



The Society for California Archaeology

c/o SCA Business Office, CSU-Chico, 25 Main Suite 101, Chico, CA 95929-401

Office of the President

Elizabeth Adams
Chief, Site Cleanup Branch (SFD -7)
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

April 24, 2007

Dear Ms. Adams,

The Executive Board of the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) has been asked to issue a public statement regarding the impacts of toxic waste cleanup activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on archaeological site CA-LAK-1806/H, located on Elem Indian Colony lands in Lake County, California. Concern has been raised among our membership that this potentially significant archaeological site has been damaged or destroyed as part of this project.

SCA is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to research, understanding, interpretation and conservation of California's heritage. Membership is open to everyone with an interest in California archaeology. We have over 1,000 active members and are the second-largest archaeological association in the nation. The preservation and protection of archaeological sites, advocacy for ethical research, consultation practices, and responsible dissemination of archaeological information to the wider public, are our goals.

One of the missions of the SCA is to represent "the concerns of California archaeologists before government commissions and agencies." The Board has been asked to send public statements directly to the EPA and several congressional representatives. Photographic evidence, artifacts, eyewitness accounts, and field reports have been presented to the Executive Board that suggest CA-LAK-1806/H was damaged without due consideration under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and it has been alleged that the EPA may be in violation of its own internal regulations.

Prior to issuing any public statement, the Executive Board, representing the broad constituency of a public concerned about archaeological preservation across the state, respectfully requests further information from the EPA regarding this project, specifically the EPA's position regarding the regulatory context under which this project was conducted, and the steps that the EPA took to meet its regulatory compliance requirements. Should the SCA Board decide to make a public statement, it will do so only after the EPA has had a reasonable opportunity to respond to our request.

The Executive Board plans to make a decision regarding what, if any, statement to make at its June board meeting. Should you choose to respond, we would like to receive your comments by June 15th so that the board members have a chance to read and consider your perspective before making a decision. We have also contacted Ray Brown, Tribal Chairman of the Elem Colony. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this directly, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Newland, Northern California Vice-President, at (707) 664-2734, at newland@sonoma.edu, or at the address indicated in the letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Horne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen Horne, President
Society for California Archaeology

cc: John Kennedy, Nancy Riverland, Richard Sugarek, John Parker