

CHAPTER 8

CULTURAL SITES

Modern archaeology is a subdiscipline of anthropology, a field that seeks to study man in his various aspects. Archaeology differs from most anthropology in that the former studies "dead cultural systems". Subtle clues to prehistoric activity patterns, forms of organization, and environmental exploitation take on the form of sites (locations of past activities). On the other hand, anthropology studies living systems and tends to ignore the subtle clues of location and waste debris. Archaeology uses anthropological records and clues from dead systems to reconstruct the anthropology of the dead.

In San Diego County most archaeological work can be separated into three distinct sections: prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic. All prehistoric archaeology deals with aboriginal culture and systems which existed prior to Spanish colonization in 1769. There was no written language in San Diego County before that time. The social and oral systems were far more complex in order to compensate for the lack of written laws. Archaeologists attempt to delineate and describe these otherwise unrecorded aspects of California heritage. Protohistoric archaeology deals with the remains of aboriginal cultural systems which continued to exist after historic contact, but did not assimilate the technology associated with writing systems. Historical documentation by outside sources (i.e., Spanish) is considered ethnographic anthropological reporting. Historical archaeology deals with uncovering facts that no known historical documentation has provided.

A hundred years ago, when paper was more costly and printing processes less mechanized, much went unrecorded and information that can supplement our written history still lies in the ground awaiting an archaeological interest.

Archaeology can serve many purposes: it can reveal the local history of a people and of mankind; it can enrich America's proud heritage; it can contribute to better understanding of the present; and it can be used to test scientifically stated hypotheses about human behavior. Reconstruction of prehistoric cultural systems as links in greater biotic systems from an historical perspective can tell a great deal about existing and future systems. Conservation of these archaeological cultural systems is encouraged in San Diego County.

FINDINGS

FINDING 1 It is State policy to "conduct a study of the State's total effort to preserve and salvage the archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources of the State". (Public Resources Code, Section 1, Chapter 1.75, Paragraph 5097.91)

FINDING 2 San Diego County contains the physical remains of three general horizons for the prehistoric archaeological period, and three general divisions of the historic period. These are described in various scientific publications on the cultural history of San Diego County.

<u>CULTURE</u>	<u>OCCUPATION PERIOD</u>
Paleo Indian (San Dieguito)	12,500 - 8,500 years before the present
La Jollan	7,500 - 1,000 years before the present
Kumeyaay	1,000 years ago to 1769
Spanish	1769 - 1834
Mexican	1834 - 1850
American	1850 - present

FINDING 3 A number of San Diego County archaeological and historical sites have been identified as being of national, Statewide, and local significance. See National Register of Historic Places, the California History Plan, the Natural Resource Inventory for San Diego County, and the State Historic Resources Inventory.

FINDING 4 In the coastal plain and foothills, modification of the land for agriculture, heavy recreational, and urban uses has caused significant disturbance of cultural resources.

FINDING 5 It is estimated that only five percent of the existing archaeological and historical resources have been identified in San Diego County as of 1973. (65)

FINDING 6 Archaeological and historical sites of the coastal and foothill regions are in need of identification and immediate conservation measures for those sites of significance because of rapid urban development.

FINDING 7 San Diego County has lost 36 percent of its projected total archaeological sites within the past 100 years. (65) The loss has resulted primarily from urban development and vandalism. Conservation efforts in these areas have been hampered by inadequate land use controls and ineffective cultural resources legislation and enforcement.

FINDING 8 Certain physical areas are more likely to contain evidence of man's past than others. Included among these are streamsides, particular vegetative areas (such as areas where oak trees occur), and flat mesas or terraces which were utilized by

Paleo Indian people. Quite often, both streamside areas and flat mesa tops are favored for urban development. As a result, numerous archaeological and historical sites are unknowingly being destroyed.

FINDING 9 Archaeological and historical sites, once destroyed or damaged, can never be replaced. An adequate evaluation by a qualified person has to be made of individual archaeological and historical sites prior to any urban development which will significantly alter the land.

FINDING 10 Representative examples of each cultural period must be conserved to preserve a portion of man's cultural history. Certain sites increase in importance when they are locally endangered.

FINDING 11 There is no coordinated effort to inventory, assess, and plan for the conservation of unique or significant examples of man's cultural heritage in San Diego County.

FINDING 12 Vegetation removal is not presently subject to the environmental review process. It often involves inadvertent disturbance of cultural resources. There is no method for monitoring its effects. Vegetation removal is one of the most destructive human actions upon our cultural resources. (Agriculture is exempt.) See Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Finding 20.

FINDING 13 Scientific study by local academic institutions can provide valuable information for decisions affecting cultural resources.

FINDING 14 Vandalism is a form of loss of cultural resources not adequately controlled in San Diego County.

FINDING 15 Various Federal, State, and local guidelines are available for the protection of archaeological and historical resources. Among these are:

- o California Resources Code, Chapter 1.7, Section 5097.5;
- o California Administration Code, Title 14, Sections 4307 and 4309;
- o California Penal Code, Title 14, Point 1, Section 622-1/2;
- o California Senate Concurrent Resolution #43, Chapter 87;
- o U.S. Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities (1906);
- o U.S. Historical Sites Act (1966);

- o National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA - 1969);
- o California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA - 1970); and
- o U.S. Act for the Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data (74 Stat. 220, 1974).

Unfortunately, the majority of these laws apply to public land only; no provision, other than Title 14 of the California Penal Code, is made to protect cultural resources on private lands.

FINDING 16 There is no centralized agency containing data relevant to San Diego County cultural resources. Various agencies, such as the San Diego Museum of Man, the Anthropology Laboratory at San Diego State University, the University of San Diego, and several junior colleges (Mesa, Southwestern, Palomar, and Grossmont) contain data relevant to San Diego County prehistory. Organizations such as the Archaeological Fellowship of San Diego State University and the San Diego County Archaeological Society, as well as historical societies, all have data concerning cultural resources. Several libraries also contain valuable bibliographic literature relevant to San Diego County's cultural heritage. However, no effort to coordinate the data from these various sources has ever been made. The continuing involvement of San Diego County in archaeological resource management and the mounting data reserve from such activities are strong indicators of the growing need for County level curatorial and managerial leadership.

FINDING 17 The misuse of offroad vehicles (ORV) is a contributing factor to the destruction of our cultural heritage in San Diego County. Late in 1972, a Southern California ORV Club held a cross-country race on Federal and private land. As a result many archaeological sites were destroyed prior to any assessment of the value by competent archaeologists.

FINDING 18 Graves and cemeteries of our prehistoric ancestors have been disturbed and damaged numerous times in the past. These features are protected by State law, but have nevertheless been disturbed by various actions. Six or more bodies buried at one place constitutes a cemetery, even if the graveyard is not public (California Health and Safety Code, Section 8100). A felony is committed by a person(s) who knowingly disturbs human remains (Section 7052).

POLICIES AND ACTION PROGRAMS

POLICY 1 The County shall take those actions which will seek to conserve and protect significant cultural resources. These actions may include land purchases, land use controls such as zoning, purchase at less than fee, ordinances prohibiting unqualified archaeologists or vandals from excavating or defacing such resources, dedication of open space around cultural resources, and the formation of cultural areas to protect those fragile resources.

Action Program 1.1 Initiate a program to establish cultural resource conservation areas to conserve and protect our cultural heritage. The Integrated Planning Office will designate areas which are: areas of high archaeological or historical potential, areas of known cultural significance, and areas necessary for the protection and conservation of cultural resources.

Action Program 1.2 Initiate the establishment of a centralized data repository within the Community Services Agency (CSA) for the storage of records of cultural resources, pertinent bibliographic references, and ensure the curation of artifacts and records for public review. This would be established for use by qualified researchers only.

Action Program 1.3 Initiate a program to establish offroad vehicle control zones where the use of offroad vehicles is limited or eliminated from sensitive cultural resource areas. See Soil Action Program 12.4.

Action Program 1.4 The annual status of the environment report shall include an inventory and assessment of significant archaeological and historical sites, structures, etc., within San Diego County. This report shall discuss the disposition of records and resources recovered through County policies and curated for California posterity in accordance with CEQA.

Action Program 1.5 Discourage vandalism of cultural resources and excavation by persons other than qualified archaeologists. The County shall study the feasibility of implementing policies and enacting ordinances toward the protection of cultural resources such as can be found in California Penal Code, Title 14, Point 1, Section 622-1/2.

Action Program 1.6 Study the implementation of a policy toward protection of cultural resources not only on public, but also on private land.

Action Program 1.7 Initiate a cultural resource education program.

Action Program 1.8 Initiate a program to establish policy for the protection of graves, cemeteries, and human skeletal remains of both our prehistoric and

historic ancestors; and also, prohibit the sale of any human remains or artifacts from cemeteries. This policy shall reflect the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 8100 and 7052.

This policy shall be formulated in conjunction with County archaeological personnel, professional archaeologists, institutions with archaeological and historical programs, and local representatives of our native Indian population.

POLICY 2 Conservation of cultural resources shall be given a high priority in County park acquisition and development programs. The curation and display of recovered resources shall be developed for public education.

Action Program 2.1 Prepare detailed guidelines for cultural resource conservation related to park acquisition as part of the revision of the County General Plan Recreation Element.

POLICY 3 San Diego County shall coordinate with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies to conserve cultural resources.

Action Program 3.1 Review, for possible adoption, plans of the San Diego Regional Coastal Commission which benefit conservation of significant cultural resources.

Action Program 3.2 Accept all donations of land which have high cultural value. Where appropriate, exchange donated lands of high cultural value with other jurisdictions equipped to protect such lands. Criteria will be formulated by the Environmental Development Agency to identify lands of high cultural value.

POLICY 4 The County will use the EIR process to conserve cultural resources. Public awareness of cultural heritage will be stressed. All information and artifactual resources recovered in this process will be stored in an appropriate institution and made available for public exhibit and scientific review.

Action Program 4.1 Include in the EIR a detailed analysis of the nature and extent of potentially adverse impacts on areas of recorded or known cultural value and areas of potential cultural resources value.

Action Program 4.2 Prepare a list of quantitative and qualitative standards for determining significant adverse impacts on cultural resources. These standards shall define cultural resource destruction, geographical areas of particular concern, and measures for the protection and conservation of our cultural heritage.

Action Program 4.3 Initiate a program to provide an incentive to report archaeological discoveries immediately.

POLICY 5 Encourage use of open space easements in the conservation of high-value cultural resources.