

BLAM-JADE

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
OF
SEVERAL PARCELS
AT
SOQUEL DRIVE AND 41ST AVENUE**

SOQUEL, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2017



ALBION ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2017, Blam-Jade contracted with Albion Environmental, Inc. (Albion), to conduct a cultural resources assessment of several parcels totaling 2.8 acres located on the southwest side of the intersection at Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz County, California (Figure 1). The assessment is for a focused EIR regarding land use and transportation, not for any future plans involving ground disturbance. Albion's investigation included a background records search at the California Historical Resources Information System Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University (NWIC), and a field investigation entailing pedestrian survey and limited shovel testing of the Project Area. The evaluation was designed to adequately address treatment of cultural resources under current guidelines outlined in section 4.9 of the Cultural Resources Element of the Santa Cruz County's General Plan, and current California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

Under the authority of Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), the County of Santa Cruz may have received information from interested Native American tribes or representatives concerning Tribal Cultural Resources at the project site. The County is responsible for incorporating tribal information into the environmental review process. At this time we do not know if the County has received any such information.

A search of records at NWIC indicated that ten surveys have been conducted within a 100-foot radius of the Project Area. Two cultural resources have been identified within a 1/4-mile radius of the Project Area.

After reviewing the record search results, Albion conducted an intensive pedestrian survey and limited shovel testing of the project site. One shovel test was excavated to expose subsurface deposits. The test produced modern trash including 37 pieces of metal, 60 fragments of glass, five pieces of plastic, and one fragment of large mammal bone.

Given these findings, no further action regarding cultural resources at these parcels are recommended for the focused EIR. If the Project Area will be developed in the future, Albion recommends testing (Extended Phase I) in areas of impact. Since most of the property is currently covered by asphalt, it is possible that cultural resources exist in the Project Area.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | i |
| TABLE OF FIGURES | ii |
| APPENDIX | ii |
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION | 1 |
| SOURCES CONSULTED | 3 |
| BACKGROUND | 3 |
| Environment | 3 |
| Central Coast Prehistory | 3 |
| Ethnographic Background | 4 |
| Historic Context | 5 |
| Spanish-Mexican Period | 5 |
| American Period | 5 |
| FIELD METHODS | 7 |
| STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS | 7 |
| REFERENCES CITED | 10 |

TABLE OF FIGURES

| | |
|---|---|
| Figure 1. Project location, Soquel Drive and 41 st Avenue, Soquel, California | 2 |
| Figure 2. Location of shovel tests at Soquel Drive and 41 st Avenue, Soquel, California..... | 9 |

APPENDIX

Appendix A. Project Photographs

INTRODUCTION

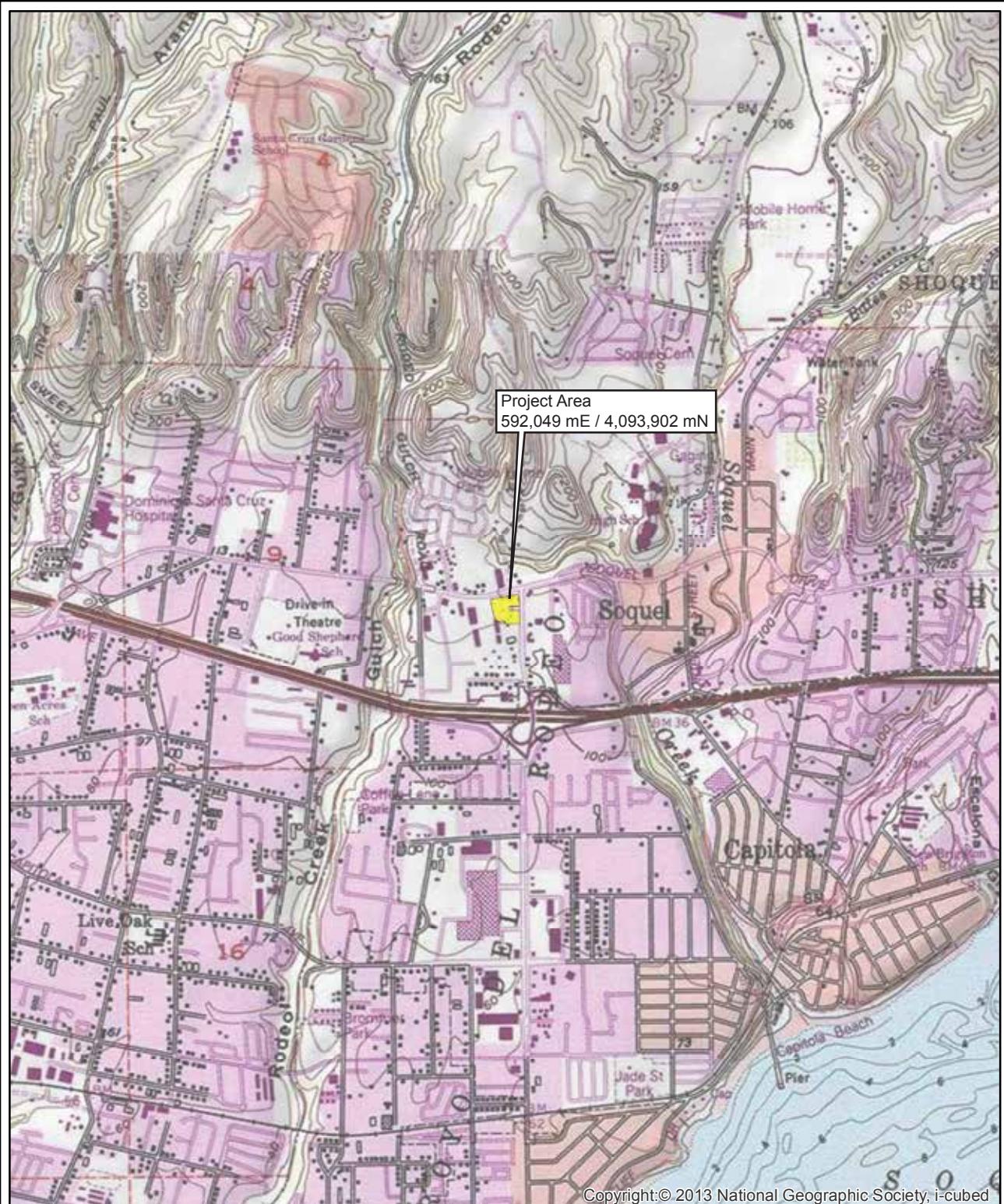
This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation of several parcels totaling 2.8 acres located on the southwest side of the intersection at Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz County, California (Figure 1). The assessment is for a focused EIR regarding land use and transportation, not for any future plans involving ground disturbance. Because the property is in an area designated as “archaeologically sensitive” by the County of Santa Cruz, Albion Environmental, Inc., (Albion) was contracted to conduct an archaeological assessment. The evaluation comprised three tasks: 1) a review of records from the Northwest Information Center of the Historical Resources Information System at Sonoma State University (NWIC); 2) a surface survey of the Project Area; and 3) limited subsurface excavation.

Albion designed the investigation to address treatment of cultural resources under current guidelines outlined in section 4.9 of the Cultural Resources Element of the Santa Cruz County’s General Plan, and current California Environmental Quality Act guidelines (CEQA). This included: 1) identification of significant resources; 2) determination of significant impacts to resources; and 3) development of any necessary mitigation measures. All work was conducted in accordance with guidelines and regulations set forth in the CEQA.

The records search was requested by Albion Senior Archaeologist Stella D’Oro in June 2017 (NWIC File No.: 16-1966). The subsequent pedestrian survey and subsurface testing was conducted on June 6 2017 by Caitlin Hannah who earned a BA in Anthropology and has worked in California archaeology for four years. Ms. Hannah conducted the field work under the supervision of Stella D’Oro who holds an MA in Applied Anthropology and has been working in California archaeology for thirteen years.

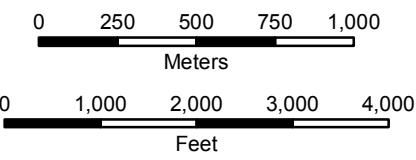
PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is located on the southwest side of the intersection at Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz County, California, approximately 650 feet (198 m) east of the intersection at Soquel Drive and Carricker Lane, and 550 feet (168 m) north of the intersection of 41st Avenue and Cordelia Lane, Soquel, California (Figure 1). The parcels are approximately 80 feet above sea level and relatively flat. Rodeo Creek is approximately 375 feet (114 m) west of the Project Area; Soquel Creek is approximately 400 feet (122 m) east of the Project. The area has previously been disturbed by construction of residential and commercial structures including driveways, asphalt pavements, and landscaping (Appendix A: Photographs 1–6).



USGS 7.5" Quadrangle: Soquel, CA 1954 revised 1994

NOTE: UTMs are NAD 83, Zone 10



Albion Environmental, Inc.

Figure 1. Project location,
Intersection at 41st Avenue
and Soquel Drive, Soquel,
California.

SOURCES CONSULTED

In order to determine if cultural resources are recorded within or near the Project Area, Albion consulted the following sources as part of the NWIC records search:

- California Inventory of Historic Resources managed by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation lists no historic resources within a $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile of the Project Area.
- Historic Property Data File for Santa Cruz County managed by the State Office of Historic Preservation (including the California Register, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest) indicates there are no historic properties located within a $\frac{1}{8}$ -mile radius.
- A search of records at NWIC indicated ten surveys have been conducted within a 100-foot radius of the Project Area. One survey was conducted for a private ranch; the other nine surveys were conducted for City, County, and State-wide archaeological overviews.

According to NWIC records, there are two cultural resources within a $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile radius of the Project. One resource is a mixed pre-colonial and historic site, while the other is a historic highway.

P-44-000170 is a multicomponent site located approximately 1,020 feet (312 m) southeast of the Project Area. The pre-colonial component of the site has been recorded on several occasions as a midden consisting of midden, chert and obsidian flaked stone, ground stone, and shell fragments. The historic component includes the foundation of a structure (King 2004).

Resource P-44-000406 is Highway 1 located 1,130 feet south of the Project Area. The resource includes historic sections of the old alignment and associated features (Leach-Palm et al. 1999).

BACKGROUND

Environment

The Project Area is approximately 80 feet above sea level and relatively flat. Rodeo Creek is approximately 375 feet (114 m) west of the Project Area; Soquel Creek is approximately 400 feet (122 m) east of the Project. The soils in the area are characterized as Watsonville loam (USDA 2017). The Watsonville loam series consists of somewhat poorly-drained soils on marine terraces formed in alluvium. Horizon 2 for the Watsonville loam series extends from 18 to 30 in. and is characterized by clay, clay loam, and sandy clay loam.

Central Coast Prehistory

Prehistory of the southern San Francisco Bay area is complex due to the dramatic increase in human populations from middle to late Holocene times (Milliken et al. 2007). Cultural chronology is quite variable spatially, but is generally framed within a tripartite sequence that is commonly used in central California— Early, Middle, and Late (Hylkema 2002; Milliken et al. 2007). These temporal periods are preceded by early to middle Holocene occupation, often characterized as the Millingstone era (cf. Fitzgerald 1993; Hylkema 2002; Milliken et al. 2007).

The Millingstone Period (9000–5500 years Before Present [B.P.]) is characterized by small groups who travelled widely and practiced broad spectrum foraging of easily acquired plant and animal resources. Artifacts common to this time period are handstones and millingstones. Flaked stone implements, such as projectile points, are much less common than grinding and battering tools (Fitzgerald 2000). Common foods are thought to have included a variety of small seeds, shellfish, and small mammals.

The Early Period ranges from approximately 5500 to 2500 B.P. and encompasses an era where people are thought to still have practiced wide ranging residential mobility, but placed a greater emphasis on hunting larger game. Large pinnipeds, such as northern fur seal, are common to coastal archaeological sites during this time. Several styles of large projectile points correspond to this general time frame, which also marks the initial use of mortar and pestle technology.

The Middle Period dates from 2500–1000 B.P. and appears to represent a time when people were somewhat more residentially stable and practiced more logistical (short term) mobility (Milliken et al. 2007:106). By this time, people apparently went on extended resource acquisition forays for the purpose of bringing subsistence or trade items back to residential base camps. Large, terrestrial mammals were hunted more often during this time and grinding implements become more common (Milliken et al. 2007:107).

The Late Period begins at 1000 B.P. and extends to ca. 1550 B.P. (Hylkema 2002:33), or perhaps more recently. The Late Period is characterized by increased sociopolitical complexity and settlement centralization. Large village sites in the northern Santa Clara Valley are often found in the valley center along perennial streams (Berghold 1982; Milliken et al. 2007:106). There is continued prevalence of mortar and pestle technology, thought to signify a greater reliance on acorn than in earlier times. Other labor intensive foods were also used with greater frequency during this latest time period (Hylkema 2002). For example, sea otter and harbor seal were exploited more heavily. These animals are thought to be more labor-intensive to capture compared to other pinnipeds and large mammals, which were more commonly hunted in earlier time. Bow and arrow technology is also believed to have been adopted by aboriginal hunters during this latest prehistoric interval (Milliken et al. 2007:117).

Ethnographic Background

Ethnographically, the project area was inhabited by Ohlone, or Costanoan populations (Levy 1978; Milliken et al. 2007). When first encountered by Spanish explorers, aboriginal inhabitants of the Bay Area and vicinity were referred to as *Costaños* (Levy 1978:494). The people came to be known as Costanoans (cf. Levy 1978), although now, the descendants of those earlier inhabitants prefer to be referred to as Ohlone (Bean 1994). Both terms refer to the language group spoken by the people, rather than any sort of political group. The Ohlone inhabited the San Francisco peninsula, the East Bay to the Delta, and south past Santa Clara Valley to the coast of the Monterey Bay.

At Spanish contact, aboriginal groups residing in the southern Bay Area were organized under a tribelet system where villages, thought to number around 50, were autonomous political units (Levy 1978). The Ohlone exploited all of the regional habitats including bay marshes, valley grasslands, mountainous uplands and open coastal environs. Resources exploited included elk, pronghorn, deer, sea mammals, salmon, trout, shellfish, ducks, geese, acorns, seeds, grasses, and roots (Baumhoff 1963).

Historic Context

Spanish-Mexican Period

The Santa Cruz Mission

European occupation of Santa Cruz begins with the establishment of the *Mission La Exaltacion de la Santa Cruz*. The Mission, founded in 1791, was the 12th Franciscan mission in *Alta California*. During the Spanish occupation, the current route of Mission Street was the main thoroughfare connecting the Mission Santa Cruz to Santa Clara and Mission Dolores in San Francisco. The first mission chapel at Santa Cruz was a temporary structure of thatch and mud built close to the San Lorenzo River. Between 1793 and 1794, a more permanent adobe chapel was constructed on a high bluff overlooking the river. The site of the second church is where Holy Cross Church currently stands on Mission Hill.

By the early nineteenth century, a complex of mission buildings was erected around the chapel and the mission prospered with extensive gardens, a grist mill, and more than 4,000 head of cattle. Mission lands included a wide-ranging grazing area that extended as far as Año Nuevo more than 25 miles north of Santa Cruz. The complex was bounded by current High, Emmet, Mission and Sylvar Streets. The church and the priest's quarters were located on what is now High Street. The women's quarters were on what is now known as School Street, while the storehouses and rooms for looms were located on Sylvar Street. Across School Street was an adobe building (still extant) thought to have been the mission guardhouse; this structure was later converted to a residence now known as the Neary-Rodriguez Adobe (Hoover et al. 1990). This building, located at 136 School Street, is the only remaining remnant of the 1793–1794 mission complex.

Damage to the church occurred in 1818 in response to threats of a pirate attack; the attack never occurred, but the church itself and many of its furnishings were damaged in the attempt to save mission property. In 1834, Governor Figueroa secularized the mission property. In 1840 an earthquake weakened the church walls, and in 1857 another tremor caused the structure to collapse entirely (Hoover et al. 1990).

Villa de Branciforte

Established in 1797, *Villa de Branciforte* was one of the three original Spanish towns, *pueblos*, in Alta California, the others being San Jose (1776) and Los Angeles (1781). Named after the viceroy of New Spain, the Villa was intended to be a mixed community of active and retired Spanish soldiers as well as civilians who would defend the coast against incursions from enemy powers, (i.e. Russia and Britain). The padres at the nearby Mission were vehemently against opposed to the foundation of the Villa and offered little assistance to the new settlers. The Villa was located on the river terrace across the San Lorenzo River from the Mission. The Villa's main thoroughfare, Branciforte Avenue, which was also used as a horserace track, was lined with crude huts, then adobe houses, some of which lasted until the middle of the 20th century (Reader 1997).

The community grew slowly due to the lack of support by the Spanish government and competition with the nearby Mission for cattle grazing lands. Gradually more immigrants arrived during the Mexican period (1823–1846) and the Villa grew from a population of 17 in 1807 to 194 in 1845 (Reader 1997). The Branciforte area was annexed into the City of Santa Cruz in 1905.

American Period

Americans began to settle in Santa Cruz in the 1840s, introducing more industrial and commercial enterprise to the area. The lumber trade became an important business, necessitating the construction

of a wharf. The business district soon grew up around the wharf, and Front Street became the principal business area. In 1860, the town of Santa Cruz was the county seat with a population of 800 persons. Its shipping facilities were excellent; the wharf continued to encourage commercial growth and soon several sawmills and tanneries were operating at the edges of the town. The town of Santa Cruz was incorporated in 1866; the City was incorporated ten years later. Land use patterns of the Spanish and Mexican periods left a strong imprint on the development of the City. Parts of the former mission lands became ranchos and farms that were later subdivided into lots and ultimately into housing tracts. The primary residential area in the City of Santa Cruz was between Mission Hill and the wharf area, although homes were being built along the Coast Road (Mission Street) and around Mission Hill in the mid nineteenth century. In the 1870s, small farms and ranches were also built up along Mission Street beyond Bay Street.

In 1876, the narrow-gauge Santa Cruz Railroad line was completed from Santa Cruz to Watsonville, where it connected with the Southern Pacific line to San Francisco. Prior to that time, the primary mode of transportation for goods and passengers to Santa Cruz was by ocean steamer, although there was a toll road between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz. The completion of the Santa Cruz Railroad line was particularly important to the City, already well known for its exceptionally fine beaches, scenery, and weather, as it further opened the area to large numbers of tourists. Southern Pacific purchased the Santa Cruz Railroad line in 1881 for the express purpose of expanding its tourist business; by 1887 it ran two round trips per day between San Francisco and Santa Cruz. 1906–07, the narrow gauge track was switched to standard gauge, giving railroad shipping a larger role in the development of the City.

By the mid-1870s, Santa Cruz was a popular resort city. Tourism was accelerated by the promotional activities of Fred Swanton, who owned and developed the boardwalk area. He also owned the Santa Cruz — Capitola Railroad Company, which contracted to build an electric railroad line from Santa Cruz to the beach in preparation for President Roosevelt's visit in May of 1903. In that year, he purchased the existing Neptune's Bath beachfront property and constructed several hundred resort cottages, as well as the huge casino and natatorium complex on the beach. By 1907, he had replaced the original casino and natatorium, which had been destroyed by fire, with the existing Mission Revival-style complex.

In the late 1800s the study area occupied a growing residential region between Santa Cruz proper and what was then known as Seabright, a resort community established by Mr. F.N. Mott (Koch 1999:149). Upon acquiring tracts of land between the San Lorenzo River and Arana Gulch, Mr. Mott laid out streets and building lots, establishing a somewhat self-supporting community served by its own post office, water supply, and railroad station. Seabright was officially annexed to the City of Santa Cruz in 1905. The area contained a number of low buildings and small residential cottages; however, larger, more elaborate homes were also built during this time, no doubt in response to tremendous economic growth experienced throughout the County. Many of these once-grand homes can be seen along streets of Santa Cruz's east side including Ocean View Avenue. Remnant historic structures, walls, privy pits and trash dumps are found throughout this part of the City, and contribute to the historically sensitive nature of the area.

The opening of the highway from Los Gatos in 1915 caused a change in the nature of tourism in Santa Cruz. Families no longer stayed for weeks at a time in resorts and tent cities. With the advent of the automobile and the availability of good roads, tourists came for only a day or a weekend. While the growth of automobile-based tourist enterprises was eventually stimulated, the rail-based tourist businesses suffered. The net result was a temporary decline in the prosperity of Santa Cruz as it adjusted to the culture of the automobile. The Great Depression had less impact on Santa Cruz than it did elsewhere, largely because the primary base economy of the city had shifted from manufacturing to agriculture. The onset of World War II, however, brought a drastic decline to the tourism industry

due to wartime travel restrictions and gasoline rationing. By this time, most of the current project alignment was well developed, primarily with residential tracts and small farm properties.

FIELD METHODS

On June 16, 2017, Albion archaeologist Caitlin Hannah conducted surface and subsurface archaeological investigations at the several parcels on the southwest side of the intersection at Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue. She first conducted a pedestrian survey over the entire area, which includes residential and commercial structures including driveways, asphalt pavements, and landscaping (Appendix A: Photographs 1–6).

Visibility of soil surfaces throughout the subject property was poor due to the extent of landscaping, pine tree duff, and hardscaping. Cultural material was not noted on the surface of the property.

Following surface inspection Ms. Hannah excavated one shovel test probe to check for subsurface cultural deposits. The shovel test probe measured approximately 50cm in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 24 inches (60cm) below current grade. Soils were removed in three 20cm increments. Excavated soils were dry-screened through 1/4-inch mesh. The shovel test probe was located in an area that was unpaved near the center of the Project Area (Figure 2).

Shovel Test 1 was placed 175 feet west of the boundary at 41st Avenue and 230 feet south of the property boundary at Soquel Drive. Soils from 0-20cm consisted of very dark brown (10YR 2/2), moderately compacted clay loam with no gravels. The 0-20cm level contained modern trash including 35 pieces of metal, 50 pieces of glass, five pieces of plastic, and a fragment of large mammal bone. Soils in the 20-40cm level of the shovel test and consisted of very dark grayish-brown (10YR 3/2), moderately compacted clay loam with no gravels; it contained ten pieces of glass and two pieces of metal. The 40–60cm level consisted of dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) sterile sandy clay with no gravels and no cultural material.

STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

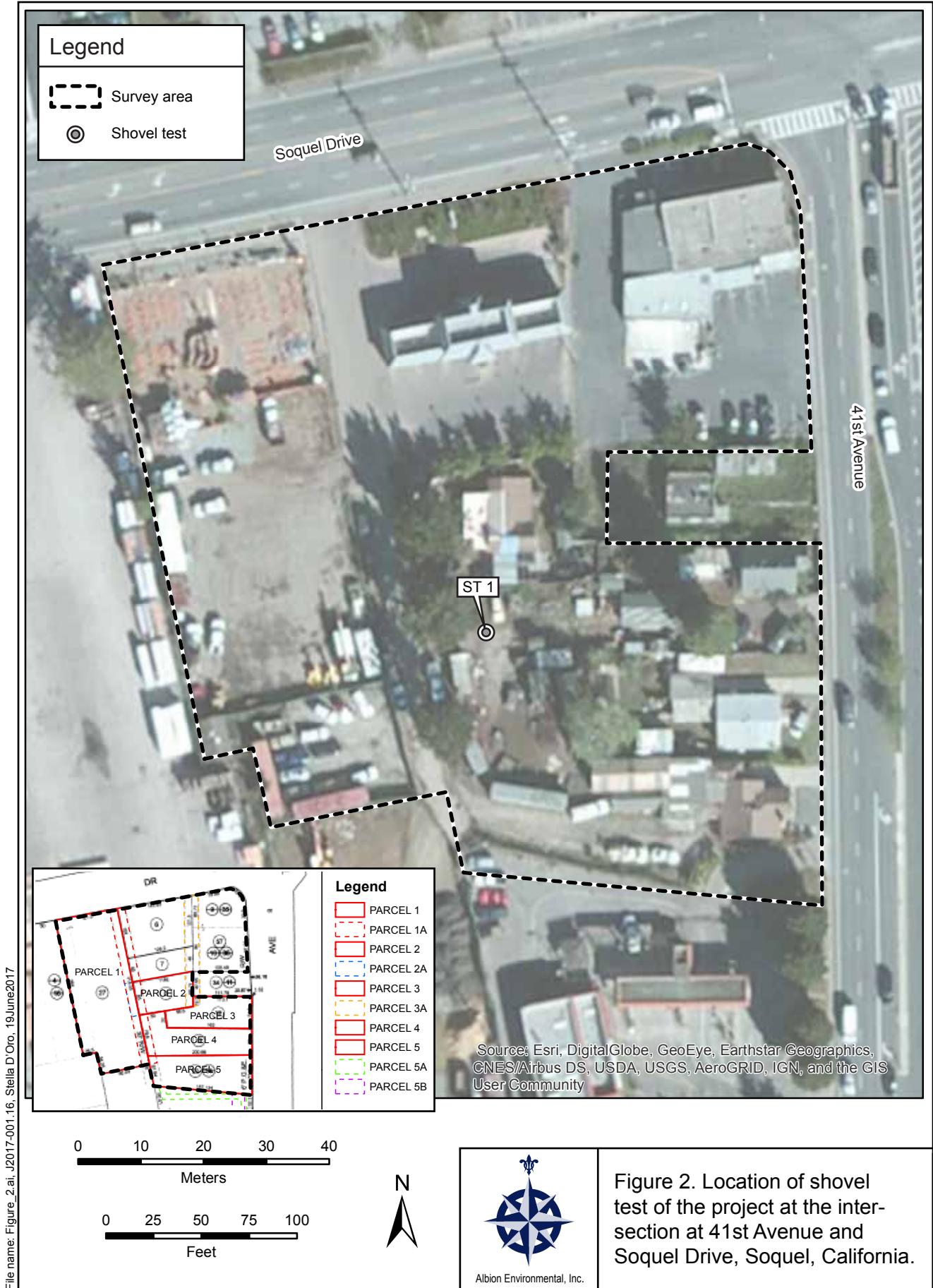
Visual inspection and shovel testing revealed no evidence of intact prehistoric or historic-era archaeological deposits. The entire project area has been disturbed by construction of residential and commercial structures including driveways, asphalt pavements, and landscaping (Appendix A: Photographs 1–6).

Soils are clay loam to sandy clay with no evidence of culturally-produced stratigraphy. Cultural materials were not noted during a surface investigation of the Project Area. One shovel test probe excavated to expose subsurface deposits produced modern trash including 37 pieces of metal, 60 fragments of glass, five pieces of plastic, and one fragment of large mammal bone.

AB 52 states that Native American tribes may formally petition the lead agencies, such as the County of Santa Cruz, for information about projects that may affect Tribal resources. The County may have received information from Tribal representatives about this project, however, the County has not provided that information, and unless such information is made available, no tribal cultural resources are present on the property.

Given these findings, no further action regarding cultural resources at these parcels are recommended for the focused EIR. If the Project Area will be developed in the future, Albion recommends testing

(Extended Phase I) in areas of impact. Since most of the property is currently covered by asphalt, it is possible that cultural resources exist in the Project Area.



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APPENDIX A

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1. Northwest portion of the Project Area (facing north).



Photograph 2. Southeastern portion of the Project Area (east).



Photograph 3. Southern portion of the Project Area (facing east).



Photograph 4. Center of the Project Area (facing northwest).



Photograph 5. Northern portion of the Project Area showing pavement under leaf litter (facing north).



Photograph 6. Commercial parcels on northern side of the Project Area (facing east).