



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY LECTURE SERIES

“Indigenous Landscape Management Practices in Central California: The Results and Implications of Recent Eco-Archaeology Research on the Santa Cruz Coast”

December 8, 2016: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

160 Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Reception to follow

A Panel Presentation by:

Rob Cuthrell¹, Mark Hylkema², Tim Hyland², Kent Lightfoot¹, Abran Lopez³, and Valentin Lopez³

The panel discussion presents the recent results of an on-going research program that is examining various kinds of evidence for indigenous landscape management practices in Central California. We will discuss the latest findings from collaborative fieldwork on the Santa Cruz Coast during the summer of 2016 to investigate some of the earliest known coastal sites in the region, dating to at least 7000-3000 BP. Three research questions are being addressed: What is the earliest physical evidence for sustained landscape burning along the Central California Coast? How did these practices change over time? And how did these practices influence local biological communities? The ultimate goal of the project is to examine how the physical evidence from the archaeological record can aid in the contemporary management of public lands by providing additional information about how people affected landscape biota over long periods of time. The findings of the project will be of direct relevance to the California State Parks and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust who are generating plans for the ecological restoration of selected public lands on the Central California Coast.