

Memorandum

To: Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Resource
Protection Committee

Date: March 1, 2016

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From: Chris Browder, Deputy Chief, Environmental Protection
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Subject: Updating the Memorandum of Understanding for Archeological Records Checks

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) have a long-standing memorandum of understanding (last updated in 2006), which allows registered professional foresters and their supervised designees access to legally restricted cultural resources information for which the Information Centers act as regional repositories. This is the only MOU in the state that allows non-cultural resources professionals access to this information. The MOU is an important part of the historic preservation program contained in the Forest Practice Rules and practiced by CAL FIRE in its own projects (addressed in *Archaeological Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects*). The MOU needs to be updated primarily to secure digital access to CHRIS and to broaden our information-sharing capacity during emergency incidents. There are some other issues as well (addressing the requirements of Assembly Bill 52, etc.) The update was begun by CAL FIRE's Staff Chief, Chris Zimny in 2013, but not carried on after his departure. Senior State Archeologist Michael McGuirt has begun work with Eric Allison, Associate Information Systems Analyst with OHP, on the update. We estimate it will take six months to complete. The current MOU is at: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology/downloads/MOU.pdf. *Archaeological Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects* are at: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology-resources.