

# **HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES POLICIES**

The County will:

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### 5.1 Historic Resource Protection

Protect historic resources for their historic, cultural, social and educational values and the enjoyment of future generations.

### 5.2 Rehabilitation of Historic Structures

Encourage the rehabilitation, preservation and use of historically significant structures.

### 5.3 Protection of Archaeological/Paleontological Sites

Protect archaeological/paleontological sites from destruction in order to preserve and interpret them for future scientific research, and public educational programs.

### 5.4 Historical Resources Inventory

Encourage the development of inventories of historical resources which have national, State and Countywide significance.

### 5.5 Planning and Historic Preservation

Integrate historical preservation into the planning process of the County.

### 5.6 Increase Public Awareness

Develop increased public awareness of the County's heritage to foster widespread support and understanding for the need to preserve historical resources.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### 5.7 Definition of Historic Resource

Define historic resources as buildings, structures, signs, features, sites, places, areas or other objects of scientific, educational, cultural, architectural, archaeological, historical or paleontological significance to the citizens of the County.

#### 5.8 Definition of Historic District

Define historic district as a geographically defined area containing historic resources which have a special, historical interest or aesthetic value or which represent one or more architectural periods or styles typical to the history of the County, and which improvements constitute a distinct section of the County that has been designated an historic district.

#### 5.9 Definition of Historic Landmark

Define historic landmark as any historic resource, district or paleontological site that has exceptional scientific, historic, cultural, archaeological, aesthetic character, interest, or value.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

#### 5.10 Educational Programs

Encourage cooperative educational programs by educational and historic groups.

#### 5.11 Recognition of Historic Resources

- a. Identify high priority resources in the comprehensive inventory and apply for their designation as State Point of Historic Interest, State Historical Landmark, or inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- b. Establish historic districts for areas which include concentrations of historic resources found in the comprehensive inventory.

#### 5.12 Rehabilitation of Historic Structures

Encourage the rehabilitation and recycling of historic structures.

#### 5.13 Use of Innovative Techniques

Encourage the use of innovative techniques such as density transfer, facade easements, etc., to protect historic structures.

#### 5.14 Registration of Significant Archaeological/Paleontological Sites

Recommend State and/or national register status for significant archaeological/paleontological sites.

## **REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

#### **5.15 Character of New Development**

- a. Encourage the preservation and protection of historic resources, districts and landmarks on sites which are proposed for new development.
- b. Ensure that new development in historic districts is compatible in bulk, height, material and design with that of the historic character and qualities of the district.
- c. Encourage the use of the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines and standards for rehabilitation of historic structures by: (1) those undertaking the rehabilitation of historic structures, and (2) those responsible for the architectural review and permit approval.

#### **5.16 Demolition of Resources**

Discourage the demolition of any designated historic district or landmark.

#### **5.17 Designation of Historic Resources**

Establish criteria and procedures for the designation of County landmarks and districts. Include a provision requiring approval to alter, demolish or relocate designated landmarks or districts.

#### **5.18 Development of County Historic Sites**

Develop County-owned historic sites in park and recreation areas in accordance with the performance criteria and development standards contained in Appendix D of this Chapter.

#### **5.19 Economic Use**

- a. Encourage compatible and adaptive residential, commercial or public uses of historic structures as a means for their protection.
- b. Permit commercial uses such as crafts, stores, bookshops and art shops if they preserve and enhance the resource.

## PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### 5.20 Site Survey

Determine if sites proposed for new development contain archaeological/paleontological resources. Prior to approval of development for these sites, require that a mitigation plan, adequate to protect the resource and prepared by a qualified professional, be reviewed and implemented as a part of the project.

### 5.21 Site Treatment

- a. Encourage the protection and preservation of archaeological sites.
- b. Temporarily suspend construction work when archaeological/paleontological sites are discovered. Establish procedures which allow for the timely investigation and/or excavation of such sites by qualified professionals as may be appropriate.
- c. Cooperate with institutions of higher learning and interested organizations to record, preserve, and excavate sites.

## **ROLE OF THE COUNTY**

### PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES

#### 5.22 Comprehensive Inventory of Historical Resources

- a. Investigate all funding sources for developing a comprehensive inventory.
- b. Expand and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all historic resources located in both unincorporated and incorporated areas.
- c. Establish a hierarchy within the inventory by which the more significant resources and those requiring additional measures to ensure their preservation are identified.
- d. Coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer, cities and historical groups in the development of the inventory.
- e. Request the Historic Resources Advisory Board to review the inventory annually to ensure that all structures and sites are included and that the list is current.

5.23 Acquisition of Structures

Encourage and coordinate efforts with groups to acquire structures of historic merit in order to prevent their loss and/or promote their adaptation for other uses.

5.24 Historic Preservation Certification

Seek certification of the County Preservation Program by the Secretary of the Interior in order to take advantage of and participate directly in the Federal preservation programs.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

5.25 Archaeological/Paleontological Resource Data Base

Maintain and update a comprehensive archaeological/paleontological data base.

5.26 Discovering Unrecorded Archaeological/Paleontological Sites

Support comprehensive studies to discover unrecorded archaeological and paleontological sites, particularly in areas under pressure for development.

**PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

5.27 Role of the Historic Resources Advisory Board

- a. Serve as an advisory body to the Planning Commission and Department on implementation of the Historic Resources Chapter.
- b. Advise the Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and other appropriate County Departments on all matters pertaining to the recognition, acquisition, preservation designation and alteration of historic resources in San Mateo County.
- c. Advise the Board of Supervisors on methods of funding from Federal, State and private sources for historic preservation.
- d. Review and recommend on the implementation of appropriate legislation at the Federal, State or local level that deals with historic preservation.
- e. Review and recommend to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors all applications for registration of historic resources as Points of Historical Interest, State Historic Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places.

- f. Act as a coordination body for various historic preservation activities of public agencies, civic groups, and citizens interested in historic preservation.
- g. Promote public information programs which explain the advantages of historic preservation by sponsoring exhibits, lectures and meetings on the subject.
- h. Develop increased public awareness of the County's heritage to foster widespread support and understanding for the need to preserve historical resources.
- i. Inform property owners of historic structures of the financial benefits of preservation.
- j. Review and update the inventory of historic resources.