



## 4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

<i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?		✓		
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?		✓		
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✓		
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			✓	

This section is based on the following documents (refer to Appendix C, Cultural Report and Paleontological Assessment):

- *Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (MUST) Project, City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California* (Cultural Report), prepared by Cogstone, dated April 2017.
- *Paleontological Resources Assessment for the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project, City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California* (Paleontological Assessment), prepared by Cogstone, dated April 2017.

**a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?**

**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** According to the literature/records search performed as part of the Cultural Report, a total of 16 prior cultural studies have been performed that included portions of the project area. All 16 of these prior studies were negative for cultural resources within the project impact area. A total of 57 cultural resources have been previously documented outside of project boundaries but within a half-mile of project boundaries. These consist of three prehistoric sites, one multicomponent site, one historic archaeological site and 52 historic built environment resources.

The Cultural Report included an intensive pedestrian survey of the project site. Based on the survey, one built environment historical resource was encountered within the project area consisting of two segments of the Pacific Electric Railway, Long Beach Line, designated as the Pacific Electric Railway Freight Line (PERY Freight Line). The railroad segments recorded are thought to be at least 75 years old, possibly several years older. They are historic in age. Although the PERY Freight Line is eligible for listing under Criterion 1 of the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) criteria for significance for its association with World War II, it lacks sufficient integrity and, therefore, is recommended as not eligible for CRHR listing.

Based on Figure 12, *City of Long Beach Designated Landmarks* of the Historic Preservation Element of the *General Plan*, the closest historical resource to the project site is the Bembridge House, built in 1906 and located approximately 180 feet east of Segment 9 at 953 Park Circle. Further, Segment 9 is adjacent to the western boundary of the Drake Park/Wilmore City Historic District, as shown on Figure 13, *City of Long Beach Designated Historic Districts* of the Historic Preservation Element of the *General Plan*. The project would not result in any



impacts to either the Bembridge House or Drake Park/Wilmore City Historic District, since these resources are outside of project boundaries.

Although impacts related to historic resources were determined to be less than significant, due to poor ground visibility in portions of the project area during the pedestrian survey, it is possible that historic resources may be discovered during vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities during project construction. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 has been incorporated, which would require that construction activities cease in the area of a find, and that a qualified archaeologist is retained to analyze the resource and develop an avoidance/mitigation plan. As such, impacts in this regard would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:**

CUL-1 If evidence of cultural resources is found during excavation, vegetation clearance, and other ground disturbing activities, activity in that area shall cease and the construction contractor shall contact the City of Long Beach Development Services Department. With direction from the Development Services Department, an archaeologist certified by the County of Los Angeles shall be retained to evaluate the discovery prior to resuming grading in the immediate vicinity of the find. If warranted, the archaeologist shall develop a plan of mitigation which may include, but shall not be limited, to, salvage excavation, laboratory analysis and processing, research, curation of the find in a local museum or repository, and preparation of a report summarizing the find.

b) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?***

**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** As noted in Response 4.5(a), above, one historic archaeological site has been documented within a half-mile search radius. However, no known archaeological resources exist within the boundaries of the site. Although it is not expected that archaeological resources would be encountered during construction due to previous disturbance at the site, the project would require excavation during construction activities. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is provided in the unlikely event such resources are discovered during the grading, vegetation clearing, and excavation process. Upon implementation of the recommended mitigation measure, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level. Impacts related to tribal cultural resources are discussed in Section 4.17, Tribal Cultural Resources.

**Mitigation Measures:** Refer to Mitigation Measure CUL-1.

c) ***Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?***

**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** According to the Paleontological Assessment, the project is mapped as modern artificial fill, Holocene and late Pleistocene alluvium and alluvial fans, and late to middle Pleistocene non-marine and nearshore marine deposits. At the eastern edges of the project is an outcrop of the old marine to non-marine deposits. In the area of the Palos Verdes Hills, both the late to middle Pleistocene Palos Verdes Sand and the early Pleistocene San Pedro Formation are present adjacent to and beneath the old marine to non-marine deposits. Although no previous fossil localities have been recorded within the project boundaries, three of the 11 project segments would affect sedimentary rocks known to produce fossils including Pleistocene alluvium, Palos Verdes Sand and San Pedro Formation. Based on the Paleontological Assessment, the linear project alignment is paleontologically sensitive for all excavations more than five feet in depth and planned excavations range from 15 to 30 feet below the current surface. As such, Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would require a Paleontological Resources Management Plan providing paleontological resources awareness training, framework for evaluating fossils recovered for significance under CEQA, and curation agreement with an accredited museum. Upon implementation of the recommended mitigation measure, impacts would be less than significant.



**Mitigation Measures:**

CUL-2 Prior to construction, a Paleontological Resources Management Plan shall be prepared for the proposed project. The Paleontological Resources Management Plan shall include paleontological resources awareness training for earthmoving personnel, provide a rationale for spot-checking to determine when sediments suitable for fossil preservation have been reached in each location and implement monitoring at that point. The plan shall also provide a framework for evaluating fossils recovered for significance under CEQA. Fossils meeting significance criteria shall be prepared, identified by a paleontologist certified by the County of Los Angeles and submitted for curation at an accredited museum such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The City of Long Beach Development Services Department shall ensure that the requirement for preparation of the Paleontological Resources Management Plan is identified on project plans and specifications.

**d) *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?***

**Less Than Significant Impact.** No conditions exist that suggest human remains are likely to be found on the project site. Due to the level of past disturbance on-site, it is not anticipated that human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries, would be encountered during earth removal or disturbance activities. If human remains are found, those remains would require proper treatment, in accordance with applicable laws. State of California Public Resources Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5-7055 describe the general provisions for human remains. Specifically, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 describes the requirements if any human remains are accidentally discovered during excavation of a site. As required by State law, the requirements and procedures set forth in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code would be implemented, including notification of the County Coroner, notification of the Native American Heritage Commission and consultation with the individual identified by the Native American Heritage Commission to be the "most likely descendant." If human remains are found during excavation, excavation must stop in the vicinity of the find and any area that is reasonably suspected to overlay adjacent remains until the County coroner has been called out, and the remains have been investigated and appropriate recommendations have been made for the treatment and disposition of the remains. Following compliance with existing State regulations, which detail the appropriate actions necessary in the event human remains are encountered, impacts in this regard would be considered less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No mitigation is required.



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