

**Agreement For
Butte County Archaeological Resources Project Review By
The Northeast Information Center (NEIC)**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the California State statute that requires the Butte County Department of Development Services to perform an environmental review on all discretionary land use projects, to identify the significant environmental impacts of the project and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

Every development project which requires a discretionary governmental approval will require at least some environmental review pursuant to CEQA, unless an exemption applies. The environmental review required imposes both procedural and substantive requirements. At a minimum, an initial review of the project and its environmental effects must be conducted. Depending upon the potential effects, a further and more substantial review may be conducted in the form of an environmental impact report (EIR). A project may not be approved if feasible alternatives or mitigation measures cannot substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of the project. At the state level, CEQA requires that public agencies consider the effects of their actions on historical resources eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. "Historical resource" refers to buildings, structures, sites (prehistoric and historic), objects, districts, and all manner of properties containing material remains of past human life or activity.

The Department of Development Services utilizes the Northeast Information Center (NEIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) to identify projects that may have archaeological significance. The CHRIS is a statewide system for managing information on the full range of historical resources identified in California. This system is under the authority and direction of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC). The Northeast Center of the CHRIS system, located at California State University, Chico, manages the historical resource records for 11 counties, including Butte County.

The Northeast Information Center will furnish a Record Search to Development Services indicating the archaeological/historical significance and sensitivity of the applicant's project area and additionally providing a recommendation as to whether further archaeological survey is warranted. If further archaeological survey is required, the application would be considered incomplete until the appropriate archaeological survey is completed and reviewed.

The Department of Development Services will forward applicant's payment (by check) of \$75.00 and relevant project application information required for the Records Search to NEIC. NEIC will provide the results of the Records Search to Development Services. Development Services will notify the applicant if further archaeological survey is warranted. The \$75.00 fee does not cover the cost of further archaeological survey work.

If further archaeological survey work is required, Development Services will work with the applicant to see that it is accomplished, according to set standards, by a qualified archaeologist. The applicant shall bear all costs associated with further archaeological survey work required to continue processing of the planning project application.

THIS FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COPY OF A 7.5' TOPO MAP, WITH THE PROJECT AREA OUTLINED. THIS IS USED DURING THE REVIEW TO RESEARCH CULTURAL SITES.

The undersigned applicant for the project as identified below has read and understood the Butte County Archaeological Resources Project Review process and agrees to fund the required Record Search to be provided by NEIC.

Attached is a check for \$75.00 made payable to the Northeast Information Center for NEIC to perform the Records Search.

Applicant Signature

Date

Applicant PRINTED Name

Check Number

Planner; File Number