

## 8. Cultural Resources

This chapter provides policies for protection and enhancement of Half Moon Bay's cultural resources. Throughout the chapter, the term "cultural resources" is used to collectively refer to archaeological and paleontological resources, including Native American cultural sites, tribal cultural resources, artifacts, and remains.

### Land Use Plan Framework

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Half Moon Bay has significant cultural resources, including archaeological sites and historic structures and properties. These resources serve important social, commercial, recreational, and educational roles in the community while evoking the community's unique heritage. Archaeological and paleontological resources are addressed herein, while historic resources are primarily addressed in the General Plan.

#### COASTAL ACT POLICY AND GUIDANCE

The following California Coastal Act policy is relevant to the protection of archaeological and paleontological resources and is incorporated into this LUP.

##### **Section 30244. Archaeological or paleontological resources**

Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required.

Coastal Commission guidance documents also prescribe archaeological and paleontological resource protections. In August 2018, the Coastal Commission adopted a comprehensive tribal consultation policy. The new policy, along with the Coastal Commission's Local Coastal Program (LCP) update guidance, emphasizes the importance of consultation with Native American tribes, consistent with other state law and the California Natural Resources Agency tribal consultation policy. The Coastal Commission's Environmental Justice Policy, adopted in March 2019, reaffirms their tribal consultation policy by recognizing the need to understand local and regional cultural concerns and to protect areas of cultural significance.

Although the Coastal Act does not explicitly protect historic resources, Coastal Commission LCP update guidance acknowledges the value of historic resource preservation. Historic resources often contribute to the coastal zone as visual resources and may also be features of visitor serving commercial and recreational uses. While historic resources are primarily addressed in the Community Preservation Element of the City's General Plan, Chapter 9: Scenic and Visual Resources of the Land Use Plan contains policies recognizing and protecting the aesthetic value of historic resources.

## **Cultural Resources: Archaeological and Paleontological**

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### **CULTURAL CONTEXT**

The Planning Area is in a region historically occupied by the tribelets of the Costanoan linguistic group.<sup>1</sup> Descendants of Costanoan speakers prefer to be called by the name of the tribelet from which they are descended. When their heritage is mixed or the specifics have been lost over generations, they prefer the use of a native term, Ohlone, rather than the European-imposed term Costanoan (“coastal dwellers”).<sup>2</sup> The rich resources of the ocean, bays, valleys, and mountains in the region provided Ohlone-speaking peoples with food and all their material needs.<sup>3</sup> The primary food staple was the acorn, supplemented by a great variety of animal and plant resources.

The Ohlones were composed of 50 or more Tribes in the southern San Francisco Bay Region, ten of which were situated along the peninsula. The Portola Expedition, set out to claim land for Spanish territory, encountered several Ohlone villages after their arrival in the late 1760’s, including the Chinguan village in today’s Half Moon Bay. Spanish explorer records indicate that the Spanish received meals, directions, and guidance from the Ohlones leading up to the 1769 ascent up Sweeney Ridge.<sup>4</sup> This marked the point of Spanish discovery and settlement of the San Francisco Bay. When Mexico won its independence from the Spanish crown in 1821, California fell under rule of Mexican territorial governors who granted much of the former Spanish mission lands to Mexican subjects. These land grants effectively displaced the Ohlones, ignoring any of their remaining territorial rights.<sup>5</sup>

As of 2020, the San Mateo County Parks Department is in the early design phase for a new Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail intended to commemorate the Portola Expedition and honor the region’s California Native American history. The general trail alignment that will pass through the City’s jurisdiction will utilize the California Coastal Trail.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Archaeological resources may include any material remains of past human life or activities of archaeological interest, such as pottery, tools, weapons, or human remains. A complete list of documented archaeological resources in the Planning Area can be obtained through the California Historical Resources Information System Northwest Information Center (NWIS). The following information is based on a records search through NWIS and is presented as a snapshot of the Planning

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<sup>1</sup> Levy, Richard 1978. Costanoan. In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 485–495. Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, William C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> Margolin, Malcolm 1978. *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area*. San Francisco: Heyday Books.

<sup>3</sup> Levy, Richard 1978. Costanoan. In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 485–495. Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, William C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 491-492.

<sup>4</sup> Ohlone/Portola Heritage Trail Committee, Statement of Historic Significance, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Gualtieri, Kathryn. 1988. *Half Moon Bay: The Birth of a Coastside Town*. Spanishtown Historical Society, Half Moon Bay, California.

Area's archaeological resources. The NWIS' data is frequently updated as new resources are recorded, and should be consulted for the most current documentation of resources. Due to sensitivity of this data, certain records or portions thereof may not be available to the public.

Prehistoric examples of the types of archaeological sites that are known to exist within the Planning Area and vicinity include:

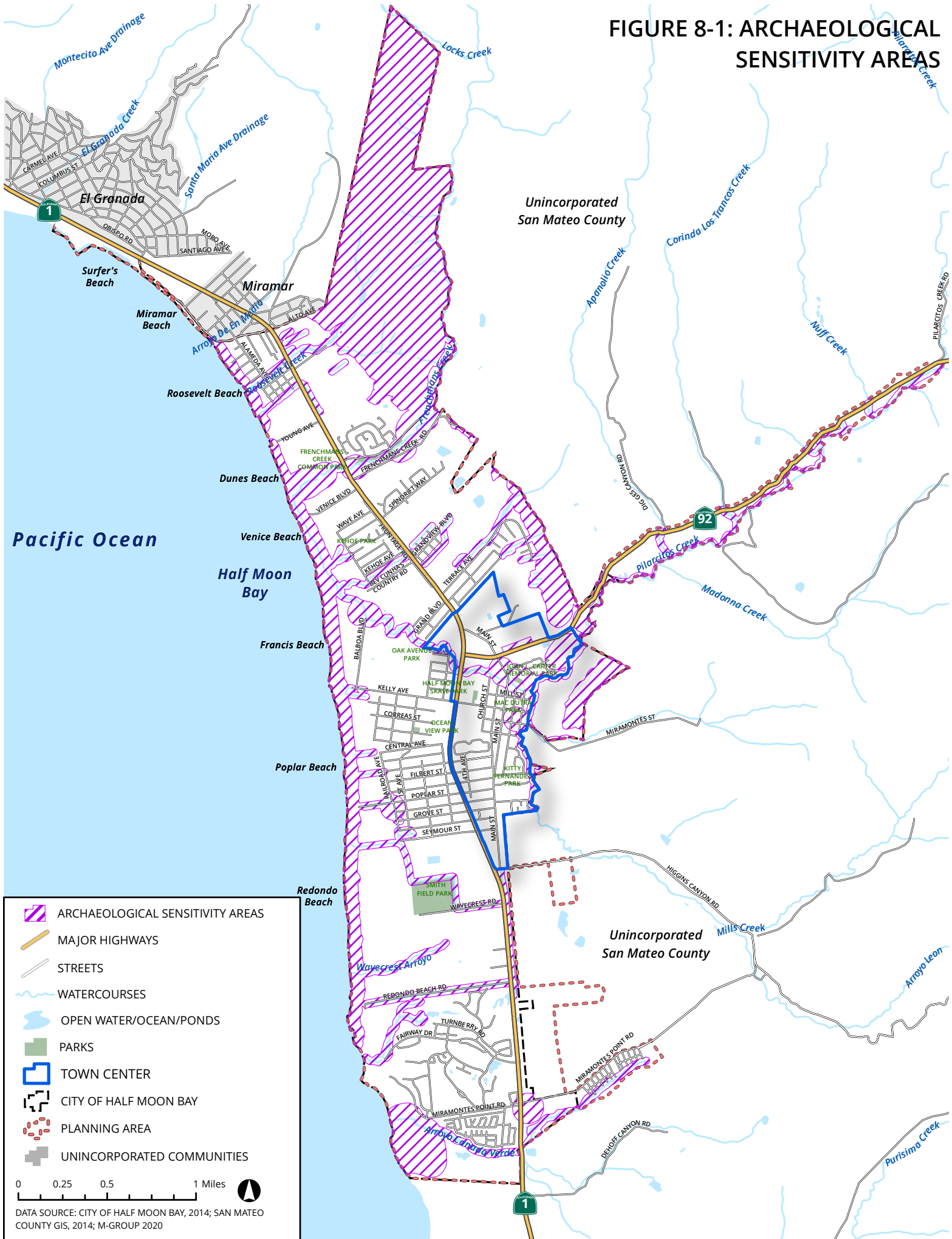
- Shell middens and shell mounds are characterized by concentrations of marine shells that were harvested and processed for consumption.
- Lithic debris and tool scatters are characterized by the presence of tool stone manufacturing waste flakes, core fragments, and formed flaked stone tools such as projectile points, knives, and scrapers.
- Habitation sites are characterized by long-term, extended use, with various activity areas, which may include evidence of food processing, tool manufacturing, and ceremonial events.
- Temporary campsites are generally limited use sites that may contain evidence of food manufacturing or tool production.
- Historic examples of the types of archaeological sites that are known to exist within the Planning Area include ranching, dairy, and maritime structures and remnants.

There are 15 documented archaeological resources in the Planning Area, including prehistoric shell middens and lithic scatters, historic debris scatters, and historic structural remnants. Although there have been very few archeological findings in the City's development permit history, indicating that there is likely a low percentage of developable acreage in the city that contains archeologically significant artifacts, these resources are culturally significant and must be preserved.

### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Paleontological resources may include any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms that are of paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on Earth. No paleontological resources of known significance have been identified in Half Moon Bay, and they are extremely limited throughout the San Mateo County coastal zone. Although likelihood of discovery is very low, it is important that any paleontological resources are properly protected if discovered.

**FIGURE 8-1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY AREAS**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY AREAS  
 MAJOR HIGHWAYS  
 STREETS  
 WATERCOURSES  
 OPEN WATER/OCEAN/PONDS  
 PARKS  
 TOWN CENTER  
 CITY OF HALF MOON BAY  
 PLANNING AREA  
 UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

0    0.25    0.5    1 Miles

DATA SOURCE: CITY OF HALF MOON BAY, 2014; SAN MATEO COUNTY GIS, 2014; M-GROUP 2020

## Policies – Cultural Resources

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The LUP includes policies intended to ensure the protection and preservation of cultural resources in Half Moon Bay. Policies provide for the identification and documentation of archaeological and paleontological resources, call for an archaeological survey for projects located in archaeologically sensitive areas, and require that a qualified archeologist document the resources on a site as well as any potential impacts. The LUP also requires mitigation and monitoring plans to avoid or minimize any identified impacts to cultural resources and seeks to protect such resources from potential impacts from rising sea levels. Policies establish a requirement for Native American consultation consistent with the provisions of SB 18, AB 52, and Coastal Commission policy.

### *Policies – General*

- 8-1. Cultural Resources Protection.** Half Moon Bay’s cultural resources shall be protected and preserved through identification, education and awareness, and development standards for avoidance and mitigation of impacts.
- 8-2. Development Impacts on Cultural Resources.** New development shall avoid impacts to cultural resources through siting and design measures to the extent feasible. Any unavoidable impacts, disturbance, or substantial adverse changes caused by development on cultural resources shall be mitigated through measures such as preservation in place or site sampling and salvage. The preferred and required alternatives for mitigating impacts, if feasible, are avoidance or preservation in place. Consult with Native American representatives on appropriate alternatives.
- 8-3. Cultural Resources Reporting.** Require all known and newly discovered cultural resources to be reported to the appropriate tribe or tribal community, agency, or organization. These may include but are not limited to the California Native American Heritage Commission, the State Historical Resources Commission, or the California Office of Historic Preservation.
- 8-4. Impacts of Environmental Hazards on Cultural Resources.** Ensure that cultural resources are protected from the impacts of environmental hazards, including sea level rise. Work with the State Historic Preservation Officer to identify actions such as mitigation and monitoring programs to protect archaeological and paleontological resources including Native American artifacts at risk from hazards such as erosion, inundation, and sea level rise in a manner consistent with the policies of the LCP and other applicable provisions of the Coastal Act.

### *Policies – Native American Cultural Resources*

- 8-5. Native American Cultural Sites.** Work with local Native American tribes to protect sacred and culturally significant sites, as well as discovered Native American artifacts and remains.
- 8-6. Native American Consultation.** Notify and consult with Native American organizations of proposed developments or land use actions that have the potential to adversely impact cultural resources early in the development review process, providing early and frequent opportunities for concerned Native American parties to comment on or participate in any treatment plan for sites with cultural or religious significance to the Native American community. Development on sensitive sites requires on-site monitoring by appropriate Native American consultant(s) such as tribal monitors and a qualified archaeologist for all grading, excavation, and site preparation activities that involve earth-moving operations.

**Policies – Archaeological and Paleontological Resources**

- 8-7. Archaeological Resources Archive.** Establish a comprehensive archive of archaeological surveys, maps, and other relevant studies, inventories, and information for sites throughout the city to support archaeological resource protection.
- 8-8. Archaeological Resources Mapping.** Maintain Figure 8-1 as an updated generalized archaeological resource map for public use that designates archaeologically sensitive areas and identifies where archaeological reports may be required for future development. Develop and maintain a detailed archaeological resources map, which, due to the sensitive and fragile nature of archaeological resources, is intended for use by City staff and authorized persons only.
- 8-9. Archaeological Survey with Development Applications.** Require the submission of a report by a qualified archaeologist as part of applications for new development based on the location and scope of the project, including within any archaeologically sensitive area as designated on the archaeological resources map. In areas vulnerable to sea level rise impacts, require a site-specific evaluation of potential sea level rise impacts to any archaeological resources on the development site. A report may include the results of an archaeological records review and/or survey observations with findings on actual and potential resources on the site, impacts of the development proposed, and any recommended mitigation measures. All feasible mitigation measures shall be incorporated in any plan for development prior to the issuance of a permit for development.
- 8-10. Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Monitoring.** Require, where a pre-development survey identifies the potential to affect known or newly discovered archaeological, Native American, or paleontological resources, the submittal of a monitoring and reporting plan that identifies methods and describes the procedures for selecting archeological and Native American monitors and procedures that will be followed if additional or unexpected resources are encountered during development of the site. Procedures may include, but are not limited to, provisions for cessation of all grading and construction activities in the area of the discovery that has any potential to uncover or otherwise disturb cultural deposits in the area of the discovery and all construction that may foreclose mitigation options to allow for significance testing, additional investigation and mitigation.
- 8-11. Discovery of Archaeological and Paleontological Resources.** Regardless of site location, require all development to halt work if subsurface archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during construction. The developer shall notify the City and retain a qualified professional to identify any necessary handling and notification procedures and mitigation measures. Work shall not resume until these measures have been reviewed and approved by the City and all appropriate entities have been notified. Consult with the appropriate Native American tribe(s) on if and how to rebury any discovered tribal resources.
- 8-12. Discovery of Human Remains.** When human remains are uncovered during development, no further disturbance of the site shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition of the remains. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified and no further disturbance of the site shall occur until the Commission provides direction on handling procedures.