

APPENDIX C

Archaeological Literature Search



holman & ASSOCIATES
Archaeological Consultants
"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

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CONFIDENTIAL:

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Re: Archaeological Literature Search for 405 4th Avenue Mixed Use Project in the City and County of San Mateo

Dear Mike:

Holman & Associates prepared a cultural resources literature search for 405 4th and 330 S. Claremont in the City and County of San Mateo (Map 1). The 22,000-square-foot lot is located on the north side of 4th Avenue between South Railroad Avenue in the southwest and South Claremont Street in the northeast (APN 034182050 and 034182060). A formal preliminary planning application has been submitted to demolish two existing historic structures and construct an approximately 65,937-square-foot four-story office and residential building with two levels of below grade parking providing 83 parking stalls located at the northern corner of 4th Avenue and South Claremont Street. The proposal includes three floors of office space approximately 55,374 square-feet, and 15 residential units (6 studio units and 9 one-bedroom units) on the fourth floor. This will be a CEQA project reviewed by the City of San Mateo.

On 28 September 2016, a records search was conducted at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), an adjunct to Sonoma State University located in Rohnert Park (File No. 16-472). All records of identified cultural resources within a quarter mile and all studies within or abutting the Project Area were reviewed. Studies on file at Holman & Associates library were also used. Holman & Associates' research focused on the archaeological component to cultural resources, with Architecture + History (2016) completing a historic resource evaluation report for this project.

No archaeological sites are recorded within or adjacent to the Project Area. Within a quarter mile, CA-SMA-420 (also designated P-41-2397) was a shell midden recently identified adjacent to the west side of the Southern Pacific/Caltrain railroad tracks between 9th and 10th Avenues (Martinez et al. 2010). This resource was identified from several fragments of shell and a flake on the surface. Three mechanical borings and seven surface units were completed to test of the site. The resource was identified as an 18-

cm-thick deposit composed of “pockets of shell.” Since this deposit might be the last “remaining basal component” of a larger site, SMA-420 was determined eligible to the National Register because it likely contains information important to local prehistory despite the absence of additional cultural materials and no temporally diagnostic artifacts. The associated archaeological survey report has not been filed with the CHRIS.

The closest Native American sites consisted of remnants of shellmiddens once located near historic bay margins or San Mateo Creek. CA-SMA-232 was situated adjacent to San Mateo Creek and was recently subjected to recent subsurface archaeological investigations (Wiberg 2009). These studies documented the presence of a shellmidden with heat affected rock, and flaked stone tools and debitage. Monitoring controlled mechanical stripping assisted with understanding site development and provided means to identify features and graves before potential impacts from heavy construction. A few beads, a bowl mortar, a pestle, and a charmstone were recovered in redeposited matrices, and even though these types of artifacts are often associated as grave goods, no human remains were identified. The southern half of that study area consisted of redeposited midden with the northern half heavily impacted by recent and historic-era residential construction, including several five- to six-foot-deep house basements.

All of the Project APE has been previously studied as part of cultural resources overviews. In 1983, Chavez conducted city-wide research, and a survey of public and private lands adjacent to local watercourses (San Mateo, Laurel, Polhemus, and Cherry Canyon creeks). The current Project Area was included within his study area, but not field surveyed. He divided the City into three zones from low, medium, to high archaeological sensitivity based on documented sites (as of 1983). Highly sensitive areas were those adjacent to previously identified sites in preferred environmental zones. Those assigned to medium sensitivity provided a buffer around the more sensitive areas, but were further away from known sites. Those with low sensitivity were a greater distance from water; the environment was more sloping or situated on fill (presumably over Bay Mud), and was often heavily developed. Based on his categories, Project APE is within an area of low archaeological sensitivity.

For the San Mateo County SMART Corridors Project, Kaptain (2009) reexamined the archaeological sensitivity of San Mateo along with other Peninsula cities by updating the locations where Native American archaeological sites had been identified, coupled with the potential for buried archaeological deposits and cultural materials. Proposed impacts within a block of the current Project Area were initially considered highly sensitive for archaeological deposits because of nearby shellmiddens. A survey of open land with exposed soils near their project area, however, identified no visible midden and no additional work was recommended.

Two extensive linear archaeological projects have either included a small part or framed the Project Area (Hatoff et al. 1995; SWCA Environmental Consultants 2006). Because of the scale of those projects, the research and findings add nothing relevant to the current Project.

Two historic-era buildings are extant within the Project Area: the eastern one was constructed around 1915 and was a Pacific Gas and Electric substation; and the western one was a 1949 automobile showroom and service center. For this project, both were evaluated and determined eligible to the California Register of Historical Places because they represent “strong examples of the type and style of that particular kind of architecture” (Architecture + History (2016:27)). The Project Area contains no cultural resources listed on or determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. No inventory lists any cultural resources within or incorporating the Project Area (CA-OHP 2012, CA-DPR 1976).

A review of historical maps of the Project Area provides a better understanding of the changing historic-era land use patterns and the potential for the Project Area to contain historic-era archaeological deposits. In 1853, the current Project Area was a half mile from Bay wetlands (Nichols and Wright 1971). By 1888, a one-story house faced C Street (now S. Claremont Street) with an outbuilding near the western fence line between the two parcels that comprised the current Project Area (Sanborn Insurance Company

1888). Between 1899 and 1901, the house was demolished and replaced with a one-and-a half-story dwelling that faced 4th Street (Sanborn Insurance Company 1891, 1897, 1901; USCGS 1896, 1899). The outbuilding remained and was used as a carpentry shop. In April of probably 1908, the dwelling had been damaged by fire (Sanborn Insurance Company 1908). Two small single-story houses faced C Street and the carpentry shop had a separate address. The western parcel was developed with a one-story commercial building for plate glass and glazing with a molding shop behind. By 1920, Pacific Gas and Electric had heavily built upon the eastern lot (Sanborn Insurance Company 1920). The automobile show room was constructed by 1950 in a different location than the previous commercial building (Sanborn Insurance Company 1950). Other maps from 1942 to the present depict no specific buildings and place this area within a large urban environment (US Army 1942). For more information about the general history and economic trends of the city of San Mateo refer to Architecture + History (2016).

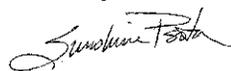
The project area has a moderate sensitivity for cultural materials associated with Native Americans and a moderate to high potential for historic-era archaeological deposits and cultural materials. Since so much of the Project Area is covered in asphalt and built upon, no field survey is recommended. Holman & Associates recommends a presence/absence testing program to determine if there are any buried prehistoric or historical archaeological deposits within the Project Area prior to any earth disturbing activities. This work shall be conducted after demolition of the two buildings and removal of asphalt/concrete, but before beginning construction or grading of the new multi-use building. If any potentially CRHR-eligible archaeological deposits, cultural materials, or graves are encountered, a research design and treatment plan will be needed prior to fieldwork to test these findings. Holman & Associates recommends a qualified prehistoric and historical archaeologist conduct subsurface exploration with most efforts focused along the northern portion of the Project Area and also along the property line that divided the two parcels.

In the event that buried, or previously unrecognized archaeological deposits or materials of any kind are inadvertently exposed during any construction activity, work within 50 ft. of the find shall cease until a qualified archaeologist can assess the find and provide recommendations for further treatment, if warranted. Construction and potential impacts to the area(s) within a radius determined by the archaeologist shall not recommence until the assessment is complete.

Human graves are often associated with prehistoric occupation sites. Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human burial and Section 5097.99 of the Public Resources Code defines the obtaining or possession of Native American remains or grave goods to be a felony. If human remains are encountered as a result of construction activities, any work in the vicinity shall be halted and the County Coroner contacted.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Sunshine Psota, M.A., RPA
Senior Associate

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MAP 1. Location of 405 E. 4th Avenue Mixed Use Project, San Mateo