (SB) 18. Regardless, the City of Rancho Cordova understands the importance of contacting local Tribes and values their participation in the planning process. PMC cultural resources staff requested a sacred lands search and a list of Native American contacts and SB 18 contacts from the NAHC for the Planning Area. The sacred lands search did not identify any Native American cultural resources either within or near the Planning Area. All Native American groups and/or individuals identified by the NAHC were contacted, and Tribes were asked to consult regarding the General Plan.

### PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

**Impact 4.11.1** Adoption of the City of Rancho Cordova General Plan could result in the potential disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated prehistoric/historic artifacts and features) and human remains. This is considered a **potentially significant** impact.

Part of the Planning Area has been subject to archaeological and historical investigations, but the entire area has not been subjected to investigation. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Roadway System Sizing Map is expected to result in significant impacts to at least one known historic resource site considered as potentially eligible under the National Register of Historic Places. Consequently, development under the City of Rancho Cordova General Plan would cause a substantial adverse impact on the significance of known cultural resources, and could also adversely impact undiscovered cultural resources and/or human remains.

#### Proposed General Plan Policies and Action Items That Provide Mitigation

The following General Plan policies and action items address cultural resource issues:

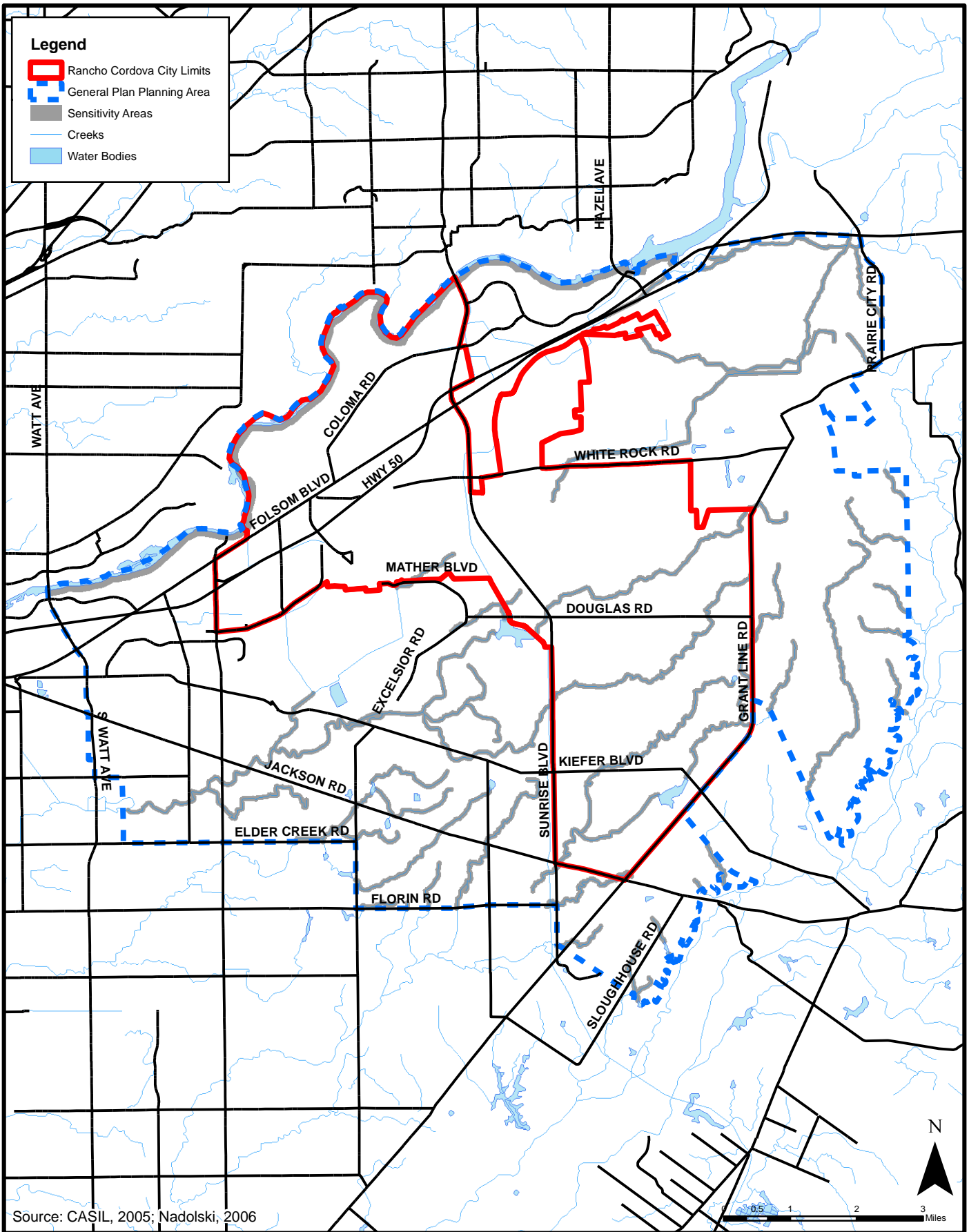
*Policy CHR.1.1                      Establish, support, and fund programs that enhance Rancho Cordova's sense of community and identity, such as the collection of*

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oral histories; genealogical research; and the acquisition of collections of historic artifacts, memorabilia, or other information relevant to the history of the City.

- Action CHR.1.1.1      *Establish a permanent museum or cultural center that may be used to display artifacts, documents, and public art relevant to the City's history and cultural diversity.*
- Action CHR.1.1.2      *Locate an interim facility to store and exhibit historical artifacts in a central location.*
- Action CHR.1.1.3      *Pursue the establishment of a cultural center in which to display artifacts, documents, and public art relevant to the City's history and cultural diversity.*
- Action CHR.1.1.4      *Establish a display case at City Hall to showcase items of historical or cultural value.*
- Action CHR.1.1.5      *Create a historic resources webpage on the City website to provide a forum to identify and discuss issues related to the history of the community.*
- Action CHR.1.1.6      *Compile a thorough record of the City's incorporation, including records, documents, photos, and artifacts.*
- Policy CHR.1.2          *Foster the preservation and enhancement of the City's history.*
- Action CHR.1.2.1      *Consider creating a heritage park for the relocation of historic buildings and structures, such as the Pfingst Realty Company Building, to facilitate their preservation and increase their educational and cultural value.*
- Action CHR.1.2.2      *Improve and interpret Kilgore Cemetery. Interpreting the cemetery will include determining who is buried in the older portion of the site and increasing public awareness of the cemetery's significance.*
- Policy CHR.1.3          *Promote the incorporation of monuments, plaques, signs, or artwork identifying Rancho Cordova's diverse history into development projects and on pedestrian and bicycle trails. Possible highlights include the area's agricultural, mining, Pony Express, and aerospace and aviation activities.*
- Policy CHR.3.1          *Establish and promote programs that identify, maintain, and protect buildings, sites, or other features of the landscape possessing historic or cultural significance.*
- Action CHR.3.1.1      *Develop and regularly update a comprehensive historic resources inventory, coordinating with other agencies as necessary. The inventory will contain a list of all historically significant properties, as well as historic archaeological and paleontological resources in the Planning Area and a map depicting their locations.*
- Action CHR.3.1.2      *Working with other groups and agencies, create a repository to store and exhibit historical artifacts. Additionally, collect information on historic and cultural resources not in the City's possession.*



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City of Rancho Cordova  
Planning Department

Figure 4.11-1  
Archaeological and Cultural Sensitivity Areas  
Within the General Plan Planning Area

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- Action CHR.3.1.3 Pursue recognition of all eligible historic properties by the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.
- Policy CHR.3.2 Pursue and provide financial assistance for historic preservation projects to be undertaken by the City, private or non-profit developers, and residents.
- Action CHR.3.2.1 Actively apply for grants and other sources of funding for historic preservation. Possible sources of funding may include the Community Development Block Grant program; the California Heritage Fund Grant program, which is provided by the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002; and funds available through the Certified Local Government program.
- Action CHR.3.2.2 Provide financial incentives, such as reduced permit fees, to residents as encouragement to rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and structures.
- Action CHR.3.2.3 Supply information on federal and state tax incentive programs for historic preservation to groups involved in the preservation of community history.
- Action CHR.3.2.4 Participate in the Mills Act Tax Abatement Program, an economic incentive program for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by private owners. Private owners that pledge to rehabilitate and maintain the historical and architectural character of their properties for at least a ten-year period receive substantial property tax savings under the Act.
- Policy CHR.3.3 Maintain and enhance the historic character of Rancho Cordova by establishing review procedures for the remodeling and reconstruction of buildings and other structures.
- Action CHR.3.3.1 Establish a Historic Preservation Committee that provides input to the Planning Department regarding the protection of historic resources in Rancho Cordova.
- Action CHR.3.3.2 Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance that provides guidelines for the preservation and enhancement of historic buildings and structures.
- Action CHR.3.3.3 Require historic resources studies (i.e., archaeological and historical investigations) for all applicable discretionary projects, in accordance with CEQA regulations. The studies should identify historic or cultural resources in the project area, determine their eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, and provide mitigation measures for any resources in the project area that cannot be avoided.
- Action CHR.3.3.4 Incorporate the following two conditions in applicable permits for all discretionary projects.

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The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any cultural resources (e.g., prehistoric or historic artifacts) or paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are uncovered during construction. All construction must stop in vicinity of the find and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology or a paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.

The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any human remains are uncovered and all construction must stop in vicinity of the find. The Planning Division shall notify the County Coroner according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed.

- Policy CHR.3.4            Promote the integration or maintenance of historically accurate designs and features in residential and commercial structures.
- Action CHR.3.4.1        Provide property owners and developers with design assistance, including information on the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and structures.
- Action CHR.3.4.2        Create a program to encourage the reuse of salvaged architectural materials.
- Policy CHR.4.1           Promote community participation in the preservation of historic resources in Rancho Cordova.
- Action CHR.4.1.1        Recognize citizens who have made a significant contribution to documenting community history or who have demonstrated excellence in maintaining or rehabilitating a historic resource.
- Action CHR.4.1.2        Establish education programs to inform the community about local history.

### Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the above General Plan policies and action items would assist in reducing significant impacts to one known cultural resource, as well as to any unknown cultural resources. However, it is uncertain whether all significant impacts to unknown cultural resources can be avoided or mitigated to a level of less-than-significant level through implementation of the General Plan. Because of this uncertainty, this impact is considered **significant and unavoidable**.

### **Paleontological Resources**

- Impact 4.11.2**        Adoption of the Rancho Cordova General Plan could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). This is considered a **potentially significant** impact.

A search of the University of California, Berkeley Museum of Paleontology collections database did not identify any evidence of the existence of paleontological resources or potential in the

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Planning Area. Development under the City of Rancho Cordova General Plan could impact undiscovered paleontological resources, though the likelihood of such paleontological resources existing in the Planning Area is considered low.

### Proposed General Plan Policies and Action Items That Provide Mitigation

The following action item addresses paleontological resources:

*Action CHR.3.3.4      Incorporate the following two conditions in applicable permits for all discretionary projects.*

*The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any cultural resources (e.g., prehistoric or historic artifacts) or paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are uncovered during construction. All construction must stop in vicinity of the find and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology or a paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.*

*The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any human remains are uncovered and all construction must stop in vicinity of the find. The Planning Division shall notify the County Coroner according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed.*

### Mitigation Measures

**MM 4.11.2**      The following text change shall be made to Action CHR.3.3.3:

Require historic resources and paleontological studies (i.e., archaeological and historical investigations) for all applicable discretionary projects, in accordance with CEQA regulations. The studies should identify paleontological, historic or cultural resources in the project area, determine their eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, and provide mitigation measures for any resources in the project area that cannot be avoided.

Implementation of the above General Plan Action Item and Mitigation Measure MM 4.11.2 would ensure that potential paleontological resource impacts are mitigated to **less than significant**.

### 4.11.4 CUMULATIVE SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### CUMULATIVE SETTING

The cumulative setting associated with the Rancho Cordova General Plan includes proposed, planned, reasonably foreseeable, and approved projects and development in the region as described in Section 4.0. Developments and planned land uses within the region would contribute to potential conflicts with cultural and paleontological resources. These resources include archaeological resources associated with Native American activities and historic

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resources associated with settlement, farming, gold mining, and economic development. Similarly, proposed and approved projects and adoption of the General Plan could impact undiscovered paleontological resources.

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

**Impact 4.11.3** Adoption of the Rancho Cordova General Plan along with foreseeable development in the region could result in the disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. This contribution is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

As noted under Impact 4.11.1, the proposed General Plan is expected to result in potentially significant cultural resource impacts and will contribute to the cumulative loss of prehistoric and historic resources in the region. This contribution is expected to be considerable, when combined with other past, present and foreseeable development in the region.

#### Proposed General Plan Policies and Action Items That Provide Mitigation

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Policy CHR.1.1</i>   | <i>Establish, support, and fund programs that enhance Rancho Cordova's sense of community and identity, such as the collection of oral histories; genealogical research; and the acquisition of collections of historic artifacts, memorabilia, or other information relevant to the history of the City.</i> |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.1</i> | <i>Establish a permanent museum or cultural center that may be used to display artifacts, documents, and public art relevant to the City's history and cultural diversity.</i>  |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.2</i> | <i>Locate an interim facility to store and exhibit historical artifacts in a central location.</i>  |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.3</i> | <i>Pursue the establishment of a cultural center in which to display artifacts, documents, and public art relevant to the City's history and cultural diversity.</i>  |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.4</i> | <i>Establish a display case at City Hall to showcase items of historical or cultural value.</i>   |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.5</i> | <i>Create a historic resources webpage on the City website to provide a forum to identify and discuss issues related to the history of the community.</i>   |
| <i>Action CHR.1.1.6</i> | <i>Compile a thorough record of the City's incorporation, including records, documents, photos, and artifacts.</i>  |
| <i>Policy CHR.1.2</i>   | <i>Foster the preservation and enhancement of the City's history.</i>   |
| <i>Action CHR.1.2.1</i> | <i>Consider creating a heritage park for the relocation of historic buildings and structures, such as the Pfingst Realty Company Building,</i>  |

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to facilitate their preservation and increase their educational and cultural value.

- Action CHR.1.2.2 *Improve and interpret Kilgore Cemetery. Interpreting the cemetery will include determining who is buried in the older portion of the site and increasing public awareness of the cemetery's significance.*
- Policy CHR.1.3 *Promote the incorporation of monuments, plaques, signs, or artwork identifying Rancho Cordova's diverse history into development projects and on pedestrian and bicycle trails. Possible highlights include the area's agricultural, mining, Pony Express, and aerospace and aviation activities.*
- Policy CHR.3.1 *Establish and promote programs that identify, maintain, and protect buildings, sites, or other features of the landscape possessing historic or cultural significance.*
- Action CHR.3.1.1 *Develop and regularly update a comprehensive historic resources inventory, coordinating with other agencies as necessary. The inventory will contain a list of all historically significant properties, as well as historic archaeological and paleontological resources in the Planning Area and a map depicting their locations.*
- Action CHR.3.1.2 *Working with other groups and agencies, create a repository to store and exhibit historical artifacts. Additionally, collect information on historic and cultural resources not in the City's possession.*
- Action CHR.3.1.3 *Pursue recognition of all eligible historic properties by the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.*
- Policy CHR.3.2 *Pursue and provide financial assistance for historic preservation projects to be undertaken by the City, private or non-profit developers, and residents.*
- Action CHR.3.2.1 *Actively apply for grants and other sources of funding for historic preservation. Possible sources of funding may include the Community Development Block Grant program; the California Heritage Fund Grant program, which is provided by the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002; and funds available through the Certified Local Government program.*
- Action CHR.3.2.2 *Provide financial incentives, such as reduced permit fees, to residents as encouragement to rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and structures.*
- Action CHR.3.2.3 *Supply information on federal and state tax incentive programs for historic preservation to groups involved in the preservation of community history.*



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- Action CHR.3.2.4      *Participate in the Mills Act Tax Abatement Program, an economic incentive program for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by private owners. Private owners that pledge to rehabilitate and maintain the historical and architectural character of their properties for at least a ten-year period receive substantial property tax savings under the Act.*
- Policy CHR.3.3      *Maintain and enhance the historic character of Rancho Cordova by establishing review procedures for the remodeling and reconstruction of buildings and other structures.*
- Action CHR.3.3.1      *Establish a Historic Preservation Committee that provides input to the Planning Department regarding the protection of historic resources in Rancho Cordova.*
- Action CHR.3.3.2      *Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance that provides guidelines for the preservation and enhancement of historic buildings and structures.*
- Action CHR.3.3.3      *Require historic resources studies (i.e., archaeological and historical investigations) for all applicable discretionary projects, in accordance with CEQA regulations. The studies should identify historic or cultural resources in the project area, determine their eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, and provide mitigation measures for any resources in the project area that cannot be avoided.*
- Action CHR.3.3.4      *Incorporate the following two conditions in applicable permits for all discretionary projects.*
- The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any cultural resources (e.g., prehistoric or historic artifacts) or paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are uncovered during construction. All construction must stop in vicinity of the find and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology or a paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.*
- The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any human remains are uncovered and all construction must stop in vicinity of the find. The Planning Division shall notify the County Coroner according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed.*
- Policy CHR.3.4      *Promote the integration or maintenance of historically accurate designs and features in residential and commercial structures.*
- Action CHR.3.4.1      *Provide property owners and developers with design assistance, including information on the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and structures.*

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- Action CHR.3.4.2      *Create a program to encourage the reuse of salvaged architectural materials.*
- Policy CHR.4.1      *Promote community participation in the preservation of historic resources in Rancho Cordova.*
- Action CHR.4.1.1      *Recognize citizens who have made a significant contribution to documenting community history or who have demonstrated excellence in maintaining or rehabilitating a historic resource.*
- Action CHR.4.1.2      *Establish education programs to inform the community about local history.*

### Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the above General Plan policies and action items would assist in reducing significant impacts to known and unknown cultural resources. However, it is uncertain whether all significant cultural resources can be avoided or mitigated to a level of less-than-significant from implementation of the General Plan. Because of this uncertainty, the General Plan's contribution to cumulative cultural resource impacts is **cumulatively considerable** and is considered a **significant and unavoidable impact**.

### **Paleontological Resources**

**Impact 4.11.4**      Adoption of the Rancho Cordova General Plan along with any foreseeable development in the region could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

As noted in **Impact 4.11.2**, the proposed General Plan is could result in potentially significant paleontological resource impacts. However, implementation of General Plan Action Item CHR.3.3.4 and Mitigation Measure **MM 4.11.2** would ensure that potential contributions to cumulative paleontological resource impacts from the proposed General Plan is reduced to **less than cumulatively considerable**.

### Mitigation Measures

None required.

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### REFERENCES

City of Rancho Cordova. 2006. *City of Rancho Cordova General Plan*. Rancho Cordova, CA.

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