PART 2:

NATIVE AMERICAN MONITORS, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Interested in working as a Native American Monitor? In recent years, many California Indians are introduced to the subject at hand by being asked to serve as “Monitors” on projects involving known or suspected archaeological sites being threatened by development or other proposed ground-disturbing activities. Information important to persons who may serve as Native American Monitors includes Guidelines (Items 2-1, 2-2), an example of a job position description (Item 2-5), basic field equipment list (Item 2-6), and examples of the kinds of daily record-keeping that may be required (Items 2-7 through 2-10).

Tribal representatives are increasingly called upon to consult and coordinate culture resource activity. Tribes are being asked to review and comment on a wide range of cultural resource concerns, including Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs, per CEQA) or Studies (EISs, per NEPA), Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) for their ancestral lands, and requests for information on cultural resources from archaeologists, planners or agencies.

Archaeology is an everyday activity in the State. Archaeological evidence infers that California was first settled at least 13,500 years ago—a time that reaches back time immemorial. By the time of sustained settlement by foreigners ca. 1850 (earlier along the coast occupied by the Spanish and Russians), California’s rich, diverse environment and climate sustained many different complex Indian cultures and the highest population density of any place in North America. It is no wonder then, that California’s archaeological record consists of untold thousands of sites—and that where people lived in the past, people often desire to live today. Thus, the rub—development often unearthed Indian artifacts. But historic preservation laws are in place to help decide how to balance the potential conflicts between cultural resource preservation and modern land uses.

California has more CRM professionals than any other state in the Nation, largely in response to passage of historic preservation laws (Part 1), the State’s rapid growth, and its leadership in environmental protection since the late 1960s. Very few of these professionals are California Indians, who would undoubtedly bring valuable insights and lessons to the profession, be best suited to relate Native American cultural and traditional values to the greater populace, as well as promote better representation in meeting CRM goals for their kinfolk.

Finding common ground: preserving the past for present and future generations. California’s rich Indian heritage is not just a thing of the past, but is a precious part of a rich historical and cultural legacy to be nurtured and sustained for benefit of all future generations. Values that Indian people today associate with archaeological sites may be at odds with the scientists’ view. Places lacking archaeological indicators where Indian people have traditionally prayed, or may be associated with their origin stories and tribal histories, or collected plants, fished or hunted for foods and materials used for on-going ceremonials, traditional subsistence, making baskets, regalia and the like, may also be considered significant cultural resources, or traditional cultural properties (see Item 1-8).
Interested in designing and co-hosting a CRM Workshop for your tribe, organization or agency? Examples of introductory 1-to-4-day CRM workshops designed by the SCA Native American Programs Committee (NAPC) in partnership with and for several California Indian Tribes and organizations are included (Part 2-12 through 2-14). Essentially 'free-of-charge,' these workshops are supported mutually by the non-profit SCA and the collaborating Indian group for out-of-pocket costs. All instructor time and material preparation is provided gratis from NAPC members. Those interested in teaming with us to design and hold a workshop for their community are urged to contact the NAPC Chairperson, Janet Eidsness at (530) 629-3153.

Want more training or might you consider a career in CRM? For those who want more information or may wish to consider a more formal career track in CRM, various opportunities are available (Items 2-15 through 2-19). Example curricula and programs in California are provided for an AA/AS (2-year) degree offered by Community Colleges (Item 2-16), to the postgraduate MA degree in CRM from Sonoma State University (Item 2-17).

Other examples of specialized training -- from one-day classes to a week-long course -- are also provided (Items 2-18 through 2-19).