

## Unalaska South Channel Bridge Salvage Archaeological Recovery Plan Overview

- The earlier proposed monitoring plan for removal of the Amaknak Bridge Site by the bridge construction contractor has been restructured into a separate archaeological salvage recovery project to be conducted in advance of bridge construction. This will require an on-site archaeological team and services of a local excavator. Work at the midden will be completed before the bridge construction contractor mobilizes at the site during summer 2006.
  - This is the result of several factors considered by ADOT&PF and FHWA that included concerns over archaeological monitoring complications with the construction contractor, especially with the potential to encounter additional human remains during the removal of the cultural midden.
  - The salvage recovery project would start this spring as soon as weather conditions allow. A month long effort is anticipated.
- Tryck Nyman and Hayes (TN&H), with Arnold Harder as Project Manager, is under contract for the design of this project. The TN&H contract will be amended to include salvage recovery of the midden within the project limits.
- Instead of soliciting for archaeological services, Mike Yarborough (Cultural Resources Consultants, LLC) will lead the archaeological team.
  - Mike has been the Section 106/archaeological subcontractor during the development of this project and instrumental in developing the project Memorandum of Agreement and Salvage Recovery Plan (formerly the project Construction Monitoring Plan), has extensive familiarity with the site and the goals of this effort, and provides a wide range of archaeological experience in Alaska that also includes construction monitoring.
  - Mike will select the archaeological team that will have someone with forensic archaeological experience. Human remains will be treated in accordance with the already established MOA protocol. Mike will coordinate with the Museum of the Aleutians for use of their laboratory facilities.
- Major components of the Salvage Recovery Plan:
  - A holding area on Ounalashka Corporation (OC) property is being established for the removed midden material. The area, which is near OC and the Museum, will be secured with fencing and the gate locked. Transported material from the midden will be end-dumped and not compacted. When hauling operations are completed, the midden material will be seeded so that the mound is stabilized with vegetation.
  - It has been determined that about 1/5 of the site (northwest portion) is outside of the footprint of the bridge construction project and does not need to be removed. The area will be stabilized with vegetation and geotextile matting as necessary to ensure that it will not be compromised through erosion.

- The project will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will involve backhoe removal of the northeastern portion of the site to define stratigraphy profiles. Material will be removed until a sterile layer below the cultural lens is encountered. ADOT&PF will contact MOA parties to arrange for a status briefing at the close of this phase. Phase 2 will involve backhoe lifts to remove the remainder of the site within the project limits.
- The previous MOA constraints that involved the timing restrictions and limitations on the number of features to be recorded and cultural items to be collected is no longer a part of this plan. Instead the goals of this effort will be based on recommendations from the previous excavation to address data and information gaps, and will focus more on the configuration and layering of the houses, and significant components of those house features.