

CALTRANS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROADSIDE INVENTORY: *Planning the TEA Party*

The Problem

- ◆ Caltrans only surveys its right-of-way for specific highway projects: had no site information for areas with few or no projects
- ◆ Site records on paper maps: retrieval difficult
- ◆ Highway maintenance activities, such as clearing and grubbing, minor grading, inadvertently affect sites -- tribes lose trust with Caltrans
- ◆ Emergency projects require immediate response: no time for research



Transportation Enhancement
10 percent of the STP funds set-aside
Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
Provision of safety and educational
activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
Acquisition of scenic easements and
scenic
or historic sites
Scenic or historic highway
programs
Landscaping and other scenic
beautification.
Historic preservation.
Rehabilitation and operation of
historic transportation buildings,
structures, or facilities
Preservation of abandoned railway
corridors
Removal of outdoor advertising.
Archaeological planning and research.

The Goal

- ◆ Inventory sites within right-of-way for a GIS database Site information readily accessible
- ◆ Provide instant cultural resource information for emergency projects
- ◆ Assist in advance planning for future highway projects
- ◆ Effective management and stewardship of resources in Caltrans right-of-way

The Opportunity

- ◆ 1991 ISTEA creates Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) program – includes categories for Historic Preservation and Archaeological Planning & Research
- ◆ Must be "above and beyond normal work"
- ◆ Must be related to transportation system
- ◆ Must be for the public good



CALTRANS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROADSIDE INVENTORY: *The TEA Party Continues*

Rejection - twice: hard to sell Archaeological Research & Planning concept against tangible projects like bicycle facilities.

Caltrans Agency GIS

- Cultural Resources were low priority -- had to build our own
- Stay in sync with CHRIS and Information Centers to be able to trade data
- Adapt to changing GIS technology over 13 years
- Adapt to different district needs but keep statewide consistency

Project Delivery
Maze

Inevitable Red
Tape



Red Tape: TEA Program

- Uses highway project development model:
- How do you "build" a survey?
- Outside the box: HQ Cultural and Community Studies Office could receive the money, but not spend it; accounting codes don't fit

GIS application
grows up -
moving to
Enterprise System

- 5 Districts complete
- 5 Districts in progress
- 1 District application

Districts 4 & 11 actively
sharing
data electronically
with
Information
Centers

Success!

Unanticipated Benefits

- Research: geo-archaeology, ethnography
- First GPS survey of highway alignments
- Department embraces the concept of right of way inventories for other environmental resources -- biology, wetlands, and more
- First district-wide ethnographic surveys
- First ethnographic TEA project: The Kashaya Pomo Cultural Landscape Project

