

The CDF Archaeology Program was developed as a response to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970. Its mission is to provide project managers with necessary assistance and expertise concerning the management of archaeological and historical resources during CDF-administered projects and ensure adequate compliance with a variety of legal mandates including the Forest Practice Act (14 CCR Sections 895.1, 929, 949, 969, 1037.8), Public Resources Code (PRC 5020 et.seq.), Executive Order W-26-92, and CEQA (PRC 21000 et. seq., CAC 15000 et.seq.) A program-by-program outline of archaeological review procedures is given below.

Forest Practice

The archaeological review procedures for Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs), Emergency Notices, and Exemptions are provided in forest practice regulation (14 CCR 895.1, 929, 949, 969, 1037.5).

In general, a current archaeological record search, consultation with Native American groups, and an archaeological survey (by a qualified person) must be conducted for each project. The results of this survey and impact evaluation must be documented on an appropriate confidential THP form. Significant sites must be recorded in accordance with recording standards stipulated by the Director. CDF regional archaeologists review the confidential addenda and make recommendations. They also provide assistance to the RPFs, the CDF Forest Practice Inspector, and the CDF Director in evaluating a project.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

Archaeological review procedures for CFIP are similar to those for Forest Practice. A current archaeological record search must be made, and the project area surveyed by a qualified person, unless it has been determined by CDF (in concurrence with the CDF Regional Archaeologist), that a survey is not needed. The archaeological survey/initial study must be documented to professional standards. A Project Review Report Form (attached) has been developed to do this. All significant archaeological and historical sites are to be recorded using standards stipulated by the Director and protected as directed by the CDF regional archaeologist.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

These projects must receive an archaeological review in the same manner as CFIP projects.

State Forest Program

Timber sale projects on state forestlands must receive a thorough archaeological review. The procedures required for all THPs must be followed, and the sale area should be field inspected by a CDF or contract archaeologist prior to THP approval. Contact the CDF Archaeology Office or regional CDF archaeologist to review a planned sale area and to schedule a survey.

Forest Stewardship Program

These project activities are subject to CEQA and federal mandates. Check with regional archaeologist for appropriate review procedures.

Conservation Camp Program

All new camp locations and any proposed project at an existing camp that could result in disturbance to an archaeological or historical resource must be reviewed by the CDF regional archaeologist to determine the scope of archaeological investigation required and how to accomplish the needed work.

Engineering Program

All projects involving ground disturbance must be reviewed by an archaeologically trained individual and the CDF regional archaeologist must review the report and concur with findings. Additional field inspection by a professional archaeologist may be recommended prior to project implementation.

Emergency Watershed Protection

See Fire Suppression

Fire Suppression

Emergency fire suppression activities are exempt from the provisions of CEQA, however, CDF personnel are encouraged to identify and protect archaeological resources if possible. It is suggested that a professional archaeologist (e.g. the CDF regional archaeologist, or one provided by BLM, USFS, DPR or another agency) be asked to participate in the Planning Section for large incidents, in order to perhaps identify known sites threatened by suppression activities. Local battalion chiefs are encouraged to learn about the nature and location of significant archaeological sites within the battalion so these resources can be protected during smaller incidents. The CDF regional archaeologist can assist in such pre-suppression resource planning efforts.

Fuelbreak Construction

This activity and any other pre-suppression project is subject to CEQA and must be reviewed for archaeological resource impacts. The procedures to be followed are the same as those listed for CFIP.

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