

MEMORANDUM

To: Ashleigh Shue, PE, Supervising Civil Engineer, City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department
From: Eric Nocerino, M.A., RPA, Staff Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

Date: May 6, 2016

RE: **Las Positas Multiuse Path Project—Consistency of Archaeological Survey Report (ASR)**
with *City of Santa Barbara Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) Guidelines for Archaeological Resources and Historic Structures and Sites* (January 2002), Phase 1
Archaeological Resources Report Requirements

1.0 Introduction

The City of Santa Barbara (City), with funding from the Active Transportation Program administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes to create a separated pathway for bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians along Las Positas and Modoc Roads in the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California. The new multiuse path will be approximately 2.6 miles long and will provide connections between Santa Barbara's regional crosstown and coastal bike routes, the neighborhoods adjacent to the path, and nearby parks and beaches.

The path begins at Modoc Road just east of Calle de Los Amigos and continues east approximately 1.0 mile toward the intersection of Modoc and Las Positas Roads. It then turns south approximately 1.6 miles along Las Positas Road to Cliff Drive. The proposed minimum path width will be 12 feet. Primary construction tasks associated with path development include vegetation and existing sidewalk removal; minimal cut and fill associated with pavement preparation to a maximum depth of 6 feet; and median and retaining wall construction and road realignment where necessary along Las Positas Road.

An archaeological resource inventory completed for the project follows the contents and format guidelines for an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) as specified by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the agency responsible for ensuring compliance with federal regulations applicable to the project. As a result, the study does not specifically follow the City's Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) organizational guidelines for Phase 1 Archaeological Resources Reports (ARR). However, the study was conducted to ensure satisfaction of the City's requirements.

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) prepared this memorandum to augment the Caltrans ASR for the Las Positas Multiuse Path Project for consistency with City's MEA requirements. That augmentation is provided below. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the ASR, not to replace the ASR.

2.0 City's MEA Phase 1 Archaeological Resources Reports

As specified by the MEA:

A Phase 1 Archaeological Resources Report is an investigation intended to accomplish the following:

- *Identify the presence of any archaeological resources in a project area.*
- *Evaluate the potential for additional surface or subsurface resources to be present.*



- *Assess the significance of identified resources, whenever possible*
- *Develop measures to mitigate potential adverse effects, whenever possible.*

No previously recorded archaeological resources were identified during background research and survey of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Los Positas Multiuse Path. There have been 38 studies previously completed within and adjacent to the APE (see Table 2 in the accompanying ASR). The nearest recorded Native American archaeological site, CA-SBA-575, is plotted 25 meters southwest of the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive, the southernmost point of the APE. The nearest recorded historic resource is the Harmony House at 1235 Veronica Springs Road, which is approximately 260 meters west of the central portion of the APE. An unrecorded, and potentially significant historical resource, the Veronica Springs Medicinal Water Company (900-1100 Las Positas Road), is adjacent to (but outside) the southern portion of APE on the west side of Arroyo Burro Creek.

The Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) search of its Sacred Lands File failed to identify Native American cultural resources in the project area. However, the NAHC provided contact information for organizations and individuals that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. Æ contacted the Chumash representatives listed in the NAHC response letter and requested information regarding sensitive, sacred, or traditional cultural resources in the project area. No sensitive, sacred, or traditional cultural resources were identified in the project vicinity by respondents or by the NAHC. Responses from the NAHC and Chumash representatives can be found in the ASR.

Additional archival research for the project included consulting the following resources: the City of Santa Barbara Landmarks list, the City's list of Structures of Merit, the City Historic Landmarks Commission's Potential Historic Resource list, the City's list of Potential Historic Districts, relevant portions of the City Landmark Commission's archived meeting minutes, the City's online environmental documents, and street and parcel information available from the Central Planning Division of the City's Community Development Department. Æ also consulted the street index for the 1950 City of Santa Barbara Sanborn maps, historical aerial photographs, City historical maps, and historical topographic maps.

Review of the City of Santa Barbara Landmarks Commission's list of Designated Historic Resources, the City of Santa Barbara's list of Potential Historic Districts, and the Santa Barbara Community Development Department street files did not identify any historical or prehistoric resources within or adjacent to the Las Positas Multiuse Path APE. Until the mid-1950s, the project area was outside the Santa Barbara city limits and is not shown on Sanborn maps or other historical maps of the city.

Historic aerial imagery from 1928 through 1989 available from the Map and Imagery Laboratory, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara was also examined. No historical structures or buildings are visible in any of the historic aerial photographs within the Las Positas Multiuse Path APE. The potential for encountering previously undetected historic-era resources within the project area appears low.

No adverse effects are expected from the proposed project. The ASR includes standard Caltrans language regarding treatment of unanticipated discoveries found during construction. The City MEA requires preconstruction notice to the contractor regarding the protocols to be followed in the event that unanticipated cultural resources are encountered during construction (see Section 3.0, below).



The Phase 1 archaeological study was conducted and the Caltrans report was prepared by Eric Nocerino, Robert Peterson, and Karen Osland of Applied EarthWorks, Inc. in Lompoc, California. Applied EarthWorks, Inc. is on the City’s Qualified Archaeologists List. The Caltrans ASR will be submitted to the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) at the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara following review and approval by Caltrans and City regulatory personnel and acceptance by the City’s Historic Landmarks Commission.

3.0 Contents and Format

The ASR Cover Page lists the name and address of the applicant and the consultant preparing the report, along with the date the report was prepared. Ashleigh Shue, Supervising Civil Engineer, is the point of contact for the City of Santa Barbara. Her telephone number is 805-897-2507; her e-mail address is ashue@SantaBarbaraCA.gov. Telephone and e-mail contact information for Eric Nocerino is 805-737-4119 x207, enocerino@AppliedEarthWorks.com.

In addition to street rights-of-way along Modoc and Las Positas roads, the APE crosses part of the following parcels:

Assessor’s Parcel No.	Street Address	Portion within Project Area
047-010-009	601 Las Positas Road	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-300-001	[no street address]	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-300-002	[no street address]	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-450-CA1	[no street address]	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-030-018	3721 Modoc Road	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-030-030	3775 Modoc Road	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area
049-350-009	[no street address]	Sidewalk and adjacent undeveloped area

In compliance with the City’s Archaeological Phase 1 report requirements, the Caltrans ASR contains the following required information. Topics that are underlined refer to specific requirements:

- Table of contents, project description, documents review and identification of previously recorded resources (including CCIC records search); and identification and description of resources in the vicinity.
- Review of all the required information sources listed in MEA *Section 1.4—Information Sources* for resources within the MEA-designated sensitivity zones: Prehistoric Sites and Watercourses; Hispanic-American Transition Period; American Period; and Early Twentieth Century.
- Field survey inventory. No archaeological resources were recorded or identified during survey within the APE. The APE was surveyed on foot using transects spaced at intervals not exceeding 10 meters. In areas of dense surface duff or landscaping mulch, ground cover was scraped aside to expose approximately 1 square meter of surface soil at intervals no greater than 5 meters. Portions of the project area were obscured by hardscape. Other areas provided soil surface visibility ranging from good (25 to 80 percent) along street margins and in the vicinity of the intersection of Las Positas and Modoc Roads to poor (less than 20 percent) in areas adjacent to



the creek channel. Overall surface visibility is considered adequate. Current conditions—including altered slope contours—indicate that much of the area along the roadways has been filled and heavily modified.

- A site history, including neighborhood context, lot, historic events, associated persons, etc., is detailed in the ASR.
- An assessment of potential for unrecorded archaeological resources. The potential for encountering unrecorded archaeological resources is considered low for both Native American and historic-era archaeological resources.
- Representative photographs are included in the ASR.
- Assessment of archaeological resources. Not applicable (no archaeological resources were encountered).
- Evaluation of potential project effects. No archaeological resources were identified within the project area and thus no adverse project effects are expected.
- Recommended action/mitigation measures. No further archaeological studies are recommended for the project. The ASR includes standard Caltrans protocol to be followed in the event of an unanticipated discovery during construction.

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is the policy of Caltrans and the City of Santa Barbara that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and any necessary measures implemented to avoid significant impacts to any important resources. Additional archaeological survey would likely be necessary if project limits are extended beyond the present survey boundary.

In addition, project conditions of approval shall include a requirement to print on City-approved Project Plans and Specifications the current standard City language regarding archaeological resources.

Prior to the start of any vegetation or paving removal, demolition, trenching, or grading, contractors and construction personnel shall be alerted to the possibility of uncovering unanticipated subsurface archaeological features or artifacts associated with past human occupation of the area. If such archaeological resources are encountered or suspected, work shall be halted immediately, the City Environmental Analyst shall be notified, and an archaeologist from the most current City Qualified Archaeologists List shall be retained by the applicant. The archaeologist shall be employed to assess the nature, extent, and significance of any discoveries and to develop appropriate management recommendations for archaeological resource treatment, which may include, but are not limited to, redirection of grading and/or excavation activities, consultation and/or with a Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City Qualified Barbareño Chumash Site Monitors List.

If a discovery consists of possible human remains, the Santa Barbara County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall contact the California Native American Heritage Commission. A Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City Qualified Barbareño Chumash Site Monitors List shall be retained to monitor all further subsurface disturbance in the area of the find. Work in the area may only proceed after the Environmental Analyst grants authorization.

If a discovery consists of possible prehistoric or Native American artifacts or materials, a Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City Qualified Barbareño Chumash



Site Monitors List shall be retained to monitor all further subsurface disturbance in the area of the find. Work in the area may only proceed after the Environmental Analyst grants authorization.

- No residual impacts are expected.
- A list of research resources utilized in report preparation is included in the ASR.
- Appendices. The ASR contains a list of appended materials.