

## 3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section of the 2024 PEIR describes the existing conditions related to tribal cultural resources in the SCAG region, sets forth the regulatory framework that addresses tribal cultural resources, and analyzes the significance of potential impacts that could occur from the development of Connect SoCal 2024. In addition, this PEIR provides regional-scale mitigation measures, as well as project-level mitigation measures that can and should be considered and implemented by lead agencies for subsequent, site-specific environmental reviews to reduce identified impacts as appropriate and feasible. See also Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, for the discussion of archeological resources and Section 3.7, *Geology and Soils*, for the discussion of paleontological resources.

### 3.18.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### DEFINITIONS

Definitions of terms used in the regulatory framework, characterization of baseline conditions, and impact analysis for tribal cultural resources follow:

- **California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS):** CHRIS consists of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), nine Information Centers (ICs), and the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC). The OHP administers and coordinates the CHRIS and presents proposed CHRIS policies to the SHRC, which approves these policies in public meetings. The CHRIS Inventory includes the State Historic Resources Inventory maintained by the OHP as defined in California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(p), and the larger number of resource records and research reports managed under contract by the nine ICs.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52, a site feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object, which is of cultural value to a Tribe and is either on or eligible for the California Historic Register or a local historic register, or such a resource that the lead agency, at its discretion, chooses to treat the resource as a Tribal Cultural Resources (see PRCPRC Sections 21074 (a)(1)(A)–(B)). A tribal cultural resource may also include a unique archaeological resource (see PRC Section 21083.2(g)) or a “nonunique archaeological resource” (see PRC Section 21083.2(h), subject to the provisions of PRC Section 21074 (a)) may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).
- **Unique archeological resource:** Pursuant to PRC Section 21083.2, a unique archaeological resource includes artifacts or sites that meet any one or all of the following criteria:
  - It has made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States;
  - It is associated with the lives of persons important to California’s past;
  - It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; and/or
  - It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of California.
- **Unique geologic feature:** An important and irreplaceable geological formation. Such features may have scientific and/or cultural values.

There is substantial overlap between archaeological resources and TCRs. Many if not most archaeological resources are TCRs, but not all TCRs are archaeological resources since they can also be site features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects that are of cultural value to a Tribe.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Detailed information regarding the prehistoric occupation is presented in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, of this 2024 PEIR. As noted in Section 3.5, the SCAG region once was the home to at least 11 distinct Native American groups. These include the Cahuilla, Chumash, Gabrielino, Halchidhoma, Kitanemuk, Luiseno, Mohave, Quechan, Serrano, Southern Paiute, Tataviam, and Tipai. The territorial boundaries of the Native Americans who were residing in Southern California at the time of first European contact do not coincide with today's political boundaries. Moreover, many tribal boundaries overlapped and most groups migrated within their general boundaries throughout the years.

Between 1851 and 1852, the United States Army mandated California's tribes to sign 18 treaties renouncing rights to their traditional lands in exchange for reservations. Due to various factors including strong objections by non-native Californians, the treaties were rejected by the U.S. Senate, and the tribes' title to the land was left unresolved. However, a series of executive orders and a congressional act in 1891 led to the creation of small, scattered reservations of varying quality for Indians in Southern California (Miller 2013). The federal government established reservations in Southern California between 1875 and 1891. This includes the Martinez, Fort Yuma, and Colorado River reservations in Imperial County. In Riverside County are Torres, Cabazon, Augustine, Santa Rosa, Ramona, Pechanga, Soboba, Agua Caliente, Mission Creek, and Morongo. The reservations in San Bernardino County are the San Manuel, Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Twentynine Palms reservations. No reservations were established in Los Angeles, Ventura, or Orange Counties. It was believed that the local Native American groups in those counties had become extinct (USEPA 2011).

Records searches for the Plan were conducted through the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) on October 17, 2022, South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) on December 2, 2022, and Eastern Information Center (EIC) on October 18, 2022. As of December 2022, over 112,000 cultural resource locations (including archaeological and historic-architectural/built-environment resources) have been identified in the SCAG region (see Table 3.5-1, Cultural Resources Listed in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*). In order to protect these archaeological sites, and the artifacts contained within their boundaries, from scavenging and looting, their locations are confidential. Under state law, detailed information about these sites, especially their location, is considered confidential.

## NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED SITES

Within the SCAG region there are 16 federally recognized tribes (84 Fed. Reg. Section 1200) with lands administered as federal Indian reservations, also known as pueblos, rancherias, missions, villages, communities, etc. (DOI 2023):

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Mission Indians
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribe
- Fort Mojave
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians

- Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Recognizing that tribal groups may have expertise with their tribal history and practices that others may not, Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) (as will be discussed in more detail below) requires lead agencies to provide notice to all tribal groups that are traditionally, culturally, and historically affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if they have requested such notice. Some of these groups are not federally recognized, have had their federal recognition revoked, or are in the processes of requesting federal recognition. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) maintains the list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated within a specified geographic area.

Native American sacred sites reflect the evolution of the Southern California landscape, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Native American cultures that predate and continued beyond European contact. Native American sacred sites may be related to a range of topics, including origins of the universe, the shifting of tectonic plates, and an evolving array of plants and animals that give Southern California its unique features today. Some sites are associated with the migration of humans into the region, where they settled, and how they lived. These sites document the view of Native American cultures of their own history and way of life.

The NAHC is charged with identifying, cataloging, and protecting Native American cultural resources and sacred sites, which is maintained as the SLF. A search of the SLF files through the NAHC for the SCAG region was requested by ESA on October 13, 2022. The NAHC responded to the request on December 8, 2022, and indicated that the results were positive. On December 8, 2022, ESA requested for the NAHC to provide a count of Sacred Lands listings by county within the SCAG region. The NAHC replied on December 28, 2022, indicating that the NAHC is unable to provide counts of Sacred Lands by county (see Appendix G).

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION

A formal list of California Native American tribes who are culturally affiliated with the SCAG region was requested from the NAHC by ESA on October 13, 2022. The NAHC responded by providing a list of tribal contacts that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the SCAG region (see Appendix G).

Pursuant to the requirements of AB 52, SCAG initiated the tribal consultation process on October 27, 2022, within the 14 days of the release of the NOP for the 2024 PEIR (October 17, 2022), by sending tribal consultation initiation letters to the tribes on SCAG's notification list (see Appendix G for a copy of the letter sent to all the tribes). Additional letters were sent on December 14, 2022, and December 20, 2022, upon receipt of the tribal contacts list from the NAHC. In total, SCAG contacted 64 tribal contacts via email, and via certified mail if email addresses were not available or if emails were undelivered. The notification letters included a description of the Plan and SCAG's contact information and requested that tribes interested in consulting respond to SCAG in writing within 30 calendar days of their receipt of the letter. The AB 52 tribal outreach concluded on January 20, 2023, with no requests for consultation.

Following the conclusion of the response period, two tribal contacts, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, contacted SCAG on January 26, 2023, and January 31, 2023, respectively.

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians indicated that they had no comments but requested to be provided with any environmental documents made available for public review. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians indicated that they were not requesting consultation; however, they asked to be notified on projects pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see Appendix G).

## **3.18.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

### **FEDERAL**

#### **ANTIQUITIES ACT AND HISTORIC SITES ACT**

See detailed discussion of these regulations in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

#### **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AND NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT**

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT**

See detailed discussion of these regulations in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

#### **THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT AND NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION/REPATRIATION ACT**

See detailed discussion of these regulations in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

#### **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

### **STATE**

#### **OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

As an office of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) implements the policies of the NHPA on a statewide level. The OHP also carries out the duties set forth in the PRC and maintains the California Historic Resources Inventory.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is an appointed official who implements historic preservation programs within the state's jurisdiction.

#### **CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES (CALIFORNIA REGISTER)**

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

#### **CALIFORNIA PRC SECTIONS 5097.5, 5097.9, 5097.98-99**

PRC Section 5097.5 defines as a misdemeanor the unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources located on public lands. This section also prohibits the knowing destruction of objects of antiquity without a permit (expressed permission) on public lands and provides for criminal sanctions.

In 1987, the Code was amended to require consultation with the California Native American Heritage Commission whenever Native American graves are found. It also established that violations for taking or possessing remains or artifacts are felonies.

PRC Section 5097.9 establishes the California Native American Heritage Commission to make recommendations to encourage private property owners to protect and preserve sacred places in a natural state and to allow appropriate access to Native Americans for ceremonial or spiritual activities. The Commission is authorized to assist Native Americans in obtaining appropriate access to sacred places on public lands, and to aid state agencies in any negotiations with federal agencies for the protection of Native American sacred places on federally administered lands in California.

PRC sections 5097.98 through 5097.99 require that the Governor's California Native American Heritage Commission be consulted whenever Native American graves are found. According to these sections, it is illegal to take or possess remains or artifacts taken from Native American graves; however, it does not apply to materials taken before 1984. Violations occurring after January 1, 1988, are felonies.

PRC Section 5097.98 (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code) authorizes the NAHC to regulate Native American concerns regarding the excavation and disposition of Native American cultural resources. Among its duties, the Commission is authorized to resolve disputes relating to the treatment and disposition of Native American human remains and items associated with burials. Upon notification of the discovery of human remains by a county coroner, the Commission notifies the Native American group or individual most likely descended from the deceased. PRC 5097.98(b) requires that landowners ensure that the immediate vicinity (according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards of practices) are not damaged or disturbed by further development until the landowner has discussed and conferred with most likely descendants.

## **AB 52 AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

## **CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT**

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

## **CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 18950 THROUGH 18961**

The State Historic Building Code (HSC) Sections 18950–18961 provide alternative building regulations and building standards for the rehabilitation, preservation, restoration (including related reconstruction), or relocation of buildings or structures designated as historic buildings. Such alternative building standards and building regulations are intended to facilitate the restoration or change of occupancy so as to preserve their original or restored architectural elements and features, to encourage energy conservation and a cost-effective approach to preservation, and to provide for the safety of the building occupants.

## **CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 622 – DESTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTIES**

This section of the California Penal Code makes it a misdemeanor for anyone (except the owner) to willfully injure or destroy anything of archaeological interest or value whether on private lands or within any public park or place. In addition, Penal Code Section 622.5 sets the penalties for the damage or removal of cultural resources.

## SENATE BILL 18 – TRADITIONAL TRIBAL CULTURAL PLACES

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER B-10-11

See detailed discussion of this regulation in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*.

## LOCAL

### COUNTY GENERAL PLANS

In addition to federal and state regulations, local jurisdictions in the SCAG region may also provide regulatory protection and advisement regarding cultural resources (see Table 3.5-8, County Policies and Ordinances Relevant to the SCAG Region, in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*). California law requires that a general plan include seven elements (land use, open space, conservation, housing, circulation, noise, and safety). Many jurisdictions incorporate policies related to cultural and historical resources into the conservation element. Other jurisdictions choose to prepare a separate (optional) element dealing with cultural and/or historic preservation issues. Many jurisdictions also prepare ordinances addressing cultural resources and historic preservation.

### CITY GENERAL PLANS AND ORDINANCES

In accordance with California Government Code Sections 6530(c) and (d), like the six counties in the SCAG region, all cities are required to have a conservation element and an open space element, as mandatory elements of their general plans. Many city general plans have provisions for historic districts and protection of locally important cultural resources that may or may not meet the criteria for eligibility for listing in the NRHP or CRHR.

## 3.18.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this 2024 PEIR, SCAG has determined that Connect SoCal 2024 could result in significant impacts to tribal cultural resources, if the Plan would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k); or
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

## METHODOLOGY

Chapter 2, *Project Description*, describes the Plan's vision, goals, policies, forecasted regional development pattern, policies and strategies, and individual transportation projects and investments. The Plan aims to increase mobility, promote sustainability, and improve the regional economy. Although land use development is anticipated to occur within the region even without the Plan, the Plan could influence growth, including distribution patterns. To address this, the 2024 PEIR includes an analysis on the implementation of policies and strategies as well as potential projects and evaluates how conditions in 2050 under the Plan would differ from existing conditions. The analysis of tribal cultural resources considered public comments received on the NOP and feedback and discussions at the various public and stakeholder outreach meetings.

The methodology for determining the significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources compares the existing (2022) conditions to the future (2050) conditions, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(a). The known tribal cultural resources (i.e., historical or archeological), Native American sacred sites, and human remains located within the SCAG region were evaluated using criteria set forth by the OHP, the CRHR, and the CEQA Guidelines. Native American sacred sites were analyzed using information provided by the NAHC from the SLF. The NAHC does not disclose the location or nature of the SLF listings, which limits the analysis to a count of resources within respective counties.

Over 112,000 cultural resources (including archaeological resources and historic architectural/built-environment resources) have been identified in the SCAG region, many of which are archaeological resources and/or TCRs. Each archaeological site is documented at an Information Center, which holds location information on archaeological sites for each region in California. Known archaeological resources are limited to areas that have been subject to various levels of research or investigation. Areas that have been subject to pedestrian surveys or sub-surface explorations represent only a fraction of the total area with the potential to yield such resources. Therefore, the analysis focuses on the potential for projects to necessitate ground-disturbing activities in areas where significant archaeological resources have been previously recorded or require work in sediments that have not been previously investigated.

As described under Section 3.18.1, *Environmental Setting*, above, ESA assisted with the tribal consultation process undertaken by SCAG. ESA contacted the NAHC to request a Sacred Lands File Search and CEQA Tribal Consultation List (see Appendix G).

As discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, and Section 3.0, *Introduction to the Analysis*, Connect SoCal 2024 includes Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies, some of which will effectively reduce impacts in the various resource areas. Furthermore, compliance with all applicable laws and regulations (as set forth in the Regulatory Framework) would be reasonably expected to reduce impacts of the Plan (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(1)(B)). As discussed in Section 3.0, *Introduction to the Analysis*, where remaining potentially significant impacts are identified, SCAG mitigation measures are incorporated to reduce these impacts. If SCAG cannot mitigate impacts of the Plan to less than significant, project-level mitigation measures are identified which can and should be considered and implemented by lead agencies as applicable and feasible.

## IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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- IMPACT TCR-1 Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or
  - A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c). In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

### *Significant and Unavoidable Impact – Mitigation Required*

Implementation of the Plan has the potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of tribal cultural resources in the SCAG region, defined in PRC Section 21074, as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.

Pursuant to AB 52, SCAG contacted the NAHC to request an SLF search (which yielded a positive result since it is a yes/no result and it was for the entire region). NAHC also provided a formal list of tribal contacts within the SCAG region (see Appendix G). As noted above, the AB 52 tribal outreach concluded on January 20, 2023, with no requests for consultation.

Direct permanent impacts to TCRs (resources either listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or local register of historical resources, or resources determined by the lead agency to be significant). Impacts frequently result from ground disturbance associated with construction, such as grading and excavation, but also from other types of activities that can affect rocks, sacred plants and/or sacred places. As for archeological resources, implementation of the Plan could have a relatively higher potential to directly impact TCRs, primarily by grading or excavation in previously undisturbed soil and by the disturbance of buried resources that have not been previously identified. But there is also the potential to impact other types of TCR resources that may not be buried including site features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places and objects. The potential for direct impacts to TCRs may be comparatively less for improvements to existing facilities and modifications to existing rights-of-way since these areas have been previously disturbed. Regardless of prior disturbance, however, as discussed in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, Impact CUL-2, any excavation has the potential to directly impact undocumented TCRs of an archaeological nature.

Tribal cultural resources are likely to be encountered near areas of prior Native American occupation and activity, which includes areas both within and outside areas of current development. Surficial archaeological deposits that are TCRs are more likely to be heavily disturbed within urban areas and more intact in rural settings; however, this



does not preclude the presence of buried archaeological resources that may be significant in urban settings. Archaeological sites that may meet the TCR definition that have been buried below grade have no surface manifestations, making accurate prediction of their location during project planning problematic.

Direct permanent impacts would be significant if TCRs cannot be avoided or preserved in place by project design or redesign and are destroyed or substantially altered. Disturbance of TCR features or places would compromise the traditional use of or the cultural character and integrity of the resource and may result in a significant impact if its contributing characteristics or the character of its physical setting is destroyed or substantially altered. Permanent direct impacts may be addressed by advance project planning and consulting with tribes that have requested consultation to ensure known TCRs are avoided and preserved in place, or to develop project alternatives that would minimize impacts to known TCRs. Permanent direct impacts to TCRs of an archaeological nature discovered inadvertently during project construction may be addressed by project redesign to avoid and preserve the TCR, and by requested tribal consultation focused at minimizing the impact.

Permanent indirect impacts from construction and operational improvements may result from potential access-related damage to TCRs when public accessibility is increased due to changes in land use or new or improved transportation networks stemming from the Plan. The likelihood of unauthorized artifact collecting and destruction (intentional or unintentional) of TCRs of an archaeological nature, or of damage to or destruction (intentional or unintentional) of TCRs that are traditional places for gathering natural resources, cultural landscapes, or sacred places, increases with ease of access. Recreational use, overland vehicle travel, and vandalism would degrade the integrity and traditional use of the TCRs. Ensuring appropriate measures that would minimize or reduce damage to TCRs are devised during project planning, coupled with requested tribal consultation, may reduce indirect access-related impact.

While there are state requirements in place to minimize adverse impacts to TCRs, there is still the potential for damage to such resources as a result of implementation of the Plan. The Plan could result in direct impacts through substantial alteration or removal of TCRs and/or indirect impacts from access-related damage from construction projects and ongoing operations resulting from projects implemented as a result of the Plan. Therefore, impacts related to changing the significance of TCRs are considered significant and mitigation measures are required.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

### SCAG MITIGATION MEASURE

See SMM-CUL-1.

### PROJECT-LEVEL MITIGATION MEASURES

See PMM-CUL-1.

**PMM-TCR-1** In accordance with provisions of Sections 15091(a)(2) and 15126.4(a)(1)(B) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency for a project can and should consider mitigation measures to reduce substantial adverse effects on tribal cultural resources. Such measures may include the following or other comparable measures identified by the lead agency:

- a) Avoid and/or preserve the resources in place, including, but not limited to, planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context, or planning

greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria

- b) Treat the resource with culturally appropriate dignity taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following: protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource; protecting the traditional use of the resource; and protecting the confidentiality of the resource;
- c) Provide permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places; and protecting the resource.
- d) If tribal cultural resources are found, then the lead agency should consider tribal construction monitoring.

### LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

As previously discussed, the Plan's Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies (see Chapter 2, *Project Description*, and Section 3.0, *Introduction to the Analysis*) and compliance with existing laws and regulations would reduce impacts; however, given the regional scale of the analysis in this 2024 PEIR, it is not possible or feasible to determine if all impacts would be fully mitigated. Therefore, this 2024 PEIR identifies SCAG and project-level mitigation measures. At the project-level, lead agencies can and should consider the identified project-level mitigation measures during subsequent review of transportation and land use projects as appropriate and feasible. While the mitigation measures will reduce the impacts related to tribal cultural resources, due to the regional nature of the analysis, unknown site conditions and project-specific details, and SCAG's lack of land use authority over individual projects, SCAG finds that the impact could be **significant and unavoidable** even with mitigation.

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Connect SoCal 2024 is a regional-scale Plan comprised of policies and strategies, a regional growth forecast and land use pattern, and individual projects and investments. At this regional-scale, a cumulative or related project to the Plan is another regional-scale plan (such as Air Quality Management Plans within the region) and similar regional plans for adjacent regions. Because the Plan, in and of itself, would result in significant adverse environmental impacts with respect to tribal cultural resources, these impacts would add to the environmental impacts of other cumulative or related projects. Mitigation measures that reduce the Plan's impacts would similarly reduce the Plan's contribution to cumulative impacts.

### 3.18.4 SOURCES

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