

1 **Guidance for Archaeological Management Reports in California**
2 **California Office of Historic Preservation**
3 **2015**

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5 **Background:**

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7 The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is pleased to present this Guidance for
8 Archaeological Management Reports in California (Guidance). This Guidance compliments
9 OHP’s 1990 Archaeological Resource Management Reports: Recommended Contents and
10 Format (ARMR) but does not replace or supersede it
11 (<http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/armr.pdf>). The purpose of the 1990 ARMR was to “aid
12 archaeological report preparation and review by ensuring that all needed data would be included
13 and organized to optimize efficiency and utility”. This new Guidance builds on ARMR reflecting
14 growth in professional best practices, current reporting structures, and legislative changes.
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16 This Guidance is a result of efforts of the Archaeological Resources Committee (ARC) of the
17 State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC), attempting to address some of the the goals
18 identified the Archaeological White Papers (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26522). The
19 purpose of this Guidance is to offer the community of archaeological resource consultants,
20 managers, and regulators with informal consensual standards for the current practice of
21 professional archaeology in California.
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23 **Purpose and Scope:**

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25 Based on the same premise as the ARMR, the new Guidance also takes into account the past
26 twenty-five years of lessons learned in California archaeological resource management. The new
27 Guidance also aims to provide flexibility for differing levels of effort, including clarifying
28 distinctions between survey and evaluation reports. This Guidance does not supersede any
29 Agency-specific reporting requirements.
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31 This effort describes two types of standard technical reports: survey (AKA Phase I) and
32 evaluation (AKA Phase II). It does not describe data recovery or treatment/mitigation (AKA
33 Phase III) because such documents should be site-specific, regulatory agency drive, and be
34 developed in consultation with interested parties who ascribe value to the subject property. The
35 following sections itemize and provide a description of the types of information that should be
36 included in an archaeological report to ensure adequate information has been gathered to support
37 analyses and interpretations. While key information should be included in any report, the level of
38 detail will vary depending on the report type and management goals. For example, an in depth
39 research design on the character and interpretation of particular prehistoric assemblages would
40 not be appropriate for a pedestrian archaeological survey more appropriately focused on
41 anticipated surface locations and frequencies of archaeological sites on the landscape. Flexibility
42 in reporting is encouraged and it is expected that survey and evaluation phases may be combined
43 into one document provided all the key information is included.
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47 **A Note about Consultation:**

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49 As stated above, the practice of archaeological resource management in California has changed
50 substantially over the past several decades, one aspect being the active engagement of
51 descendent communities, specifically federally and non-federally recognized Indian tribes but
52 also ethnic communities. Museums, scientists, avocationalists, and other interest groups may also
53 be interested in the human history of the resource. It is important to recognize that notifying an
54 individual or organization about a project and holding public meetings is not the same as active
55 consultation that must be two-way communication. With that in mind, this Guidance use the
56 term Outreach and Consultation to distinguish initial contacts (sending letters or making phone
57 calls to invite participation) from active Consultation which requires meaningful engagement to
58 seek to understand the values with which others may imbue archaeological resources and to
59 reach agreement, where reasonable and feasible, on how properties should be managed.

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