

# ARCH/BIOANTH LUNCH TALK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 12:00PM  
SOC SCI 1, 261

## DR. REBECCA ALLEN, RPA



CULTURAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL DIRECTOR,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATES  
SACRAMENTO, CA

### *THE SUM OF ALL THINGS SMALL: NATIVE AMERICANS AT MISSION SANTA CRUZ*

Many excavations at Mission Santa Cruz have found glass beads, shell beads, lithics, ceramic fragments, animal bone, macrofloral and pollen evidence, metal artifacts, and a long list of other small items. Such things are commonly recovered from Spanish colonial sites in California. Over the past 40 years, archaeologists have ascribed the small detritus of everyday life to Native American inhabitants of the mission. Although the interpretation of these artifacts points to Native American residents, archaeological and historical discussions of mission life still often misses a fundamental point: California missions were and are Native American places. There is great potential for small things to serve as reference points against which to understand the complex social relationships that constituted Spanish missionization and colonization, and more importantly, what constituted the Native experience in historic and modern California.



*Dr. Rebecca Allen, RPA is Cultural Resources Technical Director at Environmental Science Associates. She also serves as: Associate Editor for Historical Archaeology; Series Editor for joint publications with the Society for Historical Archaeology and University of Nebraska Press; Community Partner for the Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project and Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University; and Research Associate at the Archaeology Research Lab at the University of California, Berkeley. Rebecca is also President Elect for the Society for California Archaeology.*

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