



UC ANR REC SYSTEM

Human Remains and Cultural Items Discovery Guide

What To Do If You Find Native American Remains or Cultural Artifacts at a UC ANR REC Site

UC ANR is committed to the respectful, lawful, and timely handling of all discoveries of Native American and Native Hawaiian human remains and cultural items at our Research and Extension Centers. This guide helps REC staff respond correctly to discoveries in two distinct scenarios.

Which guide should I use?



Is this an item already in a collection, lab, storage, or research holding that may not have been previously reported?

USE GUIDE A

→ **Pages 2 – 4**

Based on UC NAGPRA Policy



Did you find this during ground-disturbing work (construction, excavation, maintenance, land management)?

USE GUIDE B

→ **Pages 5 – 6**

Based on CEQA, AB 52, H&S Code 7050.5, PRC 5097

 An **Archaeological Construction Handout** with visual examples of inadvertent discoveries is included as **page 7**.

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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What To Do If You Find Native American Remains or Cultural Artifacts at a UC ANR REC Site

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Why this matters: Repatriation of Native American and Native Hawaiian human remains and cultural items is a fundamental objective and value of the University of California. NAGPRA (federal) and CalNAGPRA (state) protect the rights of Tribes and lineal descendants to the return of ancestral human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. UC ANR is committed to full compliance with these laws and the UC NAGPRA Policy.

⚠ IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

If you discover what may be Native American or Native Hawaiian human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, you are legally obligated to act. Follow these steps in order.

1 STOP All Activity

- Do not disturb, move, or handle the items
- Keep the area clear of non-essential personnel

2 Secure the Area

- Restrict access — authorized individuals only
- Items must not be accessible to the public
- Do not clean, wrap, or repackage anything
- Leave all soil and packaging materials in place

3 Report Immediately

- Contact your campus Repatriation Coordinator right away
- If unknown, contact UC ANR central office or the systemwide contact
- Keep information about the find confidential. Do not take photos.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT — Coordinator-Led Process (in sequence)

1 Tribal Consultation Initiated

Coordinator must consult with potentially affiliated Tribes as soon as possible — required by both federal NAGPRA and California CalNAGPRA.

3 Preliminary Inventory or Summary

Prepared in consultation with Tribes:

- Human Remains & Funerary Objects: within 2 years
- Other Cultural Items (Summary): within 6 months

5 Repatriation Timeline

Under NAGPRA: within 90 days of written tribal request (after Federal Register notice).

Under CalNAGPRA: within 90 days of NAHC posting.

2 Research & Identification

Coordinator researches potentially Culturally Affiliated Tribes using NAGPRA, NAHC, and federal land records.

4 Campus Committee Review

The Campus NAGPRA Committee reviews the Inventory/Summary and makes recommendations to the Chancellor for a final campus decision.

6 Logistics Support

Coordinator assists with stewardship agreements, reburial coordination, and grant applications for repatriation.

Key Contacts & Compliance Requirements

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— UC ANR REC System — Based on UC NAGPRA Policy (Effective January 1, 2022) | Page 3 of 7

KEY CONTACTS — Who to Contact

UC Davis Repatriation Coordinator

Megon Noble, Senior Strategic Advisor

✉ mnoble@ucdavis.edu

☎ (530) 752-8501

🌐 nagpra.ucdavis.edu

Contact Megon directly if you believe you or others hold previously unreported Native American or Native Hawaiian remains or cultural items.

UC Systemwide Contact

Lourdes DeMattos, Associate Director

UC Research & Innovation

✉ Lourdes.DeMattos@ucop.edu

☎ (510) 987-9850

For other UC campuses: check the campus's public-facing NAGPRA webpage for that campus's coordinator.

✉ CC ON ALL EMAILS:

Brian Oatman, Director, Facilities Planning & Management

✉ baotman@ucanr.edu | ☎ (530) 304-2054 | 🌐 link.ucanr.edu/fpm

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- ✗ Use Native American or Native Hawaiian human remains or cultural items in research or instructional activities — requires both tribal AND university approval
- ✗ Conduct testing or analysis (DNA, radiocarbon dating, isotope analysis, etc.) without explicit written tribal authorization
- ✗ Exhibit human remains under any circumstances
- ✗ Remove items from UC premises without Chancellor approval and proper transfer agreements
- ✗ Clean, repackage, or disturb items before consultation
- ✗ Hold human remains or cultural items in private collections on UC property

STORAGE & CARE REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Store in a secure, dedicated space — no public access
- ✓ Keep remains from the same burial site and location together
- ✓ Retain all original packaging, soil, and materials
- ✓ Follow traditional care practices identified through tribal consultation
- ✓ Maintain fire detection, intrusion systems, and emergency plans per 36 C.F.R. § 79.9
- ✓ Limit access to authorized individuals only

Ongoing Campus Responsibilities

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ONGOING CAMPUS RESPONSIBILITIES — Proactive Compliance

UC NAGPRA compliance is not just reactive — it is also proactive. The UC NAGPRA Policy requires all campuses (including UC ANR units) to actively review existing collections and consult with Tribes, regardless of whether items have been formally requested.

- **Review existing collections:** Campuses must proactively review all collections that contain Native American archaeological or ethnographic objects, or any holdings that may potentially contain Native American or Native Hawaiian human remains or cultural items.
- **Department-level review:** Campuses must perform a review of all departments and units historically engaged in studies with human remains or cultural items, plus any departments identified by deans, chairs, or unit heads as potentially holding such items.
- **Tribal consultation on care:** The university must consult with Tribes regarding traditional practices for the care of ancestral human remains and cultural items.
- **Tribal appeals and complaints:** Tribes have formal procedures available to file appeals or complaints if they disagree with campus actions or decisions.
- **Community reporting procedure:** The policy provides a procedure for any member of the campus community to report Native American or Native Hawaiian remains or cultural items they believe are not being properly maintained or reported.
- **Annual awareness communication:** The Chancellor (or Designee) must communicate annually with relevant faculty, researchers, students, and staff to raise awareness of policy requirements.

REMEMBER

If you believe you or others may hold Native American or Native Hawaiian human remains or cultural items that have **not previously been reported**, contact your campus Repatriation Coordinator directly. For UC Davis: **Megon Noble** — mnoble@ucdavis.edu | [\(530\) 752-8501](tel:5307528501)

What To Do If You Find Native American Remains or Cultural Artifacts at a UC ANR REC Site

GUIDE B

— UC ANR REC System — Based on the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code 5097 | Page 5 of 7

Why this matters: CEQA and other PRC and HSC code govern requirements for this brochure are for what we call inadvertent discoveries. Inadvertent discoveries are unexpected encounter of cultural materials during construction, maintenance, or land management activities, most common during ground disturbing activities, that were not previously identified or known.

This may include: bone or skeletal remains, artifacts (e.g. stone tools, beads, pottery), soil changes (dark soil, ash, shell deposits/midden), and buried features (hearths, foundations).

 **See the Archaeological Construction Handout at the end of this document (page 7) for visual examples of items that may constitute inadvertent discoveries during construction or other ground-disturbing activities.**

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

If you encounter possible archaeological resources — such as bone or skeletal remains, artifacts, soil changes, or buried features — during construction, maintenance, or other ground-disturbing activities, you are legally obligated to act. Follow these steps in order.

1 STOP All Activity

- Stop all work within 100 feet of the find
- Halt any excavation, research, or construction immediately
- Do not disturb, move, or handle the items
- Keep the area clear of non-essential personnel

2 Secure the Area

- Do not collect items
- Restrict access — authorized individuals only
- Items must not be accessible to the public
- Do not clean, wrap, or repackage anything
- Leave all soil and packaging materials in place

3 Report Immediately

- Contact your environmental planning and facility staff
- If unknown, contact UC Davis Environmental Planning directly
- Keep information about the find confidential. Do not take photos

NEXT STEPS FOR INADVERTENT DISCOVERY

UC Davis Environmental Planning & Facilities staff will contact a qualified archaeologist to assess the find. If the consulting archaeologist determines an artifact is an archaeological resource, a 100-foot protective buffer area will be established within which no work will occur until authorized by ANR Facilities Staff.

Based on the significance of the find, next steps will be determined.

Key Contacts & Important Reminder

GUIDE B

— UC ANR REC System — Based on the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code 5097 | Page 6 of 7

KEY CONTACTS — Who to Contact

UC Davis Environmental Planning supports ANR environmental compliance.

Director of Campus and Environmental Planning

Heather Davis

✉ hddavis@ucdavis.edu

☎ (530) 759-3766

🌐 environmentalplanning.ucdavis.edu

Environmental Planning

Emily Hyland

✉ ekhyland@ucdavis.edu

☎ (530) 759-3928

🌐 environmentalplanning.ucdavis.edu

✉ CC ON ALL EMAILS:

Brian Oatman, Director, Facilities Planning & Management

✉ baoatman@ucanr.edu | ☎ (530) 304-2054 | 🌐 link.ucanr.edu/fpm

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Any discoveries of archaeological resources shall remain strictly confidential, with information about their location or nature being disclosed only to those authorities who need to know.

Based on the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and Public Resources Code 5097
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NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE PRESENCE OF SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

STONE TOOLS - arrow points, spear points, scrapers, and the waste flakes left over from making them.



Arrow Points

GROUND STONE - heavier stone tools such as bowls, slabs, handstones, and pestles, used to grind or pound seeds, nuts, and other materials.



Bowl Mortar



Pestle

BONE AND SHELL TOOLS OR ORNAMENTS - items made from natural bone or shell (e.g., polished-bone needles and pins, curved shellfish hooks, beads).



Bone Awl



Shell Beads



Shell Fishhook

FOOD REMAINS - bone from animals, bird, fish, and shell from shellfish.



Shell and Animal Bone

FEATURES - a cluster of items (shell, burned rock, artifact) or a concentration of organic debris (ash, charcoal, hard-packed soil) that represent a specific activity or event: hearth, storage pit, house floor, etc.



Rock Feature



Rock Feature

MIDDEN - dark soil full of plant and animal remains, stained from centuries of human occupation.



Midden

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL - sites may include - old ceramics, glass, metal, or wooden artifacts (plates, bowls, glass bottles, jars, tin cans, nails, milled lumber, etc.).



Glass Bottle



Ceramic



Nails



Horseshoe