

Exhibit 2.6: Standard Sources of Information

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Records Review

Cultural resource specialists will typically consult the following sources for projects that require cultural resources studies. Site-specific research may be appropriate for historically sensitive areas, including those associated with urban, suburban, and industrial development. Where information is maintained by the Regional Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), cultural resources specialists should specifically request this information as a component of the record search. HRCs are responsible for keeping property listings and determinations of eligibility up to date for their district.

Caltrans Cultural Resources Database (CCRD) – This is an electronic inventory of archeological and built environment cultural resources that provides a connection to cultural resources along the right-of-way. Because it stores crucial and confidential cultural resources information its use is restricted to use by Caltrans cultural resource staff.

National Register of Historic Places – Current property listings are available through the National Park Service, National Register Program [Recent Listings](#) website (updated weekly), or from CHRIS Information Centers. Additionally, all National Register listings are available on-line through the National Register Information System ([NRIS](#)) database.

Determinations of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places – The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) maintains this information in its electronic database and distributes hard copies quarterly to the CHRIS Information Centers. For previous determinations on FHWA/Caltrans projects, check the OHP database findings against the SHPO consultation correspondence for that project. The District environmental files and the Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA) files at Headquarters files should both hold copies of these letters.

California Register of Historical Resources – The OHP published the California Inventory of Historical Resources in 1976 and updates appear in the OHP electronic

database. Recent listings appear in the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) [minutes](#), available on-line through the OHP SHRC website or by contacting the OHP. CHRIS Information Centers also maintain this information. Properties that are nominated to only the California Register are officially listed in the California Register on the date the SHRC approves the nomination, which is the date of the minutes in which the approval appears. The OHP has posted a [Historical Resources List](#) searchable by county. While not comprehensive, it does contain California Register listings, along with National Register, California Historical Landmark, and California Points of Historical Interest listings.

California Historical Landmarks – The OHP published the California Historical Landmarks guidebook in 1995. Listings up to 1995 are also searchable by [county](#) through the OHP website. Subsequent listings appear in the OHP electronic database. Recent listings appear in the SHRC [minutes](#), available on-line through the OHP SHRC website or by contacting the OHP. CHRIS Information Centers also maintain this information.

California Points of Historical Interest – The OHP published these listings in 1992; updates appear in the OHP electronic database. Recent listings appear in the SHRC [minutes](#), available on-line through the OHP website or by contacting the OHP. CHRIS Information Centers also maintain this information.

Local Register Listings – Consult city or county government planning departments, historical commissions, or historical societies for current information on locally designated landmarks or resources that are listed under local ordinances or registration programs. Also, OHP’s 1989 Survey of Surveys: A Summary of California’s Historical and Architectural Resource Surveys lists local architectural surveys funded through National Park Service grants up to 1989. CHRIS Information Centers maintain this information. Many local governments are Certified Local Governments and must have a preservation ordinance in order to be certified. OHP administers this program and maintains a list of contacts for [Certified Local](#) Governments on-line.

Archaeological Inventory Files – CHRIS Information Centers maintain this information. The inventory includes site records and reports of survey and excavation projects. A record search should provide identification of previously

recorded sites within a one-mile radius of the study area and copies of records for all recorded resources within one-quarter mile.

Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory – This source is required only when there is a bridge or structure located within the APE. Caltrans Structures Maintenance and Investigations maintains the historical significance reports for local and Caltrans-owned bridges on its intranet page. Caltrans cultural resources staff provide PDF copies of the reports to consultants upon request.

Background and Property-Specific Research

Secondary Sources

Developing a historical context routinely begins with compiling information on the specific historical themes from secondary sources. Secondary sources are works that analyze or interpret historical information using primary or other secondary sources. They can also provide valuable bibliographical references to primary sources that may be helpful in conducting site-specific research. Occasionally secondary sources may focus specifically on a topic germane to the subject of the research, such as a biography of a former occupant of a house in the APE; a study of a particular industry, such as citrus growing or petroleum development; or a study of a particular event in the history of an area.

Secondary sources commonly used in cultural resources studies include:

- Caltrans-prepared historical contexts and archaeological research designs: Electronic copies of these documents include various topics such as historic landscapes, water conveyance systems; agricultural mining, townsite and work camp properties; Post-War tract housing; and an index to California Highways and Public Works and can save the historical archaeologist, historian, and architectural historian considerable time in researching these themes in California. They can be excerpted and included in Caltrans cultural studies reports, so long as they are credited as the source of information. For links and titles see the Caltrans Guidance section of this exhibit.
- General reference works and local histories: Hoover’s Historic Spots in California, Gudde’s California Place Names, Clark’s Gold Districts of California,

- Fradkin's Seven States of California, Starr's Americans and the California Dream series, the Thompson and West county histories series
- Ethnographic sources: Volumes 8-11 of the Handbook of North American Indians, Kroeber's Handbook of the Indians of California, the OHP's Five Views: An Ethnic Site Survey for California
 - Cultural and social geography sources: Some of the earliest scholars involved in cultural resources and historic preservation had degrees in cultural and social geography. Consult Journal of Cultural Geography, [Social and Cultural Geography](#) Research Group, [Association of American Geographers](#). Richard V. Francaviglia's books: The Cast Iron Forest: A Natural and Cultural History of the North American Cross Timbers; Main Street Revisited: Time, Space, and Image Building in Small-Town America; Hard Places: Reading the Landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts; Mormon Landscape: Existence, Creation and Perception of a Unique Image in the American West
 - Geography departments at California colleges and universities, dissertations and theses
 - Bibliographic references: Rocq's California Local History
 - Encyclopedic references: Hart's Companion to California, Dunlap's California People
 - Atlases: Beck & Haase's Historical Atlas of California
 - California Blue Book (annual starting in 1850)
 - Historic Highway Bridges of California (Caltrans, 1990)
 - Heritage documentation: Historic American Building Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) data, available at the Bancroft Library; information can also be accessed through the National Park Service [Heritage Documentation](#) website)

Primary Sources

Property-specific research typically involves the use of primary sources. Primary sources (first-hand accounts of historical events or documents produced during the period of significance) can include:

- Government documents: deeds, mortgages, lease agreements, mining claims, subdivision plats, vital records, census data, permits and licenses,

assessor's parcel information, probate records, Great Register of Voters indexes

- Serials: contemporary newspapers, periodicals, magazines
- Diaries, letters, journals, speeches, contemporary interviews
- Photographs, aerials
- Oral histories
- As-built plans
- Maps: Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, USGS topographic quads, GLO plats and notes, BLM mineral surveys and notes, diseños (post-1850 survey maps of Mexican ranchos)

Local Government Holdings

Many counties and cities maintain official or semi-official archives that can contain a wealth of documents, such as copies of U.S. Census schedules and tax assessment rolls older than ten years. Information such as deeds, grantee/grantor indexes, deeds, and vital records (birth, death and marriage certificates) are kept at the County Recorder's office. The County Assessor has information on current property ownership; assessor's plat maps; and appraiser's records, which often contain construction dates, notes on any moved buildings, and alterations; the Superior Court Clerk's records contain probate files and information on properties that are subjects of litigation.

Libraries, Historical Societies and Special Collections

Frequently the main library in a city or county seat has a special collection on local history, which holds copies of local newspapers, city or county directories and old telephone books, locally published histories of the community, environmental studies for local planning agencies or special districts, photograph and map collections, etc. In addition, a local historical museum may have a research library or special collection of local historical documents that is available to researchers.

City or county historical societies also may have special historical collections and in many communities, staff from the historical society manages the local archives and museums that maintain research collections. Contacting the local historical society in the initial stages of property-specific research can produce valuable leads for locating important documents and research facilities.

Often local historical society members can identify individuals who may be good candidates for oral history interviews. If an oral history project is recorded on video or audiotape, the tape should be transcribed into printed form if the interview is over five minutes. The oral history is easier to work with in this format and will provide a more durable document for future reference.

College libraries may also have a special collection on the history of the locality or region, or might possess documents on a particular activity (e.g., agriculture of Fresno County) or particular groups or individuals in the region. Usually such collections are held in the main campus library, but often the individual academic departments keep their own libraries or special collections.

The California History Room of the State Library in Sacramento has complete holdings of the census schedules for California, from 1850 to 1930, for every county in the state. It also has a good collection of the Index to the Great Register of Voters from each county, local newspapers, historical maps, city and county directories, and telephone books.

Caltrans Holdings

Caltrans has many primary sources in both Headquarters and in the District offices. The Caltrans Transportation Library and History Center at Headquarters has an extensive collection of research materials covering the history of Caltrans and the development of the state highway system in California, including books; oral histories; article and news clippings; photographs; maps; and Caltrans documents, such as annual reports of the Division of Highways and microfilm copies of as-built plans of contracts completed on state highways from the 1920s to the present as well as some diseños and rancho surveys. Selected photographs and other items in the history collection are accessible to Caltrans staff on the Caltrans Transportation Library and History Center website. The library also maintains a complete collection of California Highways and Public Works, a valuable source of historical information relating to state highway and bridge projects. Indexes to the journal's articles and photographs from 1937-1967 are available on-line through the Caltrans DEA website.

District Right-of-Way offices may have older plans, maps, and history files. The Division of Structures has as-built plans for bridges and tunnels dating from the

1920s. Structures Maintenance has a collection of bridge logs containing inspection records for state highway and local roads bridges. Much of this information is available to Caltrans staff through the BIRIS database on the Structures Maintenance website. Structures Maintenance also retains many final reports from construction projects dating from the 1910s, which are stored off site. The state highway and local agency bridge logs, containing information on bridge type and whether a bridge has been widened, are accessible to Caltrans staff through the Structures Maintenance and Investigations [intranet page](#).

While useful for research purposes, as a result of heightened security measures, as-built plans of bridges, tunnels and highway structures should be treated as confidential documents and should not be included in documents that will be made public. If they are necessary to support conclusions regarding eligibility or effects, in submittals to CSO or SHPO, treat them as confidential exhibits that need to be removed from documents that are made available to the public.

National Register Bulletins

National Register Bulletins, published by the National Park Service (NPS) set the national standards in how to identify and evaluate cultural resources for using the National Register criteria. In addition, the bulletins offer guidance that can be applied when using the California Register criteria to determine whether a property is a historical resource under CEQA. The following bulletins are available on-line on NPS' [Publications of the National Register](#) website:

- How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation
- How to Complete the National Register Registration Form (contains information on historic themes and how to count contributing and noncontributing elements)
- How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations
- Researching a Historic Property
- Historic Residential Suburbs - Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Historic Aviation Properties
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Historic Aids to Navigation

- Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places
- How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes
- Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering Historic Mining Properties
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years
- How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons
- Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties
- Nominating Historic Vessels and Shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places
- Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties (with Appendix, Definition of National Register Boundaries for Archeological Properties)
- How to Improve the Quality of Photographs for National Register Nominations
- Photograph Policy Update
- Telling Stories - Planning Effective Interpretive Programs for Places Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Using the UTM Grid System to Record Historic Sites
- GIS Map Guidance
- Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning (Parts 1 and 2)

Caltrans Thematic Studies

Caltrans developed the following historic contexts and guidance, tailored to resources within California, available on the Caltrans DEA [Publications](#) website:

- Guidelines for Identifying and Evaluating Historic Landscapes (1999)
- Water Conveyance Systems in California: Historic Context Development and Evaluation Procedures (2000)

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- A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Mining Properties in California (2008)
- A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Townsite Properties in California (2010)
- Tract Housing in California, 1945-1973: A Context for National Register Evaluation (2011)
- A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Work Camp Properties in California (2013)
- A Historical Context and Methodology for Evaluating Trails, Roads, and Highways in California (2016)
- San Francisco Bay–Delta Regional Context and Research Design for Native American Archaeological Resources (2017)
- Bedrock Milling Features in California: Archaeological Context and Research Design (2021)
- A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Agricultural Properties in California (2023)
- Archaeological Context and Research Design for Native American Resources in the Los Angeles Basin, Caltrans Districts 7 and 12 (2024)