Discovery Protocols:

1. Immediately stop excavation within 100 feet of the discovery.

2. Make note of the discovery to the Director of Mendocino County Planning and Building Services (PBS).

3. Per the Director's instruction, visibly stake around the area of discovery, no more than 10 feet apart, a circle with a radius of no less than 100 feet.

4. Grant permission to any authorized representative of the Director of PBS to enter onto the lands of discovery.

In the Event of Human Discovery:

1. Immediately stop all excavation and/or ground disturbance, whether or not an archeological site is involved.

2. Contact and notify the Sheriff-Coroner of Mendocino County and, if an archaeological site is involved, the Sheriff-Coroner shall notify a designated representative of the Archaeological Commission.

3. If the remains are considered to be those of a Native American Indian, the Sheriff-Coroner shall make a notification as required by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Cultural Resources are irreplaceable phenomena of significance to the past of Mendocino County for the knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of our land. Mendocino County recognizes the importance in preserving cultural resources and has established regulations and mitigation for archaeological sites.

Any violations of the Archaeological Resource Chapter 22.12 is a misdemeanor and may face fines or prison time.

Federal and State Cultural Resource Regulations

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): requires that Federal agencies consider the effects of their actions on cultural resources.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA): describes the rights of Native American lineal descendants with respect to the treatment, repatriation, and disposition of Native American human remains and objects.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA): prohibits the excavation of archaeological resources on Federal projects without a permit.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): requires that effects to cultural resources be considered in the planning process for discretionary projects.
CULTURAL RESOURCES: are the physical evidence of past human activities. This includes prehistoric-era and historic-era resources. Buildings, objects, features, structures, and artifacts (with scientific, historic, and cultural value) are all examples of cultural resources.

DEFINITIONS:

HUMAN REMAINS means the body of a deceased human being in any stage of decomposition or completeness.

MATERIAL REMAINS means any physical evidence of human use or occupancy including, but not limited to, artifacts, beads, flakes of stone, fire fractured rocks, bones or teeth, pottery, groundstone (such as mortars and pestles), discolored soil (midden), paintings or carvings on rock surfaces, mounds, caves, places of settlement, burial grounds, ceremonial grounds, mines or trails.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST shall meet the standards as set by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and shall be listed by the Northwest Information Center (NIC) as a qualified professional archaeologist.

IMPACT MITIGATION:

- Avoiding any impact upon archaeological resources is the preferred form of mitigation. Avoidance can include conservation easements or deed restrictions.

- The archaeologist may use other mitigation measures such as protective covering or fencing.

WHEN MAY CONSTRUCTION CONTINUE?

Once proper archaeological inspections have been made and environmental clearance has been granted – this may include coordination between multiple agencies – construction may continue.