

2011 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Passing of Senate Bill 1034 (California ARPA)



Michael Sampson (left) with former Senator Denise Moreno-Ducheny (center) and Dr. Susan Hector.

In February 2009 Michael Sampson attended a State Parks Archaeological Site Damage Assessment training class taught by Martin E. McAllister, the leading authority on the subject. At the close of the training, McAllister challenged the group to propose and pass California legislation that would mirror the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Within 22 months of the challenge, archaeologists Sampson and Dr. Susan Hector had achieved passage of SB 1034, California Public Lands Archaeological Resources Protection Act. The bill was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2010, and became law on January 1, 2011.

This is the first legislation designed to protect archaeological resources passed in California in more than 30 years. It adds to State law important provisions providing the legal mechanisms for public agencies to recover full costs of restitution for criminal activities at archaeological sites, historic buildings, and other cultural properties. The bill provides for enhanced criminal penalties and compensation to state parks for looting of parks' archaeological sites. It provides courts with professional standards for prosecution, introduces the concepts of archaeological value to be applied for restitution, and brings parity between state and federal law.

SB 1034 was co-sponsored by the Society for California Archaeology and was actively supported by several organizations such as the California State Park Rangers Association, the California State Park Peace Officers Association, the California State Parks Foundation, and Save Our Heritage Organization

of San Diego. A number of San Diego County State Legislators offered their support of the bill: Denise Ducheny, who sponsored the bill, as well as Marty Block, Nathan Fletcher, Martin Garrick, and Joel Anderson.

Michael Sampson and Susan Hector are highly respected members of the California archaeological community. Both individuals have a long history of service to the SCA and to the historic preservation community at large.

Read the full text for SB 1034: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB1034/id/1443>