



MEETING PLACE

VIA ZOOM

Please email us at vcas.arch@gmail.com to register for this upcoming Zoom presentation.

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm

VENTURA COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Website : <http://www.venturacountyarchaeologicalsociety.com>

Dr. René Vellanoweth

Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM

“Ancient Droughts, Fires, and Floods: Living with the Elements in the Santa Monica Mountains”

VCAS OCTOBER 2021 PRESENTATION – VCAS is pleased to announce our OCTOBER 2021 PROGRAM featuring Dr. René Vellanoweth, presenting “Ancient Droughts, Fires, and Floods: Living with the Elements in the Santa Monica Mountains”.. This event will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.



The Santa Monica Mountains were home to many important natural resources and landscape features critical to human survival and spiritual sustenance. The ancestors of the modern Chumash and Tongva/Gabrielino/Gabrieleño people lived in the mountain’s drainages and flood plains, carved out intricate trail systems, and utilized its steep slopes and ridges to harvest edible and medicinal plants, hunt game, and perform rituals. Adjacent open and protected coastlines offered a bounty of marine resources and provided access to the outside world. Life in the mountains, however, was not always easy as evidence of protracted droughts, devastating fires, and massive floods document settlement/abandonment cycles linked to naturally occurring and periodic episodes of destruction. In the following talk I will share the results of recent surveys and excavations in the western Santa Monica Mountains conducted by Cal State LA, CA State Parks, and the National Park Service. These data suggest that people relied on local terrestrial and marine foods, manufactured beads and other ornaments, traded for obsidian, fused shale, and other toolstones, and distributed their settlement to take advantage of freshwater, seasonal resources, viewsheds, and proximity to trail networks.

Dr. René Vellanoweth is the Dean of Natural and Social Sciences and Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles. His research interests include coastal and island archaeology, historical ecology, environmental archaeology, historic preservation, and the use of integrative approaches to understand the past. Dr. Vellanoweth currently works in California, Mexico, and Ireland and publishes widely on diverse topics in the fields of archaeology, history, and ecology. Dr. Vellanoweth is also a Governor-appointed Commissioner on the California State Historical Resources Commission, which meets quarterly and makes historical properties recommendations for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and other designations. Dr. Vellanoweth is an advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in archaeology and historic preservation and strives to inspire underrepresented communities to preserve their past and local histories.

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