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**To:** [John Doughty](#); [Jill Ekas](#)  
**Cc:** [Jessica Brinton-McBean](#)  
**Subject:** City of HMB Affordable Housing Archaeological Testing Results  
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Good afternoon John,

We wanted to provide you with a brief email summarizing the results of the archaeological testing effort for the City of HMB Affordable Housing Project.

Fieldwork was conducted in the project area on November 1 and 2 of 2023 by SWCA geoarchaeologist Jack Meyer, who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior standards for the identification of prehistoric resources in California, and archaeologist Reid Donovan. The purpose and overall goals of this work were previously outlined by an approved research design in keeping with State CEQA guidelines. Trenching was supervised and monitored by the principal geoarchaeologist with competent person excavation safety certification, and project personnel did not physically enter any of the excavated trenches. The back dirt from each trench was consistently hand-raked and examined for archaeological materials during excavation, and the base and trench side walls were also closely examined when possible. Once completed, each trench was backfilled using the excavated back dirt to restore the surface grade.

The deposits exposed in the trenches consist mainly of relatively intact alluvial floodplain sediments that range from sand to clay in texture. The sandy alluvium is consistent with deposition in or near a formerly active stream channel, and the finer alluvium was formed by overbank deposition of sediments in a floodplain or basin setting. The alluvial deposits are consistently overlain by artificial fill composed of disturbed and/or imported materials, such as gravel, sand, and wood bark, which range from 0.3 to 0.9 meters (1 to 3 feet) in thickness. Since the entire parcel is covered by some amount of fill, it demonstrates why a normal archaeological surface survey would be inadequate and confirms the need for this type of exploratory study. These soils were closely examined for evidence of human activities, but no archaeological materials (i.e., bone, charcoal, shell, flaked stone, and heat-altered rock), features, or deposits were identified in any trenches excavated in the project parcel.

Based on these findings, it is unclear as to why the archaeological site was mapped in this location. A possible explanation is that the western part of the site was incorrectly mapped and is, instead, located further to the east.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

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