

Archaeologist, Geographic Information Systems Specialist

Mark Neal, M.A., R.P.A.

462 San Clemente Street, Ventura, California • Cell 805-300-4927 • Email mark@beyondmaps.org

Overview

Mark Neal has extensive training and experience in archaeological survey, excavation, archaeological laboratory procedures, data analysis, and report writing. He has particular expertise in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and predictive modeling in the field of archaeology and land use planning. He has both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Anthropology from the University of California Santa Barbara and is listed on the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Mr. Neal also has extensive experience working with tribal government in the process of cultural resource management. In his past work as Tribal Consulting Archaeologist, he provided research and input regarding countless land use management issues and during the tribal consultation processes under CEQA, NEPA, and SB18.

Project Specific Experience

Principal Investigator, URS Corporation, SMP/Laguna Recycled Water Pipeline Project: Directed all field operation for a ten mile linear Phase I archaeological study. Worked as a team with one other archaeologist to perform survey and was the principal author of the final letter report.

Field Director, URS Corporation, NextLight Antelope Valley Solar Energy Project: Directed all field operation for a 2,009 acre Phase I archaeological study. Directed a team of five archaeologists and was a contributing author of the final report.

Field Director, URS Corporation, Granite Mountain Wind Energy Project: Directed all field operation for a 3,457 acre Phase I archaeological study. Directed a team of six archaeologists and was the primary author of the final report submitted to the Bureau of Land Management and the County of San Bernardino.

Archaeologist, URS Corporation Nextlight Borrego Springs Project: Worked with a team of two archaeologists performing site reconnaissance of a 640 acre parcel in Anza-Borrego, California as preliminary research supporting the property acquisition decision making process. Co-authored a letter report of findings and recommendations.

Crew Chief, URS Corporation Solel Johnson Valley Project: Supervised a team of six to eight Archaeologist Technicians in intensive pedestrian survey and site recordation as a part of a Phase I study of a project covering 5,400 acres.

GIS Specialist, Central Coast Information Center (CCIC), University of California at Santa Barbara: Provided hands-on training in ArcGIS to students employed by the CCIC. Developed improved systems for handling GIS data and analysis. Created a GIS of archaeological site location and field survey reports for the Santa Barbara County Channel Islands. Assisted in quality checking the work of undergraduate students employed in digitizing archaeological site records.

Consulting Archaeologist to the Elders Council of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians: Analyzed various documents including Environmental Impact Reports and public notices of proposed construction projects. Performed background research and used data layers of known cultural resource locations as well as various other datasets concerning regional physical geography to determine the potential of each project to negatively impact cultural resources significant to the Chumash. Provide maps and a synopsis of findings.

Archaeological Monitor, SAIC Corporation, Santa Barbara Zoo WAVE Facility Construction: Performed archaeological monitoring during construction in a highly sensitive Millingstone Horizon village site.

Assistant Coordinator, Central Coast Information Center (CCIC), University of California at Santa Barbara: Conducted record searches for locations of cultural resources and reports of previous survey work using a GIS and

archive maps. Received, cataloged, and mapped incoming reports of cultural resources. Performed all billing and accounts receivable functions.

Digitizing Supervisor, Central Coast Information Center (CCIC), University of California at Santa Barbara: Supervised a team of four student digitizers to facilitate the production of a GIS for all sites and surveys under the jurisdiction of the CCIC. Performed data integrity checking all digital information produced and provided technical support as needed.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Little Mutau Trail Survey: Working with the Forest Archaeologist, performed survey of areas adjacent to the Little Mutau Flat Trail near the Chuchupate Ranger Station, Cuddy Valley, California in advance of proposed trail maintenance.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Wheeler Ridge Trail Survey: Working with the Forest Archaeologist, conducted archaeological survey of several miles of recreational trails in the Los Padres National Forest in advance of seasonal trail maintenance.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Route4N10 Sign Placement: Under the direction of Forest Archaeologist, surveyed the area surrounding a Forest Service facility in the Los Padres National Forest near Lake Casitas, California.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Monitoring of Trenching, Los Prietos Campground: Under the direction of Forest Archaeologist, performed archaeological monitoring during backhoe excavation for installation of a leach line.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Lions Camp Trail Survey: Working with Forest Archaeologist, conducted archaeological survey of several miles of recreational trails in the Los Padres National Forest in advance of seasonal trail maintenance.

Archaeologist Technician, U.S. Forest Service, San Emigdio Creek Survey and El Camino Viejo Research: Working with the Forest Archaeologist performed survey of areas adjacent to San Emigdio Creek near Pine Mountain, California in advance of brush clearing as mandated by the Healthy Forests Initiative. Discovered, researched, and documented a surviving section of El Camino Viejo, a lesser-known mission-era inland travel route.

Engineering Aide – GIS, City of Ventura, CA: Created and maintained various GIS layers as directed, including a dataset of building footprints.

Archaeologist Technician GS5, USDA Forest Service, Region 5, Los Padres National Forest: Researched, purchased, implemented, and trained district archaeologists in the use of field data recorders (PDRs) using Arcpad. Use ARCGIS and Arcview to manipulate data and generate survey maps. Performed pre-field research as directed. Assisted district archaeologists in field survey.

Digitizer, Central Coast Information Center, University of California at Santa Barbara: Used archaeological survey records to map survey areas using Arcview 3.3.

Intern, Geographic Information Systems, City of Ventura, CA: Georeferenced historic Sanborn Insurance maps to existing GIS layers in Arcview 8 using property boundaries and aerial photographs.

Team Member, Test Excavation at Three Sites on Santa Cruz Island: Working in a team of four graduate students under the direction of Dr. Michael Glassow excavated small units in three prehistoric sites for the purpose of recovering dateable material.

Student Participant, Laboratory Procedures Practicum, University of California at Santa Barbara: Laboratory processing of materials from several central California coastal prehistoric archaeological sites. Included wet screening, flotation, sorting, shellfish species identification, plus other miscellaneous laboratory procedures.

Student Participant, Archaeological Field Methods Class, University of California at Santa Barbara: Training included research design, excavation, feature recording, dry screening, wet screening.

Professional Societies/Affiliates

Society for California Archaeology, Society for American Archaeology, Register of Professional Archaeologists

Conference Papers

“Pitted Stones From the Coast of Central California”

Presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology, Sacramento, CA.

Chronology

9/08 - Current Archaeologist, URS Corporation.
12/07 – 6/08 GIS Specialist, Central Coastal Information Center, University of California Santa Barbara.
6/07 – 12/08 Consulting Archaeologist, Elders Council. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.
3/06 – 6/07 Assistant Coordinator, Central Coastal Information Center, University of California Santa Barbara.
10/05 – 3/06 GIS Technician, City of San Buenaventura, California.
6/05 – 10/05 Archaeologist Technician, USDA Forest Service, Region 5, Los Padres National Forest.
8/04 – 3/05 GIS Digitizer, Central Coastal Information Center, University of California Santa Barbara.
3/04 – 9/04 Archaeologist Technician, USDA Forest Service, Region 5, Los Padres National Forest.

Contact Information

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