



4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	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 formal cemeteries?			✓	

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

No Impact. The *Sierra Star Master Plan Draft SEIR*, Appendix E, *Cultural Resources Report and Peer Review Letter* (Cultural Resources Report) included the project site, which adjoins the Lodestar Master Plan area to the south. Based on available maps in the Cultural Resources Report, there are no reported significant cultural resources or heritage resources on the project site. Further, according to the *2005 General Plan Update FPEIR*, there are no known historic resources within the Town. The project site includes the existing Holiday Haus Motel facility. This facility is not considered to be a historic resource. Therefore, project implementation would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Fire Access Road Alternative

Similar to the project, the Fire Access Road Alternative would result in no impact, as the project site boundaries would remain the same and the existing structures on-site are not considered to be a historical resource.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. There are no reported significant cultural resources or heritage resources located on the project site.¹ Eight recorded cultural resource studies have been conducted within approximately 0.5 mile of the project site. Of these eight previously recorded cultural resources, the project site and adjoining areas have had no reported cultural resources studies

¹ Christopher A. Joseph & Associates, *Sierra Star Master Plan Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report*, April 2007.



conducted. Thus, the project would result in no impacts to previously recorded cultural resources located within the boundaries of the project site. The eight resources within a 0.5 mile radius identified through the *Sierra Star Master Plan Draft SEIR*, Appendix E, *Cultural Resources Report and Peer Review Letter*, lie outside of the project site and, thus, would not be affected by the project.

The project area is sensitive for prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and human remains. However, the probability that construction of the proposed project would impact any undocumented buried archaeological resource appears to be moderately low, given the degree of past disturbance of the site, as it is currently developed with the Holiday Haus Motel facility. Notwithstanding, ground-disturbing activities, such as grading or excavation, could disturb previously unidentified subsurface resources. In the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during construction activities, compliance with the recommended Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, project implementation would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource.

Fire Access Road Alternative

Similar to the project, the Fire Access Road Alternative would result in a less than significant impact upon implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, as the proposed site boundaries would remain the same as the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL-1 If cultural materials or archaeological remains are encountered during the course of grading or construction, the project contractor shall cease any ground disturbing activities near the find. A qualified archaeologist, approved by the Town, shall be retained to evaluate significance of the resources and recommend appropriate treatment measures. Treatment measures may include avoidance, preservation, removal, data recovery, protection, or other measures developed in consultation with the Town.

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

No Impact. There are no known unique paleontological resources or sites, and no known unique geologic features in the developable portions of the community.² The soils within Town's Urban Growth Boundary are glacial till and relatively recent volcanic materials; no paleontological resources would be expected. Therefore, the proposed project would not destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

² Town of Mammoth Lakes, *Town of Mammoth Lakes 2005 General Plan Update Final Program EIR*, May 2007, Page 4-371.



Fire Access Road Alternative

Similar to the project, the Fire Access Road Alternative would result no impacts paleontological resources, as the project site boundaries would remain the same as the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d) ***Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal 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 formal cemeteries, would be encountered during earth removal or disturbance activities. If human remains were found, they 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. 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 overly 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 State regulations, which detail the appropriate actions necessary in the event human remains are encountered, impacts in this regard would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Fire Access Road Alternative

Similar to the project, the Fire Access Road Alternative would result in less than significant impacts, as the project site boundaries would remain the same as the proposed project. Following compliance with 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 measures are required.



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