

The Desert Region supports a high number of sensitive plant species presented in the Conservation background report. Other sensitive wildlife occurring within the Desert Region includes locally sensitive populations of several species, burrowing owl, and Mojave ground squirrel.

San Bernardino County contains a large area in which Desert Southwest Playas are expected to occur. The following is a list of wetlands and riparian habitats found in the Desert Region:

#### 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Currently, more than 11,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and over 2000 historic structures have been documented within San Bernardino County. Many of these sites are located on private lands under the jurisdiction of the County. The preponderance of both prehistoric and historic sites throughout the County, and the vast areas that have yet to be systematically surveyed for cultural resources, indicate that an equal number of cultural resources, as yet unidentified, are present. Given the rapid development within the County, numerous cultural resource sites will be affected by development.



San Bernardino County encompasses over 20,000 square miles. Within that area, nearly 12,000 cultural resources have been recorded. With an estimated 15 percent of the County surveyed for cultural resources, this leaves a high potential for finding previously unknown resources. General site types recorded within the County include: historic roads, trails, bridges, and buildings; historic engineering features; Native American villages, temporary camp sites, rock shelters, milling stations, lithic scatters, quarry sites, pottery scatters, cemeteries, cremation sites, petroglyphs, and pictographs, among other site types.

Currently, County staff reports that there are at least 11,600 archaeological sites with trinomials, or unique alphanumeric codes, on file at the San Bernardino 40 percent historic sites. There are at least 2,000 structures on the various historic properties lists, with only a portion actually on the state or national registers. There are 122 properties within the County on the California Point of Historic Interest list, 39 on the California Historical Landmarks list, 413 properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and 49 properties that are listed on the NRHP. Because properties eligible for the NRHP are also eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), that puts 481

properties (excluding the California Point of Historic Interest) as eligible for, or on, the California register.

## 5. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES



Much of this section is cited directly, or edited from, the discussion in the San Bernardino County Paleontological Background Report (San Bernardino County, 1989).

San Bernardino County has more than 3,000 paleontologic localities recorded in the Regional Paleontologic Locality Inventory. Many of these known localities occur on private land, which is subject to development; others occur on federal lands and their resources are protected by federal agencies, such as the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

Fossils and traces of fossils are preserved in sedimentary rock units, particularly fine- to medium-grained marine, lake, and stream deposits, such as limestone, siltstone, sandstone, or shale, and in ancient soils (paleosols). They are also found in coarse-grained sediments, such as conglomerates or coarse alluvium. Fossils are rarely preserved in igneous or metamorphic rock units, but such occurrences are known in San Bernardino County.

Fossils may occur throughout a sedimentary unit and, in fact, are more likely to be preserved subsurface, where they have not been damaged or destroyed by previous ground disturbance, amateur collecting, or natural causes such as erosion. In contrast, cultural resources are often recognized by surface evidence of their presence. A field survey for paleontologic resources can indicate that sediments likely to contain fossils are present, even if fossils are not observed on the surface. In fact, excavation is often the only way in which fossils are discovered.

San Bernardino County is host to numerous locales of significant paleontological resources. Paleontological resources are the preserved fossilized remains of plants and animals. Study of these non-renewable resources helps us interpret the past history of the County. The County has developed a Paleontologic Resource Overlay to assist in the planning process, and consideration of these resources is required. Qualified professional paleontologists can determine what resources are considered significant and can mitigate impacts on significant resources if required.

3. The County shall not permit land conversion until adequate mitigation is provided to reduce impacts to less than significant in cases where a Mitigated Negative Declaration is used for CEQA compliance. Direct and growth inducing impacts determined to cause a significant adverse effect on rare, threatened or endangered desert species shall be mitigated by avoidance, habitat restoration or compensated by off-site mitigation and evaluated through a project level EIR. Mitigation will be required for adverse impacts to critical areas around residential land conversion when it can be shown that the indirect effects of pets, associate human activity and other encroachments into sensitive habitats will be significant.
4. The County shall require all new roadways, roadway expansion, and utility installation within the wildlife corridors identified in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays to provide suitable wildlife crossings for affected wildlife. Design will include measures to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation and provide wildlife a means of safe egress through respective foraging and breeding habitats. A qualified biologist will assist with the design and implementation of wildlife crossing including culverts, overcrossings, undercrossings, and fencing.

## 2. CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**GOAL CO 3. The County will preserve and promote its historic and prehistoric cultural heritage.**

### POLICIES

**CO 3.1** Identify and protect important archaeological and historic cultural resources in areas of the County that have been determined to have known cultural resource sensitivity.

### Programs

1. Require a cultural resources field survey and evaluation prepared by a qualified professional for projects located within the mapped Cultural Resource Overlay area.
2. Mitigation of impacts to important cultural resources will follow the standards established in Appendix K of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, as amended to date.

- CO 3.2** Identify and protect important archaeological and historic cultural resources in all lands that involves disturbance of previously undisturbed ground.

**Programs**

1. Require the Archaeological Information Center at the San Bernardino County Museum to conduct a preliminary cultural resource review prior to the County’s application acceptance for all land use applications in planning regions lacking Cultural Resource Overlays and in lands located outside of planning regions.
2. Should the County’s preliminary review indicate the presence of known cultural resources or moderate to high sensitivity for the potential presence of cultural resources, a field survey and evaluation prepared by a qualified professional will be required with project submittal. The format of the report and standards for evaluation will follow the “Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports” on file with the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department.

- CO 3.3** Establish programs to preserve the information and heritage value of cultural and historical resources.

- CO 3.4** The County will comply with Government Code Section 65352.2 (SB 18) by consulting with tribes as identified by the California Native American Heritage Commission on all General Plan and specific plan actions.

**Programs**

1. Site record forms and reports of surveys, test excavations, and data recovery programs will be filed with the Archaeological Information Center at the San Bernardino County Museum, and will be reviewed and approved in consultation with that office.
  - a. Preliminary reports verifying that all necessary archaeological or historical fieldwork has been completed will be required prior to project grading and/or building permits.

- b. Final reports will be submitted and approved prior to project occupancy permits.
2. Any artifacts collected or recovered as a result of cultural resource investigations will be catalogued per County Museum guidelines and adequately curated in an institution with appropriate staff and facilities for their scientific information potential to be preserved. This shall not preclude the local tribes from seeking the return of certain artifacts as agreed to in a consultation process with the developer/project archaeologist.
3. When avoidance or preservation of an archaeological site or historic structure is proposed as a form of mitigation, a program detailing how such long-term avoidance or preservation is assured will be developed and approved prior to conditional approval.
4. In areas of potential but unknown sensitivity, field surveys prior to grading will be required to establish the need for paleontologic monitoring.
5. Projects requiring grading plans that are located in areas of known fossil occurrences, or demonstrated in a field survey to have fossils present, will have all rough grading (cuts greater than 3 feet) monitored by trained paleontologic crews working under the direction of a qualified professional, so that fossils exposed during grading can be recovered and preserved. Fossils include large and small vertebrate fossils, the latter recovered by screen washing of bulk samples.
6. A report of findings with an itemized accession inventory will be prepared as evidence that monitoring has been successfully completed. A preliminary report will be submitted and approved prior to granting of building permits, and a final report will be submitted and approved prior to granting of occupancy permits. The adequacy of paleontologic reports will be determined in consultation with the Curator of Earth Science, San Bernardino County Museum.

**CO 3.5** Ensure that important cultural resources are avoided or minimized to protect Native American beliefs and traditions.

## Programs

1. Consistent with SB 18, as well as possible mitigation measures identified through the CEQA process, the County will work and consult with local tribes to identify, protect and preserve “traditional cultural properties” (TCPs). TCPs include both man-made sites and resources as well as natural landscapes that contribute to the cultural significance of areas.
2. The County will protect confidential information concerning Native American cultural resources with internal procedures, per the requirements of SB 922, an addendum to SB 18. The purpose of SB 922 is to exempt cultural site information from public review as provided for in the Public Records Act. Information provided by tribes to the County shall be considered confidential or sacred.
3. The County will work in good faith with the local tribes, developers/applicants and other parties if the local affected tribes request the return of certain Native American artifacts from private development projects. The developer is expected to act in good faith when considering the local tribe’s request for artifacts. Artifacts not desired by the local tribe will be placed in a qualified repository as established by the California State Historical Resources Commission. If no facility is available, then all artifacts will be donated to the local tribe.
4. The County will work with the developer of any “gated community” to ensure that the Native Americans are allowed future access, under reasonable conditions, to view and/or visit known sites within the “gated community.” If a site is identified within a gated community project, and preferably preserved as open space, the development will be conditioned by the County allow future access to Native Americans to view and/or visit that site.
5. Because contemporary Native Americans have expressed concern over the handling of the remains of their ancestors, particularly with respect to archaeological sites containing human burials or cremations, artifacts of ceremonial or spiritual significance, and rock art, the following actions will be taken when decisions are made regarding the disposition of archaeological sites that are the result of prehistoric or historic Native American cultural activity:

- a. The Native American Heritage Commission and local reservation, museum, and other concerned Native American leaders will be notified in writing of any proposed evaluation or mitigation activities that involve excavation of Native American archaeological sites, and their comments and concerns solicited.
- b. The concerns of the Native American community will be fully considered in the planning process.
- c. If human remains are encountered during grading and other construction excavation, work in the immediate vicinity will cease and the County Coroner will be contacted pursuant to the state Health and Safety Code.
- c. In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during project development and/or construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find will cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting U.S. Secretary of Interior standards will be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.
- d. If Native American cultural resources are discovered, the County will contact the local tribe. If requested by the tribe, the County will, in good faith, consult on the discovery and its disposition with the tribe.

### 3. AIR QUALITY

<b>GOAL CO 4. The County will ensure good air quality for its residents, businesses, and visitors to reduce impacts on human health and the economy.</b>
--

#### POLICIES

**CO 4.1** Because developments can add to the wind hazard (due to increased dust, the removal of wind breaks, and other factors), the County will require either as mitigation measures in the appropriate environmental analysis required by the County for the development proposal or as conditions of approval if no environmental document is required, that developments in areas identified as susceptible to wind hazards to address site-specific analysis of: