

The following document referenced in the Draft EIR for the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project contains sensitive and confidential information concerning Native American site locations and components. This report is held confidential and is not made publicly available.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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FLAKED AND GROUND STONE TECHNOLOGY AT CA-ALA-554: MORTAR BOWLS AND STOCKTON POINTS

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WILLIAM SELF ASSOCIATES, INC.

Over 2,900 flaked stone and 170 ground stone artifacts were recovered during the 2011 excavation of the Castlewood site (CA-ALA-554). A variety of diagnostic items, such as bifaces, mortars, pestles, charmstones, pipes, and stone ornaments, compose the rich Augustine pattern assemblage. This paper considers how analysis of flaked and ground stone technology answers questions about chronology, settlement organization, exchange, and mortuary practices at the site and within the Amador Valley. This paper also puts forward a preliminary discussion on the chronological and functional implications of pestle shaft wear patterns.

BACKGROUND: THE CASTLEWOOD SITE (CA-ALA-554)

During the spring of 2011, William Self Associates, Inc. (WSA) conducted data recovery at CA-ALA-554 (also known as the Castlewood site), a large prehistoric site in Pleasanton, California, that is situated on a parcel of land slated for the development of a large retail center (Figure 1). Prior investigations indicated that a large portion of ALA-554 within the project area contained intact archaeological deposits and human remains. In order to minimize the disturbance to the archaeological deposits and the burials, WSA archaeologists monitored and excavated underground utility trenches within the previously recorded site boundary. A total of 187 burials and 25 features were recovered from a thick cultural midden associated with the prehistoric occupation (Estes et al. 2012:1).

Three habitation levels were identified within the midden that correlate to a sequence of occupation phases. Stratum III, concentrated in the southern portion of the project site, represents the initial phase of intensive habitation at ALA-554. Its contexts are situated at the lower limit of the midden that overlays sterile, native alluvial sediments. Stratum II encompasses the main period of occupation at ALA-554 based on the high volume of burials recovered in this layer. Dramatic population growth is evident in this stratum because over 90 percent of the burials recovered during the archaeological excavations were encountered in this level, which expands to the north and east of the earlier core area represented by Stratum III. Stratum I, the upper limit of the midden, corresponds to the last occupation phase at the site, wherein the number of burials drops off severely.

CHRONOLOGY

Diagnostic flaked and ground stone artifacts are key pieces of evidence that establish a chronology for the prehistoric occupation at ALA-554. These respective assemblages provide information on the date of initial site occupation and the temporal range of the site's habitation. In addition, these artifacts offer an opportunity to determine if relative typological dates support absolute dates derived from hydration and radiometric testing.

Projectile points are subject to frequent morphological change that can correspond to population migrations, shifting technological traditions, and the transmission of cultural ideas (Justice 2002). Around A.D. 1100, large bifacial darts fell out of favor with the introduction of bow-and-arrow technology, which is associated with the promulgation of small projectile points in the Bay Area (Bennyhoff 1994a:54; Hylkema 2002:49; Moratto 1984:563). The beginning of the Augustine pattern (A.D. 1200 to 1720) at the onset of the Late period is marked by the arrival of Stockton series projectile points (Bennyhoff 1994b:74; Groza 2002). Stockton cluster points feature lateral margins with notching retouch that creates distinctive serrations (Figure 2). These points originated in the Sacramento Delta region around A.D. 700 and