

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **SB Museum of Natural History Publishes New Volume on History of Chumash Settlement at Goleta Slough**

- *Goleta Slough Prehistory: Insights Gained from a Vanishing Archaeological Record* edited by Michael A. Glassow, Ph.D.
- Fourth volume in the series *Contributions in Anthropology*
- Now available in the Museum Store

**SANTA BARBARA, CA**—The Department of Anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has just published a fourth volume in its *Contributions in Anthropology* series, which aims to make available the findings of local archaeological research. The new monograph *Goleta Slough Prehistory: Insights Gained From a Vanishing Archaeological Record* was edited by UCSB Department of Anthropology Professor Emeritus Michael A. Glassow, Ph.D., who specializes in the Santa Barbara Channel region between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago.

The collected chapters of the monograph by various anthropologists share information about the long history of human settlement at Goleta Slough, particularly at the Chumash village known as *Helo'* established on the hill between Goleta Beach and what is now the Santa Barbara Airport. *Helo'* was one of numerous Chumash towns in the Goleta Valley, which may have been one of the most densely inhabited zones in aboriginal California. The surrounding area of Goleta Slough was once a much larger estuary, offering abundant natural resources to the people who fished, hunted, foraged, and traded there.

Curator of Anthropology John R. Johnson, Ph.D., is the author of the second chapter, which draws on his expertise in Mission-era records to illuminate the socioeconomic ties among Goleta Valley Chumash towns and those of the wider region. Dr. Johnson traces the kinship relations of chiefs to trace networks of influence that bound together the towns at Goleta Slough and those inland and on the Channel Islands.

As Johnson explains, some of the modern research in the new volume revisits the earliest anthropological work done at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History by David Banks Rogers, the institution's first anthropology curator: "The sites covered in this 314-page volume were first described by David Banks Rogers in our Museum's first-published book, *Prehistoric Man on the Santa Barbara Coast* (1929). The volume updates Rogers's study by including detailed analyses of midden constituents, reconstruction of the paleo-environment, and placement of sites in their chronological context through radiocarbon dating."

Work by Rogers and others salvaged important artifacts and cultural knowledge in danger of being swept away by development in the region. The series in general helps to make research available on development sites where assessment has been required prior to potential land disturbance. Outside of

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hearings on development projects, these government-mandated reports seldom make it into the public eye, so the series brings relevance and transparency to local archaeological work.

*Goleta Slough Prehistory* is now available in the Museum Store.

For more information on the Museum's Department of Anthropology, visit [sbnature.org/collections-research/anthropology](https://sbnature.org/collections-research/anthropology).

### About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

*Powered by Science. Inspired by Nature.* Founded in 1916, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History inspires a thirst for discovery and a passion for the natural world. The Museum seeks to connect people to nature for the betterment of both, and prides itself on being *naturally different*. For more information, visit [sbnature.org](https://sbnature.org).



Looking east from the *Helo*' site during 1932–1933 excavations conducted by Van Valkenburgh for Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Credit: Anthropology Department, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County