

1. Adopt a Safety Element consistent with the latest State planning law requirements, to supercede and replace the existing Safety Element and Seismic Safety Element.

Timeframe: Preparation of the new Safety Element is underway, with plan adoption anticipated in 1999.

2. Prepare proposed amendments to applicable sections of the LUO and CZLUO to implement the preceding policies and reflect adoption of the new Safety Element.

Timeframe: 12 months from adoption of the new Safety Element.

PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The archaeological, cultural and historical resources of this county, especially those related to Native Americans, are an important part of the history and heritage of this county. Native American peoples are known to have occupied our county dating back at least 9,000 years ago. The Chumash, Salinan and Yokut lived in this area.

Native Americans like the Chumash practice religion and learn about their history at special places such as Whale Cave, near Avila Beach, and Diablo Canyon. These places have special cultural significance and include sacred sites where prayer and spiritual ceremonies have been performed over hundreds and thousands of years. To Native Americans, such places represent their link with the past and are essential to their identity and culture.

Unfortunately, many significant archaeological and cultural sites have been destroyed. Urbanization and uncontrolled public access appear to be the principal sources of destruction. Acquisition of sites is desirable, but funds are difficult to obtain for that purpose. Therefore, the application of special standards for the review of development can be the most effective way to protect archaeological and cultural resources, as well as historic sites. Educating the general public as well as land owners can also help protect these resources by increasing awareness and appreciation of their importance.

There are also important historical resources in the county. As noted in the Historic Element of the general plan, these resources “form an important part of our historic and cultural heritage which, if lost, cannot be replaced” (Historic Element of the Environment Plan, 1974). These resources reflect the important influences on the county by the Spanish mission builders, the Chinese, the colonial settlers, and others who contributed to the rich cultural heritage we enjoy today. These influences are most visibly represented by the examples of the architecture that remain, whether it be Mission San Luis Obispo, the Dana Adobe in Nipomo, the Ah Louie store in San Luis Obispo, or the Cass House in Cayucos. They are all important resources that need

to be protected for the enjoyment of future generations. The Historic Element of the Environment Plan contains a more detailed discussion of the issues affecting these resources and the range of actions that may be taken to protect them.

The purpose of the following policies is to recognize the importance of these resources and to provide coordinated policies in the various general plan elements toward their long term protection. The implementation measures for these policies follow OSP 34.

OSP33: Protection of Archaeological and Cultural Sites.

- a. **In consultation with native Americans and archaeological and conservation organizations, identify significant archaeological and cultural sites that should be acquired or otherwise protected.**
- b. **Protect archaeological and culturally-sensitive sites from the effects of discretionary development by avoiding disturbance where feasible.**
 1. **If sensitive sites cannot be avoided, mitigate the impact of development to the maximum extent feasible.**
 2. **Consult with native Americans in the design of appropriate mitigations.**
 3. **As a last resort, the use of fill to cap sites or the recovery of resources may be permitted.**
- c. **Encourage acquisition by public agencies, historical, or conservation organizations of the most important archaeological and cultural sites from willing sellers.**
- d. **Protect sensitive sites from vandalism and unauthorized collection of artifacts by educating the public as well as land owners about the importance of such sites and by admonishing or prosecuting violators, as described in chapter five of the LUO and CZLUO.**

OSP34: Protection of Historical Resources.

- a. **Protect the character of significant historical features and settings by implementing the recommendation for historical resources found in the Historic Element of the Environment Plan.**

Implementation: The following measures implement the preceding policies OSP 33 and 34 regarding protection of archaeological and cultural resources.

1. Prepare proposed amendments to the LUO and CZLUO to place the maximum emphasis on designing new development to avoid impacts to architectural, archaeological, historical and cultural resources; for example, through the use of cluster development and land divisions. For sensitive archaeological sites, the use of fill material to "cap" the site, or the recovery of archaeological resources, may be permitted as a last resort.
2. Prepare proposed amendments to the LUO and the CZLUO so that culturally sensitive and archaeological resources are given the recognition and protection described in the Historic Element of the Environment Plan of the county general plan.

Timeframe: 24 months from plan adoption.

