

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Our Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) meets the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Professional Qualifications for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and meets the Society for California Archaeology's requirements for a principal investigator in California.

Our cultural resources services include:

- **CEQA/NEPA**-projects that involve environmental compliance on the state or federal level through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require an archaeological investigation to determine whether cultural resources are present in the project area. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) regulates the consideration of historic properties under NEPA.
- **Record searches**-by using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) to research previously-recorded sites or surveys, background information is obtained about a project site and the surrounding land.
- **Survey and testing**-projects generally require an archaeological survey, which could be a 'windshield' survey or a walking (pedestrian) survey. A pedestrian survey is used to investigate the surface of a project site in detail. If evidence of potential cultural resources is discovered during the survey, testing can be conducted to ascertain whether the site contains archaeological material beneath the surface.
- **Project planning and feasibility studies**-by planning out the details of a project with relation to cultural resource impacts and adverse effects, the feasibility for land use, such as for development, can be determined, and what, if any, mitigation and consultation is needed.
- **Data recovery**-should adverse effects to significant cultural resources be imminent, data recovery can mitigate for the impact by collecting information about the site before it is destroyed. A recovery plan is developed through coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, tribal representatives, and other parties involved, adhering to the ACHP's standards for treatment of archaeological properties.
- **Archaeological construction monitoring**-when cultural resources have been identified or suspected on-site, construction monitoring to assure avoidance or to comply with mitigation measures is employed. If any subsurface artifacts or sites are revealed, an investigation will commence to determine the significance and extent of the cultural resources.
- **National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination and evaluation**-if, after extensive research and field surveys to determine the physical characteristics and eligibility for nomination for listing with the NRHP, it is determined a site meets the criteria for listing, a nomination will be made.

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