

Exhibit 2.15: Cultural Resources Information to Include in Environmental Documents

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Cultural resources technical studies and finding of effect documents include summary paragraphs and descriptions that should be used in the appropriate level federal and state environmental documentation. These summaries should contain the same types of information and, in most cases, can be used wholesale in the environmental documentation. Staff or consultants who are reviewing or preparing cultural resources documents or environmental documents should ensure that the following information is included.

Summary descriptions of historic properties: What to look for

Summary descriptions of properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources, resources that are historical resources for the purposes of CEQA, and Caltrans-owned historical resources listed or eligible for nomination as California Historical Landmarks, as applicable, must be included in environmental documents. These descriptions may be excerpted from the Historic Property Survey Reports (HPSR) or Historic Resource Compliance Report (HRCR) or their attached technical studies.

- Historic name and location (unless location is confidential)
- Applicable eligibility criteria (A, B, C and/or D, 1, 2 3 or 4, etc.) with brief statement as to how the property meets those criteria.
- Level of significance (local, state, and/or national)
- Period of significance
- Verbal description of the historic property boundaries
- Maps depicting historic property boundaries

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE: Located approximately 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) north of the Town of Mendocino in Mendocino County, the **Russian Gulch Bridge** (10-151), also known as the Frederick W. Panhorst Bridge, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It also is a historical resource for purposes of CEQA, because it meets CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(a)(3)(C).

It is eligible under **Criterion C, for its design and construction, because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of mid-20th-century designs for open-spandrel reinforced concrete arch bridges. It is also eligible under Criterion C for being the work of a master bridge designer, Henry E. Kuphal**, whose aesthetic and technical achievements as a bridge designer in California are conveyed by this example from the second half of his career. The Russian Gulch Bridge (10-151) is **eligible at the local and state levels of significance; its period of significance is 1939-1940. The boundaries of the historic property include the bridge itself and adjacent right of way.** Contributing elements include the main spandrel arch, concrete bents, concrete spans, arch ribs, pointed-arch window railings, cantilevered walkways with curbs, and bridge railing ends that contain the incised date, 1939. Because it is an anachronistic feature, the bronze memorial plaque is a noncontributing element, as is the asphalt overlay on the roadbed itself and the metal guardrails at the north- and southbound approaches to the bridge.

Summary Descriptions of Effects: What to look for in the Finding of Effect

For effects to historic properties, include in the environmental document why there is an effect. This information can be taken from the relevant section of the HPSR or HRCR, or the Finding of Effect (FOE) report prepared for Section 106 or PRC 5024 compliance.

- Name of historic property
- Brief description of how the property is sited in its environment
- Description of what each alternative will actually do to the property
- Description of how the effect is adverse or not adverse
- Appropriate regulatory citation.

Conditions that avoid an adverse effect to a historic property should be included in the appropriate level environmental documentation. Mitigation measures for historic properties subject to adverse effects are summarized in the Memorandum of Agreement for federal undertakings and in the HRCR or FOE for state-only projects and can be summarized in the environmental documentation.

EXAMPLE (fictional composite): The Bayview House faces west, fronting on Longshore Road with contributive views of the bay; the house is visible through the low perimeter hedges from Longshore Road and the existing freeway. Access to the property is from Longshore Road. Alternative 1 **proposes to take a portion of the Bayview House parcel** for the freeway widening project, **shift Longshore Road eastward forty-five feet** (and onto the Bayview House property), relocate the driveway (access to the house), and **construct a sound wall at the edge of the freeway, which runs in front of the house, obstructing the house's contributive bay views.**

This alternative would result in: 1) physical destruction of and alteration to part of the Bayview House property [36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i)]; change of the physical features within the property's setting [36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(iv)]; and introduction of visual elements that are out of character with the Bayview House [36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(v)].

Cultural Resources Document Preparers

The qualifications for those who prepared cultural resources documents must be included in federal and state environmental documentation. For this reason it is necessary to include them in the cultural resources documents.

The list of environmental document preparers should include all those who prepared the technical studies, including the cultural resources reports. All cultural resources reports should already contain this information.

In accordance with Stipulation III of the 106 PA¹ and 5024 MOU² Stipulation V, all actions under the 106 PA or the 5024 MOU that involve the identification, evaluation, analysis, recordation, treatment, monitoring, or disposition of Caltrans-owned resources, or that involve the reporting or documentation of such actions must be carried out by or subject to the approval of Caltrans staff who meet the Professional Qualifications Standards in the appropriate discipline in accordance with 106 PA/5024 MOU Attachment 1.

¹ First Amended Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as it Pertains to the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in California, effective January 1, 2014.

² 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the California Department of Transportation and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 5024 and Governor's Executive Order W-26-92, addended 2019.

The Chief of the Cultural and Studies Office (CSO) in the Division of Environmental Analysis in Headquarters certifies Caltrans who work under the 106 PA and 5024 MOU as Professionally Qualified Staff (PQS) and CSO maintains the official file of qualifications for all Caltrans cultural resources specialists who have been certified as PQS. Under the Preparer's Qualifications sections of the cultural resources documents, put the name(s) of the preparers and indicate the PQS level and that their qualifications are on file in CSO.

While Caltrans does not certify consultants or cultural resources specialists who are not Caltrans staff as PQS, consultants and non-Caltrans cultural resources specialists who carry out actions under the 106 PA or 5024 MOU must be able to establish that they meet the PQS qualifications outlined in 106 PA/5024 MOU Attachment 1 and make that documentation available for inspection. The preparer's qualifications sections of the cultural resources documents must contain the following for all cultural resources specialists who are not certified as Caltrans PQS.

District Environmental Branch Chiefs are responsible for ensuring that summaries of professional qualifications information are included in the appropriate level of state and federal environmental documentation.

- Name
- Classification or Job Title
- Appropriate educational degree(s) (e.g. M.A. Public History, University of California, Santa Barbara or Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California, Davis)
- Number of years relevant experience conducting cultural resources studies, etc. (e.g. ten years with Quoins & Architrave Consultants, Inc. conducting architectural resources/archaeological surveys; three years as cultural resources planner for the City of Metropolis conducting Section 106 and CEQA compliance)