

Ongoing Planning Efforts, Public Outreach and Education

RS.I-23: Provide education on light pollution and how individuals and development proposals may decrease impacts.

Related Policy: RS.P-36

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Coordination with Other Agencies and Organizations

RS.I-24: Promote continued interjurisdictional cooperation and coordination of resource and land use planning of the Cooperative Planning Area through the continued operation of the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group.

Related Policy: RS.P-35

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Planning Context

Cultural resources include the archaeological and historic sites that provide the county's modern day residents a connection to the past and a sense of place. A variety of policies and implementation programs are needed to protect these resources from destruction by development, infrastructure extensions, modernization, and the more subtle but persistent effects of time and erosion.

Archeological evidence demonstrates that humans have lived in the region from at least the Lower Archaic period that occurred between 10,000 and 6,000 years Before Present. Prehistoric sites have been discovered throughout the county that contain shell mounds, milling sites, pottery, and worked stone artifacts. Historic records are available that describe the indigenous peoples at the time of European contact. The majority of the county was inhabited by a loosely associated group who referred to themselves as the Patwin. A small area of the eastern portion of the county may have been inhabited by the Plains Miwok.

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The California Native American Heritage Commission has identified the presence of an area of traditional, religious, and cultural importance to Native Americans within the county. While the specific location of the sacred area cannot be divulged in order to protect the site, the County will work with interested Native American groups in order to explore management strategies regarding the site.

Historic sites relevant to different time periods are found throughout the county. The Rancho period occurred in the mid-1800s when Mexican settlers constructed missions and forts in the region. Much of Solano County was divided into land grants, which were primarily used as cattle ranches for the hide- and tallow-based economy. American settlers arrived concurrently and began farming and ranching in the county's rich soils. As time progressed, numerous communities were established around the county. Many of the cities and the communities' villages exhibit historical features from the late 1800s and early 1900s including neighborhoods with small-block street-grid patterns and architectural styles that range from Italianate to vernacular cottages.

Two primary issues affect the maintenance and preservation of the county's cultural resources. The first issue is the need to continue to improve consultation with Native American groups regarding the protection of traditional cultural places and sacred sites in the context of land use decisions. In order to effectively protect such areas, the County intends to consult with Native American groups and carry out the following tasks:

- Create a dialogue between County and tribal governments in order to identify cultural places and consider such sites in land use planning decisions.
- Develop a program to systematically avoid conflicts with Native American cultural places by ensuring that local and tribal governments are provided with information early in planning processes.
- Evaluate the potential for permanently protecting certain Native American cultural places by designating them as open space.
- Develop proper management and treatment plans for cultural places.
- Develop a program to enable tribes to manage their cultural places.

The second issue focuses on the opportunity to leverage the county's historic capital for use in economic pursuits, particularly those relating to tourism. Potential exists to create a "string-of-pearls" consisting of portions of cities and unincorporated towns and areas of the county that seek to build around their history. This strategy could be a great compliment to ongoing agri-tourism efforts elsewhere in the county.

Related Plans, Programs, and Agencies

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that it is the policy of the State of California to “take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with...historic environmental qualities...and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history.” If an impact on a historical or archaeological resource is significant, CEQA requires feasible measures to minimize the impact. Mitigation of significant impacts must lessen or eliminate the physical impact that the project will have on the resource. CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation be undertaken even if it does not mitigate impacts to a less-than-significant level.

California Senate Bill 18

California SB 18 (2004) requires that local governments (city and county) consult with Native American groups to aid in the protection of traditional Native American cultural places through local land use planning. The intent of SB 18 is to provide California Native American groups with an opportunity to participate in local land use decisions at an early stage to protect or mitigate impacts on cultural places. SB 18 requires local governments to consult with Native American groups before adopting and amending both general plans and specific plans.

Policies

RS.P-38:	Identify and preserve important prehistoric and historic structures, features, and communities.
RS.P-39:	Tie historic preservation efforts to the County’s economic development pursuits, particularly those relating to tourism.
RS.P-40:	Consult with Native American governments to identify and consider Native American cultural places in land use planning.

Implementation Programs

Development Review

RS.I-25:	Require cultural resources inventories of all new development projects in areas identified with medium or high potential for archeological or cultural resources. Where a preliminary site survey finds medium to high potential for substantial archaeological remains, the County shall require a mitigation plan to protect the resource before issuance of permits. Mitigation may include:
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- Having a qualified archaeologist present during initial grading or trenching (monitoring);
- Redesign of the project to avoid archaeological resources (this is considered the strongest tool for preserving archaeological resources);
- Capping the site with a layer of fill; and/or
- Excavation and removal of the archaeological resources and curation in an appropriate facility under the direction of a qualified archaeologist.
- Alert applicants for permits within early settlement areas to the potential sensitivity. If significant archaeological resources are discovered during construction or grading activities, such activities shall cease in the immediate area of the find until a qualified archaeologist can determine the significance of the resource and recommend alternative mitigation.

Related Policies: RS.P-38, RS.P-40

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicant

Time Frame: Ongoing

Coordination with Other Agencies and Organizations

RS.I-26: Work with federal and state agencies to identify, evaluate, and protect the county's important historic and prehistoric resources. Programs administered by such agencies may include:

- California Historic Landmarks
- California Points of Historical Interest
- California Register of Historic Resources
- National Register of Historic Places
- State Historic Building Code

Related Policies: RS.P-38, RS.P-40

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: Project Applicant

Time Frame: Ongoing

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RS.I-27: Refer to the state Senate Bill 18 guidelines and requirements regarding cultural resources. Programs the County will engage in may include:

- ensuring local and Native American governments are provided with information early in the planning process,
- working with Native American governments to preserve and protect Native American cultural sites by designating them as open space where possible,
- providing management and treatment plans to preserve cultural places, and
- working with Native American groups to manage their cultural places.

Related Policy: RS.P-40

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RS.I-28 Protect and promote the county’s historic and prehistoric resources by:

- providing educational programs to the public, staff, and commissions that promote awareness of the county’s history and the value in preserving historic or prehistoric resources; and
- exploring and developing historic or prehistoric sites that can be used appropriately as visitor-oriented destinations.

Related Policy: RS.P-38

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

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RS.I-29: Develop historic preservation programs and development guidelines to prevent the loss of significant historic buildings and structures. This should be done in conjunction with Program SS.I-16.

Related Policy: RS.P-38

Agency/Department: Department of Resource Management

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Planning Context

The County's park and recreation facilities and programs are created to provide residents and visitors with opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Additionally they can provide further protection of natural resources as a complement to city and state parks and other protected open spaces in the county.

Solano County maintains three regional parks. Lake Solano Park is located at the base of the coast range foothills west of Winters and at the north end of the county along Putah Creek. The park contains a campground, picnic sites, group picnic facilities, a free boat launch for nonpowered vessels, parking, and public restrooms. Sandy Beach Park is located near Rio Vista on the Sacramento River. The park has a boat-launch ramp, campsites, picnic grounds, a hiking trail, roads for bicycling and driving, a beach, and volleyball and horseshoe pitch courts. A third regional park, Belden's Landing Water Access Facility, is located southeast of Suisun City in the Montezuma Slough/Grizzly Island area. The day-use facility includes a boat-launch ramp, a fishing pier, restrooms, and parking. Rockville Hills Regional Park is located in the unincorporated area but is owned and managed by the City of Fairfield. No neighborhood or community parks are located in the unincorporated area.

High quality and extensive recreational resources can greatly add to residents' quality of life. The County has the opportunity to expand its recreational resources by creating a connected trail network, improved bicycle routes, and additional parks and fishing access points. A second opportunity exists if federal, state, County, and city agencies coordinate efforts to implement recommendation and programs in the Park and Recreation chapter. Such coordination could result in greater recreation opportunities for the region's residents.

This section does not replace the Park and Recreation Element contained in Chapter 10 of this document. The policies and programs described below provide additional guidance on the development and management of parks, open space, and other recreational facilities.