q 8.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

8.7.1 Definitions

In using this element and the goals, policies, and implementation measures that address issues related to cultural resources, the following definitions will apply.

Archaeology. The study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts and monuments.

Cultural Resources. "Cultural resources" is a term used to group the study of prehistoric and historic human cultures.

Ethnography. Ethnography is the study of contemporary human cultures.

Historic/Prehistoric Resources. The term historic resource refers to cultures or artifacts from the time period of the first Euroamerican contact (approximately 1834) to present. The tem prehistoric resource refers to the time period before 1834. Historic resources are defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.

8.7.2 Existing Setting

The County is rich in cultural resources due to its long history of human habitation. These resources can demonstrate the diversity of the groups that have contributed to the development of the region, including Native American and early Euroamerican influences.

Native American habitation likely began in the Lake Mojave Period (9,000-6,000 B.P.). Artifacts from this time suggest portions of Inyo County were occupied only occasionally, and not every year. A review of the artifacts recovered indicates that the culture was oriented toward the use of animal resources. Later periods saw the further development of the use of resources, establishment of defined settlement areas, and eventual

establishment of irrigated wild plants. Ethnographically, two groups primarily inhabited Inyo County: the Owens Valley Paiute and the Panamint (Koso) Shoshone. The Owens Valley Paiute occupied the Owens Valley and the surrounding uplands, and the Panamint Shoshone inhabited Southern Inyo County.

The first Euroamerican explorers to the Inyo County region were reportedly fur trappers. Although there had been many earlier expeditions, the first recorded expedition is that of Joseph Reddeford Walker in 1834, who entered the Owens Valley while leading the Chiles emigrant party into California. Settlement in Inyo County was driven by exploration and development of mineral resources, including gold, silver, borax, tungsten, and soda ash. As mining developed outside the County, demands for supplies brought cattle ranching to the Owens Valley.

Inyo County was organized in 1866 from land that had been set aside from Mono and Tulare Counties. The County was originally named Coso County, with Independence designated as the County seat.

8.7.3 Cultural Resources Issues

The following section lists (in no specific order) the critical cultural resources issues that were identified during the preparation of the General Plan.

- How can the County protect cultural resources while providing choices to land owners.
- Make cultural resources available for public education.

8.7.4 Goals and Policies

GOAL CUL-1	Preserve and promote the historic and prehistoric cultural heritage of the County. [Conservation & OS Element - L. - Modified Policy 1]

Policy CUL-1.1　　　　*Partnerships in Cultural Programs*
Encourage and promote private programs and public/private partnership that express the cultural heritage of the area. [New Policy]

Policy CUL-1.2　　　　*Interpretive Opportunities*
Support and promote the development of interpretive facilities, such as roadside kiosks, museums, and restored historic buildings that highlight the County's cultural resources. [New Policy]

Policy CUL-1.3　　　　*Protection of Cultural Resources*
Preserve and protect key resources that have contributed to the social, political, and economic history and prehistory of the area, unless overriding circumstances are warranted. [Conservation & OS Element - L. - Modified Policy 1]

Policy CUL-1.4　　　　*Regulatory Compliance*
Development and/or demolition proposals shall be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and the National Historic Preservation Act. [New Policy; Conservation & OS Element - L. - Implementation Action 2]

Policy CUL-1.5　　　　*Native American Consultation* 🏛
The County and private organizations shall work with appropriate Native American groups when potential Native American resources could be affected by development proposals. [New Policy]

8.7.5 Implementation Measures

Table 8-6, Cultural Resources Implementation Measures, identifies the implementation measures the County should take to implement the goals and policies of this General Plan. The implementation program lists each specific implementation measure, a reference to which General Plan policy it is implementing, who is responsible to implement the program, and the timeframe for implementation.

Table 8-6. Cultural Resources Implementation Measures

Implementation Measure	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	Timeframe 2001-2003	2003-2005	2005-2010	2010-2020	On-going
1.0 The County shall work in partnerships with private entities, other agencies, and educational institutions to support dissemination of knowledge of the historic and prehistoric past of the County. This may include acquisition of funding, promotion of festivals, and/or development of interpretive facilities.	CUL-1.1 CUL-1.2	Collaborative Planning Team Eastern California Museum Bishop Museum & Historical Society Inyo Council for the Arts					■
2.0 The County should maintain and update the existing survey of historic structures (prepared by IMACA). This document should identify key resources that should be the focus for preservation.	CUL-1.3	Planning Eastern California Museum					■
3.0 If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records.	CUL-1.4	Eastern California Museum Planning					■
4.0 Native American groups shall be contacted at the preliminary stages of a project that may result in effects to Native American resources.	CUL-1.5	Planning Native American Heritage Commission					■