

2.5 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

This section summarizes the existing conditions for cultural and paleontological resources, including historical resources, archaeological resources, human remains, and paleontological resources within the unincorporated county, and evaluates the potential effects that implementation of the project may have on these resources. Because this analysis is subsequent to the certified 2011 GPU PEIR, the evaluation of impacts focuses on the potential for implementation of the CAP Update to result in new or substantially more severe impacts than presented in the 2011 GPU PEIR, given the changes to the General Plan proposed by the CAP Update and changes in environmental and regulatory conditions that have occurred since the certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR.

This section incorporates by reference the cultural and paleontological resources setting and impact analysis from the 2011 GPU PEIR as it applies to the CAP Update and supplements with relevant setting conditions that have changed since certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. However, the existing conditions outlined in this section are generally consistent with those described in the 2011 GPU PEIR because the type and location of cultural and paleontological resources have not changed significantly since those documents were prepared.

Table 2.5-1 summarizes the impact conclusions reached in the 2011 GPU PEIR and identifies if a new or more severe significant impact would occur with implementation of the CAP Update. As indicated below, implementation of the proposed project would result in new or more severe significant impacts on cultural and paleontological resources.

Table 2.5-1 Summary of Cultural and Paleontological Resources–Related Impacts

Issue Number	Issue Topic	Determination from 2011 GPU PEIR	CAP Update SEIR Determination	
			Potential New or More Severe Significant Impact Prior to Mitigation	New or More Severe Significant Impact After Mitigation
1	Historical Resources	General Plan Only: Less than Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Only: Yes	CAP Update Only: Yes
		General Plan Cumulative Contribution: Less-Than-Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes
2	Archaeological Resources	General Plan Only: Less than Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Only: Yes	CAP Update Only: Yes
		General Plan Cumulative Contribution: Less-Than-Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes

Issue Number	Issue Topic	Determination from 2011 GPU PEIR	CAP Update SEIR Determination	
			Potential New or More Severe Significant Impact Prior to Mitigation	New or More Severe Significant Impact After Mitigation
3	Paleontological Resources	General Plan Only: Less than Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Only: Yes	CAP Update Only: Yes
		General Plan Cumulative Contribution: Less-Than-Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes
4	Human Remains	General Plan Only: Less than Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Only: Yes	CAP Update Only: Yes
		General Plan Cumulative Contribution: Less-Than-Significant Impact after Mitigation	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes	CAP Update Cumulative Contribution: Yes

Notes: CAP = Climate Action Plan; GPU = General Plan Update; PEIR = Program Environmental Impact Report; SEIR = Supplemental Environmental Impact Report.

Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2023.

The County did not receive any comments regarding historical, archeological, or paleontological resources, or human remains during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) scoping process. A copy of the NOP and comment letters received in response to the NOP are included in Appendix A of this draft-SEIR.

2.5.1 Existing Conditions

The 2011 GPU PEIR included a discussion of existing conditions related to cultural and paleontological resources in Section 2.5.1 (page 2.5-1) which includes all lands within the county. As described in full detail in Section 2.5.1 of the 2011 GPU PEIR, the county contained more than 27,000 recorded sites (19,400 archaeological recorded sites and approximately 8,000 other cultural resources sites) in 2011 with a continuously growing number of sites being discovered. The cultural and paleontological resources conditions described in the 2011 GPU PEIR are the same as the existing conditions evaluated for this draft-SEIR, except for the new issue of tribal cultural resources (see Section 2.14, “Tribal Cultural Resources,” of this draft SEIR). No other changes to the existing conditions have been identified that would alter the conclusions in the 2011 GPU PEIR. As described on pages 2.5-1 through 2.5-16 of the 2011 GPU PEIR, cultural and paleontological resources are found throughout the county. All references used from the 2011 GPU PEIR were reviewed to ensure they are still valid today and are hereby incorporated by reference.

2.5.2 Regulatory Framework

The 2011 GPU PEIR described the regulatory framework related to cultural resources in Section 2.5 (pages 2.5-16 through 2.5-22) and is hereby incorporated by reference. Specific regulations discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR and applicable to the project include the following:

2.5.2.1 *Federal*

- Executive Order 12072
- Historic Sites, Buildings, Objects, and Antiquities Act
- National Historic Landmarks Program
- National Historic Preservation Act
- National Register of Historic Places
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards

2.5.2.2 *State*

- State Historical Landmarks Program
- State Points of Historical Interest Program
- California Register of Historic Places
- Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 5079–5079.65
- PRC Sections 5097–5097.6
- PRC Sections 5097.9–5097.991
- Government Code Section 25373
- Government Code Section 27288.2
- Government Code Sections 50280–50290
- Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 18950–18961
- HSC Section 7050.5

2.5.2.3 *Local*

- County of San Diego Code of Regulatory Ordinances Sections 87.101–87.804 Grading, Clearing, and Watercourses Ordinance
- County of San Diego Code of Regulatory Ordinances Sections 86.601–86.608 Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO)
- County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance
- County of San Diego Resource Conservation Areas

- San Diego County Local Register of Historical Resources
- San Diego County Historic Site Board

2011 San Diego County General Plan

The General Plan policies related to cultural and paleontological resources that are applicable to the CAP Update include the following:

Policy COS-7.1: Archaeological Protection. Preserve important archaeological resources from loss or destruction and require development to include appropriate mitigation to protect the quality and integrity of these resources.

Policy COS-7.2: Open Space Easements. Require development to avoid archaeological resources whenever possible. If complete avoidance is not possible, require development to fully mitigate impacts to archaeological resources.

Policy COS-7.3: Archaeological Collections. Require the appropriate treatment and preservation of archaeological collections in a culturally appropriate manner.

Policy COS-7.4: Consultation with Affected Communities. Require consultation with affected communities, including local tribes to determine the appropriate treatment of cultural resources.

Policy COS-7.5: Treatment of Human Remains. Require human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) and under the requirements of Federal, State and County Regulations.

Policy COS-7.6: Cultural Resource Data Management. Coordinate with public agencies, tribes, and institutions in order to build and maintain a central database that includes a notation whether collections from each site are being curated, and if so, where, along with the nature and location of cultural resources throughout the County of San Diego.

Policy COS-8.1: Preservation and Adaptive Reuse. Encourage the preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites, structures, and landscapes as a means of protecting important historical resources as part of the discretionary application process, and encourage the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process.

Policy COS-8.2: Education and Interpretation. Encourage and promote the development of educational and interpretive programs that focus on the rich multicultural heritage of the County of San Diego.

Policy COS-9.1: Preservation. Require the salvage and preservation of unique paleontological resources when exposed to the elements during excavation or grading activities or other development processes.

Policy COS-9.2: Impacts of Development. Require development to minimize impacts to unique geological features from human related destruction, damage, or loss.

2011 San Diego County GPU PEIR

The following mitigation measures from the 2011 GPU PEIR are applicable to the CAP Update:

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1: Utilize the RPO, CEQA, the Grading and Clearing Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance to identify and protect important historic and archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6: Implement, and update as necessary, the “County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Cultural Resources” to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic and archaeological resources.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.1: Develop management and restoration plans for identified and acquired properties with cultural resources.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.2: Facilitate the identification and acquisition of important resources through collaboration with agencies, tribes, and institutions, such as the South Coast Information Center (SCIC), while maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive cultural information.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.3: Support the dedication of easements that protect important cultural resources by using a variety of funding methods, such as grants or matching funds, or funds from private organizations.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.5: Protect undiscovered subsurface archaeological resources by requiring grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor for ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of known archaeological resources, and also, when feasible, during initial surveys.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.6: Protect significant cultural resources by facilitating the identification and acquisition of important resources through regional coordination with agencies, and institutions, such as the South Coast Information Center (SCIC) and consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local tribal governments, including SB-18 review, while maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive cultural information.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-3.1: Implement the Grading Ordinance and CEQA to avoid or minimize impacts to paleontological resources, require a paleontological monitor during grading when appropriate, and apply appropriate mitigation when impacts are significant.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-3.2: Implement, and update as necessary, the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Paleontological Resources to identify and minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1: Include regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs. Ensure that all references to discovery of human remains promote preservation and include proper handling and coordination with Native American groups. Apply appropriate mitigation when impacts are significant.

2.5.3 Analysis of Effects and Significance Determinations

2.5.3.1 Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, the project would result in a significant impact on cultural or paleontological resources if it would:

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
- directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature;
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

2.5.3.2 Approach to Analysis

Impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources were analyzed qualitatively based on a review of the CAP Update measures and actions and their potential to result in physical changes to the environment if the CAP Update is approved and implemented. Each issue area was analyzed in the context of existing laws and regulations, as well as policies adopted in the General Plan, and the extent to which these existing regulations and policies adequately address and minimize the potential for impacts associated with implementation of the CAP Update. Because this SEIR tiers from the 2011 GPU PEIR, all relevant 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures are applicable to the proposed project as needed to avoid or minimize project impacts and are considered part of the proposed CAP Update.

The analysis is informed by the provisions and requirements of federal, state, and local laws and regulations that apply to cultural resources. PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a "unique archaeological resource" as 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 one or more of the following California Register of Historical Resources-related criteria: (1) that it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; (2) that it has a special and particular quality, such as being

the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or (3) that it is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person. An impact on a resource that is not unique is not a significant environmental impact under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[c][4]). If an archaeological resource qualifies as a resource under the California Register of Historical Resources criteria, then the resource is treated as a unique archaeological resource for the purposes of CEQA.

For the purposes of the impact discussion, “historical resource” is used to describe built-environment historic-period resources. Archaeological resources (both prehistoric and historic-period), which may qualify as “historical resources” pursuant to CEQA, are analyzed separately from built-environment historical resources.

Scope of SEIR Impact Analysis

The impact analysis contained within this ~~draft~~-SEIR focuses on whether implementation of the CAP Update would result in new or more severe impacts than were disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, which is herein incorporated by reference. The CAP Update identifies strategies, measures, and supporting actions (referred to herein as measures and actions) to demonstrate progress toward the established GHG reduction targets. Because these measures and actions represent the components of the CAP Update that could result in physical environmental effects within the unincorporated county, this analysis focuses on the impacts of their implementation. Given the broad scope of the CAP Update (i.e., covering the entire unincorporated county) and its role as a programmatic planning document designed to guide future decision-making related to the reduction of GHGs within the unincorporated county, the study area for cultural and paleontological resources is the unincorporated area of the county within the County’s jurisdiction (i.e., excluding tribal lands, state and federally owned lands, and military installations), consistent with the 2011 GPU PEIR.

The analysis in this ~~draft~~-SEIR is programmatic. Implementation of all CAP Update measures and actions were considered during preparation of this ~~draft~~ SEIR, to the degree specific information about their implementation is known. This ~~draft~~ SEIR does not speculate about the potential site-specific physical impacts that could occur if and when a specific improvements are proposed in the future at locations still to be determined. Rather, this SEIR considers the types of impacts that could occur with implementation of future projects required to implement the proposed CAP Update measures and actions. Consistent with the requirements of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, future activities associated with the CAP Update are examined on a project-specific basis in the light of the 2011 GPU PEIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c]).

Proposed CAP Update Strategies

As described in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” the overarching strategies and associated measures and actions, proposed in the CAP Update (see Table 1-2) have

been grouped into categories for the purpose of analysis, based on the sector they target (e.g., solid waste, water/wastewater). CAP Update actions and measures that would have the potential to affect cultural or paleontological resources are provided below. CAP Update actions and measures that would involve development of policies and programs that would not result in direct physical effects or those that would result in limited physical improvements to existing development are not discussed further because these actions and measures would not have potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources.

Solid Waste Measures and Actions. This category includes strategies to increase solid waste diversion and availability of sustainable solid waste facilities in County operations and within the unincorporated county. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources include those that would result in the development of new or expanded recycling and composting facilities (Actions SW-1.1, SW-2.1, SW-4.1a, and SW-4.1b).

Water and Wastewater Measures and Actions. This category includes strategies to decrease potable water consumption and increase stormwater collection, water pumping, and wastewater treatment in County operations and the unincorporated county. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources include those that would result in the construction of new recycled water and stormwater capture and reuse infrastructure (Actions W-1.1, W-2.2, W-2.3, and W-2.4).

Agriculture and Conservation Measures and Actions. This category includes strategies to preserve natural and agricultural lands, improve land management practices, and support climate-friendly farming practices. Therefore, the measures and actions are not expected to result in new or more severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources. Rather, actions that would result in the acquisition and management of conservation lands (Actions A-1.1, A-1.2, A-1.2.a, A-3.1, and A-4.1) would have potential to benefit cultural and paleontological resources. This category also includes an action that would evaluate opportunities for the construction of farmworker housing (Action A-4.1.b).

Energy Measures and Actions. This category includes strategies to increase building energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification in County operations and the unincorporated county. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources include those that would result in the construction of new infrastructure to promote renewable energy use and electrification (Actions E-1.1, E-3.1, E-3.2, and E-3.3). Action E-3.3 would require the County to develop a program to provide the unincorporated area with 100 percent renewable energy from San Diego Community Power by 2030. This action may indirectly result in the construction of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure.

Built Environment and Transportation Measures and Actions. This category includes strategies to decarbonize the County's vehicle fleet, support active transportation, and reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips. Key actions with potential to result in new or more

severe impacts related to cultural and paleontological resources include those that would result in the construction of new electric vehicle charging stations (Action T-3.1 through T-4.3) and increase access to hydrogen fueling infrastructure through streamlined permitting processes and other efforts in the unincorporated area (Action T-3.1.a).

2.5.3.3 Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines the project would result in a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

2011 GPU PEIR Determination

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated historical resources impacts from the adoption of the goals and policies of the General Plan countywide, which is inclusive of the project area. In addition, the 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated buildout of the land use designations applied throughout the area. The 2011 GPU PEIR determined that buildout under the General Plan would result in potentially significant direct (e.g., demolition, alteration, or relocation), indirect (e.g., human activity, increased access to and/or use of a historical resource), and cumulative impacts on historical resources. The discussion of impacts can be found in Section 2.5, “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” (pages 2.5-22 through 2.5-27, 2.5-34, and 2.5-35), of the 2011 GPU PEIR and is hereby incorporated by reference. These impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance through the implementation of a combination of federal, state, and local regulations; existing County regulatory processes; the adopted General Plan goals and policies; and specific mitigation measures/implementation programs identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Specific General Plan policies related to the protection of historical resources (Policy COS-8.1) are listed above in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework”; 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures (Cul-1.1 and Cul-1.6) are listed below in Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.”

CAP Update Impact Analysis

The following sections describe the effects on historical resources that could result from the implementation of the measures and actions proposed in the CAP Update.

Solid Waste Measures and Actions

Implementation of the CAP Update would include implementation of measures and actions to increase solid waste diversion and availability of solid waste facilities in County operations and more generally in the unincorporated county. Implementing CAP Update measures and actions could result in potential construction of new or expanded solid waste facilities. For example, Actions SW-1.1 and SW-2.1 include development of zero waste policies which may result in new or expanded composting and recycling facilities

to divert solid waste from landfills. Specific locations for new and expanded facilities have not been identified. Therefore, these improvements are analyzed at a programmatic level.

Historical (or architectural) resources include standing buildings (e.g., houses, barns, schools) and intact structures (e.g., dams, bridges). Implementation of the CAP Update solid waste measures and actions would occur in rural or semi-rural areas which are less likely than urban areas to have these resources. Nevertheless, construction of new facilities would have the potential to affect historical resources through alteration or demolition of structures. However, because the construction would occur in undeveloped areas, which are less likely to have architectural features, implementation of the CAP Update solid waste measures and actions would result in fewer impacts related to historical resources than identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development.

The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of historic resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; and Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic resources. Additionally, General Plan Policy COS-8.1 encourages the preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic structures as part of the discretionary application process and encourages the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process.

Water and Wastewater Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update Measures W-1 through W-3 and associated implementing actions would involve development of policies and programs to encourage water conservation and increase water and wastewater efficiency. Measures W-1 and W-2 include implementing actions to develop policies and programs to increase water efficiency. Implementation of these measures would generally result in installation of water efficient appliances, smart irrigation systems, and stormwater and grey water capture systems. Implementation of Measure W-3 would increase wastewater treatment efficiency through the East County Advanced Water Purification Program (Action W-3.1) and evaluate opportunities to reduce wastewater emissions in the unincorporated area (Action W3.1.a). Implementation of these measures would not result in impacts to historical resources because any new or expanded physical structures associated with implementing water conservation measures and actions would be ancillary to existing or proposed development, which would have previously undergone historic review, if required. This impact would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Conservation Measures and Actions

Implementation of Measures A-1 through A-4 and associated implementing actions would involve acquiring and managing conservation lands, preserving natural and agricultural lands, planting and protecting trees, and providing incentive to encourage carbon farming. Implementation of Action A-4.1.b would have the potential to result in new farmworker

housing in the unincorporated county, if opportunities to increase farmworker housing in the unincorporated area are identified. Historical resources, including barns and other agricultural structures, could be located on these lands. Damage to or destruction of a building or structure that is a designated historic resource, or is eligible for listing as a historic resource, could result in a change in its historical significance.

Implementation of the CAP Update agricultural measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to historical resources as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development. For example, direct impacts related to demolition, alteration, or relocation of resources, or indirect impacts related to human activity, increased access to and/or use of a historical resource could occur through implementation of future development. Acquisition of lands and development of farmworker housing would be required to implement adopted General Plan Policy COS-8.1 which encourages the preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic structures as part of the discretionary application process and encourages the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process. In addition, 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of historic resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; and Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1 and Cul-1.6 would substantially reduce the potential for adverse effects to historical resources. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation.

Energy Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update energy measures and actions would involve implementation of policies, programs, and other mechanisms to increase building energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and increase electrification in the unincorporated county and County operations. These policies and programs could have the potential to result in the development of various renewable energy projects. Implementation of CAP Update Measure E-2 and Measure E-3 could result in energy efficiency retrofits on existing residential and non-residential structures and County facilities. These retrofits could include rooftop or ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays or small wind turbines, upgraded mechanical systems and energy storage, and other similar improvements. The addition of energy infrastructure may be required to support implementation of some measures; these projects have the potential to alter historical resources.

It is possible that implementation of some projects could result in development and construction of facilities that would result in direct and/or indirect impacts to historical resources. Types of impacts that could occur include retrofits to existing designated historic buildings, disturbance of the ground or setting, or demolition or construction of buildings and infrastructure that could affect the historic setting. Projects that include the alteration of historic buildings or structures would have a direct impact on historical resources. Projects that would introduce new visual elements, such as new small or large-

scale renewable energy systems, have the potential to indirectly affect historical resources by changing the visual setting within which the historical resource is located.

Large-scale renewable energy systems, such as solar PV and concentrator solar, and large-scale wind turbines, would generally be constructed in primarily undeveloped locations that are productive for generating renewable energy source. Specific locations that may be chosen for these large-scale utility projects are unknown; however, it is likely that suitable locations would include areas that are not highly developed with residential and commercial uses because of the size, massing, coverage, and scale of this type of infrastructure that relies upon large amounts of land unencumbered by buildings or shadowed by buildings or trees. Historical resources, including farm structures or railroads, could be located on these lands. Damage to or destruction of a building or structure that is a designated historic resource, or is eligible for listing as a historic resource, could result in a change in its historical significance.

Under the County's Renewable Energy Zoning Ordinance Sections 6950 and 6952, homeowners would be allowed to install roof-mounted solar PV arrays and small wind turbines without discretionary review if they meet the zoning verification requirements of the applicable section. In the case of solar PV panels, they are generally flat, low-lying elements that would not distract the viewer's attention when placed on a roof line as they are limited to maximum of 5 feet beyond the roof. When placed along an easement or within the subject property's yard, the visual impact is not anticipated to distract from the historic setting.

If a parcel meets the criteria of the zoning ordinance, up to three small wind turbines could be installed on a parcel as an accessory use. If the property is eligible for historic listing or is located within an historic zoning district but is not registered as such, then installation of the wind turbines would not be subject to discretionary review and changes to the property or visual setting could occur unmitigated. Therefore, impacts to historical resources could occur because it could result in the physical demolition, destruction, or alteration of the historical resource, or it could alter the setting of the resource when the setting contributes to the resource's significance through introducing new vertical elements.

In cases where improvements would be required to undergo the County's discretionary review process, impacts would be minimized through implementation of adopted General Plan Policy COS-8.1 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1 and Cul-1.6, which would conserve, protect, and preserve historical resources consistent with federal and state requirements, as well as all applicable project-specific mitigation measures that would minimize impacts. However, it is possible for some properties that are not listed or zoned as historical resources to install wind turbines or solar PV energy systems without a discretionary permit. This impact would be significant.

Built Environment and Transportation Measures and Actions

These measures and actions would implement existing County programs, such as the County's 2019 Electric Vehicle Roadmap and 2023 Green Fleet Action Plan (Measure T-

1.1) and Active Transportation Plan (Measure T-5.1). Other measures and actions would affect the design of existing and planned roadways. Measure T-6.2 would implement transit-supportive roadway treatments such as signal communication and curb extensions along County-maintained roadways to optimize traffic flow for transit and pedestrians. Measure T-3.1 would result in the installation of publicly available electric vehicle charging stations. Action T-3.1.a would support the transition to clean hydrogen fuel for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by increasing access to hydrogen fueling infrastructure through streamlined permitting processes and other efforts that could facilitate future infrastructure construction. Several measures and actions would further support alternative modes of transportation without resulting in physical changes that could affect visual character or quality.

Because of the nature of such improvements (i.e., limited size, along existing roadways, not accompanied by tall or expansive buildings), it is likely that most infrastructure improvements would occur within existing developed residential and commercial centers throughout the county or as part of new development as it is approved. Implementation of these measures would not result in impacts to historical resources because any new or expanded physical structures associated with implementing built environment and transportation measures and actions would be ancillary to existing or proposed development, which would have previously undergone historic review, if required. All future development projects would be required to follow County development requirements, including implementing adopted General Plan Policy COS-8.1, which encourages the preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic structures as part of the discretionary application process and encourages the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process; 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1, which requires the identification and protection of historic resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; and Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6, which requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance— Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic resources. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation.

Summary

As explained in the 2011 GPU PEIR, implementation of adopted General Plan Policy COS-8.1 and adopted 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would ensure that new development would conserve and protect unique and sensitive visual features and the scenic quality of the environment. Adopted General Plan policies require preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic structures as part of the discretionary application process and encourage the preservation of historic structures identified during the ministerial application process. Applicable 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of historic resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; and Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance— Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic resources.

Generally, improvements and projects that would result from implementation of the CAP Update would undergo a discretionary review process in which the County would be able to utilize project conditions and mitigation to minimize impacts related to historical resources, and may deny certain improvements if the object, building, structure, site, area or place is listed as a historical resource or zoned with the “H” Special Area Designator (Historic/Archaeological Landmark or District). Multi-modal improvements, solid waste facilities, and large-scale renewable energy projects would all be required to undergo the County’s discretionary review process during which relevant General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures located in Section 2.5, “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” (pages 2.5-22 through 2.5-27, 2.5-34, and 2.5-35), of the 2011 GPU PEIR would be implemented. In addition, federal, state, and local policies, ordinances, and applicable permitting procedures which protect historical resources would also be implemented.

Implementation of the General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures (Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1 and Cul-1.6) and compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations related to historical resources would generally minimize or eliminate impacts related to historical resources because of implementation of the project. However, in some cases, it is possible that wind and solar renewable energy improvements could result in significant impacts to historical resources because of changes to the historic building or setting (**Impact CULT-1**). These projects may not be required to undergo a discretionary review process. Implementation of the CAP Update **would result in new or more severe impacts** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.3.4 Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines the project would result in a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

2011 GPU PEIR Determination

The 2011 GPU PEIR determined that buildout under the General Plan would result in potentially significant direct (e.g., alteration, or relocation), indirect (i.e., vandalism, looting, graffiti, and destruction because of increased access to and/or use of a resource because of additional human presence and activity), and cumulative impacts on known and unknown archaeological resources. The discussion of impacts can be found in Section 2.5, “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” (pages 2.5-27 through 2.5-30), of the 2011 GPU PEIR and is hereby incorporated by reference. These impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through the implementation of a combination of federal, state, and local regulations; existing County regulatory processes; the adopted General Plan goals and policies; and specific mitigation measures/implementation programs identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Specific General Plan policies related to the

protection of archaeological resources (Policies COS-7.1, COS-7.2, and COS-7.3) are listed above in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework”; 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures (Cul-1.1, Cul-1.6, Cul-2.1, Cul-2.2, Cul-2.3, Cul-2.5, and Cul-2.6) are listed below in Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.”

CAP Impact Analysis

The following sections describe the potentially significant impacts related to archaeological resources that could result from the implementation of the proposed CAP Update measures and actions.

Solid Waste Measures and Actions

Implementation of the CAP Update would include implementation of measures and actions to increase solid waste diversion and availability of solid waste facilities in County operations and more generally in the unincorporated county. Implementing CAP Update measures and actions could result in potential construction of new or expanded solid waste facilities. For example, Actions SW-1.1 and SW-2.1 include development of zero waste policies which may result in new or expanded composting and recycling facilities to divert solid waste from landfills.

Specific locations for new and expanded facilities have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements could disturb archaeological resources because the location of all resources within the county is unknown. Development of new or expanded solid waste facilities would result in similar archaeological resource impacts as those discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to archaeological resources; Cul-2.1 requires a management plans properties with archaeological resources; Cul-2.2 and Cul-2.6 require identification of known archaeological resources through the South Coast Information Center; Cul-2.3 supports the dedication of easements that protect important archaeological resources; and Cul-2.5 requires grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist. Implementation of these mitigation measures, along with General Plan Policies COS-7.1 (Archaeological Protection), COS-7.2 (Open Space Easements), and COS-7.3 (Archaeological Collections) would minimize impact to archeological resources resulting from projects that implement the CAP Update. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Water and Wastewater Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update Measures W-1 through W-3 and associated implementing actions would involve development of policies and programs to encourage water conservation and increase water and wastewater efficiency. Measures W-1 and W-2

include implementing actions to develop policies and programs to increase water efficiency. Implementation of these measures would generally result in installation of water efficient appliances, smart irrigation systems, and stormwater and grey water capture systems. Implementation of Measure W-3 would increase wastewater treatment efficiency through the East County Advanced Water Purification Program (Action W-3.1) and evaluate opportunities to reduce wastewater emissions in the unincorporated area (Action W3.1.a). Implementation of these measures would not result in impacts to archaeological resources because any new or expanded physical structures associated with implementing water conservation measures and actions would be ancillary to existing or proposed development, which would have previously undergone archaeological surveys, if required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Conservation Measures and Actions

Implementation of Measures A-1 through A-4 and associated implementing actions would involve acquiring and managing conservation lands, preserving natural and agricultural lands, planting and protecting trees, and providing incentive to encourage carbon farming. Implementation of Action A-4.1.b would have the potential to result in new farmworker housing in the unincorporated county, if opportunities to increase farmworker housing in the unincorporated area are identified. Known and unknown archaeological resources could be located on these lands; earth-disturbing activities could result in damage to these resources.

Implementation of the CAP Update agricultural measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to archaeological resources as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Acquisition of lands and development of farmworker housing would be required to implement adopted General Plan Policies COS-7.1 (Archaeological Protection), COS-7.2 (Open Space Easements), and COS-7.3 (Archaeological Collections). The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to archaeological resources; Cul-2.1 requires management and restoration plans for identified and acquired properties with archaeological resources; Cul-2.2 and Cul-2.6 require identification of known archaeological resources through the South Coast Information Center; Cul-2.3 supports the dedication of easements that protect important archaeological resources; and Cul-2.5 requires grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis.

Energy Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update energy measures and actions would involve implementation of policies, programs, and other mechanisms to increase building energy

efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and increase electrification in the unincorporated county and County operations. These policies and programs could have the potential to result in the development of various renewable energy projects. Implementation of CAP Update Measure E-2 and Measure E-3 could result in construction of large-scale renewable energy systems and energy efficiency retrofits on existing residential and non-residential structures and County facilities. These retrofits could include rooftop or ground-mounted PV solar arrays or small wind turbines, upgraded mechanical systems and energy storage, and other similar improvements. The addition of energy infrastructure may be required to support implementation of some measures; these projects have the potential to alter archaeological resources.

Large-scale renewable energy systems, such as PV, concentrator solar and wind turbine systems, would generally be constructed in areas that are not highly developed because of the size, massing, coverage, and scale of this type of infrastructure that relies upon large amounts of land unencumbered by buildings or shadowed by buildings or trees. Ground disturbance, including excavation and grading have the potential to alter archaeological resources.

Small-scale renewable energy systems and other energy efficiency retrofits would occur in areas of existing development, and new development would install energy-efficient mechanical equipment at the time of construction. Implementation of new mechanical equipment or new renewable energy equipment would generally occur in developed areas of the county and would be regulated by existing County codes and policies that regulate the protection of archaeological resources. The placement of small-scale PV solar renewable energy equipment on new and existing buildings is regulated by the existing County Renewable Energy Zoning Ordinance Section 6954(a) that regulates the height and scale of these facilities. Rooftop and ground-mounted PV solar energy panels and roof-top wind turbines would not result in significant ground disturbance, although impacts to archaeological impacts could still occur at any level of ground disturbance.

However, small-scale ground-mounted wind turbines or solar energy panels would have the potential to result in impacts to archaeological resources because they are allowed on a parcel as an accessory use without discretionary review. Small-scale wind turbines could result in ground disturbance through excavation and grading to create a secure foundation. Accordingly, even with implementation of General Plan Policies COS-7.1 (Archaeological Protection), COS-7.2 (Open Space Easements), and COS-7.3 (Archaeological Collections); 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1, Cul-1.6, Cul-2.1, Cul-2.2, Cul-2.3, Cul-2.5; and Cul-2.6, and local, state, and federal regulations, the potential exists for archaeological resource impacts related to small-scale wind turbines because of the lack of discretionary oversight for some facilities. Impacts would be significant.

Built Environment and Transportation Measures and Actions

This category includes strategies to decarbonize the County's vehicle fleet, support active transportation, and reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to archaeological resources include those

that would result in the construction of new electric vehicle charging stations (Action T-3.1) and increase access to hydrogen fueling infrastructure through streamlined permitting processes and other efforts in the unincorporated area (Action T-3.1.a). Some of these measures and actions would result in the construction of new facilities and infrastructure, the placement of structures, and the excavation of earthen materials.

Specific locations for new facilities and infrastructure have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements could disturb archaeological resources because the location of all resources within the county is unknown. Development of new or expanded solid waste facilities would result in similar archaeological resource impacts as those discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-1.1 requires the identification and protection of archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant; Cul-1.6 requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance—Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Historical Resources* (County of San Diego 2007) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to archaeological resources; Cul-2.1 requires a management plans properties with archaeological resources; Cul-2.2 and Cul-2.6 require identification of known archaeological resources through the South Coast Information Center; Cul-2.3 supports the dedication of easements that protect important archaeological resources; and Cul-2.5 requires grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist. Implementation of these mitigation measures, along with General Plan Policies COS-7.1 (Archaeological Protection), COS-7.2 (Open Space Easements), and COS-7.3 (Archaeological Collections) would minimize impacts to archeological resources resulting from projects that implement the CAP Update. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Summary

As explained in the 2011 GPU PEIR, implementation of adopted General Plan Policies COS-7.1, COS-7.2, and COS-7.3 and adopted 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1, Cul-1.6, Cul-2.1, Cul-2.2, Cul-2.3, Cul-2.5, and Cul-2.6 would ensure that new development would conserve and protect archaeological resources. Adopted General Plan policies require future development to include appropriate mitigation to protect the quality and integrity of these resources. Applicable 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures requires the identification and protection of archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant, preparing management plans for properties with archaeological resources, identifying known archaeological resources through the South Coast Information Center, dedicating easements that protect important archaeological resources, and requiring grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist.

However, because it is possible to install small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use without discretionary review, significant impacts to archaeological resources could occur due to ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources would

be significant (**Impact CULT-2**). Implementation of the CAP Update **would result in new or more severe impacts** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.3.5 Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines the project would result in a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

2011 GPU PEIR Determination

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated impacts to paleontological resources from the adoption of the goals and policies contained within the plan and the development anticipated through the planning horizon. The discussion of impacts can be found in Section 2.5, “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” (pages 2.5-30 through 2.5-32), of the 2011 GPU PEIR and is hereby incorporated by reference. The 2011 GPU PEIR determined that buildout under the General Plan would result in potentially significant project and cumulative impacts on known and unknown paleontological resources in the unincorporated county.

The 2011 GPU PEIR determined activities resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan, especially construction-related and ground-disturbing activities, could damage or destroy fossils in the underlying rock units. Loss or alteration of paleontological resources may result in an irreversible loss of significant information that could be obtained from these non-renewable resources. These impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance through the implementation of a combination of local, state, and federal regulations; existing County regulatory processes; the adopted General Plan goals and policies; and specific mitigation measures identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Specific General Plan policies related to the protection of paleontological resources (Policies COS-9.1 and COS-9.2) are listed above in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework”; 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures (Cul-3.1 and Cul-3.2) are listed below in Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.”

CAP Update Impact Analysis

The following sections describe the potentially significant impacts related to paleontological resources that could result from the implementation of the proposed CAP Update measures and actions.

Solid Waste Measures and Actions

Implementation of the CAP Update would include implementation of measures and actions to increase solid waste diversion and availability of solid waste facilities in County operations and more generally in the unincorporated county. Implementing CAP Update

measures and actions could result in potential construction of new or expanded solid waste facilities. For example, Actions SW-1.1 and SW-2.1 include development of zero waste policies which may result in new or expanded composting and recycling facilities to divert solid waste from landfills.

Specific locations for new and expanded facilities have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements could disturb paleontological resources because the location of all resources within the county is unknown. Impacts to paleontological resources generally occur because of the physical destruction of fossil remains by excavation or trenching activities that require cutting into the underlying geologic formations. Ground-disturbing activities in high or moderate sensitivity fossil-bearing geologic formations have the potential to damage or destroy paleontological resources that may be present below the ground surface. Such alterations of known or unknown paleontological resources may result in an irreversible loss of significant information that could be obtained from these non-renewable resources. Development of new or expanded solid waste facilities would result in similar paleontological resource impacts as those discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-3.1: requires implementation of the Grading Ordinance to avoid or minimize impacts to paleontological resources and requires a paleontological monitor during grading when appropriate; Cul-3.2: requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Paleontological Resources* (County of San Diego 2009) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources. General Plan policies that require the salvage and preservation of unique paleontological resources during excavation or grading activities or other development processes (COS-9.1) and require development to minimize impacts to unique geological features from human related destruction, damage, or loss (COS-9.2) would further limit project impacts to paleontological resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Water and Wastewater Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update Measures W-1 through W-3 and associated implementing actions would involve development of policies and programs to encourage water conservation and increase water and wastewater efficiency. Measures W-1 and W-2 include implementing actions to develop policies and programs to increase water efficiency. Implementation of these measures would generally result in installation of water efficient appliances, smart irrigation systems, and stormwater and grey water capture systems. Implementation of Action W-3.2.a would have the potential to result in installation of stormwater and wastewater treatment systems on-site, so that the stormwater and greywater would be treated and reused for landscaping. Implementation of these measures would not result in impacts to paleontological resources because any

new or expanded physical structures associated with implementing water conservation measures and actions would be ancillary to existing or proposed development, which would have previously undergone paleontological review, if required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Conservation Measures and Actions

Implementation of Measures A-1 through A-4 and associated implementing actions would involve acquiring and managing conservation lands, preserving natural and agricultural lands, planting and protecting trees, and providing incentive to encourage carbon farming. Implementation of Action A-4.1.b would have the potential to result in new farmworker housing in the unincorporated county, if opportunities to increase farmworker housing in the unincorporated area are identified. Excavation or trenching activities that require cutting into the underlying geologic formations in high or moderate sensitivity fossil-bearing geologic formations have the potential to damage or destroy paleontological resources that may be present below the ground surface.

Implementation of the CAP Update agriculture and conservation measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to paleontological resources as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development. Acquisition of lands and development of farmworker housing would be required to implement adopted General Plan policies that require the salvage and preservation of unique paleontological resources during excavation or grading activities or other development processes (COS-9.1) and require development to minimize impacts to unique geological features from human related destruction, damage, or loss (COS-9.2). The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-3.1: requires implementation of the Grading Ordinance to avoid or minimize impacts to paleontological resources and requires a paleontological monitor during grading when appropriate; Cul-3.2: requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Paleontological Resources* (County of San Diego 2009) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Energy Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update energy measures and actions would involve implementation of policies, programs, and other mechanisms to increase building energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and increase electrification in the unincorporated county and County operations. These policies and programs could have the potential to result in the development of various renewable energy projects. Implementation of CAP Update Measure E-3, Action E-3.2, and Action E-3.3 could result in construction of large-scale renewable energy systems and energy efficiency retrofits on

existing residential and non-residential structures and County facilities. These retrofits could include rooftop or ground-mounted PV solar arrays or small wind turbines, upgraded mechanical systems and energy storage, and other similar improvements. The addition of energy infrastructure may be required to support implementation of some measures; these projects have the potential to alter paleontological resources.

Large-scale renewable energy systems, such as PV and concentrator solar, and wind turbines, would generally be constructed in areas that are not highly developed because of the size, massing, coverage, and scale of this type of infrastructure that relies upon large amounts of land unencumbered by buildings or shadowed by buildings or trees. Ground disturbance, including excavation and grading have the potential to alter paleontological resources.

The placement of small-scale PV solar renewable energy equipment on new and existing buildings is regulated by the existing County Renewable Energy Zoning Ordinance Section 6954(a) that regulates the height and scale of these facilities. Rooftop mounted PV solar energy panels and roof-top wind turbines would not result in ground disturbance and ground mounted PV solar panels do not require deep or wide concrete footings such that disturbance of soils at a depth where resources could be present would not occur. Therefore, these systems would result in less-than-significant impacts to paleontological resources. However, ground-mounted wind turbines would have the potential to result in impacts to paleontological resources because of deep concrete footings and substantial grading at depth would be required. Small-scale wind turbines may be located on a parcel as an accessory use that would not require a discretionary review. Accordingly, even with implementation of General Plan Policies COS-9.1 and COS-9.2, 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures listed above, and federal, state, and local regulations that protect paleontological resources, the potential exists for significant impacts related to installation of small-scale wind turbines because of the lack of discretionary oversight and inability to mitigate impacts.

Built Environment and Transportation Measures and Actions

This category includes strategies to decarbonize the County's vehicle fleet, support active transportation, and reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to archaeological resources include those that would result in the construction of new electric vehicle charging stations (Action T-3.1) and increase access to hydrogen fueling infrastructure through streamlined permitting processes and other efforts in the unincorporated area (Action T-3.1.a). Some of these measures and actions would result in the construction of new facilities and infrastructure, the placement of structures, and the excavation of earthen materials.

Specific locations for new facilities and infrastructure have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements could disturb paleontological resources because the location of all resources within the county is unknown. Excavation or trenching activities that require cutting into the underlying geologic formations in high or moderate sensitivity fossil-bearing geologic formations have the potential to damage or destroy paleontological resources that may be present below the ground surface.

Implementation of the CAP Update built environment and transportation measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to paleontological resources as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development. Projects would be required to implement adopted General Plan policies that require the salvage and preservation of unique paleontological resources during excavation or grading activities or other development processes (COS-9.1) and require the development to minimize impacts to unique geological features from human related destruction, damage, or loss (COS-9.2). The following 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-3.1: requires implementation of the Grading Ordinance to avoid or minimize impacts to paleontological resources and requires a paleontological monitor during grading when appropriate; Cul-3.2: requires implementation of the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Paleontological Resources* (County of San Diego 2009) to identify and minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Summary

As explained in the 2011 GPU PEIR, implementation of adopted General Plan Policies COS-9.1 and COS-9.2 and adopted 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-3.1 and Cul-3.2 would ensure that new development would conserve and protect paleontological resources. Adopted General Plan policies require future development to include appropriate mitigation to protect the quality and integrity of these resources. Applicable 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures require the identification and protection of paleontological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant and requiring grading monitoring by a qualified paleontologist.

However, because it is possible to install small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use without discretionary review, significant impacts to paleontological resources could occur due to ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, project impacts to paleontological resources would be significant (**Impact CULT-3**). Implementation of the CAP Update **would result in new or more severe impacts** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.3.6 Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains

Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines the project would result in a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

2011 GPU PEIR Determination

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated impacts to human remains from the adoption of the goals and policies contained within the plan and the development anticipated through the planning horizon. The discussion of impacts can be found in Section 2.5, “Cultural and Paleontological Resources” (pages 2.5-33 through 2.5-34), of the 2011 GPU PEIR and is hereby incorporated by reference. The 2011 GPU PEIR determined that buildout under the General Plan could result in potentially significant project and cumulative impacts to human remains because of the potential for human burial sites (known or unknown) within the unincorporated county.

Human burials have occurred outside of dedicated cemeteries historically, and the disturbance of any human remains is considered a significant impact, regardless of archaeological significance or association. While some burials have been uncovered, the potential exists for unknown burials to be present, including Native American burials. As evident from human remains that were previously discovered throughout the unincorporated county, there is the potential for impacts to human remains to occur as the result of development allowable under the General Plan. These impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance through the implementation of a combination of federal, state, and local regulations; existing County regulatory processes; the General Plan goals and policies; and specific mitigation measures implementation programs identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. The specific General Plan policy related to the protection of human remains (Policy COS-7.5) is listed above in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework”; 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1 is listed below in Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.”

CAP Update Impact Analysis

The following sections describe the potentially significant impacts related to human remains that could result from the implementation of the proposed CAP Update measures and actions.

Solid Waste Measures and Actions

Implementation of the CAP Update would include implementation of measures and actions to increase solid waste diversion and availability of solid waste facilities in County operations and more generally in the unincorporated county. Implementing CAP Update measures and actions could result in potential construction of new or expanded solid waste facilities. For example, Actions SW-1.1 and SW-2.1 include development of zero waste policies which may result in new or expanded composting and recycling facilities to divert solid waste from landfills.

Specific locations for new and expanded facilities have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements could disturb human remains because the location of all resources within the county is unknown. Impacts to human remains generally occur because of ground-disturbing activities, including grading, excavation, and utilities installation during construction. The potential for disturbance may be reduced

through surveying a site to determine the likelihood that human remains are present, review of archaeological records to determine if human remains are known to occur in the area, and then designing future development to avoid areas where burials may be present. However, if surface evidence and archaeological records do not exist for a site, construction activities associated with the future development, including grading and excavation, would have the potential to disturb human remains. Any disturbance could result in a significant impact. Development of new or expanded solid waste facilities would result in similar impacts to human remains as those discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

Adopted 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1 includes regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs and ensures that all references to discovery of human remains promote preservation and include proper handling and coordination with Native American groups. General Plan Policy COS-7.5 additionally requires that human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the MLD and under the requirements of federal, state, and County regulations. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Water and Wastewater Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update Measures W-1 through W-3 and associated implementing actions would involve development of policies and programs to encourage water conservation and increase water and wastewater efficiency. Measures W-1 and W-2 include implementing actions to develop policies and programs to increase water efficiency. Implementation of these measures would generally result in installation of water efficient appliances, smart irrigation systems, and stormwater and grey water capture systems. Implementation of Action W-3.2.a would have the potential to result in installation of stormwater and wastewater treatment systems on-site, so that the stormwater and greywater would be treated and reused for landscaping. Implementation of these measures would not result in impacts to human remains because any new or expanded physical structures associated with implementing water conservation measures and actions would be ancillary to existing or proposed development, which would have previously undergone archaeological review, including human remains, if required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Conservation Measures and Actions

Implementation of Measures A-1 through A-4 and associated implementing actions would involve acquiring and managing conservation lands, preserving natural and agricultural lands, planting and protecting trees, and providing incentive to encourage carbon farming. Implementation of Action A-4.1.b would have the potential to result in new farmworker housing in the unincorporated county, if opportunities to increase farmworker housing in

the unincorporated area are identified. Ground-disturbing activities, including grading, excavation, and utilities installation during construction, have the potential to damage or destroy human remains that may be present.

Implementation of the CAP Update agriculture and conservation measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to human remains as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development. Acquisition of lands and development of farmworker housing would be required to implement adopted General Plan goals and policies related to preservation of paleontological resources. 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1 would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-4.1 includes regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs and ensures that all references to discovery of human remains promote preservation and include proper handling and coordination with Native American groups. General Plan Policy COS-7.5 additionally requires that human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the MLD and under the requirements of federal, state, and County regulations. Impacts would be less than significant. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Energy Measures and Actions

Implementation of CAP Update energy measures and actions would involve implementation of policies, programs, and other mechanisms to increase building energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and increase electrification in the unincorporated county and County operations. These policies and programs could have the potential to result in the development of various renewable energy projects. Implementation of CAP Update Measure E-3, Action E-3.2, and Action E-3.3 could result in construction of large-scale renewable energy systems and energy efficiency retrofits on existing residential and non-residential structures and County facilities. These retrofits could include rooftop or ground-mounted PV solar arrays or small wind turbines, upgraded mechanical systems, and other similar improvements. The addition of energy infrastructure may be required to support implementation of some measures; these projects have the potential to disturb human remains.

Large-scale renewable energy systems, such as PV solar, concentrator solar, and wind turbines, would generally be constructed in areas that are not highly developed because of the size, massing, coverage, and scale of this type of infrastructure that relies upon large amounts of land unencumbered by buildings or shadowed by buildings or trees. Ground disturbance, including excavation and grading have the potential to disturb human remains.

The placement of small-scale PV solar renewable energy equipment on new and existing buildings is regulated by the existing County Renewable Energy Zoning Ordinance

Section 6954(a) that regulates the height and scale of these facilities. Rooftop PV solar energy panels and roof-top wind turbines would not result in ground disturbance. Ground-mounted PV solar panels do not require deep or wide concrete footings, which minimizes the amount of ground disturbance. As such, these energy systems would not result in significant impacts to human remains.

Ground-mounted wind turbines would have the potential to result in impacts to human remains because of the need to secure the turbines with deep concrete footings and the resultant ground disturbance and grading at depth that may be required. Small-scale wind turbines may be located on a parcel as an accessory use that would not require a discretionary review. Accordingly, even with implementation of General Plan policies, 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures listed above, and federal, state, and local regulations, the potential exists for direct impacts related to the disturbance of unknown human remains because of installation of small-scale wind turbines that lack discretionary oversight. Impacts would be significant.

Built Environment and Transportation Measures and Actions

This category includes strategies to decarbonize the County's vehicle fleet, support active transportation, and reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips. Key actions with potential to result in new or more severe impacts related to archaeological resources include those that would result in the construction of new electric vehicle charging stations (Actions T-3.1) and increase access to hydrogen fueling infrastructure through streamlined permitting processes and other efforts in the unincorporated area (Action T-3.1.a). Some of these measures and actions would result in construction of new facilities and infrastructure, placement of structures, and excavation of earthen materials.

Specific locations for new facilities and infrastructure have not been identified. However, it is possible that the locations of such improvements would have the potential to disturb human remains through ground-moving activities. Implementation of the CAP Update built environment and transportation measures and actions would result in similar impacts related to human remains as identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR through future development. Future projects would be required to implement the adopted General Plan goals and policies related to preservation of paleontological resources. 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1 would be applied to reduce this impact: Cul-4.1 includes regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs and ensures that all references to discovery of human remains promote preservation and include proper handling and coordination with Native American groups. General Plan Policy COS-7.5 additionally requires that human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the MLD and under the requirements of federal, state, and County regulations. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. In addition, future discretionary projects would be required to be evaluated to determine if they are within the scope of this SEIR or if they result in project-specific impacts additional to what is concluded in this analysis. If additional impacts would result, subsequent CEQA documentation would be required to evaluate

impacts, determine mitigation, and conclude whether impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Summary

As explained in the 2011 GPU PEIR, implementation of adopted General Plan Policy COS-7.5 and adopted 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1 would ensure that new development would protect human remains. Adopted General Plan policies require that human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that the disposition and handling of human remains will be done in consultation with the MLD and under the requirements of federal, state, and County regulations. The applicable 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measure includes regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs.

However, because it is possible to install small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use without discretionary review, significant impacts to human remains could occur due to ground-disturbing activities and the lack of mitigation requirements. Therefore, impacts to human remains would be significant (**Impact CULT-4**). Implementation of the CAP Update **would result in new or more severe impacts** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.3.7 Cumulative Impact Analysis

The cumulative impact analysis study area for cultural resources is the southern California region, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas of San Diego County, surrounding counties, and Mexico. The geographic scope for the cumulative analysis of paleontological resources includes the Salton Trough, Peninsular Ranges, and Coastal Plain regions within southern California. This analysis uses the same scope identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. The scope and approach to the cumulative impact analysis are described in the “Cumulative Impact Assessment Overview” section in the introduction to this chapter.

Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource

Cumulative development in the southern California region would result in a cumulative impact associated with the loss of historical resources through changes to resources or their immediate surroundings that could combine to magnify the effect on historical resources. Potential development activities may be associated with the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCAG RTP/SCS), San Diego Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy, and Regional Comprehensive Plan (SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan), private projects, and the development of land uses as designated under surrounding jurisdictions’ general plans. Projects in California would be regulated by federal, state, and local regulations, including PRC Section 5097, California Penal Code 622, the Mills Act, HSC Sections 18950–18961, and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Standards for

the Treatment of Historic Properties. However, cumulative projects located in Mexico would not be subject to compliance with such regulations. Additionally, even with regulations in place, individual historical resources would still have the potential to be impacted or degraded from demolition, destruction, alteration, or structural relocation because of new private or public development or redevelopment. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of significant historical resources from construction and development planned within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact. Additionally, past projects involving development and construction have already impacted historical resources within the region.

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluation of cumulative impacts to historical resources assumed implementation of applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures listed in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework,” and Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.” Nonetheless, allowable development would have the potential to result in substantial adverse changes to the significance of historical resources due to demolition, destruction, alteration, or structural relocation because of new private or public development or redevelopment. Therefore, the General Plan, in combination with the cumulative development, has the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact associated with historical resources.

Implementation of the CAP Update measures and actions would have the potential to result in construction of new or expanded solid waste, renewable energy, and transportation facilities in the unincorporated county. As discussed in Section 2.5.3.3, “Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource,” new facilities would be required to implement applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1 and Cul-1.6, which would ensure that most measures and actions would have a less-than-significant impact to historical resources. However, because it is possible for some properties that are not listed or zoned as historical resources to install wind turbines or solar PV energy systems without a discretionary permit, impacts related to historical resources would be potentially significant.

Therefore, the cumulative destruction of significant historical resources from construction and development planned within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact. As described above, the project would have potentially significant historical resources impacts from wind and solar PV projects. Therefore, the project would result in a considerable contribution to a significant cumulative effect. The cumulative impact would be significant (**Impact C-CULT-1**). This would be a new or more severe impact than disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource

Cumulative development in the southern California region would result in a cumulative impact associated with the loss of archaeological resources. Cumulative projects that may result in significant impacts include any projects that involve ground disturbing activities, such as tribal projects, energy and utility projects, private projects, or the development of

land uses as designated under surrounding jurisdictions' general plans. These projects are regulated by applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, PRC Section 5079, CEQA Section 21083.2, and the County RPO. However, cumulative projects located in Mexico would not be subject to compliance with such regulations. Additionally, the loss of archaeological resources on a regional level may not be adequately mitigable through the data recovery and collection methods specified in these regulations, as their value may also lie in cultural mores and religious beliefs of applicable groups. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of archaeological resources from development projects within the region would be cumulatively significant. Additionally, past projects involving development and construction have already impacted archaeological resources within the region.

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluation of cumulative impacts to archaeological resources assumed implementation of applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures listed in Section 2.5.2, "Regulatory Framework," and Section 2.5.5, "Mitigation Measures." Nonetheless, the evaluation concludes that development would have the potential to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource. Therefore, the General Plan, in combination with cumulative development, has the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact associated with archaeological resources.

Implementation of the CAP Update measures and actions would have the potential to result in construction of new or expanded solid waste, renewable energy, and transportation facilities in the unincorporated county. As discussed in Section 2.5.3.4, "Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource," new facilities would be required to implement applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-1.1, Cul-1.6, Cul-2.1, Cul-2.2, Cul-2.3, Cul-2.5, and Cul-2.6, which would ensure that most measures and actions would have a less-than-significant impact to archaeological resources. However, because it is possible to install small-scale wind turbines without a discretionary permit, impacts related to archaeological resources would be potentially significant.

Archaeological resources would still have the potential to be damaged or destroyed because of new private or public development or redevelopment allowed under cumulative projects. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of archaeological resources from construction and development planned within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact.

Therefore, implementation of the CAP Update could result in a considerable contribution to an existing cumulative effect. The cumulative impact would be significant (**Impact C-CULT-2**). This **would be a new or more severe impact** than disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource

Cumulative projects located in the southern California region would result in a cumulative impact to paleontological resources from grading, excavation, and other ground-disturbing activities. Cumulative development that requires excavation, such as regional energy and utility projects or the construction of new roadways under the SCAG RTP/SCS or SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan would result in adverse impacts to paleontological resources. Cumulative projects on state or public lands would be required to comply with PRC Section 5097–5097.6 pertaining to impacts to paleontological resources. Most other cumulative projects would be regulated by state and local regulations, including CEQA and the County Grading Ordinance. However, cumulative projects located in Mexico would not be subject to compliance with such regulations. Additionally, the loss of paleontological resources on a regional level may not be adequately mitigable through methods specified in these regulations. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of significant paleontological resources from planned construction and development within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact. Additionally, past projects involving development and construction have already impacted paleontological resources within the region.

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated cumulative impacts to paleontological resources assuming implementation of applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures listed in Section 2.5.2, “Regulatory Framework,” and Section 2.5.5, “Mitigation Measures.” As discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, areas of the county designated for high-density land uses under the General Plan, such as village residential, commercial, or industrial, that also have a high or moderate paleontological sensitivity, would have the potential to significantly impact paleontological resources from construction activities associated with development. Therefore, the General Plan, in combination with the identified cumulative projects, would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact associated with paleontological resources.

Implementation of the CAP Update measures and actions would have the potential to result in construction of new or expanded solid waste, renewable energy, and transportation facilities in the unincorporated county. As discussed in Section 2.5.3.5, “Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource,” new facilities would be required to implement applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Cul-3.1 and Cul-3.2, which would ensure that most measures and actions would have a less-than-significant impact to paleontological resources.

Even with federal, state, and local regulations in place, resources would still have the potential to be destroyed because of new private or public development or redevelopment allowed under cumulative projects. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of paleontological resources from construction and development planned within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact. Therefore, implementation of the CAP Update could result in a considerable contribution to an existing cumulative effect. The cumulative impact would be **significant (Impact C-CULT-3)**. This **would be a new or more severe impact** than disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains

Cumulative projects located in the southern California region would result in impacts associated with grading, excavation or other ground-disturbing activities. Projects anticipated in the SCAG RTP/SCS, SANDAG 2021 Regional Plan, or the development of land uses as designated under surrounding jurisdictions' general plans may result in adverse impacts to human remains from development activities if they occur in proximity to the unincorporated county. Cumulative projects would be required to comply with NAGPRA, PRC Section 5097.9–5097.991, CalNAGPRA, and HSC Section 7050.5. On a regional level, the disturbance of human remains that are also considered archaeological resources may not be adequately mitigable through methods specified in these regulations, as their value may also lie in cultural mores and religion beliefs of applicable groups. Therefore, the cumulative disturbance of human remains by construction and development within the region would be considered a cumulatively significant impact. Additionally, past projects involving development and construction have already impacted human remains within the region.

The 2011 GPU PEIR concluded that implementation of the General Plan would have the potential to disturb human remains, including those located outside of formal cemeteries, from ground-disturbing activities development that could occur under the General Plan. Therefore, the General Plan, in combination with cumulative projects, would have the potential to result in a significant cumulative impact associated with human remains resources.

Implementation of the CAP Update measures and actions would have the potential to result in construction of new or expanded solid waste, renewable energy, and transportation facilities in the unincorporated county. As discussed in Section 2.5.3.6, “Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains,” new facilities would be required to implement applicable General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1, which would ensure that most measures and actions would have a less than significant impact to human remains.

Based on cumulative conditions, even with federal, state, and local regulations in place, human remains would still have the potential to be damaged or destroyed because of new private or public development or redevelopment allowed under cumulative projects. Therefore, the cumulative destruction of human remains from construction and development planned within the region would result in a cumulatively significant impact. It is possible that implementation of the CAP Update, particularly construction of small-scale wind turbines, could result in a considerable contribution to an existing cumulative effect. The cumulative impact would be **significant (Impact C-CULT-4)**. This **would be a new or more severe impact** than disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.4 Summary of New or More Severe Significant Impacts

The proposed project would result in potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts to historical resources, archaeological resources, paleontological resources, and human remains, as summarized below.

Impact-CULT-1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource. Small-scale wind and solar renewable energy improvements may not be required to undergo a discretionary review process; this could result in impacts to historical resources because of changes to the historic building or setting.

Impact-CULT-2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource. Installation of small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use could occur without discretionary review; impacts to archaeological resources could occur because of ground disturbance.

Impact-CULT-3: Result in the Direct or Indirect Destruction of a Unique Paleontological Resource. Installation of small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use could occur without discretionary review; impacts to paleontological resources could occur because of ground disturbance.

Impact-CULT-4: Disturb Human Remains. Installation of small-scale wind turbines as an accessory use could occur without discretionary review; impacts related to human remains could occur because of ground disturbance.

Impact-C-CULT-1: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a potentially significant cumulative impact related to historical resources.

Impact-C-CULT-2: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a potentially significant cumulative impact related to archaeological resources.

Impact-C-CULT-3: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to the Direct or Indirect Destruction of a Unique Paleontological Resource. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a potentially significant cumulative impact related to paleontological resources.

Impact-C-CULT-4: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to the Disturbance of Human Remains. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a potentially significant cumulative impact related to human remains.

2.5.5 Mitigation Measures

Adopted 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures

The following section lists the mitigation measures from the 2011 GPU PEIR that are applicable to the proposed project. No new mitigation measures have been proposed to avoid or minimize cultural and paleontological impacts resulting from the proposed project.

2.5.5.1 Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource

The mitigation measures applicable to historical resources that were adopted as a part of the 2011 GPU PEIR and are applicable to the project include the following:

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1: Utilize the RPO, CEQA, the Grading and Clearing Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance to identify and protect important historic and archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6: Implement, and update as necessary, the “County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Cultural Resources” to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic and archaeological resources.

2.5.5.2 Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource

The mitigation measures applicable to archaeological resources that were adopted as a part of the 2011 GPU PEIR and are applicable to the project include the following:

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.1: Utilize the RPO, CEQA, the Grading and Clearing Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance to identify and protect important historic and archaeological resources by requiring appropriate reviews and applying mitigation when impacts are significant.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-1.6: Implement, and update as necessary, the “County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance for Cultural Resources” to identify and minimize adverse impacts to historic and archaeological resources.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.1: Develop management and restoration plans for identified and acquired properties with cultural resources.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.2: Facilitate the identification and acquisition of important resources through collaboration with agencies, tribes, and institutions, such as the South Coast Information Center (SCIC), while maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive cultural information.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.3: Support the dedication of easements that protect important cultural resources by using a variety of funding methods, such as grants or matching funds, or funds from private organizations.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.5: Protect undiscovered subsurface archaeological resources by requiring grading monitoring by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor for ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of known archaeological resources, and also, when feasible, during initial surveys.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-2.6: Protect significant cultural resources by facilitating the identification and acquisition of important resources through regional coordination with agencies, and institutions, such as the South Coast Information Center (SCIC) and consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local tribal governments, including SB-18 review, while maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive cultural information.

2.5.5.3 Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource

The mitigation measures applicable to paleontological resources that were adopted as a part of the 2011 GPU PEIR and are applicable to the project include the following:

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-3.1: Implement the Grading Ordinance and CEQA to avoid or minimize impacts to paleontological resources, require a paleontological monitor during grading when appropriate, and apply appropriate mitigation when impacts are significant.

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-3.2: Implement, and update as necessary, the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Paleontological Resources to identify and minimize adverse impacts to paleontological resources.

2.5.5.4 Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains

The mitigation measures applicable to human remains that were adopted as a part of the 2011 GPU PEIR and are applicable to the project include the following:

Adopted Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1: Include regulations and procedures for discovery of human remains in all land disturbance and archaeological-related programs. Ensure that all references to discovery of human remains promote preservation and include proper handling and coordination with Native American groups. Apply appropriate mitigation when impacts are significant.

2.5.6 Significance Conclusions

2.5.6.1 Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource

As described above in Section 2.5.5.1, "Issue 1: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical Resource," even with implementation of the adopted General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures that prevent significant impacts to historical resources and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations intended to protect historical resources, impacts could remain significant and unavoidable. No other feasible project-related mitigation is available and could be applied to small-scale wind and solar energy projects because of the lack of discretionary review and ability to mitigate as a condition of a permit. The project's impacts related to historical resources from GHG reduction measures that would result in the installation of small wind

turbines or solar PV facilities would remain **significant and unavoidable**, and the project **would result in a considerable contribution** such that a new significant cumulative impact to historical resources would occur. This **would be a new or more severe impact** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.6.2 Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource

As described above in Section 2.5.5.2, “Issue 2: Cause a Substantial Adverse Change in the Significance of an Archaeological Resource,” even with implementation of the adopted General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures, and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations intended to protect archeological resources that prevent significant impacts to archaeological resources, impacts could remain significant and unavoidable. No other feasible project-related mitigation is available and could be applied to small-scale renewable energy projects because of the lack of discretionary review and ability to mitigate as a condition of a permit. The project’s impacts related to archaeological resources related to the installation of small wind turbines would remain **significant and unavoidable**, and the project **would result in a considerable contribution** such that a new significant cumulative impact to archaeological resources would occur. This **would be a new or more severe impact** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.6.3 Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource

As described above in Section 2.5.5.3, “Issue 3: Directly or Indirectly Destroy a Unique Paleontological Resource,” even with implementation of the adopted General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations intended to protect paleontological resources, impacts could remain significant and unavoidable. No other feasible project-related mitigation is available and could be applied to small-scale renewable energy projects because of the lack of discretionary review and ability to mitigate as a condition of a permit. The project’s impacts related to paleontological resources from GHG reduction measures that would result in the installation of small wind turbines would remain **significant and unavoidable**, and the project **would result in a considerable contribution** such that a new significant cumulative impact to paleontological resources would occur. This **would be a new or more severe impact** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

2.5.6.4 Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains

As described above in Section 2.5.5.4, “Issue 4: Disturb Any Human Remains,” even with implementation of the adopted General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations intended to protect human remains, impacts could remain significant and unavoidable. No other feasible project-related mitigation is available and could be applied to small-scale renewable energy projects because of the lack of discretionary review and ability to mitigate as a

condition of a permit. The project's impacts related to disturbance of human remains from GHG reduction measures that would result in the installation of small wind turbines would remain **significant and unavoidable**, and the project **would result in a considerable contribution** such that a new significant cumulative impact to human remains would occur. This **would be a new or more severe impact** not disclosed in the 2011 GPU PEIR.

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