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New Titles

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Basgall, Mark E., and D. L. True

Bean, Lowell K., Robert L. Bettinger, Clinton M. Blount, Richard A. Gould, Michael J. Moratto, and Dorothea J. Theodoratus
1985 People of California, The Masterkey 59 (2-3).

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Eidsness, Janet P.

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An Archaeological Assay on Dry Creek, Sonoma County, California. Martin A. Baumhoff and Robert I. Orlins. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Research Facility Contributions No. 40, 1979, 244 pp., 30 figs., 30 maps, index, 3 appendices, $8.00 (paper).1

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Reported here is information on 62 sites in Sonoma County, northern California—results of an Environmental Impact Study done in 1974-75. Most of the work was survey; very limited test excavations were conducted in 1975, usually a single test pit at each site.

This volume is a good case study exemplifying the positive and negative aspects of environmental impact reports. On the positive side, very detailed work was done in a proposed reservoir area (the Warm Springs Dam project). It is unlikely that such a comprehensive surface survey would have been done here without the impetus of a construction project. The sites are described in seven “site groups”—geographic zones related to the various creeks draining into the reservoir basin. Individual sites are discussed in short passages, from as little as four lines up to a couple of pages of text. The site groups are discussed and analyzed in terms of activities represented, social organization, and changes through time. There is an interesting use of debitage ratios (pp. 185-191) applied to chronological problems. The authors suggest that the archaeological record shows a “progressive Penutianization of the Hokan peoples,” a most interesting hypothesis which is fitted to the archaeological record of the North Coast Ranges. This brief discussion is not (and cannot be) convincingly demonstrated with the available archaeological evidence, but it raises a number of very inter-