

## **7.1 Archaeological and Historical Resources Inventory Study Plan**

### **7.1.1 Pertinent Issue Questions**

This Cultural Resources Study Plan addresses the following cultural issues:

1. Are there sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the project area (Area of Potential Effects, APE)?
2. Is there a complete inventory of cultural sites in the project area (APE)?
6. What is the archaeological record of habitation for the UARP area (APE)?
8. Are the UARP facilities or other sites considered historic because they meet NHPA standards, or will during the term of the next license?
- 9a. Is the former FERC Project No. 78 (the old PG&E American River Project) a historic site?
10. What are the impacts on cultural sites (e.g. farm sites) and historical use (including grazing) associated with the inundation of land by UARP reservoirs? Can there be a complete literature survey of this impact, including under the reservoirs (no drainage required)?

### **7.1.2 Background**

As noted on pages E7-7 to E7-19 of the Initial Information Package (IIP) prepared for the UARP, a significant portion of the Project area has been inventoried for archaeological and historical resources, and numerous archaeological sites have been documented in or near the various UARP facilities (SMUD 2001). These efforts include a recent archaeological inventory for the UARP that included the completion of additional field reconnaissance, as well as documented visits to a number of previously recorded archaeological sites within the Project area (Gross 2000). However, the inventory is not complete, and most of the known archaeological and historical resources have not been formally evaluated against the eligibility criteria of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### **7.1.3 Study Objectives**

The objective of this study is to determine if archaeological and historical resources that are listed in, or may be eligible for listing in, the NRHP are present within the APE for the UARP. Resources that are eligible for listing in the NRHP, including significant prehistoric archaeological sites, are referred to as "historic properties." This objective is consistent with the initial steps of the process established for complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as described at Title 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that, prior to issuing a new hydroelectric license, FERC must take into account the potential effects of the Project on resources eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, and must provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) with an opportunity to comment on FERC's assessment. The assessment of potential Project-related effects on significant archaeological and historical resources within the APE for the UARP is addressed in a separate study plan.

### **7.1.4 Study Area and Sampling Locations**

The study area for cultural inventories is termed the Area of Potential Effects (APE) under Section 106. As defined in the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, the APE is the geographic area or areas within which:

an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking. (36 CFR 800.16[d])

For the UARP relicensing, the APE will include 1) the area within the FERC Project Boundary as defined in the IIP, except for those areas above Project tunnels because no ground-disturbing activities associated with the Project occur in those areas; 2) any new Project facilities proposed by SMUD; and 3) additional areas beyond those described above where there is a reasonable potential for Project operations to affect cultural resources (eg the

developed and dispersed recreation areas being identified by the recreation TWG and the project roads that would be identified through the project sources of sediment study in coordination with the recreation and aquatic TWGs). Regulated stream reaches will not be included in the APE unless specific project-related activities are proposed that could affect significant cultural resources in these areas. Private land within the FERC Project Boundary up to the high water line will be included within the APE, with access to these lands subject to approval by the landowner.

It is anticipated that SMUD, on behalf of FERC, will coordinate with affected Native American Tribes, ENF and USBLM, as required by Section 106 of the NHPA. SMUD will then describe the APE specifically and depict it on a series of maps that will be used to gain concurrence from SHPO.

#### 7.1.5 Information Needed From Other Studies

There is currently no known input immediately needed from other studies to carry out this Inventory Study Plan, however some of the output from certain studies (e.g., channel morphology, sedimentation/erosion) may be of interest to later cultural resources studies that look at effects on cultural resources. Additionally, any other study that might identify or lead to Project-related disturbances outside the current FERC Project Boundary or outside the operational area for the UARP (e.g., recreational use) may be relevant to the establishment of the APE for this study. Information on significant cultural resources gathered during this study will also be considered if ground-disturbing activities are proposed by other technical studies.

#### 7.1.6 Study Methods And Schedule

The Archaeological and Historical Resources Inventory Study will be performed in a manner consistent with the *Framework for Archaeological Research and Management on the National Forests of the North-Central Sierra Nevada* (FARM) (Jackson et al. 1994). This multi-volume document provides project-specific planning and management recommendations that establish baseline expectations as to the nature and intensity of archaeological investigations relative to the project type and archaeological sensitivity.

This study will begin with the gathering and review of background information, much of which was accomplished during preparation of the IIP (SMUD 2001). Visits to or contacts with the ENF, USBLM, local Native American individuals and organizations, repositories such as the California State Library, as well as the solicitation of information from local historical societies and other knowledgeable parties, will provide additional information as to the type, nature, and distribution of archaeological and historical resources within the Project area. These data will be reviewed and analyzed to develop an historic context for the UARP, using the information contained in the recent inventory of the UARP (Gross 2000).

Because a substantial portion of the APE for the UARP has already been subject to professional cultural resources inventory efforts (SMUD 2001), an assessment will be made of which areas within the APE will require additional archaeological or historical inventories to adequately document cultural resources. Required field surveys and site recordation efforts are anticipated to occur from spring to fall of 2002, and will be conducted under an Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit that SMUD will obtain from the ENF and USBLM, as appropriate.

The detailed techniques to be used during the field reconnaissance are expected to include both Systematic Selective and Systematic Comprehensive coverage classes, as defined in the FARM. Intensive surface coverage, as well as broader transects and selective or sampling coverage types may all be used during the cultural resources inventory. These coverage classes and coverage types will be selected based on the likelihood of encountering resources and the potential for Project-related impacts to resources of interest in accordance with the FARM. Site recordation techniques will conform to the requirements of the ENF, USBLM and the State of California. The site recordation effort will include a preliminary assessment of resource eligibility, as well as an assessment of site condition to document previous impacts.

Personnel overseeing, conducting, and documenting the cultural resources inventory efforts will meet the professional qualifications requirements as promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior. As described more fully below, a technical inventory report will be prepared to document the methods and results of this phase of the study.

This study will include an evaluation of select archaeological and historical resources within the APE for the UARP. This evaluation will be used to determine which resources are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The evaluation of resources will be conducted in consultation with FERC and the federal land management agencies, Native American Tribes, other consulting parties (as appropriate), and the SHPO. The evaluation will be based on the current NRHP significance criteria (using guidance provided by various National Park Service bulletins and the FARM), relevant archaeological research questions and architectural standards (if applicable).

Measures taken to evaluate archaeological and historical resources within the UARP would likely include focused background research for historical resources, coordination with Native American Tribes (see Ethnography and Ethnohistory Study Plan), and perhaps limited subsurface excavations and analyses for prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites. Available data would then be assessed for each site relative to the NRHP criteria, and recommendations as to NRHP eligibility would be presented in a technical report. Consultation between FERC, the federal land management agencies, Native American Tribes, other interested parties (e.g., El Dorado County), and the SHPO would be needed to reach the necessary conclusions as to NRHP eligibility. Completion of the evaluation aspects of this study would occur in 2003.

#### 7.1.7 Analysis

As noted above, the analysis of the inventory and evaluation data will be completed within the context of the FARM. SMUD will consult regularly with federal land management agencies, Native American Tribes and other interested/knowledgeable parties, and the SHPO. Conclusions as to which resources within the UARP are and are not eligible to the NRHP will be reached with consensus between the FERC (following consultation with the ENF and USBLM) and the SHPO, or would require a determination of eligibility by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the procedures established at Title 36 CFR Part 63.

#### 7.1.8 Study Output

It is anticipated that the report(s) produced during the course of this study will document the inventory aspects of this study and the results of the evaluation phase of work. Because of the sensitive nature of information on the location of archaeological sites, certain elements of these studies must be retained as confidential, and cannot be distributed to the public. The technical report(s) containing confidential information such as maps and archaeological site forms will be labeled "Confidential" and will be handled as such. These confidential data will be made available only to the involved federal, state and local decision-making bodies such as FERC, SHPO, the ENF, USBLM, and the El Dorado County Cultural Resources Commission. Summary reports that do not contain sensitive information will also be prepared for distribution to a larger audience within the context of the relicensing process.

The technical inventory element of the report(s) will include a summary of previous research, archaeological and historical context/background sections, a description of archival and field methodologies, and the results of the inventory (including maps at 1:24000 scale or better, Department of Parks and Recreation site forms, and photographs). Descriptions of identified resources will include information on site condition, as determined during the field inventory. A non-confidential summary report of the inventory effort will be prepared, with maps, site forms, and other sensitive data to be excluded.

The technical evaluation portion of the report(s) will describe each archaeological and historical site within the APE for the UARP, the criteria for inclusion in the NRHP (with citations as to relevant National Park Service bulletins and other guidance), methods undertaken to evaluate each resource, and recommendations as to whether the resource is or is not considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Maps, sketches, and photographs will be used to help document these resources and their condition.

It is anticipated that the non-confidential portion of the report(s) will be prepared for direct inclusion in the Licensee's draft environmental assessment that will be submitted to FERC with the Licensee's application for a new license.

7.1.9 Preliminary Estimated Study Cost

SMUD's consultant estimates that this study will cost \$150,000 ± 20 percent.

7.1.10 TWG and Plenary Group Endorsement

The Cultural TWG approved this study plan on January 15, 2002. The Plenary Group approved this study plan on February 6, 2002. The participants at the meeting who said they could "live with" the study plan were California Department of Fish and Game, California Native Plant Society, California Outdoors, California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance, El Dorado County, El Dorado County Citizens for Water, Friends of El Dorado County, National Parks Service, Placer County Water Agency, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, State Water Resources Control Board, Taxpayers of El Dorado County, U.S Bureau of Land Management and Eldorado National Forest. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not "live with" the study plan though PG&E abstained since this study plan does not apply to the Chili Bar Project.

7.1.11 Literature Cited

Gross, C. S. 2000. Cultural Resources Inventory, Upper American River Project. On file, Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Sacramento, CA.

Jackson, R. J., T. L. Jackson, C. Nicksicek, K. Roper, and D. Simons. 1994. Framework for Archaeological Research and Management on the National Forests of the North-Central Sierra Nevada. On file, Eldorado National Forest. Placerville, CA.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District. 2001. Initial Information Package for Relicensing of the Upper American River Project (FERC Project No. 2101). Sacramento, CA.