

# **IV. Environmental Impact Analysis**

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## **B. Cultural Resources**

### **1. Introduction**

This section of the Draft EIR provides an analysis of the Project's potential impacts on cultural resources, including historic and archaeological resources, as well as human remains. This analysis is based on the *Cultural Resources Evaluation and Impact Assessment for the 5420 Sunset Project* (Cultural Resources Report) prepared by Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) in December 2018, and included in Appendix C of this Draft EIR. The Cultural Resources Report also includes information provided by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC).

### **2. Environmental Setting**

#### **a. Regulatory Framework**

##### **(1) Historical Resources**

Historical resources fall within the jurisdiction of several levels of government. The framework for the identification and, in certain instances, protection of historical resources is established at the federal level, while the identification, documentation, and protection of such resources are often undertaken by state and local governments. As described below, the principal federal, state, and local laws governing and influencing the preservation of historical resources of national, state, regional, and local significance include the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register); and the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance (Los Angeles Administrative Code, Section 22.120 et seq.), all of which are summarized below.

##### *(a) National Register of Historic Places*

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) was established by the NHPA as "an authoritative guide to be used by federal, state, and local governments, private groups, and citizens to identify the nation's cultural resources and to indicate what

properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment.”<sup>1</sup> The National Register recognizes properties that are significant at the national, state, and/or local levels.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a resource must be at least 50 years of age, unless it is of exceptional importance as defined in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 60, Section 60.4(g). In addition a resource must be significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Four criteria for evaluation have been established to determine the significance of a resource:

- A. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. It yields, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, district sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are 50 years in age must also retain enough historic integrity to be eligible for listing. Historic integrity is defined as “the ability of a property to convey its significance” and “the authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.”<sup>3,4</sup> The National Park Service has identified seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property. *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or deposited

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<sup>1</sup> 36 CFR 60, Section 60.2.

<sup>2</sup> 36 CFR 60, Section 60.4.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, p. 44.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form, p. 4.

during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. *Feeling* is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.<sup>5</sup> To retain historic integrity, a property will always possess most of the aspects and depending upon its significance, retention of specific aspects of integrity may be paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when a property is significant.

*(b) California Register of Historical Resources*

The California Register is similar to the National Register program. The California Register was enacted in 1992, and its regulations became official on January 1, 1998. The California Register is administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP).

The California Register is an authoritative guide used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historic and archaeological resources and indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.<sup>6</sup> State law provides that in order for a property to be considered eligible for listing in the California Register, it must be significant under any of the following four criteria identified by OHP, which parallel National Register criteria.<sup>7</sup> A property is eligible if it:

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 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 to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1995.

<sup>6</sup> PRC Section 5024.1(a).

<sup>7</sup> California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation, *California Register of Historical Resources*, [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21238](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238), accessed May 4, 2021.

An historic resource eligible for listing in the California Register must meet one or more of the significance criteria described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance to be recognizable as a historic resource and to convey the reasons for its significance. As described above, integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of feeling, association, workmanship, location, design, setting, and materials. The resource must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which it is proposed for eligibility. Unlike the National Register, the California Register does not exclude resources less than 50 years of age. California Register regulations contained in Title 14, Division 3, Chapter 11.5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) include Section 4852(c), which provides that “it is possible that historical resources may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but they may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.” According to Section 4852(d), a resource less than 50 years old may be considered for listing in the California Register if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historic importance.

The California Register also includes properties that: (1) have been formally determined eligible for listing in, or are listed in, the National Register; (2) are registered State Historical Landmark Number 770, and all consecutively numbered landmarks above Number 770; or (3) are California Points of Historical Interest, which have been reviewed by the California OHP and recommended for listing by the State Historical Resources Commission.<sup>8</sup> Resources that may be nominated for listing in the California Register include: individual historic resources; historic resources contributing to the significance of a historic district; historic resources identified as significant in historic resources surveys; historic resources and historic districts designated or listed as city or county landmarks or historic properties or districts; and local landmarks.<sup>9</sup>

*(c) California Environmental Quality Act*

CEQA requires that environmental protection be given significant consideration in the decision-making process. Historical resources are included under environmental protection. Thus, any Project or action which constitutes a substantial adverse change on a historical resource has a significant effect on the environment and shall comply with the State CEQA guidelines.

When the California Register of Historical Resources was established in 1992, the Legislature amended CEQA to clarify which cultural resources are significant, as well as which Project impacts are considered to be significantly adverse. Specifically, a “substantial

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<sup>8</sup> PRC Section 5024.1(d).

<sup>9</sup> PRC Section 5024.1(e).

adverse change” means “demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired.”

For purposes of CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21084.1 defines a historic resource as:

*[A] resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources. Historical resources included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1, or deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1, are presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of this section, unless the preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the resource is not historically or culturally significant. The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources, not included in a local register of historical resources, or not deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1 shall not preclude a lead agency from determining whether the resource may be an historical resource.*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)(3) also provides additional guidance on this subject:

*[A]ny object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources.*

*(d) City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance*

The City’s Cultural Heritage Ordinance, originally adopted by the Los Angeles City Council in 1962, amended in 2007 and revised in 2018 (Ordinance No. 185472, amending Section 22.171 of Article 1, Chapter 9, Division 22, of the Los Angeles Administrative Code).<sup>10</sup> The City’s Cultural Heritage Ordinance created the City’s Cultural Heritage Commission and established criteria for designating City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural

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<sup>10</sup> City of Los Angeles, Office of Historic Resources, Cultural Heritage No. 185472, 2018, p. 1.

Monuments (HCM). A proposed Monument may be designated by the City Council upon the recommendation of the Commission. Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.7 defines the criteria for designation of a HCM as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located on the site), building, or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites that:

1. Are identified with important events of national, state or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, city or community;
2. Are associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city or local history; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.<sup>11</sup>

Designation recognizes the unique historic, cultural, or architectural value of certain structures and helps to protect their distinctive qualities. Any interested individual or group may submit nominations for HCM status. Buildings may be eligible for HCM status if they meet at least one of the criteria in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and retain their historic design characteristics and materials.

The City of Los Angeles also recognizes historic districts as Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZ).<sup>12</sup> The HPOZ is a planning tool that adds a level of protection to an area by creating a review board to evaluate proposals for alterations, demolitions, or new construction. An HPOZ is intended to include a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Contributing resources must meet at least one of the following criteria:<sup>13</sup>

1. Adds to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time; or
2. Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristics, represents an established feature of the neighborhood, community or city; or

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<sup>11</sup> *Los Angeles Administrative Code, Cultural Heritage Commission, Section 22.171.7.*

<sup>12</sup> *LAMC Section 12.20.3*

<sup>13</sup> *LAMC Section 12.20.3-F,3(C).*

3. Retaining the building, structure, landscaping, or natural feature, would contribute to the preservation and protection of a historic place or area of historic interest in the City.

*(e) City of Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey (SurveyLA)*

The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, or SurveyLA, is conducted under the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources (OHR). SurveyLA is the City's comprehensive program to identify and document potentially significant historic resources. Surveys conducted under SurveyLA cover the period from approximately 1850 to 1980 and include individual resources, such as buildings, structures, objects, natural features, and cultural landscapes, as well as areas and districts.<sup>14</sup> Archaeological resources will be included in a future survey phase. Significant resources reflect important themes in the city's growth and development in various areas including architecture, city planning, social history, ethnic heritage, politics, industry, transportation, commerce, entertainment, and others. Field surveys were undertaken in phases by Community Plan Area between 2010 and 2017. The survey results have been compiled in report format and are posted on OHR's website.

As described in detail in the SurveyLA Field Survey Results Master Report, the surveys identify and evaluate properties according to standardized criteria for listing in the National Register, California Register, and for local designation as HCMs and HPOZs. SurveyLA findings are subject to change over time as properties age, additional information is uncovered, and more detailed analyses are completed. Resources identified through SurveyLA are not designated resources. Designation by the City of Los Angeles and nominations to the California or National Registers are separate processes that include property owner notification and public hearings. SurveyLA utilizes the Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement (HCS) to provide a framework for identifying and evaluating the City's historic resources. Development of the HCS is ongoing with oversight by OHR.

*(f) City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element*

The City of Los Angeles General Plan includes a Conservation Element. Section 3 of the Conservation Element includes policies for the protection of archaeological resources and Section 5 recognizes the City's responsibility for identifying and protecting its cultural and historic heritage. The Conservation Element establishes the policy to continue to protect historic and cultural sites and/or resources potentially affected by proposed land development, demolition, or property modification activities, with the related

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<sup>14</sup> *City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, Historic Resources Surveys, <https://planning.lacity.org/preservation-design/historic-resources-survey>, accessed May 4, 2021.*

objective to protect important cultural and historic sites and resources for historic, cultural, research, and community educational purposes.<sup>15</sup>

The City of Los Angeles General Plan also includes 35 Community Plans that comprise the General Plan's Land Use Element. As discussed in Section IV.E, Land Use, of this Draft EIR, the Project Site is located within the Hollywood Community Plan Area. The Hollywood Community Plan, adopted on December 13, 1988, includes the following general policy that is relevant to cultural resources:

- It is the City's policy that the Hollywood Community Plan incorporate the sites designated on the Cultural and Historic Monuments Element of the General Plan; furthermore, the Hollywood Plan encourages the addition of suitable sites thereto.

## (2) Archaeological Resources

Federal, state, and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that may be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and CEQA are the basic federal and state laws governing the preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, state, and local significance. As the Project would not require a federal permit and would not use federal money, federal archaeological regulations are not applicable to the Project.

### (a) *California Environmental Quality Act*

State archaeological regulations affecting the Project include the statutes and guidelines contained in CEQA (PRC Section 21083.2 and Section 21084.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (CCR Title 14, Section 15064.5). CEQA requires lead agencies to carefully consider the potential effects of a project on archaeological resources. Several agency publications, including the technical assistance bulletins produced by OHP, provide guidance regarding procedures to identify such resources, evaluate their importance, and estimate potential effects.

CEQA recognizes that archaeological resources are part of the environment, and a project that "may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource [including archaeological resources] is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5). For purposes of CEQA, an historic resource is any object, building, structure, site, area, place,

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<sup>15</sup> *City of Los Angeles General Plan, Conservation Element, September 2001, pp. II-6 through II-9.*

record, or manuscript listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register (PRC Section 21084.1). Refer to the previous discussion in this section regarding the California Register for a list of the criteria used to determine whether a resource is eligible for listing in the California Register and is, therefore, considered a historic resource under CEQA.

Archaeologists assess sites based on all four criteria but usually focus on the fourth criterion previously provided, which is whether the resource “[h]as yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.” The CCR also provides that cultural resources of local significance are eligible for listing in the California Register (CCR, Title 14, Section 4852).

In addition to archaeological resources that qualify as historic resources, CEQA requires consideration of project impacts to unique archaeological resources, defined as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information;
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.<sup>16</sup>

With regard to human remains, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 addresses consultation requirements if an initial study identifies the existence of, or the probable likelihood of Native American human remains within the project site. This section of the CEQA Guidelines, as well as Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097.9, also address treatment of human remains in the event of accidental discovery.

*(b) City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element*

Section 3 of the Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element, adopted in September 2001, includes policies for the protection of archaeological resources. As stated therein, it is the City’s policy that archaeological resources be protected for research and/or educational purposes. Section 5 of the Conservation Element recognizes the City’s responsibility for identifying and protecting its cultural and historic heritage. The

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<sup>16</sup> PRC Section 21083.2(g).

Conservation Element establishes the policy to continue to protect historic and cultural sites and/or resources potentially affected by proposed land development, demolition, or property modification activities, with the related objective to protect important cultural and historic sites and resources for historic, cultural, research, and community educational purposes.<sup>17</sup>

## **b. Existing Conditions**

### **(1) Historic Context**

The Cultural Resources Report included in Appendix C of this Draft EIR includes a detailed description of the historical background and context of the Project Site and surrounding area. Below is a summary of the discussion included in the Cultural Resources Report.

The region encompassing the Project Site came under control of the Spanish mission system in 1771 with the establishment of Mission San Gabriel, which claimed vast acreages in support of its livestock and grain fields. In the late 18th century, the Spanish governor of Alta California was given authority to make land grants to allow settlement outside of the missions and pueblos. Much of present-day Hollywood occupies land that was part of two former land grants. Around 1795, Rancho Los Feliz (also Felis) was granted to José Vincent Feliz, a veteran of the Anza expedition of 1775–1776 that brought settlers to Alta California. Encompassing around 7,000 acres, the rancho extended from present-day Gower Street on the west to the Los Angeles River on the east. In 1828, during the Mexican period of occupation, Rancho La Brea was granted to Antonio José Rocha and Nemisio Dominguez. The approximately 4,500-acre grant constitutes the western half of present-day Hollywood.

Beginning in the 1860s, Anglo-American settlers developed individual tracts of land in the area that would become Hollywood. Early landowners, who practiced cattle ranching and dry farming, included John Gower and Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, for whom Griffith Park was named. In 1886, Harvey Wilcox, a land developer from Kansas, acquired a 120-acre parcel in present-day Hollywood. The following year, Wilcox filed a subdivision map with the Los Angeles County Recorder. Laid out on an orthogonal grid with rectangular lots, Wilcox named the subdivision Hollywood. To attract buyers, Wilcox created a broad east-west thoroughfare named Prospect Avenue (now Hollywood Boulevard) and built the Cahuenga Valley Railroad (later the Hollywood and Cahuenga Valley Railroad) in 1888, a narrow-gauge line that ran from Los Angeles to Hollywood. The Hollywood tracts were

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<sup>17</sup> *City of Los Angeles General Plan, Conservation Element, September 2001, pp. II-6 through II-9.*

sparsely settled through the end of the 19th century, and development consisted mostly of cultivated fields and orchards with citrus as the signature crop.

By the early 20th century, many farmers were subdividing and selling their land as Hollywood became a mecca for wealthy Midwesterners, who preferred the milder California climate. Other subdivisions were established with uniform streets, each lined with a different species of tree. Hollywood was incorporated as a city in 1903 and its character had changed from agricultural to rural-residential. By 1909, the population of this rural, but wealthy, enclave had reached an estimated 4,000. This rapid growth resulted in a need for improved infrastructure as the burgeoning city experienced water shortages, drainage issues, and sewage problems. To solve its infrastructure problems, in January 1910, the citizens of the small independent city voted in favor of annexation to the City of Los Angeles.

Although Hollywood marketed itself as a residential suburb of Los Angeles, it soon attracted commercial interests and developed a thriving business district to serve its residents. Nationally, the motion picture industry was flourishing and in 1912 Nestor Films established a studio at Sunset Boulevard and Gower Street in Hollywood. Within three months, five other film makers—who recognized the benefits of climate, land availability, and favorable economic conditions—established studios in Hollywood. Notable studios included Charlie Chaplin, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Pickford-Fairbanks, Columbia, and Universal. By the 1930s, most Americans considered Hollywood as the center of the motion picture industry and of popular culture. In addition to movie-making, the entertainment industries of radio broadcasting, television production, and music recording played significant roles in the economic development of Hollywood throughout the 20th century.

After World War II, the nation experienced unprecedented economic growth. Similarly, Hollywood flourished during the postwar years, and residential and commercial development kept apace. Population and economic growth, as well as the ascendancy of the automobile, necessitated the construction of freeways to facilitate the efficient movement of people and manufactured goods. Construction of U.S. Route 101 (the Hollywood Freeway) began in 1947 and was completed in 1954. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, dense urban development occurred in response to a rapid increase of population in Hollywood. By 2015, the neighborhood of Hollywood had a population of around 88,000.

## (2) Project Site Development

The Project Site is located in an area that was controlled by Mission San Gabriel from 1771 to 1795, and Rancho Los Feliz between 1795 and 1887, but no development took place on the Project Site or the immediate vicinity during this period. The earliest

identifiable development near the Project Site dates to 1893–1894. The 1894 Los Angeles, California 15-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map of the vicinity depicts sparse development in the area, including a north-south segment of the Hollywood and Cahuenga Valley Railroad that lies less than 0.25 mile to the west but shows no buildings on the Project Site itself. The earliest available map showing development on the Project Site is the 1919 Sanborn map, which shows improvements on the Project Site associated with the William Fox Sunshine Comedies, Inc., Studio (later 20th Century Fox). Buildings and structures included open stages, lumber and props storage areas, shop buildings, wardrobe buildings, dressing rooms, and assorted sets. Aerial photographs taken between 1928 and 1964 show a motion picture studio complex with four large enclosed sound stages in the southern half of the Project Site. Each is rectangular in plan and oriented north-south. Numerous outbuildings and structures—consisting of a mill, various shops, and storage sheds for props and building materials—lie to the north of the sound stages. The Hollywood 7.5-minute USGS map dated 1972 depicts the existing grocery store, and the additional commercial space on-site is present by 1981. The fast-food restaurant was constructed at the northwestern corner of the Project Site in 1989. The Project Site has remained largely unchanged since this time.

### (3) Historic Resources

A total of 321 historic-era built-environment properties were noted within 0.5 mile of the Project Site, of which only 19 are mapped on the USGS Hollywood 7.5-minute quadrangle map on file at the SCCIC. Of the 19 mapped properties, 13 are single buildings, and the remaining 6 are collections of buildings, including bungalow courts and city blocks consisting of commercial and residential buildings. Most of the recorded properties were constructed between the 1910s and 1940s, reflecting the era of greatest development in this portion of Hollywood as a residential community and a hub for the burgeoning film and recording industries. The following five properties within 0.5 mile of the Project Site are listed on either the National Register or California Register: 1721 N. Kingsley Bungalow Court (P-19-167727), Dunning House (P-19-167787), Hollywood Palladium (P-19-168084), East Hollywood Boulevard District (P-19-176357), and St. Andrews Bungalow Court (P-19-189999). The Dunning House is also listed as City of Los Angeles HCM No. 441. Three additional properties have been recommended eligible for listing on the National Register and California Register: Hollywood Hotel (P-19-167767), Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center (P-19-173421), and the 1500–1600 block of N. Serrano Avenue (P-19-176338).

The unmapped built-environment properties are listed on OHP's Historic Resources Inventory. Most of these properties are identified as either ineligible resources or contributing members of historic districts eligible for local listing, but ineligible for either the National Register or California Register. Five of the properties listed in the Historic Resources Inventory, but not mapped, have been determined eligible for listing on the

National Register and are listed in the California Register: Hollywood Western Building (P-19-167072), built in 1928; Hollywood Walk of Fame (P-19-167544); Hollywood Boulevard Street Lights (P-19-167545), erected in 1920; a commercial building at 5611 Hollywood Boulevard (P-19-167713), built in 1922; and Hollywood Sports Car (P-19-167821), built in 1924. Twelve additional buildings were identified as appearing eligible for listing as individual properties on the National Register and California Register through survey evaluation. These include eight residences, two apartment complexes, and two commercial buildings. No properties within the records search area are listed as California Historical Landmarks or California Points of Historical Interest. The records search completed as part of the Initial Study, included as Appendix A of this Draft EIR, which included California Points of Historical Interest, California Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, National Register of Historic Places, California State Historic Resources Inventory, Survey LA, and City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments listings, indicates that there are no historic resources located on the Project Site.

#### (4) Archaeological Resources

Archaeology is the recovery and study of material evidence of human life and culture of past ages. The area surrounding the Project Site is a highly urbanized area and has been subject to disruption throughout the years. On August 10, 2017, a cultural resources records search was conducted through the SCCIC located at California State University, Fullerton. These results are presented in the Cultural Resources Report included as Appendix C of this Draft EIR. There have been 20 cultural resource investigations within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project Site, the bulk of which were small surveys or records searches associated with the development of cellular facilities, which resulted in no new findings. One historic period archaeological site was located within the search radius. The site, P-19-003300, was a trash deposit consisting of “rubble, tile, grout, one half brick with embossing (“SIM” from Simon Brick Co.), and an iron handle embossed with “MDGI/ GATES,” and was uncovered during development of the Metro B (Red) Line Hollywood/Western Station. The deposit was completely removed during Metro construction. Additionally, one prehistoric archaeological site is located approximately 1 mile north of the Project Site. Site CA-LAN-1096, which was designated as a HCM by the City on February 21, 1973, is described as a “Gabrielino Indian site” with midden deposits. No other archaeological sites have been recorded on-site or within one mile of the Project Site.

### 3. Project Impacts

#### a. Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G), the Project would have a significant impact related to cultural resources if it would:

**Threshold (a): Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5; or**

**Threshold (b): Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or**

**Threshold (c): Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.**

For this analysis, the Appendix G thresholds provided above are relied upon. The analysis utilizes factors and considerations identified in the City's 2006 L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, as appropriate to assist in answering the Appendix G threshold questions.

The 2006 L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide identifies the following criteria to evaluate cultural resources impacts:

*(a) Historic Resources*

- If the project would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, including demolition of a significant resource, relocation that does not maintain the integrity and significance of a significant resource, conversion, rehabilitation, or alteration of a significant resource which does not conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, and/or construction that reduces the integrity or significance of important resources on the site or in the vicinity.

*(b) Archaeological Resources*

- If the project would disturb, damage, or degrade an archaeological resource or its setting that is found to be important under the criteria of CEQA because it is associated with an event or person of recognized importance in California or American prehistory or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
- If the project would disturb, damage, or degrade an archaeological resource or its setting that is found to be important under the criteria of CEQA because it can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions;
- If the project would disturb, damage, or degrade an archaeological resource or its setting that is found to be important under the criteria of CEQA because it has a special or particular quality, such as the oldest, best, largest, or last surviving example of its kind; and

- If the project would disturb, damage, or degrade an archaeological resource or its setting that is found to be important under the criteria of CEQA because it is at least 100-years-old<sup>18</sup> and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity.

## b. Methodology

The analysis of impacts related to cultural resources is based on the Cultural Resources Report prepared by SRI included as Appendix C of this Draft EIR. SRI conducted a cultural resource records search at the SCCIC, a regional repository of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). The purpose of the records search was to identify all previously recorded buildings and structures and relevant reports within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project Site, as well as all previously recorded archaeological resources within a one-mile radius. The reviewed records included all investigation reports and resource records from the following sources: the National Register, the California Register, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the California State Historic Resources Inventory, and the Los Angeles HCMs.

## c. Project Design Features

No specific project design features are proposed with regard to cultural resources.

## d. Analysis of Project Impacts

***Threshold (a): Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?***

As discussed in the Initial Study prepared for the Project, which is included as Appendix A of this Draft EIR, the existing on-site buildings are not considered historical resources. In addition, due to the distance between the Project Site and the nearest historical resource, as well as intervening development, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on these resources. **Therefore, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. Impacts to historical resources would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures would be required.**

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<sup>18</sup> Although the CEQA criteria state that "important archaeological resources" are those which are at least 100- years-old, the California Register provides that any site found eligible for nomination to the National Register will automatically be included within the California Register and subject to all protections thereof. The National Register requires that a site or structure be at least 50-years-old.

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***Threshold (b): Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?***

(1) Impact Analysis

As previously discussed, the results of the archaeological records search indicate that there was one historic-period archaeological site within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project Site, but it is no longer extant. The Cultural Resources Report concluded the area around the Project Site is highly sensitive for the presence of buried historic period archaeological resources. If intact, buried archaeological resources could provide important information on the prehistory and history of the region. **As such, construction activities associated with the Project could result in substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, which is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation Measures CUL-MM-1 through CUL-MM-3 below would reduce this potential impact to a less-than-significant level.**

(2) Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are included in the Project:

**Mitigation Measure CUL-MM-1:** Prior to the start of either demolition, grading, or construction, qualified principal archaeologist (Project Archaeologist) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Qualification Standards for Archaeology shall be retained. The Project Archaeologist shall prepare a written cultural resources monitoring and treatment plan (CRMTP) to reduce potential Project effects on unanticipated archaeological resources unearthed during construction through data recovery. The CRMPT shall be approved by the Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources. The CRMPT shall also include a summary of pertinent background information, consistent with the information disclosed in this EIR, including the environmental and cultural settings of the Project area, site information, and in the event of discovery of any archaeological resources the proposed avoidance methods, reporting methods, and plans for curation of collected materials.

**Mitigation Measure CUL-MM-2:** During project planning, demolition, excavation, and construction, the CRMTP shall be implemented by the Project Archaeologist. The CRMPT shall include the professional qualifications required of key staff, monitoring protocols, provisions for evaluating and treating sites discovered during ground-disturbing activities, and reporting requirements. The CRMTP shall also include a section describing the protocol in the event that human remains are

discovered during Project construction consistent with the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code.

**Mitigation Measure CUL-MM-3:** If cultural resources that may be eligible for listing in the California Register are discovered during demolition, excavation or construction, all ground-disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity of the find shall be halted to allow the Project Archaeologist for up to five days to evaluate the find. If the find is recommended as eligible for the California Register by the Project Archaeologist, the Project proponent and City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, shall be notified and the provisions of the CRMPT shall be implemented to reduce Project impacts on the newly discovered resource to a less-than-significant level.

### (3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts to archaeological resources would be less than significant with the reimplementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-MM-1 through CUL-MM-3.

***Threshold (c): Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries (see Public Resources Code, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98, and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(b))?***

As discussed in the Initial Study included as Appendix A of this Draft EIR, while the Project Site has been subject to grading and development in the past, the Project would require excavations at a depth of approximately 25 feet below the existing ground surface. A significant adverse effect could occur if grading or excavation activities associated with a project could disturb human remains. Although no human remains are known to have been found based on previous development on the Project Site, there is the possibility that unknown resources could be encountered during construction of the Project, particularly during ground-disturbing activities, such as excavation and grading. While the uncovering of human remains is not anticipated, if human remains are discovered during construction, such resources would be treated in accordance with State law, including CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), PRC Section 5097.98, and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. Specifically, if human remains are encountered, work on the portion of the Project Site where remains have been uncovered would be suspended and the City of Los Angeles Public Works Department and the County Coroner would be immediately notified. If the remains are determined by the County Coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) would be notified within 24 hours, and the guidelines of the NAHC would be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. **Compliance with the regulatory standards described above would ensure appropriate treatment of any potential human remains unexpectedly encountered during grading and excavation activities. Therefore, the Project's impact on human**

remains would be less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required.

## e. Cumulative Impacts

### (1) Impact Analysis

As discussed in Section III, Environmental Setting, of this Draft EIR, there are 100 related projects in the vicinity of the Project Site. While the majority of the related projects are located a substantial distance from the Project Site, as shown in Figure III-1 in Section III, Environmental Setting, of this Draft EIR, several related projects are located in proximity to the Project Site. Collectively, the related projects involve a variety of residential uses (i.e., apartments and condominiums), retail, restaurant, commercial, and office uses, consistent with existing uses in the Project Site area.

The Project and the related projects are located within an urbanized area that has been disturbed and developed over time. In the event that archaeological resources or human remains are uncovered, each related project would be required to comply with applicable regulatory requirements. In addition, as part of the environmental review processes for the related projects, it is expected that mitigation measures similar to Mitigation Measures CUL-MM-1 through CUL-MM-3 would be implemented for each related project, as necessary, to address the potential for uncovering archaeological resources. **Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources and human remains would not be cumulatively considerable, and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.**

### (2) Mitigation Measures

Cumulative impacts with regard to historic resources, archaeological resources, and human remains would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

### (3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts were determined to be less than significant without mitigation. Therefore, no mitigation measures were required, and the impact level remains less than significant.