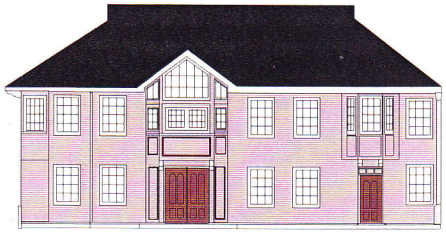
PAR
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
CULTURAL RESOURCES • BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS • ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES



Newsletter

Cultural Department

Folsom's Old Chinese Community

PAR archaeologists caught the spotlight this spring as several local news crews filmed them uncovering one of the City of Folsom's historic sites.

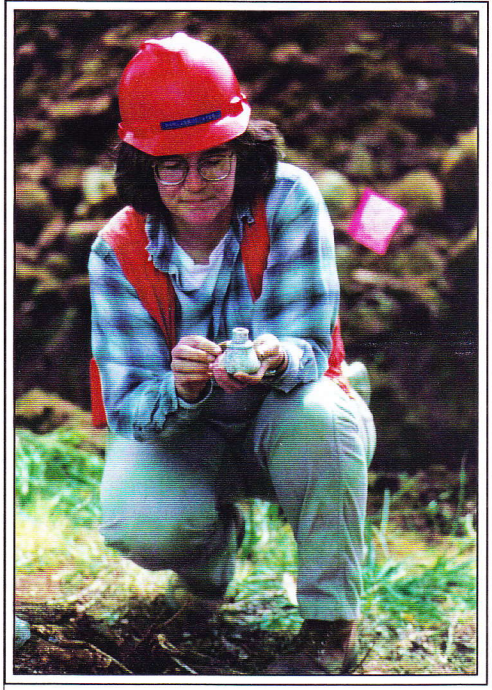
As Folsom neared the construction phase on the planned new bridge crossing the American River through the historic district, PAR was completing data recovery fieldwork at the site of the City's historic Chinese community. This work is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Developing in the area during the gold rush in the early 1850s, the Chinese section of Folsom thrived throughout the 19th century with restaurants, stores, association buildings, butcher shops, gambling halls, doctors, dentists, and many other commercial ventures located within a four-block area. PAR's work focused on portions of two of the blocks, both located on the bluff above Lake Natoma within the historic district.

The archaeological work gathered data to address four research domains pertinent to the study of Folsom's 19th century Chinese community. Consumer behavior focuses on how people responded to the economic and social conditions of their environment (what they ate, how they lived, how they spent their money, what medicines they used, and other questions). Commercialism, the study of commercial and social enterprises in a community, provides information on the availability of goods, religious practices, and social habits of the community. Cultural geography details how a community was laid out through time, including building orientations, garbage disposal areas, outdoor cooking areas, gardens, and other aspects of the landscape. Adaptive strategies examine adaptive reuse of European and American goods through time, identify supply and trade networks, and look at a community in light of social history theoretical models. Analysis of the material will be conducted keeping these four research domains in mind.

One rewarding aspect of the project for PAR staff was the interaction with the local community and interested public. Mary Maniery, lead archaeologist, and Cindy Baker, project historian, led numerous school tours to give Folsom's children a glimpse into their town's cultural heritage. Over 250 5th and 6th grade children came to the site, put on their "detective hats," interpreted features from the "clues," and dug through backdirt piles to find treasures. With the City's enthusiastic support, tours were also given to the media, local avocational groups, college classes, agency personnel, local businessmen, and City staff. Following the field work we gave talks at avocational groups and City Council meetings and schools.

The Folsom Chinese community site was rich in material culture items and features. The majority of the artifacts and features were deposited as part of a cleanup following several devastating fires that leveled the district in 1871 and again in 1886. We recovered thousands of artifacts and uncovered some interesting features such as the cooking structures depicted in the photograph taken by the *Sacramento Bee* and reproduced on page two. This feature was reconstructed by the City and is on display at the Folsom History Museum. Foundations of two brick buildings, one on each block, were also uncovered. One of these contained a rock-lined cellar under the foundation floor and once housed the Tong Hing & Co. General Store.

Processing nearly a hundred boxes of artifacts takes time, and we are still washing



Mary Maniery examining an inkwell.
(Photograph by Jay Mather, The Sacramento Bee)

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.'s mission is to provide technical reports on time, within budget, and with meticulous attention to detail.

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SPRING/SUMMER 1997

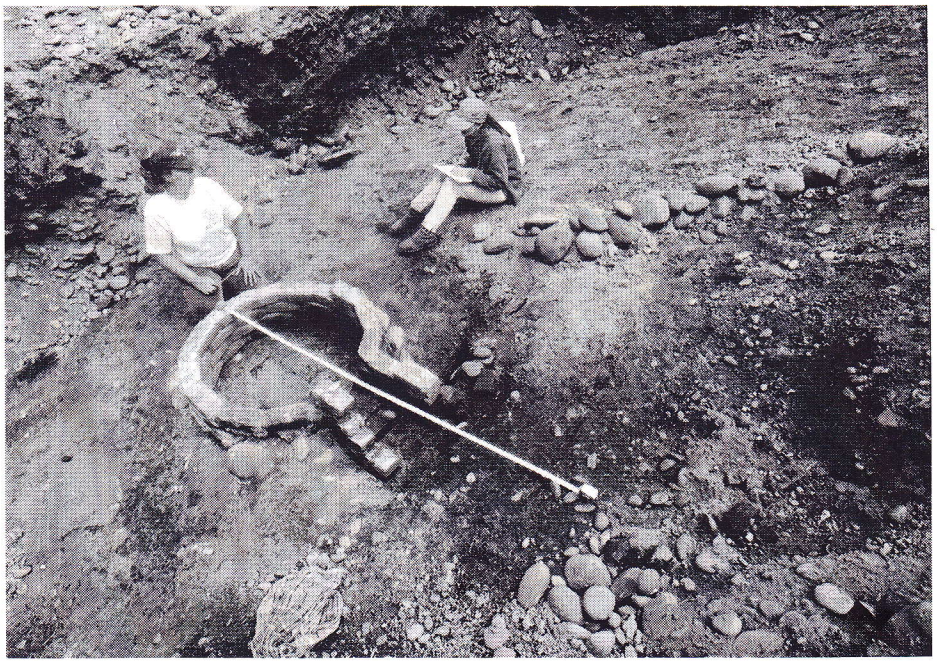
and sorting the collection. By fall we will begin to catalogue and to make an initial analysis of the artifacts. A variety of specialists will assist us in this work, including faunal analysts (who meticulously study the animal bones that were recovered to identify species of animal eaten, types of butchering, dietary preferences, and economic status of the cuts), botanical analysts (who study the seeds and vegetal remains present in ash deposits and cooking structures to identify food types other than mammals that were consumed) and translation experts to translate and interpret the many Chinese characters present on dishes and personal items left behind by Folsom's Chinese population.

Early next year we embark on the most demanding and time consuming task of the Folsom Chinese Community historical archaeology project — writing up our findings. We'll compile all the specialized studies, compare the data to other urban Chinese town sites that have been previously excavated in the western United States, interprete the historical archaeology findings in light of the historical research and oral interview results, and produce a publication quality monograph. The report will be disseminated among a host of local, state and federal agencies who have been involved on Folsom's Bridge project since its inception. The report will also be sent to the avocational people, historical societies, libraries and museums, the Chinese-American organizations, local residents who provided valuable information, and many of our colleagues who graciously offer assistance and who have an interest in the subject.

We are grateful for the help and support the City has given PAR over the eight years that we have been working on the bridge project, culminating in the data recovery excavation summarized above. We will provide monitoring services to the City during the construction phase as they begin constuction through the historic district.

Other On-going Cultural Resources Projects in the Folsom Area

PAR continues to work on the historic Railroad Block, documenting California's first turntable and participating in the cultural aspects of the planned railroad block development. We are assisting the Folsom Redevelopment Agency in their compliance with Section 106 to satisfy conditions of the Transportation Enhancement Activities funding through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).



Archaeologists Kathie Lindahl, left, and Tracy Bakic measure an oven discovered at the site of Folsom's Gold Rush-era Chinese district. ***(Jay Mather, The Sacramento Bee)***

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Biology Department

Our biologists, with the assistance of close associates Virginia Dains (Botanist) and Sean Barry (Herpetologist), have kept extremely busy during the spring and summer of 1997. Work on the 12,000 acre Soper-Wheeler Land Exchange in Plumas, Butte and Yuba counties has allowed our biological team to survey for endangered plant and animal species in many unique and challenging habitats of the northern Sierra Nevada.

Red-Legged Frogs Discovered in Plumas National Forest

Herpetologist Sean Barry and PAR biologists Eric Matthews and Jason Meigs made an extraordinary discovery in the course of conducting surveys in the Plumas National Forest for Soper-Wheeler Company. They found a thriving population of red-legged frogs in a man-made pond at the Hughes Place, a site located a few miles northeast of the Feather River's confluence with Lake Oroville. The pond occurs seasonally on property owned by Soper-Wheeler Company.

Red-legged frogs, a species listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), had been thought to be nearly extirpated from the Sierra foothills. This new sighting is the only record for the Plumas National Forest, and one of two records for the entire Sierra foothills. The other is at Webber Creek in El Dorado County. The population discovered at the Hughes Place consists of numerous large adults and many juveniles, demonstrating that the pond supports good reproductive habitat for this species. Western pond turtles, another special status species, are also abundant at the pond.

Congratulations to Sean, Eric and Jason for this dramatic discovery. Thanks to Soper-Wheeler Company for funding the extensive surveys which resulted in this significant find.

Mitigation Monitoring Continues

Under the direction of Dr. Susan Sanders, PAR will soon complete its third year of a mitigation monitoring program for the City of Sacramento's Calvine Road Interchange project.

In central coastal California, Sean Barry recently completed a red-legged frog study for the City of Paso Robles in conjunction with PAR's mitigation monitoring program for the Niblick Bridge expansion project.

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Environmental Planning

CALTRANS EMERGENCY STORM DAMAGE REPAIR PROJECTS

PAR's environmental planning department along with PAR biologists have kept exceedingly busy with emergency storm repair projects for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on several northern Sierra highways. The January flooding ravaged many of northern California's highways leaving guardrails suspended in mid-air, bridge piers and abutments scoured, and numerous shoulders undermined. At one particular bridge along the Yuba River, the water peaked at 15 feet above the bridge, lifting the deck off its abutments. The deck eventually emerged, cracked in several places and remains impassable. Concrete retaining walls at this same site were washed several hundred feet downstream of their original location.

This fast-paced work has been rewarding and challenging as it continually requires close coordination with a host of federal and state agency personnel including the United States Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) in conjunction with conducting technical studies and preparing CEQA categorical exemptions. Biology technical reports are prepared for each storm damaged site; other documentation typically includes assessment of cultural resources, hazardous materials, and scenic resources.

HIGHWAY 50 HOV LANE PROJECTS

The environmental planning staff at PAR continues working on projects along the Highway 50 corridor. Several Project Study Reports (PSRs) are on-going or will soon start including preliminary analysis of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes proposed from the downtown Sacramento area to Silva Road in El Dorado County. We completed preliminary environmental analysis reports (PEAR) and Initial Site Assessments (ISA) for hazardous waste for two of four proposed segments. Other soon-to-begin projects involve an environmental constraints analysis, PEAR and ISA for the Southeast Area Transportation project (SEAT) and the U.S. 50/Sunrise Interchange PSR project.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental documents underway in other parts of California include environmental assessments for the cities of Stockton and Woodland. These projects involve infrastructure improvements at Benjamin Holt, Hammer Lane, and I-5/SR 113, respectively. U.S. Department of Transportation, Section 4(f) analyses are part of our work effort at these proposed project locations where (continued on page 4)

Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act as amended (Public Law 97-499; January 12, 1983; 96 Stat. 2419 [49 U.S.C. 303 and 23 U.S.C. 138] stipulates in part that:

The Secretary may approve a transportation program or project requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of National, State, or local significance, or land of an historic site of National, State, or local significance (as determined by the Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction over the park, area, refuge, or site) only if:

(1) There are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the using that land; and

(2) the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from the use.

By definition Section 4(f) applies only to public-owned areas, with the exception of National Register of Historic Places eligible and/or historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places; these may be public or private.

Programmatic Section 4(f) Applicability

The Programmatic 4(f) applies to projects that improve existing highways and use minor amounts of publicly owned public parks, recreation lands, or wildlife and waterfowl refuges that are adjacent to existing highways. Six criteria must be met in order for Federal Highway Administration to apply the programmatic approach. These criteria include:

1. The proposed project is designed to improve the operational characteristics, safety, and/or physical condition of existing highway facilities on essentially the same alignment.
2. The Section 4(f) lands are publicly owned public parks, recreation lands, or wildlife and water fowl refuges located adjacent to the existing highway.
3. The amount and location of the land to be used shall not impair the use of the remaining Section 4(f) land, in whole or in part, for its intended purpose. Along with this stipulation, the total amount of land to be acquired from any Section 4(f) site shall not exceed the values presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Section 4(f) Land Acquisition Limitations

Total Size of Section 4(f) Site	Maximum to be Acquired
<10 acres	10 percent of site
10 acres to 100 acres	1 acre
>100 acres	1 percent of site

4. The proximity of impact of the project on the remaining Section 4(f) land shall not impair the use of such land for its intended purpose.
5. The official having jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) lands must agree, in writing, with the assessment of the impacts of the proposed project on, and the proposed mitigation for, the Section 4(f) lands.
6. For projects using land from a site purchased or improved with funds under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act, or similar laws, or the lands are otherwise encumbered with a Federal interest, coordination with the appropriate Federal agency is required to ascertain in the agency's position on the land conversion or transfer.
7. The programmatic evaluation does not apply to projects for which an environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared, unless the use of Section 4(f) lands is discovered after the approval of the final EIS.

impacts to park land sites may occur. Programmatic Section 4(f) analyses have been an acceptable approach at the City of Stockton Benjamin Holt site because of the limited take to a small section of the parkland. We have also addressed land use, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, socioeconomic, visual and cultural resource issues for these projects.

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Questions & Answers

?: Are there still tax incentives for listing an historic building on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)?

A: Yes, there are tax incentives that are offered if a building is listed on the NRHP. The incentive offered is a 20% tax credit, meaning the amount of money owed in taxes will be reduced. The 20% refers to the percentage of the money that was spent to rehabilitate a building. The rehabilitation must be substantial and it must involve a depreciable building. Additionally, the structure must be a building that is listed on the NRHP, located in a registered historic district, or on an application that has been submitted for the NRHP. After rehabilitation, the building must be available for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes. It cannot be used as a private residence and the owner must keep the building in his/her possession for five years.

A 10% tax credit is also offered, but this is for non-historical, non-residential buildings constructed prior to 1936. This tax credit has many rules and regulations, one of them being that the building cannot be listed on the NRHP.

There are many other regulations that must be followed for both the 20% and the 10% tax credits. These are discussed in the *Historic Preservation Certification Application* and in the *Preservation Tax incentives for Historic Buildings*, which can be obtained at the State Historic Preservation Office, located in Sacramento, California. They can also be reached at (916) 653-6624.

?: Are there state guidelines or standards for mitigation monitoring programs?

A: Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires a public agency to adopt a mitigation monitoring or reporting program when that agency approves a project on the basis of a mitigated negative declaration or when it imposes mitigation or alternatives on the basis of an environmental impact report.

At the present time there are no state guidelines or standards prescribing the contents of a mitigation monitoring program. However, as part of its CEQA Technical Advice Series the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) publishes *Tracking CEQA: Mitigation Measures Under AB 3180* which describes how Section 21081.6 may be implemented and offers several examples of mitigation monitoring programs. This advisory paper can be purchased from OPR for $9.00 (send a check or money order to OPR, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 150, Sacramento, CA 95814 and specify the name of the document). It is also available (minus the examples of actual programs) on the internet at the Resources Agency's LUPIN site (http://ceres.ca.gov/planning) under the heading of CEQA.

In the Fall of 1997 The Resources Agency is expected to release a set of proposed revisions to the State CEQA Guidelines for public review and comment. This package will include a new guideline section on mitigation monitoring and reporting.

?: What is the difference between northern and California spotted owls? How are spotted owl surveys conducted?

A: In California there are two subspecies of the spotted owl; the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and the California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*). The northern spotted owl occurs in the Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino national forests. The California spotted owl connects to the northern spotted owl in Shasta county, and occurs in the southern Cascades south of the Pit River, extending throughout the California Sierras, the forested mountainous regions of Southern California and the central Coast Ranges, as far north as Monterey County (Verner et al. 1992, Fig. 4A).

In 1990, the USFWS formally announced the federal listing of the northern spotted owl as "threatened" throughout its range. Shortly thereafter the USFS designated the California spotted owl a "sensitive" species, and currently manages the species to prevent its listing as threatened or endangered.

In 1991, the USFS developed their version of the spotted owl protocol, which was revised in 1993. This version applies forestwide within the range of the northern and California spotted owls, wherever the need for protocol surveys are identified. The protocol recommends temporal variations in the survey periods between physiographic provinces, for conducting surveys to determine activity centers, nesting and reproductive success status. The variations in the survey periods generally differ within the range of the northern spotted owl.

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News Flash Items

■It is with regret that PAR bids goodbye to Keith Syda. Keith worked at PAR for nearly 12 years and brought a high level of professionalism to many of our archaeological field projects. Keith has chosen to pursue a new career as a glass artist but will continue to keep a hand in the archaeological profession. We thank him for his years of dedication and hard work and wish him well in his new endeavor.

■Tami Mihm recently joined the firm and will serve as Vice President of Environmental Planning. Her multiple talents in project management and quality control will enhance the company's marketability. We welcome Ms. Mihm as an officer of the firm.

■PAR launched an environmental internship program this summer. Christa Fay joined the company for the summer to assist the environmental planning staff in coordinating environmental work. She also conducts research for various projects including hazardous waste, geology, and historic preservation issues. Christa is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science at Oregon State University, Corvallis. Look for future announcements of internship programs on PAR's World Wide Web page (WWW.PAREnvironmental.com).

Christa Fay

■PAR will install a new lobby exhibit this fall. Come by to see some of the well-preserved Chinese ceramics and other unique items recovered during excavations at the City of Folsom's Chinese community.

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New Employee Profiles

Tracy Bakic
Tracy Bakic received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. Ms. Bakic has gained valuabe experience working as a research and field assistant on a variety of preservation-related projects throughout New Jersey. Tracy works as an Associate Cultural Resources Specialist assisting on PAR's projects involving Historic American Building Record surveys and Historic American Engineering surveys as well as documentation and architectural evaluations.

David Gadsby
David Gadsby received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Saint Marys College in Maryland. Mr. Gadsby's experience during the last year has involved working on and supervising Native American sites on the Nicholson Farm Survey and at 17th century sites in Historic Saint Mary's City, Maryland. David works as an Associate Archaeologist devoting his time to various archaeological projects throughout northern California.

Deborah Herzog
Debbie Herzog received an Associate of Arts degree in Business Management from American River College, Sacramento, California. Ms. Herzog has eight years of experience working as an administrative assistant in the environmental consulting field. For the past few years, Debbie was the Senior Administrative Assistant for a staff of 15 geologists, environmental scientists, and engineers. She focused on budget tracking and billing for projects pertaining to environmental assessments and remediation for retail petroleum sites. Debbie joined PAR as our senior Administrative Assistant and is managing our front office.

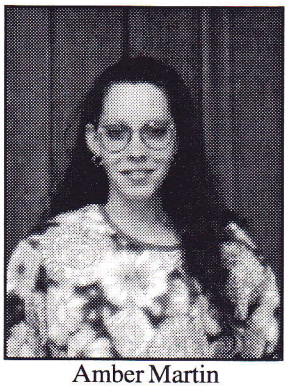
Pamela Lewiston
Pamela Lewiston graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology. Following her degree, Pam spent three years working as an archaeologist for the Six Rivers and Mendocino National Forests, where she gained valuable experience in all phases of archaeological survey and report writing. Pam is an Associate Archaeologist and currently serving as laboratory assistant on PAR's historical archaeology project of Folsom's Chinese community. She also works as an archaeologist on other CRM projects throughout California.


Tracy Bakic


David Gadsby


Deborah Herzog


Pamela Lewiston


Amber Martin

Amber Martin has over four years of experience working as an administrative assistant. She recently worked for Kragen Auto Parts providing secretarial services to the regional Vice President and District Managers. She learned many of her administrative skills by assisting her parents with their home-based business. As an associate administrative assistant Amber's responsibilities include receptionist, word processing, report production, mail distribution and other general office responsibilities.


Tamara Mihm

Tamara Mihm received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from the University of California, Davis. Ms. Mihm served as a Project Scientist for Brown & Caldwell for the past seven years and has gained experience in management of large scale water resource projects throughout California. Ms. Mihm brings a solid background in environmental planning to PAR. Tami will serve in the capacity of Vice President, focusing her skills in the development of PAR's Environmental Planning Department and overall quality control.

PAR SPRING/SUMMER UPDATE
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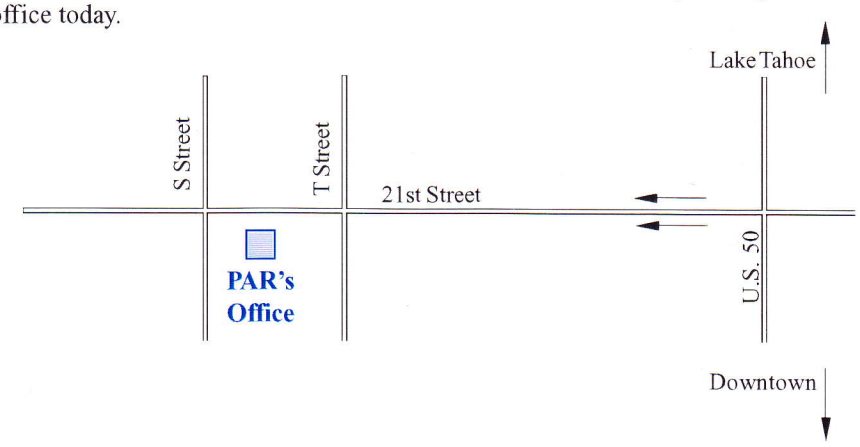
PAR is a woman-owned business that originated in 1982. From its beginnings as a small firm consisting of two enterprising and dedicated cultural resources specialists, PAR has grown into a full service organization. Our staff provides professional expertise in environmental planning and document preparation, biological studies, and cultural resources investigations. We take great pride in producing high-quality, clear and concise reports based upon thorough and objective analysis. We have acquired a well-earned reputation for completing projects on time, within budget, and with meticulous attention to detail. The firm's principals have a strong background in the natural and cultural planning issues of California. Please feel free to call or visit our office today.



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