

*Indians
2 R R Archeology*

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Federal Study Overlooked Lighthouse Archeological Site

Investigators for the federal Economic Development Administration completely missed a potential archeological site on Lighthouse Field between Pelton Avenue and West Cliff Drive when they were making studies for an environmental impact report on the proposed Lighthouse Point convention center complex.

The report, which was made available Dec. 29 last year to the President's Council on Environmental Quality, specifically stated, in fact, that "no historic place or landmark will be affected by the proposed project."

The potential site was found by Jody Bennett, a biologist -

archeologist member of an environmental study team that completed last week an environmental impact report on the convention complex for the City of Santa Cruz.

The find was announced in the report issued by Lampman and Associates of Walnut Creek, the firm hired for \$12,000 by the city to make the environmental study.

A city official who asked not to be identified told the Sentinel Monday that Teachers Management and Investment Corp., which will develop a hotel, condominiums and a shopping center on 37.6-acre Lighthouse Field, was aware of the potential archeological site found by Bennett.

This company is developing the private sector of the convention center complex while the city and county Joint Powers Authority is developing the convention hall itself.

In the Lampman and Associates report, Bennett wrote that after doing considerable walking in the area she had discovered kitchen midden materials on the property and may have located a possible fire pit.

"The exact outline of the site was very difficult to determine due to the total surface distur-

bance of the soil by discing, motorcycles and autos," Bennett wrote. "However, the fire fractured rocks may have been turned up by the discing, or the rocks could have been the fire pit of campers from early days."

It is known that Coastanoan Indians ranged the San Lorenzo Valley watershed in olden days and that they camped in Santa Cruz.

The Lampman report recommends delays in the convention center project pending investigation of the possible

archeological find.

Ironically, however, the federal investigation that missed the find was less kind in other ways to the controversial project than was the investigation by the Lampman group for the city.

The federal report listed more negative than positive opinions of the project. The Lampman report, on the other hand, indicates the proposed convention complex will provide the jobs and other financial benefits it is designed to provide, and that it will do

this without intolerable sociological effects upon the city as a whole.

But if the Lampman recommendations concerning the possible archeological find are followed, the delays could have major impact upon the convention center project.

This is because JPA has only until late next year to sell bonds to supplement a federal grant of \$1.8 million for the project.

Time could run out on the project because already a nip and tuck race is on to get it moving.

Modified site plans must be approved by the planning commission, the city council and other authorities. Approval of the project must then be obtained from the Central Coastal Commission, at least.

Actually, it is almost a foregone conclusion that if the Central Coastal Commission approves the project it will be appealed to the state coastal commission and, if need be, to the courts. The Save Lighthouse Point Association has several times said bluntly it will fight

the project to the end.

Then the project would still have a long road to travel if it survives the coastal commission hearings and - or a court test.

Final plans would have to be approved by the city planning commission, the city council, the county supervisors.

Hence if the JPA or the City of Santa Cruz accepts the Lampman recommendation to delay the project pending study of the possible archeological site, the project could be put into serious jeopardy.

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