



A Programmatic Approach To Determine Eligibility of Prehistoric Sites in the San Diego Subregion Southern Coast Archeological Region, California for the National Register of Historic Places

Project # 05-251

Background:

Currently, each DoD installation must follow an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP); these regularly revised management strategy plans are excellent for installation-specific issues. However, most pre-mission-era (AD 1769) archeological/cultural issues extend “beyond the fencelines” of most installations. No comprehensive DoD-focused plans have been implemented to address these issues regionally. This Legacy project addressed these geo-cultural issues, demonstrating an innovative, programmatic approach to DoD cultural resource management practices.

Objective:

The goal of this project was to research regional issues, and develop a landscape-based, programmatic approach to determine eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places of prehistoric sites in the San Diego Subregion Southern Coast Archeological Region, California.

Summary of Approach:

By characterizing archeological sites, this approach moves away from case-by-case undertakings, enabling installations to meet a wider variety of management and compliance needs more efficiently and consistently.

In a landscape approach, individual sites are less important than the overall regional cultural footprint. Defining and analyzing a landscape for use in cultural interpretations involves deciphering the landscape within its own context of place and time, and exploring the relational data of sites within the greater cultural and geographic contexts. Cultural landscapes can be large or small, and their size and nature is defined based on archeological research (both inventory and excavation).

Cultural landscapes are not static: they have a time depth. In describing change over time, the historic significance of particular component(s) of the landscape can be determined. The challenge, then, is to use a landscape approach that incorporates current research priorities and the need to preserve at least a representative sample of all classes of archeological sites within the installation for future research.

Benefit:

This Legacy Project will serve as a case study and demonstrate the efficacy of this programmatic approach to regional cultural resource management issues. Other DoD components in the region will benefit from in the

collaborative efforts inherent to this approach. This regional contextual approach to cultural resource management issues will guide the development of installation ICRMPs and specific research efforts, and allow DoD to programmatically address pre-mission-era Native American cultural resource issues.

DoD and other Federal agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management [BLM], Forest Service, National Park Service, etc.), the California Office of Historic Preservation, Native American groups, city and county governments, researchers, and consultants will all realize significant savings in time, money, and effort. This approach will help these parties to identify, evaluate, and develop treatment plans for a variety of classes of archeological sites and other types of cultural resources.

Specific military installations that will benefit from this study include: NB Coronado (including San Clemente Island, SERE Camp, and MWTC La Posta), NB Point Loma, NB San Diego, NB Ventura County (for San Nicolas Island), NWS Seal Beach (including Det Fallbrook), MCAS Miramar, and USMCB Camp Pendleton (including MCAS Camp Pendleton).

Accomplishments:

DoD researchers held two meetings with Native American groups, city and county governments, researchers, and consultants. This work has developed a testable approach, produced a technical report, and performed associated field visits, all of which will be presented on a web site.

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