

29 October 2025

Mendocino County Archeological Commission
Mendocino County, CA

Re: Request for Renewal--CDPR 2025-0001
45551 South Caspar Drive, Caspar (APN 118-380-05)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Background

In June, my wife Lisa Weger and I requested an extension on our existing CDPR from the County. We own a one acre undeveloped lot in the Caspar South Sub-division located south of Fort Bragg. Our present CDPR permits us to build a single family house.

Mr. Liam Crowley, County Planner, informed us that the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) noted a possibility of finding archaeological resources on-site. He was very helpful in suggesting I contact NWIC and try to obtain a copy of a 1980 Archaeological Survey conducted by Steven Kuhn. The Survey covered the Caspar South Sub-division and was prepared for the South Caspar Wastewater Project. Steven Kuhn was an employee of the Cultural Resources Facility, Sonoma State Academic Foundation.

After some hassles, cost, and time, I obtained the Report (attached). I originally asked NWIC if they could please forward the Survey directly to the Archaeological Commission, but for reasons I did not really understand, they said they would not do that. They also explained they had to redact information in the Report that did not pertain to our property. The Report survey covered those lots without houses (ie. undeveloped parcels) in the sub-division.

Survey Findings

The Survey consisted of two phases: a.) review of maps, reports, and other documents on file at Sonoma State, and b.) field survey. Kuhn reported:

“No surface indication of historic or prehistoric archaeological resources were encountered during the survey...According to information presently available, it appears that no prehistoric or historic cultural resources are located within the project Area”. (page 7)

Recommendations

Kuhn reported:

“Since no cultural resources were identified...no recommendations are offered at this time. Should buried archaeological materials be encountered...it is recommended that all work in their immediate vicinity be halted, and a qualified archeologist contacted...” (page 8)

Kuhn’s recommendation (above) is almost identical to the recommendation to which we previously agreed in our approved request to renew our 2024 CDP:

“ If any archaeological sites or artifacts are discovered during site excavation or construction activities, the applicant shall cease and desist from all further excavation and disturbances within one hundred (100) feet of the discovery, and make notification of the discovery to the Director of the Department of Planning and Building Services. The Director will coordinate further actions for the protection of the archaeological resources in accordance with the Section 22.12.090 of the Mendocino County Code. (Item No. 8, page 3).

Conclusion

There are more than 90 lots in the subdivision, averaging one acre in size. At the time of the Kuhn Survey, more than 50 were developed. Since that time, another 40 houses have been built. Today, only a handful of undeveloped lots remain (less than 10).

Since 1980, no archaeological resources have been identified on the subdivision. Nor have any arch resources been noted by SSU. I consulted with Stephen McCormack, long-time resident and keeper of the Sub-division records. Mr. McCormack reports no records nor personal knowledge of cultural resources having been discovered during development of any of the parcels.

Based upon the findings of Kuhn’s 1980 Survey, the existence of very few remaining undeveloped parcels, and the lack of any cultural resources found during previous construction of the many residences, it would seem logical that the chance of finding resources on any one lot is somewhat remote.

In consideration of these factors, I would ask the Commission to allow us to renew our CDP under the same above-cited (Item No. 8) conditions to which we agreed in the approved 2024 extension.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Craig Blencowe