Much of today’s anthropological investigation takes place in a regulated context where the work is carried out as much to ensure compliance with federal, state, or local laws and regulations as it is exclusively to pursue research objectives. Be it archaeology, ethnography, or myriad related studies, the kind of research we do, the questions we ask, and the data we seek to acquire is frequently structured and dictated by the requirements of regulatory compliance. Such work is generally subsumed under the rubric of Cultural Resource Management (CRM), an unfortunate locution which defies ready definition but is also known as historic preservation, heritage management, salvage archaeology, and other terms.

In this talk Barry Price will discuss the conduct of research in the context of the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other laws and regulations. He will provide a brief overview of the history of historic preservation, its social context, and current application in state and federal regulatory processes. He will also touch on career opportunities in CRM. As a case study we will examine recent regulated archaeological and historical research at Mission San Luis Obispo.

In addition to his duties at Applied EarthWorks, Mr. Price currently teaches cultural resources law and practice at California Polytechnic State University (CalPoly) in San Luis Obispo. He earned his M.A. in CRM at Sonoma State University and has more than 40 years of experience in prehistoric and historical archaeology, architectural history, historic preservation, and related disciplines. He has worked throughout California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and has authored hundreds of technical reports, journal articles, planning documents, and other publications. He has particular expertise in regulatory compliance, environmental impact analysis, and the acquisition of important research data via regulated processes.