



### **Education Center Site Improvements at Wakamatsu Farm**

To complete Phase 1 of ARC's new Education Center, ARC has had to make some driveway improvements to meet County code requirements for fire safety. During a survey of the areas to be impacted by grading and filling activities, the arborist we consulted identified two native oak trees that have some damage from existing road use and other stressors. One blue oak was identified as dying because of extensive wounds and structural flaws which poses a hazard to foot and vehicle traffic, and it was tagged for removal. According to the arborist, the adjacent, larger, and healthier valley oak will benefit from the proposed construction activities because moving the road outside the dripline will alleviate the negative effects of soil compaction within the root zone. The arborist has also provided advice on how to restore the soil around the dripline of this heritage oak and hopefully extend its life. We believe our decision to remove the dying oak tree and re-route the driveway to protect the heritage valley oak is well-informed by professional opinion and is a sound decision.

To meet County code requirements for fire safety and to protect the heritage oak tree, our site engineer planned a circular entrance that routes traffic around the tree and near a site where Native American artifacts have been found in the past. We are aware of the importance of cultural resources, and we are taking steps to ensure their continued protection. Most of the grading activity in this area will not be excavation; rather, we will add dirt to bring it up to grade. In a small area, we will also scrape the topsoil and vegetation (yellow star-thistle and grasses) to achieve required specifications, including minor trenching for drainage. During our work in this area, ARC will have a tribal monitor on site to oversee grading activities, pause work, and provide guidance if artifacts are uncovered.

We are pleased that our Education Center will be ready to use during this upcoming winter season, and we look forward to hosting many educational events and programs in this space. Thank you for your support and continued patience as we complete this project! We invite any contact, questions, or concerns about this exciting project.

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