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"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

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3 May 2018

Julie Wright
David J. Powers & Associates
1871 The Alameda, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 9512

Re: Results of a CEQA Archaeological Literature Search for New Fire Station 25 and Borel Park on Shafter Street Between Barneson and Borel Avenues, City and County of San Mateo County

Dear Ms. Wright:

Per your request, Holman & Associates completed a records search for the above project within the city of San Mateo (Map 1). The proposed project is the construction of a fire station and neighborhood park on a 67,854 square foot property (1.6 acres) on the east side of Shafter Street, between Barneson Avenue and Borel Avenue, in central San Mateo (Map 2). The proposed fire station would replace the existing Fire Station 25, located at 545 Barneson Avenue, at the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas, approximately 0.2 miles northwest from the proposed fire station. The new fire station would be a 4,950 square foot (sf) building, located on a 17,864 sf parcel at the south end of the site. The new neighborhood park would include two playgrounds, lawn areas, sitting areas, and pathways on a 50,000 sf parcel on the remaining land.

The land has a Parks/Open Space General Plan land use designation and Open Space (OS) zoning. The proposed project also includes a General Plan text amendment to allow public facilities on spaces designated as Parks/Open Space. This will be a CEQA project reviewed by the City of San Mateo (City).

This report was prepared by Sunshine Psota, M.A. (Cultural Resources Management [CRM]), Registered Professional Archaeologist. The author has 37 years of experience in California archaeology, much of it in the San Francisco Bay Area, and meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for professionals in both prehistoric and historical archaeology.

Records Search Results

On 25 April 2018, the author conducted a records search 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. 17-2552). All records of identified cultural resources within a quarter mile, and all archaeological resources reports for projects within and abutting the Project Area were reviewed (50m radius). Studies on file at Holman & Associates library were also used.

No archaeological sites are recorded within the Project Area or within a quarter mile. No historical buildings or structures have been identified within or adjacent to this Project Area. Nor are any buildings or other resources listed on federal or state inventories (CA-DPR 1976; CA-OHP 2012, 2018; NPS 2018).

Many Native American sites are recorded within the City limits. Flat valley terraces adjacent to San Mateo Creek, and the original bay margins are the most sensitive for Native American archaeological deposits and cultural materials. Some early or informal archaeological surveys have been conducted throughout the City. The bay shoreline and lower water ways were part of Nels Nelson's early-1900s survey. His work was restricted to the then bay margins and major creeks. The general area surrounding San Mateo Creek was examined by avocationalist Jerome Hamilton between 1896 and 1936, building on Nelson's survey. Hamilton covered a larger area and also talked to local pioneers and Native Americans before identifying 40 shellmounds adjacent to San Mateo Creek and the former bay margins. The project is located more than 0.8 miles south of San Mateo Creek on part of a large valley terrace and is 1.4 miles north of Laurel Creek. The property is over a mile west of the 1853 Bay shoreline (Nichols and Wright 1971).

All of the Project Area has been previously studied as part of a cultural resources overview. 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 likely subjected to a field survey. He divided the City lands 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 land was more sloping or situated on fill (presumably over Bay Mud), and was often heavily developed. Based on his categories most of the current Project Area is situated within an area of low archaeological sensitivity.

The Project Area has not been officially surveyed as part of a cultural resources investigation for planning purposes. The area was examined from the sidewalk when a road improvement survey was conducted for the City (Psota 2015). The City proposed to improve access to their elementary schools including Borel Middle School (or their Location 9). During the field survey along Barneson, Shafter, and Borel, the current Project Area was the main source of exposed native surface soils. The soil was tan silt, compacted, with small to medium subangular and angular gravels (Psota 2015:32). According to research for that project, the land is close to a minor unnamed drainage depicted on historical and recent maps (USCGS 1899, USGS 1980). That project continued with Extended Phase I subsurface coring with Cores 11 and 12 placed at the southern corners of the current Project Area (Psota 2016). Core 11 contained 13cm of topsoil and was underlain by undisturbed subsoils. Core 12 consisted solely of fill. No cultural resources or paleosols were identified.

Historic-era maps for the Project Area were examined to identify the potential for archaeological resources that might elaborate on the history. Into the 1900s, no improvements were depicted within or adjacent to the Project Area (USCGS 1896, 1899, 1915). Meanwhile, the City of San Mateo grew around San Mateo Creek to the north. By 1939, the Project Area and the surrounding lands was part of a large area marked as urban (US Army 1939). Also, the Borel Middle school was constructed. Within the Project Area, aerial maps show no development from 1993 to the present (GoogleEarth 2018). Based on

the review of historical land use, there is a low potential for historic archaeological deposits within the current project area.

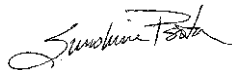
Summary and Recommendations

No archaeological sites have been recorded within a quarter mile of the proposed new Fire Station 25 and Borel Park. A previous linear study surveyed the open lands from the sidewalk of Barneson, Shafter, and Borel. Two coring samples placed at the southern corners of the current Project Area did not identify any cultural materials or deposits. No stable soil development was documented, including any paleosols. Holman & Associates does not recommend any additional study. If 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.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sunshine Psota, spsota@sonic.net or 707.291.8786.

Sincerely,



Sunshine Psota, M.A., RPA
Senior Associate

References

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA-DPR)

1976 *California Inventory of Historic Resources*. Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.

California State Office of Historic Preservation (CA-OHP)

2012 *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Santa Clara County, Updated to 5 April 2012* (most recent). Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

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Chavez, David

1982 *Citywide Archaeological Investigations, City of San Mateo, California*. David Chavez, Consulting Archaeologist, Mill Valley. Prepared for The Department of Community Development, San Mateo. NWIC/CHRIS File No. S-6425.

GoogleEarth

2018 Historic Imagery of San Mateo.

National Parks Service (NPS)

2018 National Register Properties for San Jose.

Nelson, Nels C.

1909 Shellmounds of the San Francisco Bay Region. *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology* 7(4):309-356. Berkeley.

Nichols, Donald R., and Nancy A. Wright

1971 *Preliminary Map of Historic Margins of San Francisco Bay, California*. U.S. Geological Survey, Open File 71-216.

Psota, Sunshine

2015 *Archaeological Survey Report for the City of San Mateo Safe Routes to School: ATPLNI-5102 (044)*. NWIC/CHRIS File No. S-47407.

2016 *Results of Extended Phase I Investigations for the City of San Mateo Safe Routes to Schools Projec* : ATPLNI-5102 (044). NWIC/CHRIS File No. S-47407b.

United State Army (US Army)

1939 San Mateo 15' Topographic Quadrangle.

United States Coast & Geodetic Survey (USCGS)

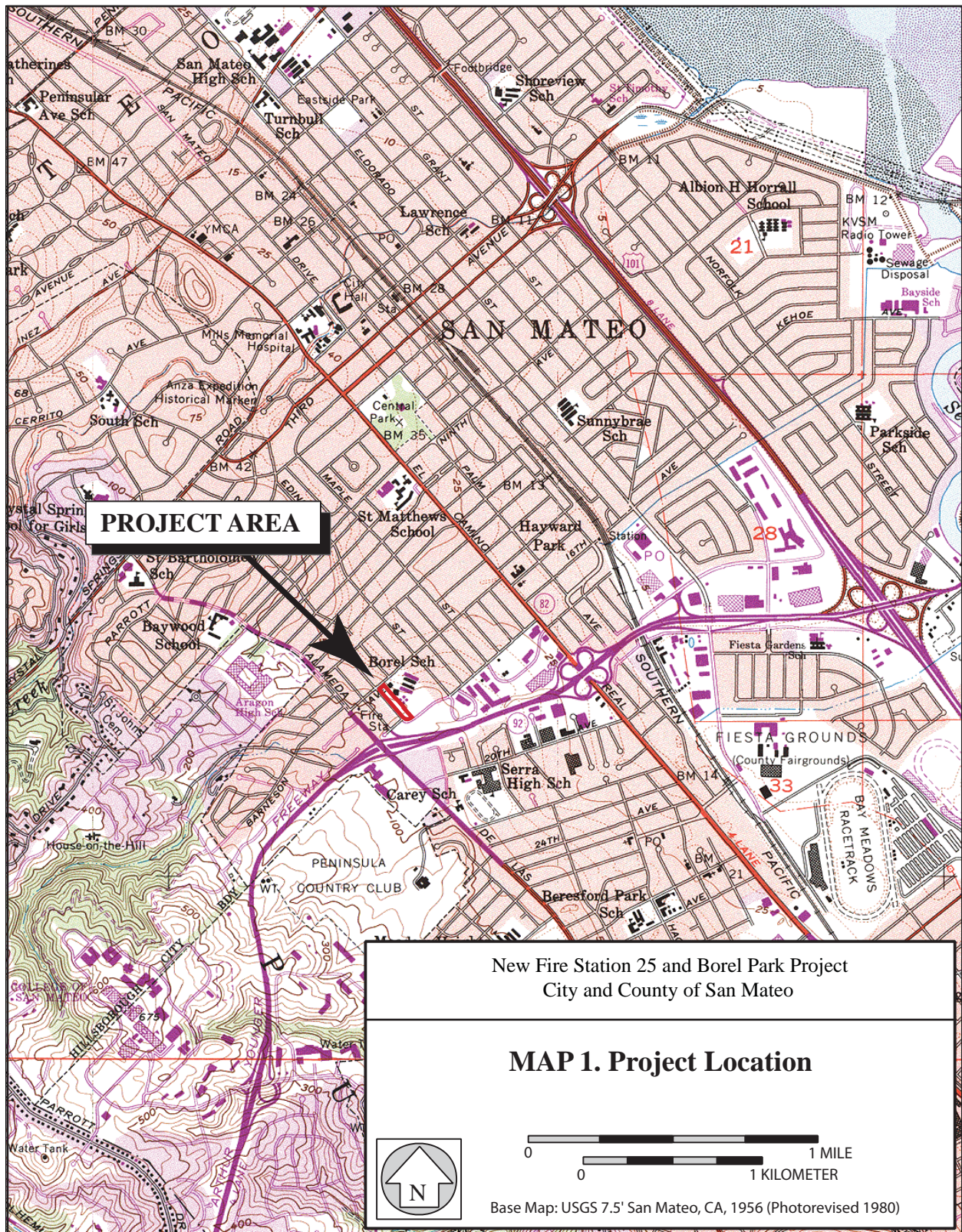
1896 San Mateo 15' Topographic Quadrangle.

1899 San Mateo 15' Topographic Quadrangle.

1915 San Mateo 15' Topographic Quadrangle.

United States Geological Survey

1980 San Mateo 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.





Map 2. Aerial View of New Fire Station 25 and Borel Park Project, City and County of San Mateo.