This section was prepared by RMC Water and Environment.

3B.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES – WATER

3B.5.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT SETTING

As provided in Chapter 2, "Alternatives," the placement of new structural facilities as part of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would be limited to Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area and, therefore, the description of the affected environment for cultural resources is focused to Zone 4. No new facilities are proposed within Zones 1, 2, and 3 and, therefore, no additional description of Zones 1, 2, and 3 is necessary to support the analysis of potential impacts to historical and archaeological resources.

PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

There is substantial evidence that much of the Great Valley and the riverine environments surrounding the meandering San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers have been occupied throughout most of the Holocene – or last 10,000 years. The reconstruction of pioneering cultures predating 5,000 years has proven difficult given the rapid erosional patterns of the Central Valley. These processes have redeposited or deeply buried the evidence of much of these previous cultures. However, much of what is known has been assembled from the paleo-environmental context of the region and through theoretical explanations for predicting human behavior in specific environmental settings.

In addition, a number of human occupation sites have revealed artifact assemblages that have shaped much of the ethno-archaeological knowledge of the region. Lillard, Heizer, and Fenenga (1939) were the first to describe a sequence of prehistoric cultures in Central California, and defined three successive phases of cultural patterns, which they called the Early, Middle, and Late Horizons. By and large, a transition from one phase to another was marked by changes in the archaeological record, such as change in subsistence practices, disposition of burials, social organization, and related artifact assemblages. Unfortunately, by placing numerous cultures into a temporal horizon, the inherent cultural variation of a region is sometimes lost. In order to address this issue, Ragir (1972) suggested that the relatively uniform periods of Early, Middle, and Late Horizons be substituted for the Windmiller, Cosumnes, and Hotchkiss Cultures, respectively. In so doing, research developments could be incorporated into each culture and allow for a greater degree of variability in the archaeological record.

ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

Before the influx of Euro-American populations to the region on a large scale beginning in the 1840s and 1850s, Native American groups identified as the Southern Maidu or Nisenan inhabited Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area and continue to do so today. Ethnographically, the southern boundary of Nisenan territory was to the south of present-day Highway 50 and in prehistoric and ethnographic times, there likely would have been extensive contact with the neighboring Miwok groups. Although cultural group boundaries were almost never as well-defined as depicted in historic references and today's literature, in general, Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area was likely more closely associated with the Nisenan than the Miwok at least at the time of sustained Euro-American contact (Sacramento Country 2008a).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historic-era settlement and activities appear to have been sparse within and near Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area prior to the discoveries of gold in the region and the ensuing Gold Rush beginning in 1849. Commonly, one of the most influential events to have occurred in many parts of California was the granting of large tracts of land by the Mexican government during the 1830s and 1840s. The nearest such grant was the Rancho Rio de los Americanos within which a portion of Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area is situated. This rancho originally consisted of thirty five thousand acres (Barrows 1999) and extended from the eastern border of new Helvetia (east

of Sacramento) along the south bank of the American River, to the eastern end of present day Folsom (Sacramento County 2008a).

Organized in 1851 by A.P. Catlin, the Natoma Water and Mining Company provided water via canal from the American River to miners in the Folsom area. By 1853 the canal reached Prairie City, which was located near the northeastern Off-site Water Facilities Study Area boundary where U.S. 50 crosses Prairie City Road. Later known as the Natomas Company, it also operated dragline and bucket-line gold dredges along the American and Cosumnes Rivers from 1900 through the 1950s, producing the largest amount of gold in the county. The dredge fields, located mainly within the northern half of Zone 4, were created with heavy equipment by the Natomas Company and the General Dredging Company, which likely destroyed most of the evidence of earlier types of small mining operations that occurred prior to the 1900s.

A subsidiary of GenCorp, Aerojet-General purchased land from the Natomas Company and opened their plant in Sacramento in the early 1950s. Aerojet then began developing, testing, and building liquid and solid propellant rocket systems for national space and defense programs, using the dredge tailings as natural barriers for rocket testing and a buffer for the nearby communities. The Aerojet administration complex on the west and east sides of Aerojet Road was mainly constructed between 1955 and 1962; their industrial complex on Tennessee Avenue to the west of Prairie City Road was built primarily in the 1960s (Sacramento County 2008b).

Further to the south, agriculture was the main industry in the region during the late 19th and the early 20th centuries. The City of Rancho Cordova is named after the Cordova Vineyard, which was located in the center of the Rancho Rio de los Americanos land grant (Miller 1990). The property was used primarily for wheat cultivation or grazing until the 1920s (Sacramento County 2008a). By 1923, most of the property was owned by the Natomas Company. This area is generally identified for future urban growth under the County General Plan.

RESEARCH AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Archival

Tremaine and Associates conducted a cultural resources records search of pertinent survey and site data at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at the California State University Sacramento, in January 2009 (Tremaine and Associates 2009). Tremaine and Associates then accessed the records for previous surveys and recorded sites within a 1/2 mile of Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area. The records search included a review of the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Sacramento County (Tremaine and Associates 2009) for information on sites of recognized historical significance in the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

Results

The records search revealed a total of 83 sites that have been previously recorded within a 1/2-mile radius of Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area. These sites are all listed in Appendix M-VI. Of the 83 sites, 19 are situated within various portions of the "Water" Study Area. Many of these sites are potentially associated with the American River (Folsom) Placer Mining District (CA-SAC-308-H; NRHP# 90000682), which encompasses entire portions of Zone 4. In addition, the records search revealed that a total of 96 surveys/studies have been conducted within, adjacent to, or within a 1/2-mile radius of Zone 4.

Table 3B.5-1 provides a summary of the historical and archaeological resources identified within Zone 4. In addition to the sites identified in the records search, Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area also includes portions of White Rock Road (CA-SAC-1555H), which at one time was part of the Lincoln Highway; a major overland transportation route between Carson City and Sacramento during the Gold Rush era (Sacramento County 2008a).

Table 3B.5-1
Historic and Pre-Historic Resources Potentially Affected by the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives

Resource ID and Description	Off-site Water Facility Alternatives								
	PA/Alt 1	Alt 1A	Alt 2	Alt 2A	Alt 2B	Alt 3	Alt 3A	Alt 4	Alt 4A
P-34-2186. Prospecting pit or cattle pit								X	X
P-34-2188. Prospecting pit	X	X				X	X		
P-34-2189. Prospect mining mounds and pit	X	X				X	X		
P-34-2190. Prospecting or trash pit; possible associated with Historic Prairie House	X	X				X	X		
P-34-2191. Placer mining test pit and prospect mining mounds	X	X				X	X		
P-34-2193. Historic trash scatter	X	X				X	X		
P-34-2194. Historic ditch segments	X	X				X	X		
P-34- 2196. Grey basalt pestle	X	X				X	X		
P-34-1698. Bedrock / boulder milling station								X	X
P-34-1892. 1957 metal structure								X	X
P-34-2147. Historic trash scatter	X		X		X	X			
P-34-2148. Historic rock wall	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
P-34-1970. Mine tailing piles and gravel piles								X	X
CA-SAC-0794-H. Historic cement foundation			X		X	X		X	
CA-SAC-0680-H. Historic lost home site; concrete foundations, possible privy, and associated deposits	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
CA-SAC-1006 Historic debris dump								X	X
CA-SAC-1007-H. Historic trash scatter								X	X
CA-SAC-1008-H. Alder Creek Corridor Mining District								X	X
CA-SAC-0308-H. American River (Folsom) Placer Mining District	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CA-SAC-1111-H. Historic mining district	X	X							
CA-SAC-1555-H. White Rock Road: western extent of the Lincoln Highway	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Source: Tremaine and Associates 2009, Sacramento County 2008a and 2008b

3B.5.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The following regulatory framework identifies the national, state, and local criteria applicable to the study area.

FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

The following Federal plans, policies, regulations, and laws related to cultural resources are relevant to the Off-site Water Facilities Alternatives, and are described in detail in Section 3A.5, "Cultural Resources – Land:"

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Phased Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Cultural Resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

The following State plans, policies, regulations, and laws related to cultural resources are relevant to the Off-site Water Facilities Alternatives, and are described in detail in Section 3A.5, "Cultural Resources – Land:"

- California Environmental Quality Act

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

Sacramento County

Although Sacramento County does not currently have an historic preservation ordinance, the Sacramento County General Plan (General Plan) (1993) Conservation Element states the following goal:

> Promote the inventory, protection and interpretation of the cultural heritage of Sacramento County, including historical and archaeological settings, sites, building, features, artifacts and/or areas of ethnic, historical, religious or socio-economical importance.

The General Plan sets forth policies and programs under the following six objectives:

- **Objective:** Attention and care during project review and construction to ensure that cultural resource sites, either previously known or discovered on the project area, are properly protected with sensitivity to Native American values.
- **Objective:** Structures with architectural or historical importance preserved to maintain exterior design elements.
- **Objective:** Known archaeological and historic sites are protected from vandalism, unauthorized excavation, or accidental destruction.
- **Objective:** Comprehensive knowledge of archaeological and historic site locations.
- **Objective:** Properly stored and classified artifacts for ongoing study.
- **Objective:** Public awareness and appreciation of both visible and intangible historic and cultural resources.

City of Rancho Cordova

The following goals and policies of the City of Rancho Cordova's General Plan related to the protection of historical and archaeological resources and applicable to one or components of the Off-site Water Facilities Alternatives are as follows.

GOAL CHR.1: Identify and preserve the history of Rancho Cordova for future generations.

- **Policy CHR.1.1:** 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, photographs, memorabilia, or other information relevant to the history of the City.

- **Policy CHR.1.3:** Establish review procedures for development projects that recognize the history of the area in conjunction with State and federal laws.

  - **Action CHR.1.3.1 –** Require historic resources and paleontological studies (e.g., 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.

  - **Action CHR.1.3.2 –** 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.

3B.5.3 Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds for determining the significance of impacts for this analysis are based on the environmental checklist in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines and Section 106 of the NHPA. These thresholds also encompass the factors taken into account under NEPA to determine the significance of an action in terms of its context and the intensity of its impacts. For the purposes of this analysis, an impact to cultural and historical resources would be considered significant if the Off-site Water Facilities would:

- 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 of formal cemeteries, or;

- cause an adverse effect to a historic property as defined in the implementing regulations to Section 106 of the NHPA as described above (36 CFR Part 800.5[a][1]).

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

This programmatic analysis presents an evaluation of potential, adverse changes to the significance of local cultural resources based on the implementation of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives as described in Chapter 2, "Alternatives." Section 3B.5.3 provides the standards for determining what constitutes a "substantial adverse change" when considering whether an impact on archaeological or historic resources is significant. Based on the results of the records search and as outlined in the setting description, portions of Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area contain previously recorded historical and archaeological resources.

For those facilities whose specific locations cannot be identified now, including the WTP and pump station site(s), this assessment identifies what mitigation requirements would be required once project-specific site plans become available.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Impacts that would occur under each of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives are identified as follows:

NCP (No USACE Permit Alternative)

PA (Proposed Off-site Water Facility Alternative)

1 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 1 – Raw Water Conveyance – Gerber/Grant Line Road Alignment and White Rock WTP)

1A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 1A Raw Water Conveyance – Gerber/Grant Line Road Alignment Variation and White Rock WTP)

2 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2 Treated Water Conveyance – Douglas Road Alignment and Vineyard SWTP)

2A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2A Treated Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment Variation and Vineyard SWTP)

2B (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2B Treated Water Conveyance – North Douglas Tanks Variation and Vineyard SWTP)

3 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 3 Raw Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment and White Rock WTP)

3A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 3A Raw Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment Variation and White Rock WTP)

4 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 4 Raw Water Conveyance – Easton Valley Parkway Alignment and Folsom Boulevard WTP)

4A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 4A Raw Water Conveyance – Easton Valley Parkway Alignment Variation and Folsom Boulevard WTP).

The impacts for each alternative are compared relative to the PA at the end of each impact conclusion (i.e., similar, greater, lesser).

IMPACT 3B.5-1 **Possible Destruction of or Damage to Known Prehistoric and Historic-Era Cultural Resources from Ground-Disturbance or Other Construction-Related Activities.** *Construction activities associated with the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives could result in the destruction of or damage to known prehistoric and historic-era cultural resources that are potentially eligible for or listed on the CRHR or NRHP.*

NCP, PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, and 3A

As provided in Table 3B.5-1, portions of the historic alignment of White Rock Road are listed as a historical resource and are located within or immediately adjacent to the conveyance alignment for these alternatives. This historical roadway is potentially subject to disturbance as a result of Off-site Water Facilities construction; especially if constructed within the roadway. However, the County is currently planning to realign and widen portions White Rock Road within Zone 4 of the "Water" Study Area, which is further described in the White Rock Road Widening EIR and incorporated by reference into this EIR/EIS. Based on this circumstance, it is possible that installation of the conveyance portion of these Off-site Water Facility Alternatives could occur concurrently with the widening project thereby minimizing potential impacts to this historical resource. However, in addition to White Rock Road, other historic-era resources have also been identified on portions of the White Rock WTP site and in close proximity to White Rock Road [see Appendix M–VI]. In addition, the On-Site WTP is located in an area potentially containing historical resources. As a result, construction-related direct impacts to these previously-documented resources could be **potentially significant**. **No indirect** impacts would result. ***[Similar]***

Construction-related excavation for the conveyance pipeline and other above-ground facilities under these alternatives carries to the potential to adversely affect previously recorded archaeological sites, as identified in Table 3B.5-1. As a result, potential construction-related impacts to these previously documented archaeological resources could be potentially significant if these resources qualify as unique archaeological resource or historical resources within the meaning of CEQA or historic properties within the meaning of Section 106 of the NHPA.

Mitigation Measure: Implement Mitigation Measures 3A.5-1a and 3A.5-1b.

Implementation: City of Folsom Utilities Department

Timing: Prior to completion of final design and start of construction

Enforcement:

1. For actions taken to satisfy the requirements of Section 106: the SHPO and USACE.
2. For all project-related improvements that would be located within the City of Folsom: City of Folsom Community Development Department.
3. For off-site improvements within unincorporated Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova: Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department or City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department.

4 and 4A

These alternatives would involve physical ground disturbance during construction; but would avoid White Rock Road. Instead, the alignment for these alternatives traverses through the Alder Creek Corridor Mining District (CA-SAC-1008H) along the alignment of the planned Easton Valley Parkway. This district represents a lengthy period of mining from 1849 to 1945, and entails numerous loci of gold mining activity. In addition to the established mining district, numerous historic-era sites are identified along the planned Easton Valley Parkway. Although construction of this alignment could occur concurrent with the planned Easton Valley Parkway, there is a potential for encountering previously recorded historic-era historical resources during construction. If these

resources qualify as historical resources per CEQA criteria or historic properties per Section 106 and ground-disturbing construction disturbed or altered the characteristics of these resources that contribute to their significance, this impact would be significant. Thus, the construction of these alternatives could result in **potentially significant** direct impacts on cultural resources. **No indirect** impacts would result. ***[Similar]***

Mitigation Measure: Implement Mitigation Measures 3A.5-1a and 3A.5-1b.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3A.5-1a and 3A.5-1b would substantially reduce the level of direct impacts on identified cultural resources under the No USACE Permit, Proposed Off-site Water Facility Alternative, and Off-site Water Facility Alternatives 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A, but not to a less-than-significant level. Because this potential impact would not be fully reduced and because it would not be feasible to avoid all direct impacts to identified resources, ground-disturbing work could still result in direct impacts to historic and cultural resources. Additionally, portions of the off-site water facilities fall under the jurisdiction of Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova; therefore, neither the City nor the project applicant(s) would have control over timing or implementation of mitigation measures. Even if the affected jurisdictions cooperate in allowing and enforcing the mitigation, the impacts would not be fully reduced to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, under all alternatives, impacts to identified cultural resources are considered **potentially significant and unavoidable**.

IMPACT 3B.5-2 Possible Destruction of or Damage to Previously Undiscovered Cultural Resources from Ground-Disturbance or Other Construction-Related Activities. *Construction activities during project implementation could result in the destruction of or damage to "significant" (under CEQA) undiscovered cultural resources.*

NCP, PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A

Although the Off-site Water Facilities conveyance routes would generally be constructed within existing roadway right-of-way, this design feature would not completely avoid the potential for encountering previously unidentified archaeological resources. A similar situation could exist for the pump station and WTP sites. Given that traditional survey methods are constrained along roadways due to the presence of pavement, thick annual grasslands along roadway shoulders and WTP sites and the presence of fill materials, buried or previously unidentified resources can be easily obscured. As a result, construction could inadvertently unearth and damage previously unidentified archaeological resources that could qualify as unique archaeological resources or historical resources under CEQA or historic properties within the meaning of Section 106. For the above reasons, this direct impact could be **potentially significant**. **No indirect** impacts would occur. ***[Similar]***

Mitigation Measure: Implement Mitigation Measure 3A.5-2.

Implementation: City of Folsom Utilities Department

Timing: Prior to completion of final design and start of construction

Enforcement:

1. For actions taken to satisfy the requirements of Section 106: the SHPO and USACE.
2. For all project-related improvements that would be located within the City of Folsom: City of Folsom Community Development Department.
3. For off-site improvements within unincorporated Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova: Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department or City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3A.5-2 would substantially reduce the level of direct impacts on previously unknown cultural resources under the No USACE Permit, Proposed Off-site Water Facility Alternative, and Off-site Water Facility Alternatives 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A, but not to a less-than-significant level. Because this potential impact would not be fully reduced and because it would not be feasible to avoid all direct impacts to resources, ground-disturbing work could still result in direct impacts to historic and cultural resources. Additionally, portions of the off-site water facilities fall under the jurisdiction of Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova; therefore, neither the City nor the project applicant(s) would have control over timing or implementation of mitigation measures. Even if the affected jurisdictions cooperate in allowing and enforcing the mitigation, the impacts would not be fully reduced to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, under all alternatives, impacts to identified cultural resources are considered **potentially significant and unavoidable**.

IMPACT 3B.5-3 Possible Destruction of or Damage to Interred Human Remains during Construction. *Ground-disturbing activities could inadvertently disinter and/or destroy buried human skeletal remains.*

NCP, PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A

While no evidence exists to indicate that human burials occurred within the Off-site Water Facilities Study Area, the Off-site Water Facilities alignments may cross areas that could contain buried prehistoric or historic-era human remains that may not be identified in preconstruction inventories required above. Unidentified buried human remains that were not identified during field investigations could be inadvertently unearthed during construction-related activities, which could result in damage to these remains. Damage would be considered a **direct significant** impact. **No indirect** impacts would occur. ***[Similar]***

Mitigation Measure: Implement Mitigation Measure 3A.5-3.

Implementation: City of Folsom Utilities Department

Timing: Before issuance of building permits and ground-disturbing activities.

Enforcement:

1. For actions taken to satisfy the requirements of Section 106: the SHPO and USACE.
2. For all project-related improvements that would be located within the City of Folsom: City of Folsom Community Development Department.
3. For off-site improvements within unincorporated Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova: Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department or City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department.

With the application of the proposed mitigation, disturbances to previously undocumented human interments would be minimized. In addition and specifically in the case of the discovery of Native American human remains, as long as the MLD and the property owner can reach an agreement as to the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains, this impact would be reduced to a **less-than-significant** level.

3B.5.4 RESIDUAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3A.5-3, potential impacts to previously unknown human remains would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3A.5-1a, 3A.5-1b, and 3A.5-2 would minimize significant and potentially significant impacts to cultural resources to the extent feasible. These mitigation measures require that cultural resources must be inventoried, evaluated, and avoided where feasible (Mitigation Measures 3A.5-1a, 3A.5-1b). When resources cannot be avoided, appropriate documentation

or data recovery excavation must be performed. Locations of known cultural resources must be monitored for the potential discovery of cultural resources under Mitigation Measure 3A.5-2. Beyond the inventory, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring required in this document, there are no other feasible mitigations measures that may be performed to minimize potentially significant impacts on cultural resources. Therefore, impacts on identified and previously undiscovered cultural resources would be potentially significant and unavoidable.

In addition, some of the off-site water facilities fall under the jurisdiction of Sacramento County or the City of Rancho Cordova; therefore, neither the City nor the project applicant(s) would have control over the timing or implementation of mitigation measures for these interchange improvements. Because the City does not control implementation of mitigation measures in areas under the jurisdiction of these other agencies, Impacts 3A.5-1 through 3A.5-3 are considered potentially significant and unavoidable for off-site improvements which would be located in the jurisdiction of Sacramento County or the City of Rancho Cordova.