8.3 Cultural Resources

8.3.1 Introduction

This subsection determines whether cultural resources are present and could be affected adversely by the City of Vernon (City) Vernon Power Plant (VPP) project. The significance of any potentially affected resources is assessed, and measures are proposed to mitigate potential adverse project effects. This study was conducted by Clint Helton, M.A., RPA, a Cultural Resource Specialist who meets the qualifications for Principal Investigator stated in the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for archaeology and historic preservation (USNPS, 1983).

This subsection is consistent with state regulatory requirements for cultural resources pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The study scope was developed in consultation with the California Energy Commission's cultural resources staff and complies with *Instructions to the California Energy Commission Staff for the Review of and Information Requirements for an Application for Certification* (CEC, 1992) and *Rules of Practice and Procedure & Power Plant Site Certification Regulations* (CEC, 1997).

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites;[1] districts and objects; standing historic structures, buildings, districts, and objects; and locations of important historic events, or sites of traditional/cultural importance to various groups.[2]

Subsection 8.3.2 discusses the laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) applicable to the protection of cultural resources. Subsection 8.3.3 describes the cultural resources environment that might be affected by the VPP. Subsection 8.3.4 discusses the environmental consequences of construction of the proposed development. Subsection 8.3.5 determines whether there are any cumulative effects from the project, and Subsection 8.3.6 presents mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid construction impacts. Subsection 8.3.7 lists the agencies involved and agency contacts, and Subsection 8.3.8 discusses permits and the permitting schedule. Subsection 8.3.9 lists reference materials used in preparing this section.

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1 Site: "The location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure…where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value." (USNPS-IRD 1991:15).

2 The federal definitions of cultural resource, historic property or historic resource, traditional use area, and sacred resources are reviewed below and are typically applied to non-federal projects.

A cultural resource may be defined as a phenomenon associated with prehistory, historical events or individuals or extant cultural systems. These include archaeological sites, districts, and objects; standing historic structures, districts, and objects; locations of important historic events; and places, objects and living or non-living things that are important to the practice and continuity of traditional cultures. Cultural resources may involve historic properties, traditional use areas, and sacred resource areas.

Historic property or historic resource means any prehistoric district, site building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The definition also includes artifacts, records and remains that are related to such a district, site, building, structure, or object.

Traditional use area refers to an area or landscape identified by a cultural group to be necessary for the perpetuation of the traditional culture. The concept can include areas for the collection of food and non-food resources, occupation sites, and ceremonial and/or sacred areas.

Sacred resources applies to traditional sites, places, or objects that Native American tribes or groups, or their members, perceive as having religious significance.

Appendix 8.3A provides copies of agency consultation letters. Appendix 8.3B provides the resume for Clint Helton. Figure 8.3-1 depicts the ethnographic distribution in the project area per CEC Data Adequacy requirements.

The VPP project is subject to CEC and CEQA regulatory requirements. The project does not require review under federal regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA) of 1974 (16 USC 469), among others, because it is not a federal undertaking (federally permitted or funded).

8.3.2 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

A summary of applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) is provided in Table 8.3-1.

TABLE 8.3-1
Applicable Cultural Resource Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

Law, Ordinance, Regulation, or Standard	Applicability	Project Conformity?
California Environment Quality Act Guidelines	Project construction may encounter archaeological and/or historical resources	Yes
Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5	Construction may encounter Native American graves; coroner calls NAHC	Yes
Public Resources Code Section 5097.98	Construction may encounter Native American graves; NAHC assigns Most Likely Descendant	Yes
Public Resources Code Section 5097.5/5097.9	Would apply only if some project land were acquired by the state (currently no state land)	Yes
County of Los Angeles, General Plan	GP-30, CU-17, and OS-18 through OS-24 outline the county policies/actions regarding cultural resources	Yes

8.3.2.1 State of California Statutes

CEQA requires a review to determine if a project will have a significant effect on archaeological sites or a property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic group eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (CEQA Guidelines). CEQA equates a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource with a significant effect on the environment (Section 21084.1 of the Public Resources Code) and defines substantial adverse change as demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration that would impair historical significance (Section 5020.1). Section 21084.1 stipulates that any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR[3] is presumed to be historically or culturally significant.[4]

3 The CRHR is a listing of "…those properties which are to be protected from substantial adverse change." Any resource eligible for listing in the California Register is also to be considered under CEQA.

4 A historical resource may be listed in the CRHR if it meets one or more of the following criteria: "(1) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; (2) is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history; (3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of

Resources listed in a local historic register or deemed significant in a historical resource survey (as provided under Section 5024.1g) are presumed historically or culturally significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates they are not.

A resource that is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, is not included in a local register of historic resources, nor deemed significant in a historical resource survey, may nonetheless be historically significant (Section 21084.1; see Section 21098.1).

CEQA requires a Lead Agency to identify and examine environmental effects that may result in significant adverse effects. Where a project may adversely affect a unique archaeological resource,[5] Section 21083.2 requires the Lead Agency to treat that effect as a significant environmental effect and prepare an Environmental Impact Review (EIR). When an archaeological resource is listed in or is eligible to be listed in the CRHR, Section 21084.1 requires that any substantial adverse effect to that resource be considered a significant environmental effect. Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 operate independently to ensure that potential effects on archaeological resources are considered as part of a project's environmental analysis. Either of these benchmarks may indicate that a project may have a potential adverse effect on archaeological resources.

Other state-level requirements for cultural resources management appear in the California Public Resources Code Chapter 1.7, Section 5097.5 (Archaeological, Paleontological, and Historical Sites), and Chapter 1.75, beginning at Section 5097.9 (Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites) for lands owned by the state or a state agency.

The disposition of Native American burials is governed by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, and falls within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

If human remains are discovered, the Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified within 48 hours and there should be no further disturbance to the site where the remains were found. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be Native American, the Coroner is responsible for contacting the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC, pursuant to Section 5097.98, will immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American so they can inspect the burial site and make recommendations for treatment or disposal.

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construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or (4) has yielded or has the potential to yield information important in prehistory or history (…of the local area, California or the nation)" (Public Resources Code §5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852). Automatic CRHR listings include NRHP listed and determined eligible historic properties (either by the Keeper of the NRHP or through a consensus determination on a project review); State Historical Landmarks from number 770 onward; and Points of Historical Interest nominated from January 1998 onward. Landmarks prior to 770 and Points of Historical Interest may be listed through an action of the State Historical Resources Commission.

5 Public Resources Code 21083.2 (g) defines a unique archaeological resource to be: 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 any of the following criteria: (1) contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; (2) has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or (3) is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

8.3.2.2 Local Policies

8.3.2.2.1 Los Angeles County

Although the CEC has pre-emptive authority over local laws, it typically requires compliance with local LORS, plans, and policies.

Los Angeles County General Plan

The county's General Plan recognizes the importance of cultural resources on lands over which it has jurisdiction and outlines goals, policies, and procedures for managing these resources. The General Plan "Efficient Use of Land" states that one of the county's goals is "To encourage more efficient use of land, compatible with, and sensitive to, natural ecological, scenic, cultural and open space resources." GP-30, CU-17, and OS-18 through OS-24 outline the county policies/actions regarding cultural resources and procedures to be followed to implement the county's goals. The county has developed specific requirements for the protection of cultural resources and mitigation of potential impacts to such resources. County requirements are usually effected by placing conditions on a project during the environmental review process.

8.3.2.2.2 Cities of Vernon, Huntington Park, Bell Gardens, Bell, and Commerce

The Cities of Vernon, Huntington Park, Bell Gardens, Bell, and Commerce do not have any ordinances or regulations regarding cultural resources.

8.3.3 Affected Environment

In southern California, cultural resources extend back in time for at least 11,500 years. Written historical sources tell the story of the past 200 years. Archaeologists have reconstructed general trends of prehistory.

8.3.3.1 Regional Setting

The project region encompasses the entire Los Angeles Basin, a broad alluvial plain bounded by the Transverse and Peninsular ranges. The cultural attributes common to the earliest inhabitants of this region (e.g., large, coarse chipped-stone tools, including knives and scrapers) are found over an area encompassing thousands of square miles, from the Peninsular ranges south to Baja California and east throughout the Mojave Desert. Cultural affiliation with the Gabrielino ethnographic group is recognized during the past millennium. The varied ecological zones of the Los Angeles Basin and the easily accessible fresh water from the Santa Ana, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel rivers were attributes that provided favorable conditions for both prehistoric and historic settlement.

In terms of historic resources, regional history begins with Spanish explorations beginning in 1520. These explorations touched on the shores of Santa Catalina Island and the Gabrielinos living there, but not the Los Angeles coastline (Bean and Smith, 1978). Later, in the late 1700s further Spanish exploration brought settlers and missions to the region. A combination of railroads and good agriculture attracted more settlers and eventually the City of Los Angeles and its surrounding communities, which occupy the entire basin, developed.

Based on previously recorded remains and the historic development of the Los Angeles Basin, the kinds of archaeological resources expected include charcoal; obsidian; chert flakes; grinding bowls; shell fragments; bone; and pockets of dark, friable soils. Historic resources include glass, metal, ceramics, wood, and similar debris. Most cultural indicators are likely to have been damaged by development, intentional destruction, collection, and urban expansion.

8.3.3.2 Prehistoric Period

The general trend throughout California prehistory has been an increase in population density over time, coupled with greater sedentism and the use of a greater diversity of food resources. There is abundant evidence that humans were present in the New World for at least the past 11,500 years. There is also fragmentary, but growing, evidence that humans were present long before that date. Linguistic and genetic studies suggest that a date of 20,000 to 40,000 years ago for the human colonization of the New World may be correct. The evidence of this earlier occupation is not yet conclusive, but it is beginning to be accepted by archaeologists. The Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Pennsylvania and Monte Verde in Chile, for instance, are two early sites that have produced apparently reliable dates as early as 12,500 years before present. These earliest known remains indicate very small, mobile populations, apparently dependent on hunting of large game animals as the primary subsistence strategy.

The first useful chronology for southern California in general was developed by William Wallace (1955), who described four distinct periods applicable to the southern California coastal region. Although dated, the chronology's relative accuracy has been vindicated by more recent radiocarbon dates, and archaeologists still find it applicable.

Wallace's earliest period is called Horizon I: Early Man, and dates from the end of the Pleistocene (approximately 12,000 years ago) to about 7,500 years ago. The surviving material culture of this period consists primarily of large, well-made projectile points as well as large, but crude, stone tools such as scrapers and choppers. Many encampments during this period were not permanent, and were sited near the kills of Pleistocene megafauna (mastodon, mammoth, giant bison). Such an economy, using only a small fraction of the available resources, did not support large populations, and early groups were generally no larger than extended families. As the Pleistocene ended and the megafauna suddenly became extinct, prehistoric people during this period were forced to broaden their resource extraction base.

The succeeding period identified by Wallace, Horizon II: Millingstone Assemblages (7,500 to 5,000 years ago), gets its name from the sudden appearance in the archaeological record of stone milling tools, such as the mano (handstone) and slab and basin metate (flat grinding stone). These tools were used to process the small, hard seeds associated with the sage scrub ecological community. Settlement size seems to have increased, compared with the previous period. An annual round of seasonal migrations was likely practiced as movements coincided with ripening vegetal resources and rotated among hunting and gathering grounds to avoid over-exploitation of resources in a given area.

The Millingstone Period is followed, in Wallace's scheme, by Horizon III: Intermediate Cultures (5,000 to 1,000 years ago). The major change marking this new period was the introduction of the mortar and pestle. This tool is an indicator of the intensification of acorn food production. Although the acorn had been present and was no doubt used as a food source earlier than this, the need for labor-intensive processing of this food (grinding and leaching) may have discouraged people from extensive use until increasing population densities made it necessary to extract more food from a given group's territory. Flaked stone tools also became more diverse and plentiful during this period. Along with population growth came the increasing diversification of food resources. Late in this period, the bow and arrow were introduced, as indicated by the greater number of small, finely flaked

projectile points. This technology spread across North America about 1,500 years ago from an unknown origin point. It allowed for more accurate, if less powerful, propulsion of projectiles than the previous spear thrower (atl-atl) and dart technology and was thus more useful for shooting smaller game.

Wallace's final phase is called Horizon IV: Late Prehistoric Cultures. In the Late Prehistoric (1,000 to 200 years ago), groups increasingly developed extensive trade networks to bring exotic goods over long distances (shell for ornaments and currency from the Pacific Ocean, obsidian for tool-making from distant sources). The pattern of life in Horizon IV was more complex than during earlier periods. More classes of artifacts were being produced and they exhibited a more sophisticated degree of workmanship. Other items include steatite containers, shell fishhooks, perforated stones, bone tools, personal ornaments, asphalt adhesive, and elaborate mortuary customs. In addition, the population increased and larger, more permanent villages evolved (Wallace, 1955).

8.3.3.3 Ethnographic Setting

The project area lies within Gabrielino territory, which encompasses present-day Los Angeles and Orange counties, and San Clemente, Santa Catalina, and San Nicolas islands (Bean and Smith, 1978). Eventually, Gabrielino territory encompassed the greater Los Angeles Basin, coastal regions from Topanga Canyon in the north to Aliso Creek in the south, and the islands of San Clemente, San Nicholas and Santa Catalina (Bean and Smith, 1978).

The Gabrielino arrived in the Los Angeles Basin around 1,500 years ago as part of a colonization or infiltration of people from the southwestern Great Basin who spoke Takic Shoshonean languages of the Uto-Aztecan family. The ancestral Gabrielino gradually displaced the indigenous peoples, probably speakers of languages belonging to the Hokan family. Large, permanent villages were established in the fertile lowlands along rivers and streams and in sheltered areas along the coast. Recent studies suggest the Gabrielino population may have numbered as many as 10,000 in the precontact period.

The subsistence economy of the Gabrielino was one of hunting and gathering. The surrounding environment was rich and varied and the natives were able to exploit mountains, foothills, valleys, deserts, and coasts. Acorns provided the most important staple food, supplemented by the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruit of a wide variety of flora (e.g., cactus, yucca, sage, agave, etc.). Fresh and saltwater fish, shellfish, birds, insects, as well as large and small mammals, were exploited.

A wide variety of tools and implements were employed by the Gabrielino to gather, collect, and process food resources. The most important hunting tool was the bow and arrow. Traps, nets, blinds, throwing sticks, and slings were also employed. Fish were an important resource and nets, traps, spears, harpoons, hooks, and poisons were utilized to catch them. Ocean-going plank canoes and tule balsa canoes were used for fishing as well as for travel by those groups residing near the ocean. The processing of food resources was accomplished in a variety of ways: nuts were cracked with hammer stone and anvil; acorns were ground with mortar and pestle, seeds and berries with mano and metate. Yucca, an important resource in many areas, was eaten by the natives, as well as exploited for its fibers. Strainers, leaching baskets and bowls, knives, bone saws, and wooden drying racks were also employed. Food was consumed from a variety of vessels. Catalina Island steatite was used to make ollas and cooking vessels (Kroeber, 1925). Gabrielino houses were

circular, domed structures of willow poles thatched with tule. They were actually quite large and could hold 50 individuals. Other structures served as sweathouses, menstrual huts, and ceremonial enclosures (Bean and Smith, 1978).

The Gabrielino traced their descent through the male line (Kroeber, 1925), with status being determined by both wealth and heredity. Each lineage had a leader (chief), whose authority rested in possession of a "sacred bundle." The chief had several assistants to help him with his many duties, including the collection of taxes (gifts from the people, primarily for consumption by guests), leading war parties, concluding treaties, and seeing to community welfare. Subject to approval of the people, the position of chief was hereditary within the male line, though females could serve if no male heir was available. Shamans were also people of power, whose primary responsibilities were the overseeing of the various rituals. The mainland Gabrielino practiced cremation of the dead. Cremation usually occurred about 3 days after death. Most possessions of the deceased were burned, though some were kept for burning at the annual mourning ceremony, an 8-day event in the fall of the year.

The term "Gabrielino" is a reference to the direct linkage between the Native American population of the San Gabriel Valley and the Mission San Gabriel de Archangel. The mission was originally located in the Whittier Narrows area but relocated shortly after its founding because of unstable ground along the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River channels.

A number of factors led to the deterioration of the Native American lifeways. Missionization, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood to California brought many Europeans and Anglo-Americans to the area (Bancroft, 1886; Kroeber, 1976). Mission San Gabriel was founded in 1771, and by 1778, mass conversions of Native American villages began. Many Native Americans were brought to the mission, where they were taught the Catholic faith, the Spanish language, and crafts. The change in lifeways was forced on the Gabrielino, and led to destruction of Native American lifeways and massive population reduction because of disease in the densely settled missions. The success of the missions began to decline in 1833, when a Native American emancipation decree was passed. The missions were confiscated by the Mexican government in 1835. At that time, land was granted to citizens for use as grazing land (Elliot, 1967; Moyer, 1969). Many Native Americans were forced to work on ranches (Moratto et al., 1994).

8.3.3.4 Historic Setting

Spanish contact with the Gabrielino people occurred as early as 1542 when Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo first explored the region. At first feared, the Spanish were received with hospitality when they returned in 1602 under Sebastian Vizcaíno. In 1769, the Spanish began to dispatch land expeditions to locate suitable mission sites within Gabrielino territory. By 1771, two missions (San Fernando and San Gabriel) had been built in the Gabrielino area and the conversion of the Gabrielino to a new way of life in the mission system began. European diseases, from which the native inhabitants had no immunity, began decimating entire villages. By 1785, despite frequent protests and revolts against the missions, most Gabrielino had become members of a peasant class, laboring for the missions or the landed gentry (Bean and Smith, 1978). In the early-to-mid 1800s, most Gabrielino had been missionized, fled to other parts of California, or died from European diseases, in particular, smallpox (Bean and Smith, 1978).

Vernon and much of the surrounding area was once a part of the large (29,000-acre) Rancho San Antonio (Kyle, 1990:154). Originally granted to Don Antonio Maria Lugo by the King of Spain in 1810, and then reconfirmed by the United States Government in 1866, the land was used mainly for cattle grazing. Upon Lugo's death, the rancho was divided among his children. By the late 1800s, agriculture replaced cattle ranching and the rancho was divided into numerous smaller tracts.

8.3.3.4.1 American Period

The post-Hispanic nineteenth century history of the proposed project area is closely linked to the natural setting. Primary themes in the area's development during this period include sheep and cattle ranching, agriculture, and development of local roads and rail transportation. In the area that was later developed as the City of Vernon, the original environment was greatly altered by human activities. Early settlers used the land for successive enterprises beginning with cattle ranching, sheep ranching, then the cultivation of barley and wheat. Following these endeavors, the land was subdivided into smaller farms and building lots. The region was also transected by three major rail lines and numerous local roads. The rail lines have been greatly expanded and improved over the years with the addition of numerous sidings, spurs, crossings, and yards. Roadways in the vicinity have also transformed from local dirt tracks, to modern paved streets, highways, and freeways.

The City of Vernon was indirectly named after George R. Vernon, a soldier in the Civil War who rose through the ranks to captain, then settled in the area south of Los Angeles around 1871 (Gudde, 1998:411). Vernon Road was named for him and the city located on that road took the name as well. George Vernon was part of a population boom that began in the late 1860s and continued well into the 1900s (McWilliams, 1973). The town of Vernon was not established until the early twentieth century when John B. Leonis, James J. and Thomas J. Furlong founded and incorporated Vernon in 1905. Originally, the post office and station near George Vernon's home had been known as Vernondale, but the name was shortened when the city was incorporated.

John Leonis was a merchant and rancher of Basque origin, and the Furlongs were also ranchers. The city was purposely created as an "exclusively industrial" city to take advantage of its location at the junction of three major railroad lines. Early industrial citizens of the town include Leonis' own stockyard, and various meat processing and packing businesses, as well as numerous oil refining and storage facilities. Vernon was especially known for the meat packing industry and was home to dozens of slaughterhouses for the first 60 years of its existence.[6] Vernon also became a popular early location for petroleum product pipe line companies, refiners, distributors, and petroleum product manufacturers through the 1920s. The development of the California petroleum fuels industry began in the mid 1860s, but did not really begin to flourish until the mid-1880s when advances in technology solved most refining and drilling problems and California's production rate increased dramatically. New uses for petroleum products coupled with new oil fields in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley propelled California into the lead position for oil production by 1903 (Beck and Haase, 1974:89). By the mid-1900s, the oil fields in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles County were most notable.[7]

[6] Sources: Moruzzi, 1997; James, 1916, Sanborn Maps; Times-Mirror Press.

[7] Sources: James, 1916; Sanborn Maps.

By the 1920s and 1930s, steel and aluminum manufacturers, automobile factories, and various other food processing plants established themselves in Vernon. World War II and the post-war development boom brought still more industry and diversification, with aerospace industries, box manufactures, and dozens of warehousing enterprises joining food processing giants like Farmer John and General Mills. The City established its own power plant in 1932, when Leonis headed a move to make Vernon independent of Southern California Edison (SE) electric rates. Plant A (at 50th and Seville, adjacent to VPP) of the Vernon Light & Power Department was in operation into the 1990s and provided attractively low-cost power and water for its industrial customers.[8]

8.3.3.5 Resources Inventory

The VPP project site and linear facilities were subject to 100 percent (or complete) archeological resources inventory by CH2M HILL. This inventory is based on both archive/background research and surface pedestrian reconnaissance survey. The results of the resource inventory are presented in the subsections below. The historic architectural resources study is on-going and will include inventory and evaluation of all resources 45 years old or older immediately adjacent to the VPP project site. The linear facilities will be subject to a windshield survey, streetscape photographs, and discussion of sensitivity for historic architectural resources without inventory individual resources.

8.3.3.5.1 Archival Research

CH2M HILL commissioned a detailed record search by staff of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central California Information Center (California State University, Fullerton) for the VPP project (CCIC File Nos. 5897.3127) using a definition of a 0.5-mile buffer zone around the project site and at least 0.25-mile buffer around linear facilities as the "project area."

According to information available in the CHRIS files, there have been eight previous cultural resource surveys conducted within the "project area." The record search also indicated there are an additional 27 investigations located on the Los Angeles and South Gate quadrangles, but that these investigations are not mapped due to insufficient locational information. Within or adjacent to this CH2M HILL–defined "project area" are five recorded cultural resources, including one California Historical Landmark (No. 167**)**.

There are no historic properties listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). One site (California Historic Landmark No. 167) is listed in the CRHR.

The California Historic Resources Inventory (2004) lists over 40 properties (almost entirely private residences) that have been evaluated for historical significance within 0.5-mile radius of the VPP plant site and linear facilities. One resource, Station A of the Vernon Light & Power Department, has been identified as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA and appears eligible for the CRHR. None of the rest of the previously inventoried properties is considered historically significant and all have been determined ineligible for nomination to the NRHP and CRHR (all fall under California Historical Resources Status Code 6 or 7).

[8] Sources: Moruzzi, 1997; James, 1916, Sanborn Maps; Times-Mirror Press.

Eight individual cultural resource investigation reports were provided by CHRIS for the project area. In some cases, these previous investigations partly overlap VPP project elements Arranged in ascending order as cataloged by CHRIS, the reports listed in Table 8.3-2 were reviewed for information pertinent to the VPP project. Table 8.3-3 describes each site and more detailed site descriptions follow below.

TABLE 8.3-2
Authors (Dates) and CHRIS Catalog Number for Cultural Resource Investigation Reports

Alexandrowixz et al. (1992) – SCCIC – LA2626	Maki (1995) – SCCIC – LA3203
Ashkar (1999) – SCCIC – LA4834	Maki (1999) – SCCIC – LA4543
Cooley (1975) – SCCIC – LA6327	Unknown (2001) – SCCIC – LA5951
Duke (2001) – SCCIC – LA7046	Stickel (1994) – SCCIC – LA3408

TABLE 8.3-3
Summary of Sites within 0.5 Mile of the Project Area of Potential Effects

Site	Description	NRHP/CRHR Status	Effect
n/a	Plant A, NE corner of 50th and Seville, Vernon	Eligible for CRHR	To be determined; inside APE
19-001260	Former Site of the Antonio Maria Lugo Adobe	Appears eligible	None; outside APE
19-003135	Historic Trash Pit	Not evaluated	None; outside APE
19-186110	Union Pacific Railroad	Appears eligible	None; outside APE
19-186556	La Mesa Battlefield Landmark No. 167	CA Historic Landmark; not evaluated	None; outside APE

APE = Area of Potential Effects

Plant A, NE corner of 50th and Seville, Vernon

Art Deco power plant built in 1932 by the Vernon Light & Power Department. The diesel fuel-powered plant provided power at low rates that, in combination with the city's other low-cost utilities, attracted many industrial users to Vernon and helped the City fend off annexation by Los Angeles. The plant is located within the APE and is considered eligible for the CRHR and NRHP. No physical impacts are anticipated. The setting of the plant may be impacted by the VPP; however, these impacts are not expected to be significant because the setting of the plant has historically been industrial and will remain so after construction of the VPP.

Site 19-001260

This site consists of the former location of a historic adobe structure dating to the late 1840s. The structure is no longer present and the site has been completely developed. The site is located near the corner of Garfield and Gage Avenues on the south side of the SCE Laguna Bell Substation in the City of Bell Gardens. The location is well outside of the VPP APE and will not be impacted. The site location is considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP or CRHR.

Site 19-003135

This site consists of four discrete trash pits, portions of which were documented to contain historic refuse, predominantly kitchen ware. Archaeological excavation at the site was conducted and some of the material was collected. The site appears to have been mitigated and destroyed by development. The site form does not provide information regarding formal evaluation of the site's eligibility for nomination to the NRHP or CRHR. The location is well outside of the VPP APE and will not be impacted.

Site 19-186110

This site is the historic Southern Pacific Railroad, now the Union Pacific Railroad line. Most of the track was constructed between 1869 and 1905. The line consists of standard gauge single track and is still in frequent use today. The VPP alternative transmission line alignment would cross the track once at Downey Road and Randolph Street. No portion of the railroad right-of-way would be impacted by construction of the overhead electrical transmission line. Even if lines are required to be undergrounded, they would pass under the railroad tracks. The railroad is considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP or CRHR.

Site 19-186556

The La Mesa battlefield is considered a California Historical Landmark. It is registered as Landmark Number 167 in Los Angeles County. The former site is located at 4500 Downey Road. This historical battlefield served as a campsite for California forces during the United States occupation of California during the Mexican War. The last military action on the California front, the battle of La Mesa, was fought here on January 9, 1847. This Landmark is located well outside of the VPP APE and will not be impacted.

8.3.3.5.2 Field Survey

Site Conditions

Cultural resources surveys of the proposed power plant location and appurtenant linear facilities were conducted in September 2005. The surveyed area is in a heavily commercial and industrial area. The power plant location is currently entirely covered by asphalt and concrete. The linear natural gas supply, sewer, recycled water, and double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line routes are contained entirely within existing disturbed city streets or asphalted parking areas. No natural (undisturbed) ground or vegetation was visible within the power plant site, laydown and parking areas. The area with some visibility was primarily along the existing 66-kV transmission line corridor along the east side of the Los Angeles River.

A qualified archaeologist (Clint Helton, RPA) conducted an archaeological survey of the entire APE of the proposed power plant site and project linears (including the alternative transmission line route) on September 1, 2005. Very little ground or vegetation was visible. No historic or prehistoric resources were observed during the survey.

Along the linear corridors (natural gas, sewer, recycled water, and transmission lines), a pedestrian survey by the archaeologist revealed no known archaeological resources.

Given the amount of previous ground disturbance in the area for buildings, utilities, and other infrastructure, it seems likely that any resources in the area would have been disturbed or destroyed. The archaeological sensitivity of the power plant location and linear facility routes are considered low.

An architectural reconnaissance level survey for historic standing structures was conducted by JRP Historical Consulting on February 3, 2006. The survey was performed by qualified architectural historian Meta Bunse. This methodology for architectural resources was developed in consultation with Beverly Bastian of the CEC, who was also present on February 3, 2006. The surveyed area is located in a heavily commercial and industrial area. The VPP location had been partially cleared at the time of the reconnaissance survey. The VPP study area for historic architectural resources will include inventory and evaluation of all resources 45 years old or older immediately adjacent to the VPP project site. The resources will be evaluated for individual significance, as well as for potential to contribute to a possible historic district. The linear facilities will be subject to a windshield survey, streetscape photographs, and discussion of sensitivity for historic architectural resources without inventory individual resources.

Plant Site

The plant site is located on 5.8 acres at the southwest corner of Soto and 50th Streets, in the City of Vernon. The street address is 5001 Soto Street. The site is generally rectangular in shape.

For completeness, a pedestrian archaeological survey was conducted over all parts of the 5.8-acre project site that were accessible (not covered by structures) using 30-meter parallel transects. Little to no ground visibility exists at the site because it is covered with asphalt. No prehistoric or historic cultural remains were observed.

Laydown and Construction Parking

Construction laydown areas will be provided at the following remote locations: 4.21-acre site at the northwest corner of Seville Avenue and 45th Street; 2.8-acre site at the northeast corner of Seville Avenue and 46th Street. Parking will be provided at the following locations: 1.07-acre site at the southeast corner of Seville Avenue and Leonis Boulevard; 0.28-acre site at the northwest corner of Soto Street and Leonis Boulevard; and 0.58-acre site across from the plant site on Soto Street. These areas compose a total area of 8.9 acres.

For completeness, a pedestrian archaeological survey was conducted over all parts of the 8.9-acre laydown and parking locations that were accessible (not covered by structures) using 30-meter parallel transects. Little to no ground visibility exists at these sites because they are covered with asphalt. No prehistoric or historic cultural remains were observed.

Gas Line

Natural gas will be delivered to the site via a 20-inch-diameter pipeline. This approximately 1-mile-long pipeline will extend from the old H. Gonzales City Gate Meter Yard on the southwest corner of Downey Road and 50th Street, then proceed west along 50th Street to the plant site. The natural gas will flow through a flow-metering station at the City Gate Meter Yard, which connects to SoCalGas' Line 765. The optimal trench will be approximately 36 inches wide and 5 to 10 feet deep depending on the location of existing utilities in the road. CH2M HILL surveyed the gas line using a 30-meter pedestrian transect to inspect the gas line centerline and 50 feet on each side of the center line. The line will be installed entirely within the city street and/or sidewalk, within existing asphalt and concrete. The entire route on both sides was heavily developed and disturbed from previous construction, and the entire route is paved in asphalt and concrete.

Approximately 20 structures are located along the proposed route, including industrial warehouses and office buildings. Styles represented include steel and wood-frame industrial buildings that are utilitarian in nature, with little architectural ornamentation. Most of these industrial buildings appear to be less than 50 years old. Those that may date to the 1950s or before appear to have been heavily modified. However, the natural gas pipeline will be located entirely within existing disturbed roadbed and none of the structures that border the roadway will be impacted by installation of the gas pipeline.

Transmission Line

The VPP will connect to the electrical transmission system via a new 230-kV transmission line. The 230-kV transmission line would exit the switchyard and head north on Soto and east on Leonis to the LADWP right-of-way. It would loop a single Velasco to Century 230-kV circuit into the project switchyard. The total distance is approximately 4,500 feet.

An alternative transmission line route would connect to Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Laguna Bell substation. The double-circuit 230-kV transmission line would exit the switchyard and head north on Soto and east on Leonis. It would continue on Leonis past the LADWP right-of-way down District Boulevard. and cross the Los Angeles River. It would then follow an existing 66-kV subtransmission line right-of-way along the east side of the river. The 66-kV line will be removed and replaced with Vernon's spare circuit and the idle SCE circuit. At Randolph Street, the route turns east and proceeds to the Laguna Bell Substation. The total distance is approximately 5 miles. Both the proposed route and alternative route are located within heavily developed areas with little to no surface visibility.

CH2M HILL performed a cultural resources reconnaissance survey of the proposed transmission line and alternative transmission line routes to inspect the alignment. Most of the alignment for the alternative transmission line follows Randolph Street and Leonis Boulevard, both heavily developed residential and commercial area. Both the north and south sides of the road rights-of-way were visually examined to obtain a sense of the age and type of existing standing structures that border the roadway. Ground disturbance was extensive for the route from construction of industrial and residential buildings, as well as existing transmission lines, towers, sidewalks, and other utilities. The remaining portion of the route follows an existing heavily-developed and maintained transmission corridor, the Los Angeles River aqueduct.

Between the plant site and the Los Angeles River, there are dozens of individual buildings located along Soto Street and Leonis Boulevard, and outside of the area of direct impact. Construction types are numerous and include wood and steel-frame, as well as hollow clay tile, brick, and reinforced concrete buildings of various sizes. Although most are utilitarian industrial buildings with little ornamentation, others employ some Spanish Eclectic, Art Deco, and International style details. The ages of the building vary widely, with most dating to the post-war era, but some date to the 1920s and 1930s. These buildings are outside the area of direct impact and will be subject to a windshield survey, streetscape photographs, and discussion of sensitivity for historic architectural resources. None of the structures that border the alignment will be impacted by installation of the transmission line. Should the project scope/limits be expanded to include them, inventory and evaluation of their historical significance would be conducted. The route from the plant site to the existing 66-kV subtransmission line corridor (i.e., the proposed transmission line route) is entirely paved. The remaining route south following the east site of the river and along Randolph to the

Laguna Bell substation (which is part of the alternative transmission line corridor) is paved and bordered by industrial and residential buildings, and part of the existing transmission line corridor is covered along the right-of-way in dense weeds and *Opuntia* cacti.

Disturbance from construction of the transmission line will be temporary and will be limited to the installation of the transmission towers that carry the lines. Construction activity for the installation of the 230-kV towers will be located entirely within existing disturbed rights-of-way along city streets. No known archaeological sites will be impacted by construction or operation of the transmission line. Should the project scope/limits be expanded to include impacts to any of the structures along the route, inventory and evaluation of their historical significance would be necessary.

Sanitary Sewer Line

Two alternatives are being considered for a sanitary sewer line connection. Alternative A would be an 18-inch sanitary sewer line traveling from the west side of the plant south along Seville Avenue to Fruitland Avenue, then west along Fruitland Avenue to Malabar Street, then south on Malabar to 52nd Street, then west on 52nd Street to Santa Fe Avenue, then south on Santa Fe Avenue to 52nd Street, then west on 52nd Street to Alameda Street for a total distance of about 1 mile. Alternative B would be an 18-inch sanitary sewer line that would travel from the east side of the plant south on Soto Street to 54th Street, then east to Boyle Avenue, then south to Slauson Avenue, for a total distance of approximately 1 mile. These alignments are entirely paved with asphalt and concrete.

CH2M HILL performed a cultural resources reconnaissance survey of both alternative sewer line routes to inspect the alignments. Approximately 30 industrial warehouse buildings are located along the alternative routes along with several large parking lots. Construction types are numerous and include wood and steel-frame, as well as hollow clay tile, brick, and reinforced concrete buildings of various sizes. Although most are utilitarian industrial buildings with little ornamentation, others employ some Spanish Eclectic, Art Deco, and International style details. The ages of the buildings vary widely, with most dating to the post-war era, but some date to the 1920s and 1930s. These buildings are outside the area of direct impact and will be subject to a wind-screen survey, streetscape photographs, and discussion of sensitivity for historic architectural resources. None of the structures that border the alignment will be impacted by installation of the sewer line. Should the project scope/limits be expanded to include them, inventory and evaluation of their historical significance would be conducted.

8.3.3.5.3 Native American Consultation

CH2M HILL contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by letter on September 7, 2005, to request information about traditional cultural properties such as cemeteries and sacred places in the project area. The NAHC responded on September 21, 2005, with a list of Native Americans interested in consulting on development projects. Each of these individuals/groups was contacted by letter on October 4, 2005 (see Appendix 8.3A). As of February 13, 2006, two responses have been received. A summary of the results of consultations with the individual Native American organizations on the NAHC contact list will be included in a future filing.

The NAHC record search of the Sacred Lands file failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The record search conducted at the Central California Information Center of CHRIS for CH2M HILL also failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional cultural properties.

8.3.4 Environmental Consequences

This subsection describes the environmental consequences of proposed VPP construction. CH2M HILL conducted a complete survey of the project area.

CH2M HILL conducted archival research; reviewed all cultural resource investigation reports within the VPP project area; contacted all other interested agencies, Native American groups, and historic societies; and conducted a complete field investigation. As a result of all these efforts, CH2M HILL did not detect within the project area any significant prehistoric or historic archaeological remains, or any historically or architecturally significant buildings. No impacts on architectural resources are expected to occur.

The gas line, sanitary sewer line, and transmission line will be constructed entirely within previously disturbed areas, and entirely within the existing disturbed city streets. Further, both the CHRIS literature search and CH2M HILL's survey failed to identify significant archaeological sites or significant architectural resources. Therefore, no impacts to cultural resources are expected to occur.

8.3.5 Cumulative Effects

Because the VPP project would not affect known significant cultural resources, it would not likely cause significant cumulative impacts. If construction were to encounter a large, stratified, buried prehistoric archaeological site or discrete filled-in historic period features, the possibility of cumulative impacts would arise because such sites might be highly significant, and many have been destroyed or damaged by agricultural activity and/or commercial/industrial/residential development in the project vicinity. Given the relative low level of impact to such a site that the project would cause, it is also possible that proposed project activities would not lead to significant cumulative impacts, depending on the extent of project impact to any such discovered archaeological deposits. Any potential impact to an unknown site would be minimized by a stop-work procedure if a site were uncovered. No impacts on architectural resources are expected to occur.

8.3.6 Mitigation Measures

Although significant archaeological and historical sites were not found during the project field survey, it is possible that subsurface construction could encounter buried archaeological remains. For this reason, the City of Vernon proposes to implement measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts that could occur if there were an inadvertent discovery of buried cultural resources. These measures include: (1) designation of a cultural resources specialist (CRS) to be on-call to investigate any cultural resources finds made during construction; (2) implementation of a construction worker training program; (3) monitoring during initial clearing of the power plant site and excavation at the plant site; (4) procedures for halting construction in the event that there is an inadvertent discovery of archaeological deposits or human remains; (5) procedures for evaluating an inadvertent archaeological discovery; and (6) procedures to mitigate adverse impacts on any inadvertent archaeological discovery determined significant.

8.3.6.1 Designated Cultural Resources Specialist

The project owner will retain a designated CRS who will be available during the entire construction period to inspect and evaluate any finds of buried archaeological resources that might occur during construction. If there is a discovery of archaeological remains during construction, the CRS, in conjunction with the construction superintendent and environmental compliance manager, will make certain that all construction activity stops in the immediate vicinity of the find until the find can be evaluated. The CRS will inspect the find and evaluate its potential significance, in consultation with CEC staff and the CEC compliance project manager (CPM). The CRS will make a recommendation as to the significance of the find and any measures that would mitigate adverse impacts of construction on a significant find.

The CRS will meet the minimum qualifications for Principal Investigator on federal projects under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The CRS will be qualified, in addition to site detection, to evaluate the significance of the deposits, consult with regulatory agencies, and plan site evaluation and mitigation activities.

8.3.6.2 Construction Worker Sensitivity Training

The project owner will prepare a construction worker sensitivity training program to ensure implementation of procedures to follow in the event that cultural resources are discovered during construction. This training will be provided to each construction worker as part of their environmental, health, and safety training. The training will include photographs of various types of historic and prehistoric artifacts and will describe the specific steps that will be taken in the event of an unanticipated discovery of cultural material, including human remains. It will explain the importance of, and legal basis for, the protection of significant archaeological resources. The training will also be presented in the form of a written brochure.

8.3.6.3 Monitoring

The project owner will retain a qualified archaeologist to monitor excavations at the plant site. If archaeological material is observed by the monitoring archaeologist, ground-disturbing activity will be halted in the vicinity of the find so that its significance (CRHR eligibility) can be determined. If evaluated as significant, mitigation measures (avoidance or data recovery) will be developed in consultation with the CEC.

8.3.6.4 Emergency Discovery

If the archaeological monitor, construction staff, or others identify archaeological resources during construction, they will immediately notify the CRS and the site superintendent, who will halt construction in the immediate vicinity of the find, if necessary. The archaeological monitor or CRS will use flagging tape, rope, or some other means as necessary to delineate the area of the find within which construction will halt. This area will include the excavation trench from which the archaeological finds came as well as any piles of dirt or rock spoil from that area. Construction will not take place within the delineated find area until the CRS, in consultation with the CEC staff and CEC CPM, can inspect and evaluate the find.

8.3.6.5 Site Recording and Evaluation

The CRS will follow accepted professional standards in recording any find and will submit the standard Department of Parks and Recreation historic site form (Form DPR 523) and locational information to the South Central Information Center of the California Historic Resources Information System.

If the CRS determines that the find is not significant, and the CEC CPM concurs, construction will proceed without further delay. If the CRS determines that further information is needed to determine whether the find is significant, the designated CRS will prepare a plan and a timetable for evaluating the find, in consultation with the CEC.

8.3.6.6 Mitigation Planning

If the CRS, CEC staff, and CPM determine that the find is significant, the CRS will prepare and carry out a mitigation plan in accordance with state guidelines. This plan will emphasize the avoidance, if possible, of significant archaeological resources. If avoidance is not possible, recovery of a sample of the deposit from which archaeologists can define scientific data to address archaeological research questions will be considered an effective mitigation measure for damage to or destruction of the deposit.

The mitigation program, if necessary, will be carried out as soon as possible to avoid construction delays. Construction will resume at the site as soon as the field data collection phase of any data recovery efforts is completed. The CRS will verify the completion of field data collection by letter to the project owner and the CPM so that the project owner and the CPM can authorize resuming construction.

8.3.6.7 Curation

The CRS will arrange for curation of archaeological materials collected during an archaeological data recovery mitigation program. Curation will be at a qualified curation facility meeting the standards of the California Office of Historic Preservation. The CRS will submit field notes, stratigraphic drawings, and other materials developed as part of the data recovery/mitigation program to the curation facility along with the archaeological collection, in accordance with the mitigation plan.

8.3.6.8 Report of Findings

If a data recovery program is planned and implemented during construction, the CRS will prepare a detailed scientific report summarizing results of the excavations to recover data from an archaeological site as a mitigation measure. This report will describe the site soils and stratigraphy, describe and analyze artifacts and other materials recovered, and draw scientific conclusions regarding the results of the excavations. This report will be submitted to the curation facility with the collection.

8.3.6.9 Inadvertent Discovery of Human Burials

If human remains are found during construction, project officials are required by the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5) to contact the County Coroner. If the Coroner determines that the find is Native American, he/she must contact the NAHC. The NAHC, as required by the Public Resources Code (Section 5097.98) determines and notifies the Most Likely Descendant with a request to inspect the burial and make recommendations for treatment or disposal.

8.3.7 Involved Agencies and Agency Contacts

Table 8.3-4 lists the state agencies involved in cultural resources management for the project and a contact person at each agency. These agencies include the NAHC and, for federal lands, the Office of Historic Preservation.

TABLE 8.3-4
Agency Contacts

Issue	Contact	Title	Telephone
Native American traditional cultural properties	Rob Wood NAHC	Associate governmental program analyst	(916) 653-4082
Federal agency NHPA Section 106 compliance	Milford Wayne Donaldson Office of Historic Preservation	State historic preservation officer	(916) 653-6624
Historic Properties	Rachel Malkenhorst City of Vernon	City historian	(323) 826-3643

8.3.8 Permits Required and Schedule

Other than certification by the CEC, no state, federal, or local permits are required by the project for the management of cultural resources. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would be required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act if, for example, as the result of a later project change, the project were to become a federal undertaking and significant cultural resources were likely to be affected by the project.

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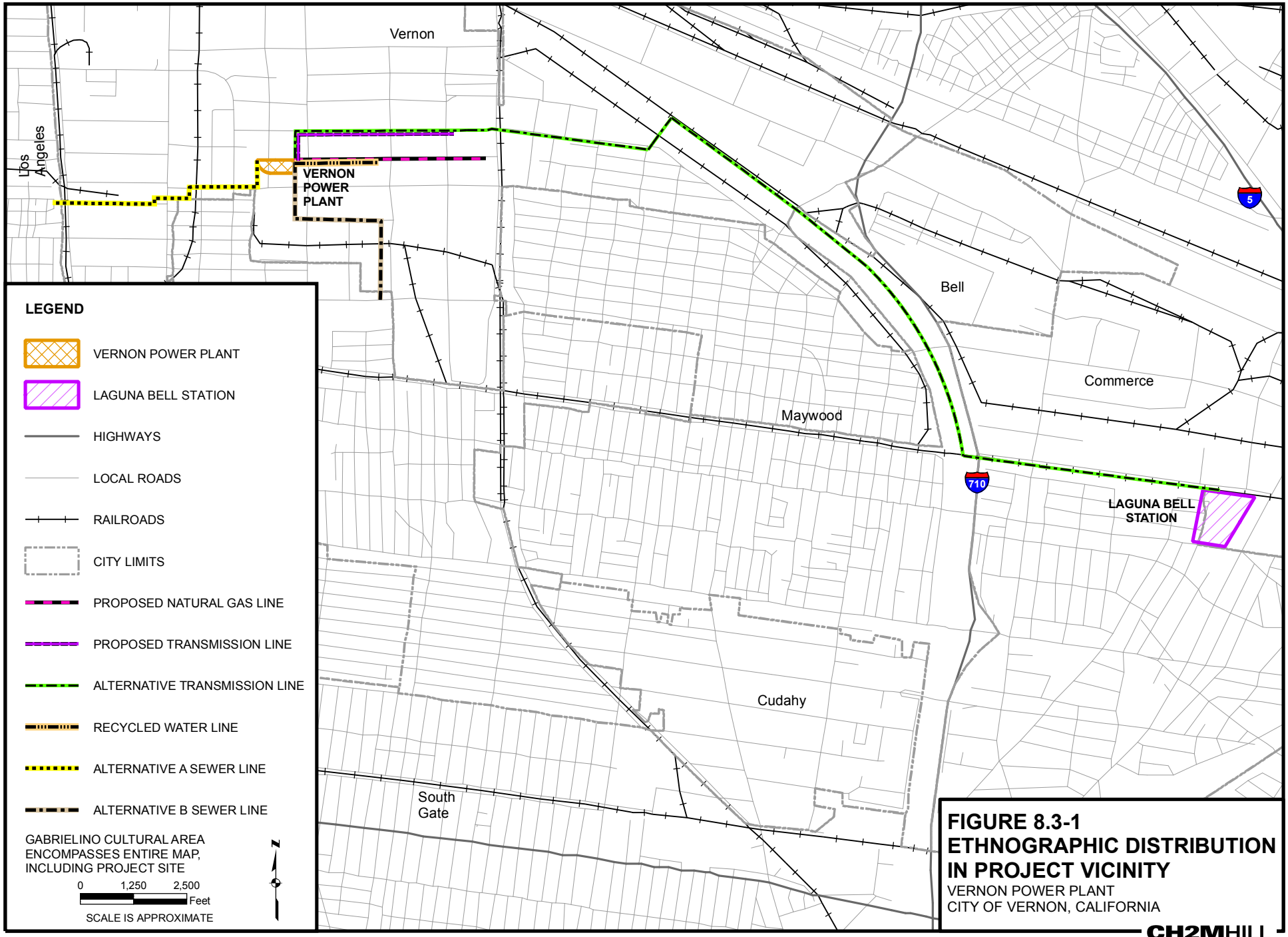

FIGURE 8.3-1
ETHNOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION IN PROJECT VICINITY
VERNON POWER PLANT
CITY OF VERNON, CALIFORNIA

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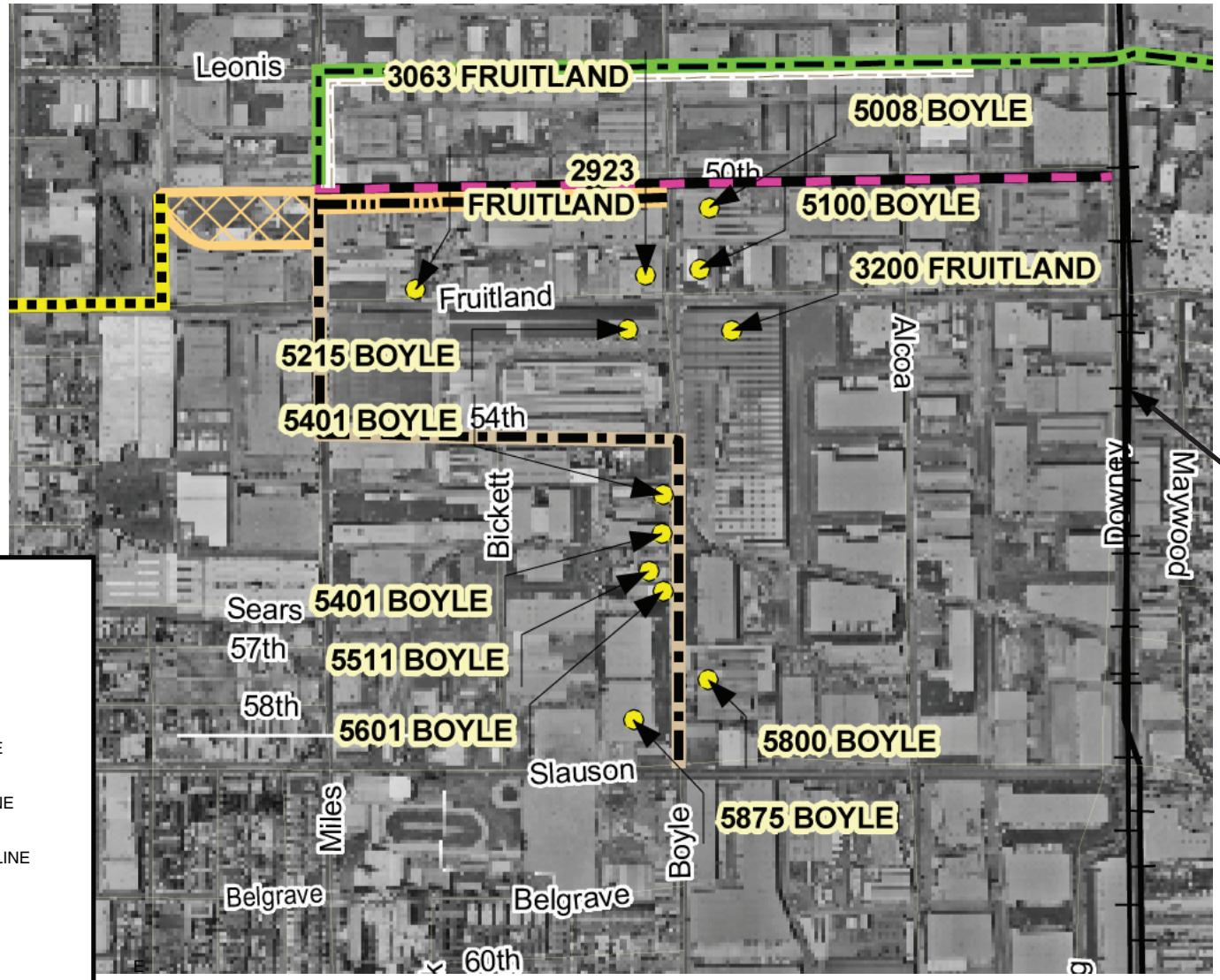

LEGEND

- HISTORIC RESOURCES
- VERNON POWER PLANT
- PROPOSED NATURAL GAS LINE
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION LINE
- RECYCLED WATER LINE
- ALTERNATIVE A SEWER LINE
- ALTERNATIVE B SEWER LINE
- RAILROAD
- Historic_resource_rr

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FIGURE 8.3-2
PREVIOUSLY DOCUMENTED HISTORIC RESOURCES
VERNON POWER PLANT
CITY OF VERNON, CALIFORNIA

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