



THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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April 30, 2015

Christopher Voight
Staff Director
California Association of Professional Scientists
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 500.
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for the Reclassification of State Archaeologists as Heritage Scientists..

Dear Mr. Voight,

This letter has been sent by the Society for California (SCA) on behalf of archaeologists employed by California State Parks and Calfire who have been working with their union, the California Association of Professional Scientists, to revise the State Archaeologist classification. The new classification within the tiered state service system would reorganize the State Archaeologists into "Heritage Scientists," for reasons similar to those that lead to the recently implemented Resource Specialist re-classification. Of these reasons, parity of pay and promotional opportunity, similar to other resource specialists and scientists in State service seems to be a reasonable expectation.

California State Archaeologists play a crucial role in cultural resources management in support of State Parks' mission; *"to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."* Since the inception of California State Parks over 150 years ago, acquisition of historic properties and protection of cultural resources has always been a fundamental role of the State Parks system. The responsibilities that go with the duties of State Archaeologists and the professional requirements necessary to implement state policies warrants recognition. Similarly, archaeologists at Calfire maintain a front-line role in the protection of our cultural resources.

The Society for California Archaeology supports the re-classification efforts initiated by California State Archaeologists and the California Association of Professional Scientists. In addition to our support for salary equity, the SCA recognizes the excellent record of service regarding cultural resources management conducted by State Archaeologists.

Sincerely,

Jelmer Eerkens
President Elect

Jennifer Darcangelo
Immediate Past President