

# SANTA BARBARA | HISTORICAL MUSEUM

*Upon the foundation of the past, we build a future worth remembering*

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August 20, 2009

Ron Carlintine  
County of Santa Barbara Public Works Dept  
Facility Services  
1100 Anacapa Street/Courthouse Annex  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

## **RE: Curation of MGP Archaeological Collection (CA-SBA-3505/H)**

Dear Mr. Carlintine:

The Santa Barbara Historical Museum [herein the Historical Museum] is seeking a facility to permanently curate the archaeological collection recovered during remediation of the Santa Barbara I Manufactured Gas Plant (SB I MGP) site, which is situated on land occupied by the Historical Museum. This collection contains significant archaeological materials recovered between 2000 and 2007 during site evaluation, monitoring, and data recovery undertaken as part of remediation by URS for Southern California Edison. Artifacts were collected variously from the Historical Museum property, the Cooley and Covarrubias lots, and the former Pitman lot (now owned by HCAC West, LLC).

The archaeological components identified on this property have been designated CA-SBA-3505/H and listed with the Regional Information Center housed at the University of California, Santa Barbara (USCB). All materials contained in the collection were recovered from archaeological features contributing to the eligibility of the property for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. The features contribute under Criterion 1 (D) for their data potential. Artifacts recovered date to the Spanish period (Mission era), the Hispanic to American Transition, the Victorian era (American period), and the Modern period as defined by the City of Santa Barbara Master Environmental Assessment (MEA). The collection has been identified as a significant research collection of value and academic interest to students of American material culture (Hamilton et al 2008).

The Historical Museum has determined it does not possess the facilities to manage the collection on site due to its size, research complexity, and curatorial needs. The Historical Museum is committed to seeing that the collection is made available to interested researchers, and therefore is seeking an alternative repository for permanent curation of the collection. Archaeological materials were recovered from Museum-owned property, as well as property leased by the Museum and owned by the County of Santa Barbara. Therefore, as part of the curatorial process, the Historical Museum is requesting that the County, as lessor of the property, relinquish all rights and ownership to the said collection and its contents and to authorize permanent curation of the collection in a State-certified collection facility. The

Historical Museum intends to retain the right to use and display materials from the collection into the future so its connection to Santa Barbara will be ensured.

In order to facilitate the curatorial process, the Historical Museum requests that the County agrees to comply with the conditions stated above by signing both copies, returning one in the enclosed stamped envelope. This letter will then be utilized in relinquishing the collection to a State of California-certified curatorial facility.

Respectfully,



David S. Bisol  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Approved:

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Signed

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Title

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Date