

Obsidian has been found at all of the sites that contain a cultural deposit in the Project. The testing for the source of this imported material might provide further information regarding trade networks, and changing ties to the Central California and Sierra Nevada regions.

The Project is known to have been used well into the historic period by Native Americans, probably Hill Nisenan, for medicinal purposes and food gathering. The Valley Nisenan may have used the area seasonally, with the remnant Hill Nisenan population moving in later. The contemporaneity of the sites in the proposed district has not been established, and it is possible that ownership of this territory shifted through time, or that the groups shared portions of the basin on a seasonal basis.

Little is known about the lifeways of the Nisenan in the region after the time of contact. The degree and rate of acculturation may be addressed as at least one of the sites contains a protohistoric period component. The question concerning the cultural history of the Nisenan in the area is also of critical importance. Opposing theories suggest either a late period arrival (post-A.D. 500) or an earlier settlement roughly corresponding to the Martis period. Most of the resources in the Clover Valley Archeological District share cultural components from both periods which should be able to address this important research question.

Given the distribution and nature of the sites, the resource diversity characteristic of the ecological contact zone, and the tantalizing ethnographic/historic data, the proposed Clover Valley Lakes Archeological District will provide information important in prehistory, and is therefore, potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. All 33 prehistoric period sites may be considered contributing sites to the District.

## PROJECT EFFECTS

Careful project design has eliminated many potential construction impacts to the prehistoric resources. The nature of the Project setting, a narrow valley bisected by a creek, has caused some conflicts with siting of Project features (Map 8). Table 2 indicates effects upon individual resources within the District, and recommended treatments for sites. Treatments have been approved by the Project proponent, and have been discussed with Native Americans. The final treatments for all sites will be discussed with concerned Native American individuals and groups, with their agreement obtained for the final treatment plan.

Initiation of the Project will have an adverse effect on the proposed NRHP district primarily through direct construction impacts for residential development, parks, roadways and other infrastructure improvements. [Even if direct impacts could be avoided to some of the individual sites in the district, indirect impact could occur through vandalism or artifact collection by the new residents and other individuals using the facilities.] The sites to be left in open space areas may also be subject to vandalism by opening up to the general public previously access-controlled areas. There may be trails in some of the open space areas, as well

as vegetation clearance and annual maintenance for fire safety, resulting in both direct and indirect impacts to some resources.

Most of the sites now lie in their natural unaltered setting, appearing much as it did in the prehistoric period of significance. Overall, the alteration of the landscape for the construction of modern features will alter the setting, feeling, and association aspects of integrity of the district.

Other projects effects could include inadvertent discovery of other cultural resources, vandalism, as well as vandalism and damage to other resources in the Project.

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