

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS Phillip Burton Federal Building Post Office Box 36023 450 Golden Gate Avenue SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

CESPD-DE

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Albuquerque District Commander, Los Angeles District Commander, Sacramento District Commander, San Francisco District



SUBJECT: Regionalization of South Pacific Division Archaeological Collections

1. **REFERENCES**:

- a. CECW-CO Memorandum on Regionalization of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Archaeological Collections to be managed by the Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (CMAC), dated 7 Sep 2017.
- b. CESPD Memorandum on South Pacific Division Archaeological Collections, dated 24 Mar 2015.
- c. 36 C.F.R. Part 79 Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections. Requires that archaeological collections be properly managed and preserved in repositories with adequate long-term curatorial capabilities that meet Federal standards; also defined in USACE regulations.
- 2. This memo is intended to provide you with an update on the regionalization effort, to share information on the major milestones and updated schedule for this effort, and to provide points of contacts from each district and our division. This information and the process for regionalization have been coordinated with the MCX CMAC (See enclosures).
- 3. In 1994, the MCX CMAC was established to develop and deliver centralized policy, management, and administration of USACE-wide compliance with archaeological collections management. To accomplish this, the MCX CMAC developed a professional team including not only archaeologists, but also anthropologists, archivists, forensic scientists, and others with skills particular to their functions.
- 4. USACE owns nearly 50,000 cubic feet of artifacts and associated documentation housed in over 150 repositories of varying standards. Within SPD, approximately 4,000 cubic feet of archaeological materials have been removed from USACE lands. These materials

and associated archives are stored in approximately 21 repositories in six states. The number and variable standards of these repositories make comprehensive management, oversight, conservation, and public access difficult and inefficient. Annual expenditures for curation fees are substantial and tending to increase; such that regionalization would result in substantial long-term cost savings and overall improved care for artifacts and records under USACE ownership.

- 5. As described in Reference 1.a, the MCX CMAC has been tasked with overseeing a nationwide effort to regionalize archaeological collections to ensure they are properly managed following standardized processes that meet Federal requirements. The regionalization effort will occur with close coordination between MSCs and respective districts.
- 6. In 2015, SPD districts were first directed to begin reviewing the ownership, volume, and location of USACE-owned archaeological collections in anticipation of the regionalization effort, as described in Reference 1.b.
- 7. Because each regionalization process step informs subsequent steps, their individual completion will be coordinated by each district with SPD before moving ahead. Tribal coordination, for example, will occur after the collections data gathering and ownership verification steps have established a baseline of collections information. We seek to inform tribal coordination with complete, evidence-based information on USACE owned collections.
- 8. After collection reviews are finalized, the MCX CMAC will prepare a comprehensive report providing the current size, location, and status of SPD collections. The MCX CMAC will then visit a selection of the repositories now being used before preparing Draft Finding/Recommendation Reports, which will be shared with the MSC and the districts for review.
- 9. Because the regionalization process will not be completed until approximately FY 2026, it is likely that districts will need to make decisions regarding current curation contracts, some of which may expire before FY 2026. Any such arrangements for contract extensions or transfer of collections will be discussed with my POCs below, along with the MCX CMAC.
- 10. Effective communication between SPD Operations and Planning counterparts and in each of the SPD districts, and the MCX CMAC, is required for the regionalization process to be successful, and to meet the requirements described in References 1.a and 1.b. A communications plan is being developed to assist these efforts, and to enable district to district support as needed.

11. I appreciate your continuing assistance with this effort, and should you have questions, please contact the SPD POC, Dr. Nedenia Kennedy, CESPD-PD-P, 415-503-6585 or Meg Gaffney-Smith, Acting Chief, CESPD-PD-O, 415-503-6530.

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Timeline Points of Contact

Encls:

ERLY M. COLLOTON, PMP Brigadier General, USA Commanding

Tentative Timeline for Regionalization of South Pacific Division Archaeological Collections

Tentative Timeline	Item
FY 19-20	MCX Receives Collections Data from 4 SPD Districts
FY 19-20	MCX Gathers Information/Conducts Monthly Calls with Districts & SPD
FY 19 (Jun - Sep)	Repository Site Visits
FY 20 (Oct - Jan)	MXC Drafts Findings/Recommendations Report
FY 20 (Feb - Apr)	Plan Tribal Information Meetings/Webinar
FY 20 (May - Jul)	Districts & SPD Review Draft Findings/Recommendations Report
FY 20 (Aug - Sep)	MCX Incorporates District & SPD Comments
FY 21 (Oct - Dec)	MCX Sends Tribal Notification Letter re. Meetings, to include Findings/Recommendations Report
FY 21 (Jan - Mar)	Conduct Tribal Meetings
FY 21 (Apr – Jul)	Contracting for 1 st Regional Center
FY 21	Transfer Collections to 1 st Regional Center
FY 22	Establish 2 nd Regional Center
FY 23	Establish 3rd Regional Center
FY 25	Determine if Additional Regional Centers are Needed
FY 26	Regionalization Complete

