



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Historical Resources Board

DATE ISSUED: June 12, 2009 REPORT NO. HRB-09-039

ATTENTION: Historical Resources Board
Agenda of June 25, 2009

SUBJECT: **ITEM 5 – ARCHAEOLOGY SITE CA-SDI-11,039**

APPLICANT: Black Mountain Ranch LLC represented by Affinis

LOCATION: Not Permitted to List, Black Mountain Ranch, Council District 1

DESCRIPTION: Consider the designation of the property listed above as a historical resource.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Designate Archaeology Site CA-SDI-11,039 as a historical resource under HRB Criterion A. This recommendation is based on the following finding:

The resource exemplifies special elements of the City's archaeological and cultural development associated with prehistoric habitation of CA-SDI-11,039 and of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people of San Diego.



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BACKGROUND

This item is being brought before the Historical Resources Board in conjunction with a proposed discretionary project located in the Black Mountain Ranch Subarea of the City of San Diego, south of Bernardo Center Drive and west of Interstate 15. The project includes grading for roads and building pads, new residential units, and open space.

The site is located in a culturally and archaeologically rich area of the City that is close to the boundary between Kumeyaay and Luiseño traditional territories. Important archeological sites from the Early Archaic, Late Prehistoric and Historic periods are located to the north, southeast, and northeast of the project. In addition, the historic Rancho San Bernardo land grant is located just north of the project area.

ANALYSIS

A cultural resources study was prepared by Mary Robbins-Wade of Affinis which concludes the site is culturally and archaeologically significant. Staff concurs the property represents an important archaeological site and significant traditional cultural property and is a significant historical resource under HRB Criterion A, as follows:

CRITERION A - Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's, a community's or a neighborhood's historical, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, landscaping or architectural development.

CA-SDI-11,039 is a significant archaeological site located within the proposed Heritage Bluffs project area. The site originally was recorded in 1988 as a scatter of flakes and pottery, with a possible midden deposit present in some areas, and a possible rock room feature, obscured by vegetation. During the 2007 survey by Affinis, the site was found to be much larger than previously recorded: 175 m (575 ft) by 110 m (365 ft), covering an area of 15,120 m² (3.7 acres). Site boundaries were based on surface artifacts and topography. A rock feature was documented in the northwestern portion of the site; it is assumed to be the same feature noted on the previous surveys.

During the testing program, also conducted by Affinis in 2007, a hearth feature was found in a subsurface context, and cremated human remains were encountered in two units. These remains and associated grave goods were repatriated to the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (KCRC).

While much of the subsurface deposit at CA-SDI-11,039 was only about 30 cm deep, there were pockets of midden soil. The maximum depth of cultural material was 80 cm. Almost 10,000 artifacts were collected at the site, including debitage, cores, numerous projectile points and bifaces, flaked stone tools, manos, metates, hammers, and over 500 Tizon Brown Ware pottery sherds. A small amount of marine shell and animal bone was also recovered. Non-local lithic material included obsidian and Piedra de Lumbre chert.

CA-SDI-11,039 is a Late Prehistoric site, apparently representing a habitation location. Activities conducted at the site include food processing/preparation and consumption, lithic tool manufacture or finishing and resharpening, and possibly hunting. The site was used during the Late Prehistoric period and shows no evidence of use during an earlier time period or following European contact. The site possesses the potential to address a variety of research questions, including issues of chronology, subsistence strategies, settlement patterns, intrasite variability, site type distribution, trade and travel, and technology. These are avenues of inquiry that have been addressed at other sites in the general area, so cross-site comparisons would be of interest.

The site is of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people, due to the presence of human remains, as well as its archaeological significance. It is a significant resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is considered to be an Important Archaeological Site, as defined in the Historical Resources Guidelines of the City of San Diego and the Historical Resources Regulations of the City of San Diego Municipal Code. As such, the site is eligible for local designation in accordance with the Historical Resources Guidelines. CA-SDI-11,039 meets the Historical Resources Board Criterion A, as it exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's archaeological and cultural development.

A summary of the archaeological site investigation was submitted to the San Diego Historical Resources Board to officially document the site investigation and treatment recommendations. In addition, correspondence from the Native American Monitor that worked on the project was provided. This correspondence notes the significance of the site and recommends special treatment of the area due to the proximity of human remains, significance of discovery, and sacredness of this entire site.

HRB staff believes this site has significance as an important archaeological site due to its research potential, cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people, and archaeological significance of the deposit. Therefore, staff recommends the Board designate the site under Criterion A as the resource exemplifies special elements of the City's archaeological and cultural development associated with prehistoric habitation of CA-SDI-11,039 and of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people of San Diego.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information submitted, it is recommended that the HRB designate the site under Criterion A as the resource exemplifies special elements of the City's archaeological and cultural development.



Cathy Winterrowd
Senior Planner/Program Coordinator

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution
2. DPR 523L Continuation Sheet (Confidential – not for public distribution)
3. Letter from Red Tail Monitoring & Research, Inc.

RESOLUTION NUMBER N/A
ADOPTED ON 6/25/2009

WHEREAS, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego held a noticed public hearing on 6/25/2009, to consider the historical designation of Archaeology Site CA-SDI-11,039 (owned by Del Mar Heritage, P.O. Box 503078, San Diego, CA 92150) located at *not permitted to list*, APN: **000-000-00-00**, further described as *n/a* in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California; and

WHEREAS, in arriving at their decision, the Historical Resources Board considered the historical resources report prepared by the applicant, the staff report and recommendation, all other materials submitted prior to and at the public hearing, inspected the subject property and heard public testimony presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the property would be added to the Register of Designated Historical Resources as **Site No. 0**, and

WHEREAS, designated historical resources located within the City of San Diego are regulated by the Municipal Code (Chapter 14, Article 3, Division 2) as such any alterations to the resource shall be approved by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Historical Resources Board based its designation of Archaeology Site CA-SDI-11,039 on the following finding:

The resource exemplifies special elements of the City's archaeological and cultural development associated with prehistoric habitation of CA-SDI-11,039 and of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people of San Diego. Specifically, the resource has significance as an important archaeological site due to its research potential, cultural significance to the Kumeyaay people, and archaeological significance of the deposit. This finding is further supported by the staff report, the historical research report, and written and oral evidence presented at the designation hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in light of the foregoing, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego hereby approves the historical designation of the above named property. The designation includes the archaeological site area within the parcel as Designated Historical Resource **Site No. 0**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary to the Historical Resources Board shall cause this resolution to be recorded in the office of the San Diego County Recorder at no fee, for the benefit of the City of San Diego, and with no documentary tax due.

Vote: N/A

BY: _____
JOHN LEMMO, Chair
Historical Resources Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY: JAN I. GOLDSMITH,
CITY ATTORNEY

BY: _____
NINA FAIN
Deputy City Attorney



Red Tail Monitoring & Research, Inc.

Native Monitoring Report

Re: Heritage Bluffs Project, City of San Diego.

To Whom It May Concern,

9-18-07

With regard to the above mentioned project, Red Tail Monitoring & Research, Inc. has the following comments and concerns:

The Heritage Bluffs Project was conducted by Affinis. All field methodology was consistent with proper techniques for Archaeological survey and excavation.

Human remains were discovered during excavation at the top of the hill on site CA-SDI-11,039. Open space boundaries should be designed to ensure that no further human remains is disturbed. Open space boundaries should also be expanded to allow a buffer zone of protection for human remains. All human remains and grave goods were repatriated to the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (KCRC).

With regard to the hearth feature and metates found on site CA-SDI-11,039, open space boundaries should be adjusted to include these significant features. If further adjustment of boundaries is not possible then 100% data recovery should be implemented. This is due to the proximity of human remains, significance of discovery, and sacredness of this entire site. To insure that 100% data recovery is effective, water-screening of all soils should be implemented.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or concerns,

Thank you,

Sincerely

Clint Linton

P.O. Box 507 Santa Ysabel, CA 92070
