

4.6 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

4.6.1 Alternative A – Proposed Action

Impact 4.6.1-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

Archival and field inspection of the project site included a records search conducted at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at Sonoma State University on March 24, 2008, Native American Heritage Commission consultation, and an intensive survey of the project area conducted on April 10, 2008 and May 7, 2008. No cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the Proposed Action. The BIA agrees with these findings in consultation correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Office (under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the Proposed Action (**Appendix L**).

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 4.6.1-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Potentially Significant)

Because no eligible cultural resources were identified, the project would result in no impact to known cultural resources. However, there is the possibility for accidental discovery of archaeological resources during earth moving activities. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** and **5.6.2** would result in a less than significant impact to archaeological resources.

No known paleontological resources have been identified within the project area. However, as paleontological resources have been identified within Sonoma County, there is the potential for the accidental discovery of paleontological remains during earth moving activities within the project area. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 5.6.1** and **5.6.2** would result in a less than significant impact to paleontological resources.

The possibility of encountering human remains cannot be entirely discounted. In the unlikely event that human remains were discovered during subsurface activities, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, the human remains could be inadvertently damaged, which could be a significant impact. However, this impact would be minimized by implementation of the **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** through **5.6.3**, resulting in a less than significant impact to human remains.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

4.6.2 Alternative B – Reduced Hotel and Casino

Impact 4.6.2-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

As described under Alternative A, no cultural resources eligible for the NRHP were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the implementation of Alternative B.

Impact 4.6.2-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Potentially Significant)

There is the possibility for accidental discovery of archaeological or paleontological resources during earth moving activities. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** through **5.6.3** would result in a less than significant impact to cultural and paleontological resources.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

4.6.3 Alternative C – Reduced Casino

Impact 4.6.3-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

As described under Alternative A, no cultural resources eligible for the NRHP were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the implementation of Alternative C.

Impact 4.6.3-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Potentially Significant)

There is the possibility for accidental discovery of archaeological or paleontological resources during earth moving activities. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** through **5.6.3** would result in a less than significant impact to cultural and paleontological resources.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

4.6.4 Alternative D – Casino Only

Impact 4.6.4-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

As described under Alternative A, no cultural resources eligible for the National NRHP were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the implementation of Alternative D.

Impact 4.6.4-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Potentially Significant)

There is the possibility for accidental discovery of archaeological or paleontological resources during earth moving activities. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** through **5.6.3** would result in a less than significant impact to cultural and paleontological resources.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

4.6.5 Alternative E – Commercial Retail-Office Space

Impact 4.6.5-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

As described under Alternative A, no cultural resources eligible for the NRHP were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the implementation of Alternative E.

Impact 4.6.5-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Potentially Significant)

There is the possibility for accidental discovery of archaeological or paleontological resources during earth moving activities. The destruction or disturbance of these resources would result in a significant impact; however, implementation of **Mitigation Measures 5.6.1** through **5.6.3** would result in a less than significant impact to cultural and paleontological resources.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

4.6.6 Alternative F – No Action Alternative

Impact 4.6.6-1: Effects to Historic Properties (Less than Significant)

As described under Alternative A, no cultural resources eligible for the NRHP were identified during the field survey or records search. Based upon these findings, no historic properties would be affected by the implementation of Alternative F.

Impact 4.6.6-2: Effects to Cultural and Paleontological Resources (Less than Significant)

Under the No Action Alternative, the project site would remain in agricultural and rural residential use in the near term, with future development presumed to fall under General Industrial, Business Park, and/or Public, Quasi-Public zoning. Development of these future facilities would result in similar changes and impacts as described above, and would require evaluation under CEQA. These potential impacts would therefore be mitigated in fashion similar to those under the action alternatives. A less than significant impact would occur.
