



A CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION OF PROJECT R24, SECOND AVENUE AND NORTH MAIN STREET, WALNUT CREEK, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED BY

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SUBMITTED FOR

Lacey Town Center, LLC c/o Reed Onate, Hall Equities Group

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A.R.S. 18-041

INTRODUCTION

As requested and authorized, Archaeological Resource Service (ARS) has conducted an archaeological evaluation of the parcel described below. The following basic tasks were accomplished as part of this project:

1. A check of the information on file with our office and the Regional Office of the California Historical Resources Information System, to determine the presence or absence of previously recorded historic or prehistoric cultural resources,
2. A check of appropriate historic references to determine the potential for historic era archaeological deposits, and;
3. Contact with the Native American Heritage Commission to determine the presence or absence of listed Sacred Lands within the project area;
4. Contact with all appropriate Native American organizations or individuals designated by the Native American Heritage Commission as interested parties for the project area;
5. A surface reconnaissance of all accessible parts of the project area to locate any visible signs of potentially significant historic or prehistoric cultural deposits.
6. Preparation of a report describing the work accomplished, the results of the research, and making appropriate recommendations for further action, if warranted.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant is proposing to develop the following within the given property: a new retail store and a rough graded pad at the corner of Second and North Main Streets. The archaeological component of this project involved a reconnaissance survey of the proposed project area to determine the presence or absence of potentially significant archaeological resources.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located at northwest corner of 2nd Avenue and North Main Street in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, California. The study area consists of approximately 1 acre of commercial property that is bounded by 2nd Avenue to the south, North Main Street to the east, Contra Costa Canal Trail to the north, and several residential and commercial buildings to the west.

The project area lies in the Mexican era land grant of Rancho Las Juntas within unsectioned land of Township 1 North, Range 2 West, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian as shown on the USGS 7.5' Walnut Creek Quadrangle Map (1959; photorevised 1968 and 1973).

The Universal Transverse Mercator Grid coordinates to the approximate center of the project area, as determined by measurement from Google Earth are:

4197595 Meters North,
582206 Meters East, Zone 10

REGULATORY SETTING

There are no previously recorded prehistoric or historic resources located within the project area. Archaeological resources, once identified, are evaluated using criteria established in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 CCR 15064.5 and PRC 21084.1). Significant historical resources need to be addressed before environmental mitigation guidelines are developed and approved. A “significant historical resource” (including both prehistoric and historic-era resources) is one that is found eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. As per Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5, historical resources are those that are:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historic Resources (Public Resources Code 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et. seq.);
- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (CRHR);
- Included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resource Code; or
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

Additionally, historical resources and historic districts designated or listed as city or county landmarks or historic properties or districts pursuant to any city or county ordinance can also be listed in the California Register, if the criteria for listing under the ordinance have been determined by the Office of Historic Preservation to be consistent with California Register criteria adopted by the commission (pursuant to Section 5024.1(e) of the PRC).

A resource may be listed as an historical resource in the California Register if it has integrity and meets any of the following National Register of Historic Places criteria:

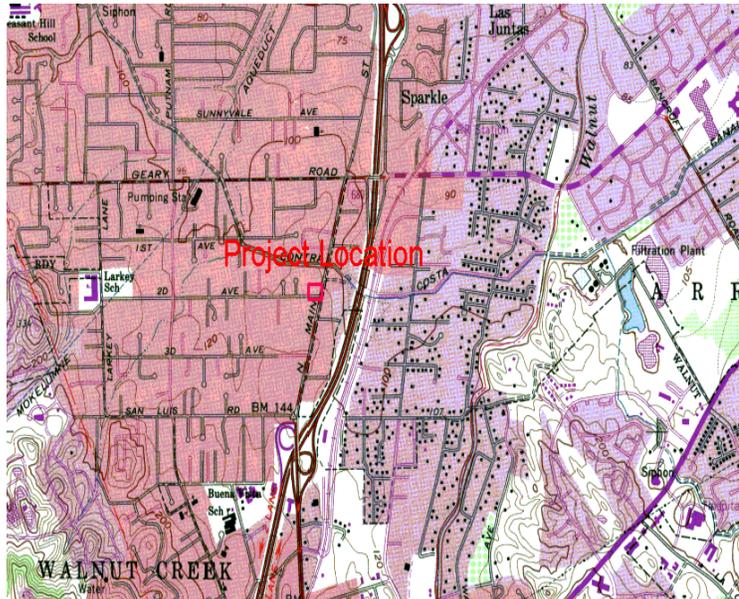


FIGURE 1: PROJECT LOCATION

The project location is shown on the USGS 7.5' Walnut Creek Quadrangle Map.

- 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; or
- 3) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- 4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

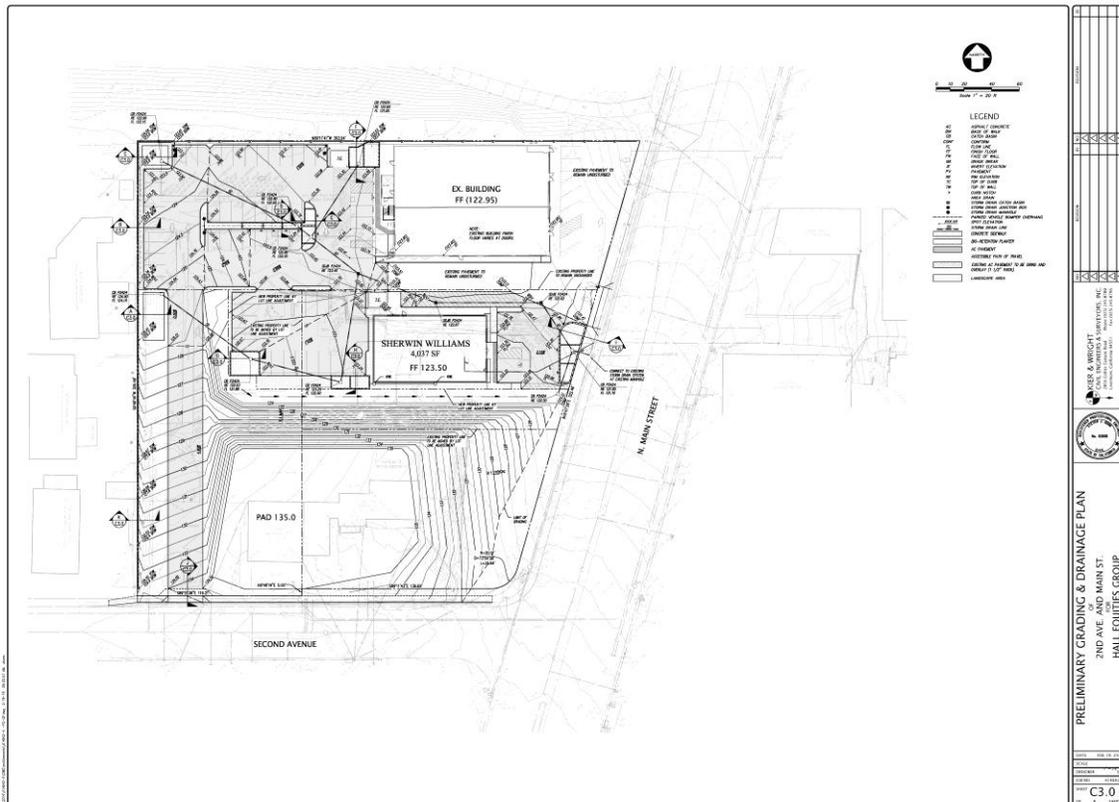


FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN FOR PROPOSED R24 PROJECT AREA.

CEQA (PRC 21083.2) also distinguishes between two classes of archaeological resources: archaeological sites that meet the definition of a historical resource as above, and “unique archaeological resources.” A “unique archaeological resource” has been defined in CEQA as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- 1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information,
- 2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type, or
- 3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts representative of California and United States history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture convey significance when they also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A resource has integrity if it retains the characteristics that were present during the resource's period of significance. Enough of these characteristics must remain to convey the reasons for its significance.

As of July 2015, two new classes of resources have been defined. Tribal cultural resources and Tribal cultural landscapes can be any of a variety of cultural sites as defined by the individual tribe. These resources, once identified, are treated as significant resources under CEQA.

The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, or included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resources as defined in PRC sections 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

SACRED LANDS INVENTORY / NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) works to identify, catalogue, and protect places of special religious or social significance, graves, and cemeteries of Native Americans per the authority given the Commission in Public Resources Code 5097.9. ARS performed a check with the NAHC to determine if there are sites listed in the Sacred Lands file located within or near to the current project area. However, the NAHC did not respond directly so it is recommended that the lead agency contact any tribes that have requested consultation.

RESULTS OF LITERATURE CHECK

PREHISTORIC SETTING

A framework for the interpretation of the San Francisco Bay Area is provided by Milliken et al. (2007), who have divided human history in California into three broad periods: the Early Period, the Middle Period, and the Late Period. Economic patterns, stylistic aspects, and regional phases further subdivide cultural patterns into shorter phases. This scheme uses economic and technological types, socio-politics, trade networks, population density, and variations of artifact types to differentiate between cultural periods.

- The Paleoindian Period, 11,500 to 8,000 B.C. – This period was characterized by Clovis big-game hunters occupying broad geographic areas. Evidence of human habitation during the Paleoindian Period has not yet been discovered in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- The Early Holocene (Lower Archaic), ca. 8,000-3,500 B.C. – A generalized mobile forager pattern, characterized by the millingslab and handstone and by a variety of large wide-stemmed and leaf-shaped projectile points emerge during this time period.
- The Early Period (Middle Archaic), ca. 3,500-500 B.C. – New ground stone technology and the first cut shell beads in mortuaries indicate a rise in sedentism, a regional symbolic integration of peoples, and increased regional trade in the Bay Area.
- The Lower Middle Period (Initial Upper Archaic), ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 430 – A major disruption in symbolic integration systems appears in the records during this period. According to Milliken, Bead Horizon M1, which dates from 200 B.C. to A.D. 430, marks a “cultural climax” within the San Francisco Bay Area.
- The Upper Middle Period (Late Upper Archaic), ca. A.D. 430 to 1,050 – This period is characterized by a dramatic cultural disruption that occurred throughout Central California. Among the changes that occurred during this period include the collapse of

the *Olivella* saucer bead trade in Central California, the abandonment of many Bead Horizon M1 sites, an increase in the occurrence of sea otter bones at sites that were not abandoned, and the spread of the Meganos extended burial mortuary pattern into the interior East Bay. These changes co-occurred with the inception of a series of *Olivella* saddle bead horizons including M2a (A.D. 420-450), M2b (A.D. 430-600), M3 (A.D. 600-800), and M4 (A.D. 800 to 1,050).

- The Initial Late Period (Lower Emergent), A.D. 1,050 to 1,550 – During this period, cultural complexity increased from that of collectors who buried their dead with diverse, numerous, but fairly simple ornaments to collectors who invested large amounts of time in the creation of finely wrought wealth objects. According to Fredrickson (1973, 1994), there is evidence of increased sedentism, the development of ceremonial integration, and status ascription in lowland central California. The beginning of this period is marked by the Middle/Late Transition (MLT) bead horizon (ca. A.D. 1,000).
- The Terminal Late Period, post-A.D. 1,550 – This period marks the disappearance of the L1 Bead Horizon and the beginnings of the L2 Bead Horizon, characterized by clamshell disk beads that spread across much of the North Bay. In fact, the North Bay was the seat of innovation during this period with the appearance of artifact types including the toggle harpoon, hopper mortar, plain corner-notched arrow-sized projectile point, clamshell disk beads, magnesite tube beads, and secondary cremation. In the South and Central Bay, mortuaries were lined only with *Olivella* lipped and spire-lopped beads.

ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

The ethnographic affiliation of the aboriginal inhabitants of the Walnut Creek area at the time of European contact have been designated on the basis of linguistic evidence the Bay Miwok (Beeler 1955; Callaghan 1964: 46; Merriam 1955: 133-134; Heizer 1966: 19; Levy 1978: 398-399), a sub-group of the Penutian family of languages which were widely spoken throughout the interior Central California region. According to Busby (Busby 1976: 1-3):

The Bay Miwok occupied the Diablo locality (as called by Bennyhoff (1961)), which includes Mount Diablo and the surrounding interior drainage region, the southern shore of Suisun Bay, and the Delta Region northwest of Mount Diablo. The Bay Miwok included the (tribelets known as the) Saklan (also spelled Saclan), Chupunes, Tarquines, Julpunes, and Ompines (Schenck 1926; Cook 1955). On the basis of early Spanish reports and mission records, Cook (1955: 64) estimated a population of 3,000 for the four groups and a total population of 9,350 for the tribes known to inhabit the delta region and the southern shore of Suisun Bay. This population was dispersed into many small villages or “tribelets” each having a loosely centralized organization around a principle (sic) village headed by a hereditary chief and a well defined territory for hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Ethnographic information concerning these Indians is fragmentary and incomplete consisting mainly of baptismal records, brief vocabularies taken by the mission padres as well as explorers’ and military accounts of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Although no village names definitely assignable to these groups appear in the mission records, the San Francisco and San Jose missions drew on this portion of the delta region for “converts.” Due to the missionizing efforts of the Spanish, it appears that by 1800 these groups, along with neighboring tribes, were virtually extinct having been decimated by disease, military conflict, disintegration of native lifestyles and probably widely scattered from their original aboriginal areas so that by the American period only scattered survivors remained. Consequently, very little direct information is available concerning the aboriginal lifestyle. However, some

general statements may be offered as a brief sketch of native lifestyles in the delta region of Central California.

In regards the subsistence practices of the native inhabitants, the Bay Miwok are known to have exploited the native shellfish of the area, which included mussels, clams, and other genera as well as anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead trout) and near shore marine species. The principal means of fishing was by nets. Various species of wild fowl that lived in the marshes also were taken by net and via the use of decoys. Deer, as well as rabbits, squirrels and other small game, was hunted in the hills and valleys. In earlier times before the

native environment was heavily affected by the historic and modern landscape

alterations, other large game animals also were hunted including pronghorn antelope, elk, and brown and/or grizzly bears. However these larger game animals may have been hunted and their meat eaten for food, although they were apparently taken for other uses as well. For instance the skins of grizzly bears were worn (as garments) and the pelts of bobcats or mountain lions might have been used to store arrows that were used for hunting (that is, as a quiver). Men were accustomed to go naked when the weather permitted, and women wore skirts of deerskin, shredded tule or bark fiber along with robes of woven rabbit skin that served both as cloaks and bedding (Kroeber 1925). Men often painted their bodies with earthen pigments and facial tattooing was customary among women. Shell ornamentation was common to both sexes and circular clam shell beads were strung and utilized as (items of) value (i.e., money) standards in trade and/or exchange networks. The aboriginal inhabitants made coiled and twined baskets; willow was the only plant that was definitely known to have been used in basket making by these groups from the Delta. Other types of basketry materials were used by other tribes who lived in the North Bay area.

Native Americans of Contra Costa County



FIGURE 3: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATIONS OF BAY MIWOK TRIBELETS (SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.CCCOE.NET/MIWOKPROJECT/LESSON1.HTML](http://www.ccco.net/miwokproject/lesson1.html)).

ARS has been unable to find any specific information about the protohistoric and/or historic ethnographically associated Bay Miwok or Ohlone/Costanoan groups who lived in this area prior to the coming of the Spanish, Mexican and early American period settlers. One can assume that such Native peoples were present because they left behind the tell-tale signs of their residence in the form of lost and discarded stone tools and the waste from tool manufacture and hunting or gathering activities (“arrowheads” and isolated flakes as well as stone bowl mortars or pestles) that are reported in historic accounts (Purcell 1940).

HISTORIC SETTING

Following Mexico’s independence from Spain in 1822, the Mexican Government secularized the Spanish missions and sold off their lands. Large parcels were developed into cattle ranches maintained by Mexican grantees. Four land grants were awarded in the Walnut Creek area: Rancho San Ramon (1826), Rancho Arroyo de las Nueces y Bolbones (1834), Rancho Cañada del Hambre (1842) and Rancho Las Juntas (1844). These four grants converged at what later became downtown Walnut Creek. They were sparsely settled by a few families, who used the land primarily for cattle pasture (Emanuels 1991). Specifically, the project area lies within the boundaries of the Mexican era land grant of Rancho Las Juntas (Figure 4), which was granted to William



FIGURE 4: PLAT MAP OF RANCHO LAS JUNTAS, CIRCA 1860.

Welch by Governor Manuel Micheltorena on February 9, 1844. In 1852, a claim for Rancho Las Juntas was filed by James Swansen, administrator of Welch’s estate, (Munro-Fraser 1926) before the grant was finally patented to heirs of William Welch in 1870.

After California’s entrance into statehood in 1850, Contra Costa County underwent expansion and change due to the influx of new residents drawn by the prospect of gold, the available fertile land for ranching and farming, and potential business prospects. Land use changes resulted as livestock grazed some native grasses to extinction, woodlands were cut for lumber, and agricultural development took place on nearly all open arable land. By the early 1900s and continuing into the latter half of the 20th century, the city of Walnut Creek was transformed into a commercial hub characterized by both residential and retail development. With regard to the

proposed project area, vintage maps and photographs show the development of the subject property over several decades:

- Google Earth Aerial Imagery (1939) – The property was comprised of vacant farmland (Figure 5).
- 1947 USGS 7.5' Walnut Creek Quadrangle Map – A single building/structure was constructed on the subject property.
- 1959 USGS 15' Concord Quadrangle Map – The property has largely become urbanized.



PREVIOUS STUDIES

Prior to performing the fieldwork, the author conducted a literature

FIGURE 5: AERIAL IMAGE OF THE PROJECT AREA (OUTLINED IN BLUE) IN 1939 (SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH PRO).

search to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. The literature search was conducted using information on file at Archaeological Resource Service and the California Historical Resources Inventory Systems office located in Rohnert Park, California. This record search included checking ethnographic documents, historic maps, survey reports, site records, and base maps pertaining to Walnut Creek, and in particular, within a one-mile radius of the current project area. The Office of Historic Preservation's (OHP) Historic Properties Directory, National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, and the California Historical Landmarks were also reviewed.

The records search indicates that there have been at least 6 cultural resource surveys conducted within a one-mile radius of the proposed project area (Johnson 1974; Flynn 1983; Flynn 1995; Kelly 1989; Roop 2016; Salter 1990). However, there is only one recorded archaeological site that lies within this established range. This resource, referred to as CA-CCO-000023, is a prehistoric occupation site characterized by features such as hearths with cooking stones, faunal remains, and Bay mussel shells (Bennyhoff 1957). These findings can provide an idea of the types of cultural resources that may be encountered on the subject property.

RESULTS OF SURFACE EXAMINATION

On September 19, 2018, the author and William Roop performed a field reconnaissance of the proposed project area located at the corner of North Main Street and 2nd Avenue. The project area was inspected for the presence of both prehistoric and historic-era artifacts and sites. The project area is a commercial property that consists of several buildings and structures within a paved parking lot. The geological setting of the project area is located within a fluvial terrace characterized by a Tierra loam soil with slopes ranging between 9 and 15 percent (USDA 2018). However, examination of the project area shows that the soil has been heavily modified by recent activities and does not provide evidence of past human activities (prehistoric and historic-era). The cultural resource evaluation resulted in a negative finding in which no artifacts or potentially significant cultural resources were observed within the project area.



FIGURE 6: VIEW OF THE PROJECT AREA LOOKING NORTH. PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS MAIN BUILDING THAT WILL BE DEMOLISHED.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The property does not contain any archaeological resources that warrant a finding of significance. The current project will not have any impact upon the known archaeological resources of the area. Therefore, further archaeological investigation is not warranted at this time. However, there is a chance that buried historic or prehistoric artifacts could be present on the property. If a concentration of artifacts or cultural soils, including deposits over fifty years in age associated with the house, such as outhouse shafts or trash pits, are encountered during earth disturbing activities, work should cease in that area and a qualified archaeologist should be notified and an evaluation performed.

Artifacts that are typically found associated with prehistoric sites include humanly modified stone, shell, bone or other cultural materials such as charcoal, ash and burned rock indicative of food procurement or processing activities. Prehistoric domestic features include hearths, firepits, or house floor depressions whereas typical mortuary features are represented by human skeletal remains. Modified cobbles or boulders of schist also might be found in buried contexts. Historic artifacts potentially include all by-products of human land use greater than 50 years of age.

If human remains are encountered, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the discovered remains and the County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified immediately so that an evaluation can be performed. If the remains are deemed to be Native American and prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission should be contacted by the Coroner so that a "Most Likely Descendant" can be designated.

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1947 Walnut Creek 7.5' Quadrangle. Geological Survey, Washington D.C.

1959 Concord 15' Quadrangle. Geological Survey, Washington D.C.

APPENDIX 1— SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AS HISTORIC PROPERTIES

To be significant an archaeological site must qualify for registration as an “historic resource” the following criteria must be met for this listing:

An archeological site may be considered an historical resource if it is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California (PRC § 5020.1(j)) or if it meets the criteria for listing on the California Register (14 CCR § 4850). CEQA provides somewhat conflicting direction regarding the evaluation and treatment of archeological sites. The most recent amendments to the CEQA Guidelines try to resolve this ambiguity by directing that lead agencies should first evaluate an archeological site to determine if it meets the criteria for listing in the California Register. If an archeological site is an historical resource (i.e., listed or eligible for listing in the California Register) potential adverse impacts to it must be considered, just as for any other historical resource (PRC § 21084.1 and 21083.2(l)). If an archeological site is not an historical resource, but meets the definition of a “unique archeological resource” as defined in PRC § 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section.

If an archaeological site does not qualify for listing, the directive is clear. The Public Resources Code states:

(4) If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor an historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. It shall be sufficient that both the resource and the effect on it are noted in the Initial Study or EIR, if one is prepared to address impacts on other resources, but they need not be considered further in the CEQA process.

APPENDIX 2 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR CONSULTANTS

Secretary of the Interior's Standards

The minimum professional qualifications in archeology are a graduate degree in archeology, anthropology, or closely related field plus:

1. At least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in archeological research, administration or management;
2. At least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American archeology; and
3. Demonstrated ability to carry research to completion.

In addition to these minimum qualifications, a professional in prehistoric archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period. A professional in historic archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the historic period.