



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL CONSULTANTS

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June 13, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to transmit Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms for your property at 3300 Panorama Drive in Morro Bay, California. As many of the buildings and structures on the property were constructed more than 50 years ago, the City of Morro Bay has requested that the property be evaluated for its potential eligibility to the California Register of Historical Resources prior to issuance of a demolition permit. The DPR 523 forms record existing facilities, provide a construction history, discuss the historical context of the facility, and evaluate its eligibility for the California Register of Historical Resources using the procedures outlined at California PRC 5024.1 and the guidelines provided in National Register Bulletin 15.

The former Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Estero Bay was constructed in 1961 to supply fuel from offshore tankers to Lemoore Naval Air Station in Fresno County. The former DFSP Estero Bay property retains a high degree of historic integrity, as it is located in its original location and apparently retains its original facilities. However, it does not appear to meet any of the four eligibility criteria for the California Register of Historical Resources. Though associated with important historical events (Criterion 1), namely the development of military infrastructure during the Cold War, it was only one of hundreds of such fuel supply facilities around the country and is not distinguished in terms of size or age. It does not appear to be eligible under Criterion 2 because historical research identified no persons important in local, State, or national history as having been associated with the facility during its period of operation. Likewise, it does not appear eligible under Criterion 3, as the buildings on the site are not architecturally distinctive, while there are thousands of double-walled steel fuel storage tanks of similar vintage in California. Finally, the buildings and structures on site are unlikely to 'yield information important to history or prehistory' (Criterion 4). For these reasons DFSP Estero Bay **does not appear to be eligible** for the California Register of Historical Resources.

Research for this project was undertaken at the Earth Sciences and Map Library and Main Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and uses historic aerial imagery from the California Coastal Records Project. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at San Bruno, California was contacted to inquire whether it holds records of the former DFSP Estero Bay facility. Archivist William Greene of NARA consulted records of Naval District 12 and informed the researcher that no records specifically discussing the facility were on file.

The attached forms were prepared by Dr. Daniel Shoup of Archaeological/Historical Consultants. Dr. Shoup has over 10 years of experience in research and documentation of historic properties in California, with extensive experience in energy infrastructure research.

Yours truly,

Daniel Shoup, Associate Principal