
**Citywide Historic Context
Statement
Archaeological Resources,
City of Goleta**

November 15, 2017



Purpose

The City of Goleta has significant archaeological resources within its borders and intends to manage those resources in a responsible and sensitive manner.

As part of that effort an archaeological context statement was mandated to become one aspect of the City's historic preservation program.

Preparation of the context statement was undertaken in order to bring a greater level of consistency and clarity to the preservation planning efforts.

The results will be used by the City of Goleta for project planning purposes in developing a mitigation program to minimize impacts to significant cultural resources, and in recommending project and land use alternatives.

Concepts and Time Periods

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historical archaeological sites and sites of ethnic significance.

Prehistoric archaeological sites may consist of surface and subsurface deposits containing human related artifacts.

Historical archaeological sites may consist of surface or subsurface refuse deposits containing artifacts or food refuse and surface-exposed features such as building foundations, wall footings, and other features.

Ethnic resources may consist of locations that hold a particular significance to groups such as Native American, Spanish, Mexican, or early Anglo.

Background

Evidence exists for the presence of humans in the Santa Barbara coastal area for thousands of years. There are essentially four time periods that encapsulate prehistoric occupation in the Goleta area:

Early Period – Prior to 10,000 years ago;

Millingstone Horizon – 8,000 – 5000 years ago;

Chumash Tradition – 5,000 – 1,500 years ago;

Protohistoric Period – First documented European interaction with the Chumash (1542)

The historical period is represented by the Spanish (1542-1822), followed by the Mexican Period (1822 – 1848), which was followed by the United States (1848 +)

Site Summary for the City of Goleta

There are 67 recorded archaeological sites
Two National Register sites within the city boundaries of Goleta.

Of the 67 recorded sites:
60 are classified as prehistoric
6 historical
one noted as both prehistoric and historical

A total of 17 sites have been recorded as presenting one or more burials with one containing as many as 100 individuals.

Of the prehistoric sites 19 have been characterized as habitation/villages, 26 as midden, 5 as lithic and shell scatters, 5 as lithic scatters, 4 as shell scatters, one processing site, and one faunal scatter. Of the recorded historical archaeological sites, one is described as consisting of paving stones, a channelized creek, shell scatter, refuse deposit, house, and various structures.

Expected Integrity/Condition

Historical processes that contribute to the degradation of archaeological sites in the Goleta area include:

1. Transportation corridors including railroad and freeways;
2. Agricultural activities;
3. Residential and commercial development (greatest threat);
4. Other activities that have degraded the integrity of archaeological resources.

Basis for Site Evaluation

This study was requested to provide a professional opinion about the integrity and scientific importance of the known sites.

Not all of the cultural resources can be assessed because some still require subsurface testing to confirm their locations, evaluate their integrity, and ascertain their cultural context and complexity.

Some are buried, and no surface evidence can be observed.

To the extent possible, therefore, the sites have been evaluated according to the criteria for eligibility to the California Register of Historical Resources.

Significance and Integrity

At least 22 sites are regarded as potentially eligible based on observed remains with the potential to address questions of importance to the region.

Three are probably not eligible.

One prehistoric site is on the National Register of Historical Places.

The remaining sites (41) were not evaluated because of inadequate data.

Many are currently buried under sediment or under water; for others, structures, some of considerable age, were demolished or relocated when various buildings were constructed.

Archaeological Recommendations:

1. Establish a peer review committee for all archaeological projects;
2. Establish archaeological research designs for archaeological resources;
3. Evaluate and then designate one or more facilities for curation of all collections of artifacts;
4. Institute Native American consultation on a regular basis.
5. Require bonds for projects to ensure that archaeological reports are completed and submitted;
6. Require Native American reports for each project in which consultation is needed;
7. Establish a fund for all future projects for archaeological research, Native American projects, public outreach, educational opportunities, and museum exhibits.
8. It is recommended that all ministerial permits contain a provision to halt construction if archaeological remains are encountered.

BBCI Recommendations

1. All Prehistoric archaeological sites are significant to our band.
2. We recommend preservation and conservation of open-space land.
3. Chumash monitors shall be present for ground disturbing activities.
4. Burial excavation. If human remains are exposed appropriate State regulations shall be followed.
5. All archaeological materials removed from a project site shall be curated at a qualified institution.
6. Consult with the Native American Heritage Commission regarding documentation.
7. Reburial. Cultural ceremonies to revere our ancestors must be allowed.