

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 7, 2008

TO: Rebecca Bartling, Deputy General Manager

FROM: Roderic McLean

SUBJECT: Del Mar Fire Station

A record search at the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) was performed as part of the 2006 study (May 23 and 29, 2006) for the Del Mar Fairgrounds project. The record search also covered the proposed fire station parcel study area. No previously recorded cultural resources are located within the fire station study area. Archaeological site CA-SDI-192 is recorded within 200 feet (ft) of the study area. Additionally, CA-SDI-15065, the former Del Mar Airport (and United States Naval Auxiliary Air Facility [NAAF], Del Mar) is recorded to the east. An archaeological survey of the proposed fire station location was performed on March 6, 2008. Background data, including natural and cultural settings, are provided in the report entitled *Cultural Resources Assessment, Del Mar Fairgrounds Project* by Phil Fulton and dated October 2006.

A low density scatter of *Argopectin* sp. was observed. Some shell fragments appear to be in association with holes excavated for power poles. Therefore, the potential exists for buried shellfish-bearing deposits. Whether the shellfish represent natural events or are the result of human activity is unknown. Additionally, concrete foundations that supported a warehouse associated with an abandoned railroad spur were observed. The foundations measure approximately 100 ft by 50 ft and exhibit a poured concrete platform entryway on the south side. The former warehouse is along a historic railroad spur constructed in the early 20th Century by the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. The historic railroad spur appears to have been removed or capped. Trains would use the railway spur off the main-line to access the building, and the valley adjacent.

The former warehouse building has been described by locals who grew-up in the area as 35-40 feet in height and rectangular in shape. The locals referred to it as the Tin Barn Building (Adam Burbaum, personal communication).¹ The Tin Barn building was located at 2236 Jimmy Durante Boulevard in the city of Del Mar, California 92014, Parcel number 212883. The building had two large barn-style doors that faced the rail-way tracks just north of the structure that were used for loading and unloading of products/supplies. The floor of the building was solid wood with large wood beams as support structures. The outside walls consisted of concrete and plaster. The building is not on the on the 1903 USGS *La Jolla Quadrangle* (15 minute) but appears on a 1929 aerial photograph placing construction after 1903 and before 1929.

During the early 1920s the building was used as a shipping facility for local sweet beets and other produce that grew upstream along the San Dieguito River (Adam Burbaum, personal communication). Small boats and barges would frequent the San Dieguito River gaining access from

¹ Adam Burbaum, Senior Planner, City of Del Mar

the Pacific Ocean. Boat docks once existed on the San Dieguito River, including near the Tin Barn Building. Depending on rain fall, many of the docks would be washed away by winter and spring floods. Boats would pick up cargo and stop at the Tin Barn Building to unload. As the building was located on a railroad spur, trains would stop at the Tin Barn Building and pick-up produce, etc. for transport by rail.

During World War II, B-17 bomber tail-sections were assembled on the Del Mar Fairgrounds site adjacent to NAAF, Del Mar (Del Mar Airport). The Tin Barn Building was probably used for storage related to the loading and off loading of trains in support of the military operation.

During the 1950s the building was used as a bottle cap manufacturing facility producing caps for soda bottles. In the 1960s-70s the railroad spur was used by trains as a drop off location for Del Mar Fairgrounds visitors. Visitors would be dropped off at the end of the railroad spur next to the Tin Barn Building. The building itself was not used as a depot. The building was torn down in the 1980s due to termite damage, weather damage and liability concerns by the current land owner.

For a cultural resource (including historic buildings) to be considered important it has to qualify for eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) under one or more of the four published criteria. The criteria include cultural resource association with an important person in California history, association with an important event, the resource is the work or in the style of a famous architect, and/or the resource has the potential to add to our knowledge of the historic past. Buildings that are in poor structural condition, or have been razed, are normally regarded as exhibiting poor integrity, impacting resource eligibility under the four criteria. As the Tin Barn building no longer stands (razed in the 1980s), the resource location exhibits poor integrity. The foundations that remain do not qualify for eligibility for listing in the California Register. The resource is not significant.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Monitoring of ground-disturbing activity by a qualified archaeologist is typically required when the disturbance is planned for areas sensitive for archaeological resources and where the activities have the potential to impact intact cultural deposits. Archaeological site CA-SDI-192 is recorded in proximity to the study area. The surface scatter of *Argopectin* sp. present in the proposed project parcel is in a disturbed context, and the presence of undisturbed cultural deposits below surface is unknown. Monitoring is recommended when the potential for buried cultural deposits exists.

The project area may contain resources that have not been identified during surface examinations of the property. Any ground-disturbing activities that are restricted to fill require no further management for cultural resources. Monitoring of all ground-disturbing construction activity by a qualified supervisory level archaeologist experienced in geomorphology is recommended when that activity is within intact native sediments, even when those sediments are within historic estuarine deposits. Rising sea levels and infilling of the estuary may have buried landforms suitable for early prehistoric occupation of the valley. The specific recommendations for the archaeologist are based on the often difficult task of determining the context of archaeological materials in disturbed environments. The archaeologist must be able to determine whether materials represent intact deposits or introduced/translocated fill. When estuarine deposits are involved, the archaeologist must be able to determine whether any marine shell encountered represents cultural midden deposits or naturally occurring

shellfish remains. The archaeologist should be authorized to redirect construction in the event that cultural material is identified in order to assess the find. Depending on the find, an appropriate treatment plan will be developed and implemented.

In the event that human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will in turn determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 24 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD will have the opportunity to offer recommendations for the disposition of the remains.