



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Initiation of Section 106 Review of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park a Challenge Grant to build the Historic Core of the Park. This area, now vacant, is the Park's most historically significant area. The area includes the site where the 1821 and 1840 Peralta adobes once stood, of which no physical traces remain. Two historical features in the area of potential effect (APE) that are physically present are an archaeological deposit and an underground well. As proposed, the Historic Core project will preserve and interpret the Peralta adobes, the well, and the archaeological deposits.

The Historic Core proposed project includes outdoor interpretative features regarding the history of the site. Built elements will include outdoor displays, a flexible shade structure, an archaeological deposit viewing station, a community picnic table, and adobe oven and grill. In addition, an enclosure with seating will be created and the Historic Core area will be paved.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, as a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

In a letter dated October 30, 2014, the California State Historic preservation Office affirmed a decision of No Adverse Effect with the following conditions:

1. The Historic Core is not within the 1870 Antonio Maria Peralta House boundary and construction will not impinge on the house or its surrounding garden. Instead, the undertaking will enhance the visual setting of the house through interpretation;
2. Feature 1, the archaeological deposit, will be preserved in place, protected and interpreted to visitors in such a way that provides a view into the rancho past of Oakland;
3. Feature 2, the well, will be avoided; and
4. An archaeological monitor will be on site during all construction activities to ensure proper avoidance measures are implemented throughout the duration of the undertaking.

In this public notice, NEH is providing information about the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park project and its effects on historic properties. We are also seeking public input on the project, and would appreciate comments on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties by *April 17, 2015*. Comments may be submitted to the NEH via e-mail at challenge@neh.gov or by mail to: 400 7th Street, SW, Rm 4003, National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Challenge Grants, Washington, DC 20506.