California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - *CAL FIRE*

CAL FIRE Archaeology Program
Overview and Direction

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CAL FIRE Archaeology Program

Today's Goal

- **Brief Program Overview**

- **Describe recent Archaeology Program changes, developments and direction**

- **Intent: Place increased responsibility on RPFs and Trained Professionals to improve efficiency.**

  - **Memo: February 11, 2020 clarifying RPF roles and responsibilities: sites, recording sites and significance**

  - **Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects**

CAL FIRE Resource Management Programs

- **Forest Practice**
  - **Watershed Protection**
  - **Law Enforcement**

- **Fire Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)**

- **Climate and Energy**
  - **Forest Health Grants-California Climate Investments**

- **Resource Protection and Improvement**

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CAL FIRE Resource Protection and Improvement

- **Landowner Assistance Programs**
- **Vegetation Management/Fuel Reduction Programs**
  - **Vegetation Management Program-CMP EIR, RX Fire**
  - **Vegetation Treatment Program-EIR**
- **Forest Biometrics**
- **Urban Forestry**
- **Wildfire Resilience**
  - **State Nurseries-reforestation, research, LAMRC**
  - **Forest Legacy-Conservation Easements**
  - **Ca Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)**
- **Pest Management**
- **GNA: Fuels/Federal Timber Sales**

CAL FIRE Resource Protection and Improvement

- **Demonstration State Forests: over 70,000 acres**
- **Environmental Protection-CEQA/NEPA compliance**
  - **Archaeology Program**

CAL FIRE Archaeology Program

- **Nine Archaeologists Statewide**
  - **Stephanie Velasquez** – **Senior State Archaeologist for CAL FIRE's Northern Region Coverage area: SKU, LMU, SHU, TGU, and BTU**
  - **Larrynn Carver** – **Senior State Archaeologist for CAL FIRE's Southern Region Coverage area: BDU, RRU, Kern and LA County**
  - **Steve Grantham** – **Associate State Archeologist assigned to CAL FIRE's HUU Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Headquarters**
  - **Denise Ruzicka** – **Associate State Archaeologist assigned to CAL FIRE's Southern Region Coverage area: FKU, TUU, BEU, SLU and MMU**
  - **Ben Harris** - **Associate State Archaeologist assigned to CAL FIRE's Northern Region Coverage area: MEU, LNU, CZU, and SCU**
  - **Vacant** - **Associate State Archaeologist area: NEU, AEU, and TCU**
  - **Vacant** – **Senior State Archaeologist Coverage area: Training, HQ**
  - **Vacant** – **Associate State Archaeologist assigned to CAL FIRE's Southern Region Coverage area**
  - **Vacant** – **Senior State Archaeologist Resource Management, HQ**

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- **Intent: Place increased responsibility on RPFs and Trained Professionals to improve efficiency….why?**

- **Recent Direction for Increased Forest Management:**
  - **Tree Mortality Task Force**
  - **Forest Management Task Force**
  - **State Fire Plan**
  - **Forest Carbon Plan**
  - **Governor's 35 Projects**
  - **Safeguarding California Report**
  - **Executive Order B-52-18, Governor Brown**
  - **Executive Order N-05-19, Governor Newsom**
  - **Emergency Proclamations**
  - **State Fire Plan**
  - **CAL FIRE Strategic Plan**

CAL FIRE Archaeology Program

Two primary types of CAL FIRE Projects

- **Forest Practice**

- **Other CAL FIRE Lead Agency CEQA Projects**: Vegetation Management, Grants, Fuel Breaks, Capital Outlay, etc.
  - Cultural Resource Review Procedures For CAL FIRE Projects.

  The Office Of Historic Preservation MOU applies to both types of projects
  - MOU is being updated, must maintain the ability to use trained professionals

CAL FIRE Archaeology Program

Memo: February 11, 2020 from Chief Eng to the Department

- **Subject: Cultural Resources and Significance Determinations**
  - **Clarification following recent training**

- **Intent: Clarifying RPF roles and responsibilities for identifying sites, recording sites and determining significance for**
  - **CAL FIRE project planning and**
  - **Forest Practice plan preparation**

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Is it a site…….

- CCR 929.1(a)(3): requires field surveys to detect archaeological and historic sites

- The Office of Historic Preservation's 1995 Manual states that any physical evidence of human activities over <u>45 years old may</u> be recorded. Age is only a <u>trigger</u>.

- OHP and CAL FIRE define the term "**archaeological site**"
    - more than the presence of a single deposit or feature
    - "defined in part by the <u>character and location </u>of such deposits or features."

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Is it a site…….

- <u>Barring any distinguishing features</u>, beverage containers (isolates) that meet the age requirement usually are not part of an archaeological or historical site and do not need to be included in the CAA or considered further.

- <u>Non-distinctive</u> corrugated metal culverts that meet the age requirement are usually not part of an archaeological or historical site and do not need to be included in the CAA or considered further.

- Additional culvert features such as <u>masonry headwalls and outflow features</u>, however, may constitute the presence of a site.

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Is it a site……..

Two tests to require inclusion in the Confidential Archaeology Addendum (CAA) and avoidance ("flag and avoid") or evaluation of significance.

- **Deposit must be part of an archaeological or historical site**
- **Must be at least 45 years old.**

Unless the deposit passes both of these tests, no further consideration of the deposit is required.

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Determining Significance

It's a site…..and

- Damaging effects from operations cannot be avoided.

A determination of significance can be made by the project representative who satisfies the requirements specified in 14 CCR §929.4 [949.4, 969.4].

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Determining Significance

If the project representative determines the site is not significant and the Director concurs:

- It does not need to be protected
- Still needs to be included in the CAA

Forest Practice projects rely on 14 CCR 929.4(d):

- When the RPF and Director cannot agree on protection measures, final determination is based on advice of a professional archaeologists.

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Recent update to the *Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects*

Intent: Place increased responsibility on the RPFs.

- **Project Manager**: the CAL FIRE Certified Archaeological Surveyor who is preparing the project and completing the procedures.

- **RPF of Record**: is responsible to 1) ensure that archaeological review procedures have been satisfactorily completed and 2) the final Archaeological Survey Report and all accompanying documentation are accurate and complete.

Project Manager and RPF of Record (which could be the same individual) shall sign the final Archaeological Survey Report approving the content.

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Recent update to the *Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects…cont*

- **Archaeologist:** provide assistance and recommendations to CAL FIRE Project Managers and RPFs
  - Ensure the data transferred to the California Historic Information Centers meets the standards as required by the California Office of Historic Preservation.

- **Project approval will be provided through final signature on CEQA compliance documentation by the CAL FIRE Director or designee.**

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Recent update to the *Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects*

- Increase role and responsibility for Project Managers and RPF of Record
  - Preliminary Study-Exempt Practices-PM/RPF and Archaeologist
  - Records Check-PM/RPF
  - Native American Notifications-PM/RPF
  - Pre-field Research-PM/RPF
  - Survey Design-PM/RPF
  - Protection Measures-PM/RPF and Archaeologist
  - Record Sites-PM/RPF and Archaeologist/OHP
  - Archaeological Survey Report-PM/RPF approval
  - CEQA Compliance-Director or designee
  - OHP Submittal-RPF and Archaeologist

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Recent update to the *Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects…cont*

A key elements:

- Coordinated effort between Project Manager, the RPF of Record and CAL FIRE Archaeologist responsible for review, support and assistance.

- The RPF of Record shall consult a CAL FIRE Archaeologist if they determine a lack of expertise to adequately identify, avoid and protect cultural resources.

- RPF approves content as accurate and complete

- Expedites CEQA compliance

- Allows Archaeological oversite of material submitted to OHP