

Comment TG-01



Benjamin H. Nuvamsa
CHAIRMAN

Todd Honyaoma Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

May 3, 2007

Mr. Rege Leach
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300
Durango, Colorado 81301

Dear Mr. Leach,

This letter is in response to your March 30, 2007 correspondence with an enclosed copy of the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in this project area, known to Hopi people as *Hisatsinom*, People of Long Ago, and therefore we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we **have an interest** in and concerns about potential impacts of proposed projects on prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. We understand that significant cultural resource impacts would result from the proposed project, an area rich in cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe.

We further understand that an analysis predicts 104 historic properties in the area of potential effects for the SJRPNM preferred alternative, and that approximately 83 of these sites would require treatment, and 183 cultural resource sites are predicted in the NIIP Amarillo Alternative, and approximately 145 of these sites would require treatment. **The total** costs of a cultural resources program for the preferred alternative is estimated at approximately \$11 million, based on January, 2005 dollars.

We neither support nor oppose the SJRPNM preferred alternative and the NIIP Amarillo Alternative. However, if either of these alternatives is implemented, we accept Reclamation's invitation to participate in consultations including an ethnographic overview and Traditional Cultural Properties study of the project area, and the development of the Programmatic Agreement to stipulate procedures for continuing to consider measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse effects on significant cultural resources during the implementation of the project, including participation in site visits to discuss draft eligibility determinations and preliminary treatment of affected sites.

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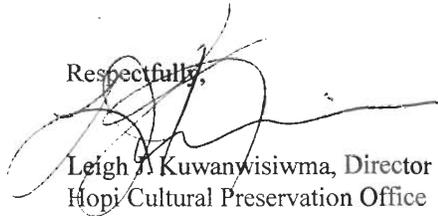
We appreciate that the Bureau of Reclamation will consult with the Hopi Tribe to determine if we consider any cultural resources within the area of potential effect as having religious and cultural significance for their communities. We are assured that the stipulations will ensure that a study of Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties is conducted within the project area, and we accept this stipulation for a Hopi Traditional Cultural Property study funded by the proponents.

In addition, there multiple land jurisdictions are involved in this proposal, and it includes the involvement of Federal, State, and Tribal governments, as well as numerous Tribal governments defined as concurring parties. Therefore, to ensure the respectful disposition and reburial of Ancestral Puebloan human remains and funerary objects that may be disturbed as a result of this project, as close to their original burial locations as possible, we request participation in the development of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Plan of Action.

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Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office