

6.1 Coastal Act Policies

30244 Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required.

6.2 Planning Issues

The San Francisco Bay Area was originally inhabited by American Indians called Costanos, Spanish for "Coast People." For the most part, these people resided on the Bayside of the San Mateo Peninsula. Indian habitation sites have been discovered along the entire San Mateo coast. Known sites are primarily located near the mouths of streams not far from the coast. Shellfish mounds, or middens, contain the remains of human life over the past three or four thousand years. Unfortunately, few of these mounds remain today, having been vandalized for their contents or plowed under for cultivation of the soil.

Little archeological investigation has taken place on the coastside. In 1970, however, a reconnaissance was conducted through the support of the Treganza Anthropology Museum at San Francisco State University which identified archaeological sites throughout San Mateo County. These sites are mapped and are on file with the Planning Division of the San Mateo County Department of Environmental Management. To protect sites, these maps are kept confidential. The Half Moon Bay General Plan, Open Space and Conservation Element indicates the generalized location of potentially significant archaeological sites, as indicated by the Treganza Museum reconnaissance. Two areas were identified, both adjacent to perennial streams near the coast. Since this reconnaissance did not involve an exhaustive archaeological survey, it is possible that there are other sites within the City. Other areas of potential archaeological interest which have not been previously developed are indicated waterways and drainage patterns which are no longer visible or in existence, by the California Archaeological Site Survey, Regional Office, Central Coastal Counties, at Cabrillo College, Santa Cruz. In the absence of a detailed archaeological survey, the extent of areas of potential interest may be substantially overstated. Cultivation may have destroyed potential finds. This map was based on the following criteria:

- (a) The coastal strip where exploitable resources occurred.
- (b) All major creek shores, such as Pilarcitos, Arroyo Leon, and Frenchman's Creek.
- (c) All minor inland water courses, including historic or prehistoric springs, streams, or marshes.
- (d) The foothill strip near the northwest boundary, i.e. +200-foot elevation.
- (e) Areas of prehistoric site evidence and pertinent historic places such as cemeteries, houses, and buildings.
- (f) Isolated hills and knolls.

The primary need in Half Moon Bay, as in the entire San Mateo County Coastal Zone, is for an archaeological survey which would determine the likelihood of unknown archaeological sites in particular locations. Efforts are required to undertake such a survey and to protect known sites.

No Paleontological resources of known significance have been identified in Half Moon Bay; they are extremely limited throughout the entire San Mateo County Coastal Zone.

Since archaeological sites are non-renewable resources, remaining sites need to be protected in order to provide the opportunity for future scientific investigation. Vandalism, urbanization, and public access are the principal sources of site destruction. Substantial protection of sites for future potential investigation can be provided if earth disturbance is limited during construction of roads and trails or buildings. In addition, particular projects requiring deep excavation, such as the laying of sewer and water lines, offer the opportunity to provide for archaeological site excavation before the sites are destroyed or covered over. In many cases, appropriate design can ensure protection of sites until such time that investigation is possible.

6.3 Policies

Policy 6-1:

The City will actively solicit technical and financial assistance from the State and Federal governments for purposes of undertaking a survey of potential archaeological resources in Half Moon Bay.

Policy 6-2*:

Prior to the issuance of a permit for any development within 100 feet of any recorded archaeological site identified in Figure 6.1, the City will require the submission of a report by a qualified archaeologist regarding the resources which may be affected and mitigation measures necessary to protect the site or to undertake salvage of archaeological materials before development. Any permit shall be conditioned upon reasonable measures taken to mitigate the impact of development on archaeological resources. These may include (1) designating construction to avoid important resources, (2) covering the site with fill, and (3) site sampling and salvage.

Policy 6-3:

In that portion of any development of 1 acre or more, as indicated on the Land Use Plan Map, which is also within an area designated on the Map of Potential Archaeological Resources, an archaeological survey shall be undertaken as a part of the preparation of a specific plan for development. The survey shall include findings on actual and potential resources on the site, impacts of the development proposed, and recommended mitigation measures. All feasible mitigation measures shall be incorporated in the specific plan or development plan prior to the issuance of a permit for development.

Policy 6-4:

As a part of any project to construct new roads, trails, sewer or water lines, or other public projects involving substantial excavation which could destroy archaeological resources within the areas designated on the Map of Potential Archaeological resources, provision shall be made for an archaeological survey and the opportunity to sample and salvage the site by a qualified archaeologist as a part of the construction project.

Policy 6-5:

In the case of any development within an area designated on the Map of Potential Archaeological Resources, the City shall encourage, and require where feasible, such designs and methods of construction as will offer protection for any potential archaeological site.

*The background discussion in this section is taken primarily from the discussion contained in the San Mateo County, Local Coastal Program, Land Use Plan, Hearing Draft, Volume 1, November 1979.

