

3.5 Historic, Archaeological and Tribal Resources

This section evaluates the potential long-term effects of the No Build Alternative and the Build Alternative on historic, archaeological, and tribal resources, as detailed **Appendix K** (Historic, Archaeological and Tribal Resources Technical Report). Short-term construction effects are discussed in **Section 3.17** (Construction). The assessment of reasonably foreseeable effects in this section is based upon the temporal proximity parameters detailed in **Chapter 3.0** (Introduction), and the geographic proximity parameters detailed in **Section 3.5.1** (Affected Environment).

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The Historic, Archaeological, and Tribal Resources Study Area is the Area of Potential Effects (APE) developed as part of the Section 106 consultation, as detailed in this section. The APE is described in the text box and a map is provided in **Appendix K, Attachment A**. The APE, which is influenced by the scale and nature of the project, consists of all proposed right-of-way and acquisition and construction areas, and all parcels adjacent to permanent site improvements and facilities, including an at-grade and grade-separated guideway alignment; stations and power substations; parking facility; railroad systems that support vehicle operations such as traction power substations and equipment shelters; and the MSF, including MSF Sites 1, 2, and 3.

This section uses the terminology “direct” and “indirect” effects, because this language is in the implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

- **Direct Effects** to historic properties evaluated in this section are those effects caused by the undertaking at the same time and place with no intervening cause and regardless of type (e.g., visual, physical, auditory), and may be permanent or temporary.
- **Indirect Effects** to historic properties evaluated in this section are those caused by the undertaking that are later in time or farther removed in distance but still reasonably foreseeable.

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- **APE:** Geographic area within which a project may directly or indirectly alter the character, setting and/or use of a historic property; this is determined by FTA in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
 - **APE Horizontal Extent:** Approximately 4.7 miles long
 - Encompasses parcels of land adjacent to the ground disturbance and potential construction staging areas.
 - **APE Vertical Extent:** Maximum depth of 44 to 60 feet below ground surface, and maximum height of 70 feet)
 - Depth to account for subsurface activities, and above ground surface to include above ground features including where aerial guideway would be constructed.

Regulations associated with historic, archaeological, and tribal resources applicable to the Project are summarized in **Appendix S** (Regulatory Setting Summary) and detailed in **Appendix K**. Data sources used in this analysis include record searches, databases available from federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, consulting party outreach, field surveys, and additional archival research including, available historic maps and images (e.g., Sanborn fire insurance maps, historic aerials, historic topographic quadrangles, plat maps, etc.), historic building permits, historic newspaper articles, and information derived from online research at various agencies, historical societies and other sources.

FTA and Metro have undertaken the consultation process under Section 106 of the NHPA, including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Native American tribes, local governments, and other interested parties. The consultation process undertaken by FTA for the Project is summarized in the following section with additional detail provided in **Appendix K**.

Historic Property is “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)” (54 USC Section 300308).

Determination of Effect is the result of applying the criteria of adverse effect to assess the effects of the undertaking on historic properties within the APE. An adverse effect would be found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualifies the property for inclusion in the NRHP in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified after the original evaluation of the property’s eligibility for the NRHP.

- APE delineation: FTA and Metro provided Draft APE maps during initial outreach to tribal organizations, local governments and interested parties in January 2025. None of these groups commented on the proposed delineation of the APE. FTA requested comments from SHPO regarding the delineation of the APE on April 21, 2025. SHPO responded to FTA on May 15, 2025, that the APE delineation appears adequate. On June 20, 2025, SHPO concurred with the eligibility finding for the Vail Field Industrial Addition historic district, 2187 Garfield Avenue, and 2353 Garfield Avenue, as part of the Section 106 consultation for the proposed geotechnical boring studies for the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project.
- Tribal consultation: Section 106 tribal consultation efforts were performed beginning in 2024 and are ongoing. Seventeen tribal contacts from nine tribal organizations were contacted by FTA on January 9, 2025, with follow-up emails sent on February 3, 2025, and follow-up calls on February 13, 2025. These tribes may have information regarding tribal cultural resources in the area of potential effects; six tribes communicated additional information and requests for continuing consultation with FTA. Section 106 Tribal consultation details can be found in **Appendix C** (Agency and Tribal Consultation and Coordination/ Distribution List).
- Consultation with local governments: Section 106 local government consultation efforts were performed beginning in 2024 and are ongoing. Four local government agencies were contacted. The City of Commerce and the City of Montebello requested consulting party status, and Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning provided a list of historic properties in the area of potential effects. A response was not received from the Los Angeles County Historic Landmarks and Records Commission.
- Consultation with Interested Parties: Section 106 interested party consultation efforts were performed beginning in 2024 and are ongoing. Ten interested parties were contacted. The Los Angeles Conservancy responded on December 26, 2024, expressed an interest in the Project, and requested consulting status. The Los Angeles Conservancy met with the FTA on July 25, 2025 to discuss the Build Alternative and the potential for effects to historic properties. The FTA received a follow-up letter from the Los Angeles Conservancy on August 21, 2025, providing additional comments and recommendations. Concerned that the National Chicano Moratorium March Route could be affected by the Build Alternative, the Los Angeles

Conservancy recommended an interpretive signage program be created for this resource. In a letter from the FTA to the Los Angeles Conservancy on November 19, 2025, these concerns and recommendations have been acknowledged by the agencies and are under consideration. The Los Angeles Conservancy will continue to be engaged with to identify potential opportunities to enhance public recognition of the National Chicano Moratorium March and its historical significance.

3.5.1.1 Architectural Resources

Based upon archival research and a field survey described in **Section 3.5.1**, ten historic properties were identified in the APE, including one NRHP listed Historic District, one NRHP listed building, two NRHP eligible historic districts, and six NRHP eligible buildings. These resources are listed in **Table 3.5-1**. Additional information on these resources, including a description and photographs, is presented in **Appendix K**. No known archaeological resources or properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe were identified within the APE. However, as a result of tribal consultation, the APE exhibits sensitivity for buried and currently unknown traditional cultural places.

Table 3.5-1 Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effects

Property	Address	Date	Jurisdiction	NRHP Eligibility
National Chicano Moratorium March (NRIS ID# 100002655)	3rd Street, Beverly Boulevard, Atlantic Avenue, Whittier Boulevard, and Salazar Park	1970	East Los Angeles (unincorporated Los Angeles County)	Listed in the NRHP
Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School (DOE-19-94-0475-0000)	4765 4th Street	1939	East Los Angeles (unincorporated Los Angeles County)	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
Golden Gate Theater (NRIS IS# 82002192)	5176 Whittier Boulevard	1927	East Los Angeles (unincorporated Los Angeles County)	Listed in the NRHP
Vail Field Industrial Addition – historic district	Vail Field Industrial Addition – Commerce	1951–1960	City of Commerce	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
Pacific Metals Company building	2187 Garfield Avenue	1955–1952	City of Commerce	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Warehouse	2353 Garfield Avenue	1952	City of Commerce	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
E.F. Hauserman Company Building	6838 East Acco Street	1957	City of Commerce	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
Greenwood Elementary School (DOE-19-90-0060-0000)	900 Greenwood Avenue	1947	City of Montebello	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
South Montebello Irrigation District	864 Washington Boulevard	1941	City of Montebello	Eligible for listing in the NRHP
William and Florence Kelly House ("Kelly House") - Spanish Colonial Revival-style single-family residence	860 Washington Boulevard	1937	City of Montebello	Eligible for listing in the NRHP

Source: South Central Coastal Information Center 2024; CDM Smith/AECOM JV 2026.

Key: NRIS ID# = National Register Information System Identification Number

3.5.1.2 Archaeological Resources

A 2026 geotechnical investigation produced documentation of subsurface stratigraphy in the APE (Donatucci et al. 2026). One Hundred and eight boring samples were taken throughout the APE (refer to the approved boring location map in **Appendix U** [Boring Locations]). The results show a level of asphalt to approximately 8 inches in depth followed by a brown, fine grained, poorly graded sand to sandy silt down to a depth of 5-25 feet (Donatucci et al. 2026). The results of the soil boring are consistent with the native soils in the area, exhibiting a brown sand to sandy loam alluvial deposit. As the soils in the area are associated with alluvial sediments, there is a potential to contain intact archaeological resources.

3.5.1.3 Tribal Resources

Tribal cultural experts from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation undertook tribal monitoring during the 2026 geotechnical investigation between August and October 2025. Tribal cultural experts provided Tribal Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training to construction crews and management on August 5, 2025. No cultural resources were found.

3.5.2 No Build Alternative

The No Build Alternative, as described in **Section 2.2** (No Build Alternative) of the EA, would include already planned and funded roadway and transit projects but would not provide a rail transit option for communities in eastern Los Angeles County. Overall, as shown in **Table 3.5-2**, the No Build Alternative would result in no long-term adverse effect on cultural resources.

Table 3.5-2 Cultural Resources Impact Summary – No Build Alternative

Topic	Impact	Rationale
Historic properties	No Adverse Effect	- Planned and funded projects under the No Build Alternative would follow laws and regulations pertaining to historic properties, such as the NHPA, in addition to the environmental review process. - Any adverse effects on historic properties from planned and funded projects under the No Build Alternative would be resolved through adherence to and compliance with applicable existing laws and regulations

Source: Metro; CDM Smith/AECOM JV 2026.

3.5.3 Build Alternative

Reasonably foreseeable long-term effects of the Build Alternative on historic properties include visual, audible, or atmospheric intrusions, and the loss of contributing properties to the Vail Field Industrial Historic District.

3.5.3.1 Visual Effects on Architectural Historic Properties

The majority of the alignment would be located underground within a tunnel. In the areas where the Build Alternative alignment would be aboveground, the guideway would be generally located within the existing road right-of-way. The visual setting is characterized by a primarily built-out urban environment consisting of a variety of commercial, industrial, and residential developments, interspersed with local multi-lane streets with passenger vehicle and truck traffic and active railroad corridors. Because the aboveground setting already features modern traffic activities and infrastructure, none of the historic properties in the APE listed in **Table 3.5-2** above would have their integrity diminished the light rail transit or the MSF. The Build Alternative would blend with the existing traffic pattern along Washington Boulevard.

As described in **Section 3.8** (Visual Resources), the new aerial structure could introduce a new visual element as well as additional light and glare to the settings of some historic properties, such as the Vail Field Industrial Addition historic district. However, the aerial guideway would be at a similar height to the existing utility infrastructure and would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views. If MSF Site 1 is

selected, there would be no additional features that could indirectly affect historic properties. However, if MSF Site 2 is selected, a portion of the aerial guideway would be located within the parking lot of a historic property (the Pacific Metals Company building); however, the guideway would be at a relatively similar height to the existing utility infrastructure. The new aerial structure would introduce a new visual element but would not change the historic character of the building, nor alter the façade of the building or diminish the integrity of the building's significant design features. The alteration of the setting with the new visual element of the aerial structure would not materially impair its integrity and would thus result in no adverse effect.

If MSF Site 3 is selected, the MSF would introduce a new visual element to the Vail Field Industrial Addition historic district, but the aesthetics and operations of the site would be consistent with the industrial nature of the historic district. The MSF Site 3 buildings and facilities would be one- to two-story industrial buildings and include associated rail infrastructure, which would be congruent with the existing height and design of the surrounding buildings. Any landscape elements would complement the existing landscape features within the Vail Industrial Addition historic district. These features would be visually consistent with other railway infrastructure within the area, such as the Metrolink Orange County and Riverside Lines located approximately 0.75 mile south and north, respectively, of the Greenwood station. Operation of the Build Alternative would not diminish the integrity of the historic properties' character defining features. As a result, there would be no adverse effect on historic properties from visual changes during operations.

Construction of the Build Alternative would acquire and demolish six contributors to the Vail Field Industrial Addition historic district, which could result in a long-term effect on the historic district. However, none of these contributors are individually eligible historic properties. The six contributors are located near the center and on the periphery of the historic district, though their demolition would not alter the district's character defining features. The core would remain intact with enough contributors with characteristics to convey its historical significance. Therefore, the Build Alternative would have no long-term adverse effect on the Vail Field Industrial Addition historic district.

3.5.3.2 Noise and Vibration Effects on Built Environment Historic Properties

Build Alternative noise levels are not predicted to exceed the FTA "moderate impact" criteria at noise-sensitive historic properties along the alignment (Greenwood Elementary School and the Kelly House). Noise levels are provided in **Section 3.13** (Noise). Maximum vibration levels at historic properties along the Build Alternative are predicted to be 68 vibration decibels. See **Section 3.13.3.1** (Build Alternative, Operational Impacts). Due to the strategic location of switches, none of the vibration levels predicted at historic properties are predicted to exceed the FTA frequent impact criteria along the Build Alternative. Based on this assessment, the Build Alternative would not result in long-term adverse effects from vibrations on built environment historic properties.

3.5.3.3 Effects on Archaeological Resources

There are no previously recorded archaeological resources identified in the APE. The Build Alternative would not physically demolish, destroy, relocate, or alter any known archaeological resources that are historic properties. Although unknown, buried resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP may exist within the APE, operation of the Build Alternative would not require additional ground disturbance or other activities that could adversely affect archaeological historic properties. Therefore, the Build Alternative would have no long-term effect on known archaeological historic properties and no mitigation measures would be required.

The Build Alternative would have no operational effects on properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe that could be a historic property. No precontact resources or other resources with tribal significance were identified within the APE as a result of the background research, field survey, or tribal consultation; however, the APE exhibits sensitivity for buried and currently unknown traditional cultural places. Although unknown, buried resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP may exist within the area of potential effects. However, operation of the Build Alternative would not require ground disturbance or other

activities that could adversely affect properties of traditional religious and cultural importance during operation. There would be no long-term adverse effect.

3.5.4 Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures for the Build Alternative

The measures identified in **Table 3.5-3** would be implemented for the Build Alternative in the long term. Construction measures are provided in **Section 3.17**.

Table 3.5-3 Long-Term Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Topic	Potential Effect	Proposed Measure	Measure Type	Effects After Implementation of Measure(s)
Architectural Historic properties	Operation of the Build Alternative would not result in adverse effects on historic properties from visual changes and on architectural historic properties from noise and vibration.	No avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures needed	None	No Adverse Effect
Archaeological Resources	Operation of the Build Alternative would not require ground disturbance or other activities that could adversely affect properties of traditional religious and cultural importance in the long term.	No avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures needed	None	No Adverse Effect

Source: Metro; CDM Smith/AECOM JV 2026.