

## 6.21 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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### 6.21.1 OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

*This section evaluates the potential impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) associated with implementation of the proposed St. John's Seminary Residential Community Project. The Environmental Setting information is from the Phase I Archaeological Survey for St. John's Specific Plan Study Area, Camarillo, Ventura County, California, prepared by W & S Consultants in March 2008, and included as Appendix 6.21 to this Draft EIR.*

*No comment letters related to impacts on TCRs were received in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) published for this Draft EIR.*

### 6.21.2 LITERATURE AND DATA REVIEW

#### Project Related Studies

The following project-related studies were completed and used (see **Appendix 6.5**):

- W & S Consultants. Phase I Archaeological Survey for St. John's Proposed project Study Area, Camarillo, Ventura County, California. 2008.
- W & S Consultants. Phase II Excavation and Determination of Significance at Site SF-1, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, Ventura County, California. 2008.
- Compass Rose Archaeological. Negative Archaeological Survey Report. 2011.

### 6.21.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site, and Ventura County in general, lies within the territory of the Ventureño dialect of the Chumash ethnolinguistic group. These were Hokan speaking people, who occupied the area from Topanga Canyon northwest to approximately San Luis Obispo. Because of their location in an area of early Spanish missionization, Chumash culture and lifeways were heavily disrupted prior to any modern efforts at ethnographic research, hence our knowledge of them is limited. However, based on fragmentary records and various means of inferential and analogical studies, a certain amount can be reconstructed about their way of life.

The Chumash followed a hunting-gathering-fishing subsistence pattern, which incorporated a heavy reliance on maritime resources, including pelagic and littoral fishes, and shellfish. Indeed, the bountiful sea resources that they exploited may have been a key factor in their evolutionary success: at the time of the arrival of the Spanish the Chumash had reached levels of population density, and complexities in

social organization, unequaled worldwide by other non-farming groups. These included permanent coastal villages along the Channel Islands area containing as many as 1000 inhabitants, as well as a hierarchical sociopolitical organization consisting of at least two major chiefdoms. Further, based on recent reconstructions using mission registers, the Chumash appear to have a matrilineal, and perhaps matrilineal, clan-based society.

The Oxnard Plain area was apparently a portion of a paramount Chumash capital at the village of *Muwu*, at modern Point Mugu. This served as the center of *Lulapin*, one of the two known historical chiefdoms, and was a domain whose limits stretched from the southeastern extreme of Chumash territory to just beyond modern Santa Barbara. Correspondingly, the Point Mugu locale has been documented, both archaeologically and ethnographically, as the center of a considerable amount of aboriginal activity.

However, even given the proximity of the study area to Point Mugu, no ethnohistoric data are available pertaining to the immediate project zone, per se. Indeed, research indicates that the only historic Chumash villages known for the region are specifically *Muwu* and *Simomo* (meaning 'beach' and 'the saltbush patch', respectively), both located close to Point Mugu; *Ixsha* (or '*ihsha*, 'ashes'), at the mouth of the Santa Clara River; and *Wenemu* ('sleeping place'), the origin for the modern toponymic 'Hueneme', applied to a temporary village or campsite, used as a rest-stop in trans-channel crossings, on the coast near Hueneme. According to researcher's maps, *Wenemu* was actually located on the coast northwest of the modern town of Hueneme proper. Based on John Peabody Harrington's ethnographic notes, other known historical place-names in the area include: *Kasunalmu* ('sending place'), an unlocated village/camp 'just west of Oxnard'; *Malhohshi*, an unlocated place near Oxnard; *Shishlomow*, an unlocated place 'just south of Hueneme'; and *Swini*, an unlocated place near Oxnard. None of these latter named locales are identifiable and, with the exception of the village/camp of *Kasunalmu*, it is not known whether they refer to natural/geographical, cultural, or mythical places on the landscape.

There is no evidence to suggest that any of these place-names apply to the project site or any other nearby locations. Apparently, during the Historic Period much of the general Oxnard region was essentially an unoccupied zone intermediate between large population centers at Point Mugu and the modern Ventura area, on the coast, with additional villages located further inland near the foothills.

#### 6.21.4 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

##### Federal Laws and Regulations

No federal laws, regulations, or policies apply to TCRs and the proposed project.

## State Laws and Regulations

### *Assembly Bill (AB) 52*

AB 52, which was approved in September 2014 and became effective on July 1, 2015, requires that CEQA lead agencies consult with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project, if so requested by the tribe. A provision of the bill, chaptered in CEQA Section 21086.21, also specifies that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

Defined in Section 21074(a) of the Public Resources Code, TCRs are:

1. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
  - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or
  - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

TCRs are further defined under Section 21074 as follows:

- a. A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a TCR to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape; and
- b. A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a “non-unique archaeological resource” as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a TCR if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

Mitigation measures for TCRs must be developed in consultation with the affected California Native American tribe pursuant to newly chaptered Section 21080.3.2, or according to Section 21084.3. Section 21084.3 identifies mitigation measures that include avoidance and preservation of TCRs and treating TRCs with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource.

### 6.21.5 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The impacts related to TCRs resulting from the implementation of the proposed project would be considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Section 21074 of the Public Resources Code.

### 6.21.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### Methodology

According to AB 52, it is the responsibility of the tribes to formally request of a lead agency that they be notified of projects in the lead agency's jurisdiction so that they may request consultation related to TCRs. Nevertheless, the City of Camarillo proactively sent out letters to three tribes in Ventura County notifying them of the proposed project at the same time that the NOP was issued on July 11, 2016 (refer to **Appendix 6.21**).

#### Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Section 21074?**

As previously discussed, the City of Camarillo sent out letters to three tribes in Ventura County notifying them of the proposed project. According to AB 52, the tribes had 30 days from the receipt of the letter to request consultation with the City of Camarillo.

A request for formal consultation was received via email by the City of Camarillo from Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Chairperson of the Barbareno / Ventureno Band of Mission Indians. No other requests were received as of the publication of this Draft EIR. Ms. Tumamait-Stenslie requested that a Phase I Archaeological Survey be conducted for the project site. Two such surveys have been conducted for the project site (included in **Appendix 6.5**), no artifacts of note were reported in either survey.

As previously discussed under Environmental Setting the area of the project site is not known to contain any TCRs. As noted in the **Section 6.5, Cultural Resources**, with respect to archaeological resources and human remains that may be present in areas where there would be some ground disturbance, mitigation measures set forth in the section, including monitoring, would be implemented to ensure that should resources be encountered, they would be protected from damage. Therefore, while no TCRs are expected to be affected by the proposed project, the mitigation measures set forth in **Section 6.5, Cultural Resources**, would further ensure that any resources encountered would not be adversely affected.

Based on the above, the proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of TCRs, and this impact is considered less than significant.

### *Mitigation Measures*

Implementation of **Mitigation Measures 6.5-4** through **6.5-6**.

### *Residual Impacts*

Impacts would be less than significant.

## **6.21.7 CUMULATIVE ANALYSIS**

### *Impacts*

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts on TCRs and therefore would not make any contribution to a cumulative impact on TCRs.

### *Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation is required.

### *Residual Impacts*

Impacts would be less than significant.

## **6.21.8 CONSISTENCY WITH GENERAL PLAN**

The City of Camarillo General Plan does not provide specific goals and policies for Tribal Cultural Resources.