



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

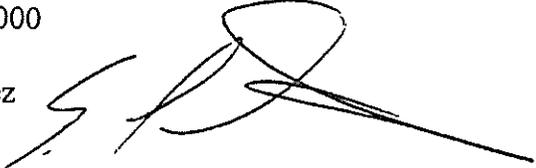
IN REPLY REFER TO:

SEP 16 1998

W-6100

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Director, PN, MP, LC, UC, GP
Attention: PN-1000, MP-100, LC-1000, UC-100, GP-1000
Director, Reclamation Service Center
Attention: D-1000
Director, Program Analysis
Attention: D-5000, D-5300, D-5400, D-5500
Director, Technical Service Center
Attention: D-8000

From: Eluid L. Martinez
Commissioner 

Subject: Reclamation compliance with Indian Sacred Sites Executive Order (No. 13007)

On April 28, 1997, I signed into effect Reclamation's interim guidance for implementing Executive Order 13007 (EO). Attached is the final guidance, which shall replace the interim guidance effective immediately, as well as a copy of the associated Departmental Manual Chapter. Copies of these documents should be distributed to all Reclamation Regional and Area staff who may have to work with sacred sites issues, including Area Managers, managers and staff working in the areas of NEPA compliance, realty, cultural resources, etc.

I also hereby reaffirm Reclamation's commitment to manage Federal lands under its jurisdiction to: (1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, and (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. These actions shall be carried out to the extent practicable, permitted by law and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions. This policy shall be carried out in a manner consistent with Reclamation's government-to-government policy for working with Indian tribes, including consulting with tribally designated representatives whenever it appears that Reclamation activities may compromise the integrity of or access to sacred sites.

Within the guidelines established by the EO, Reclamation's goals shall be to ensure that:

- a. its actions do not adversely affect Indian sacred sites, to the extent practicable;
- b. access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites is accommodated;

c. reasonable advance written notice is given to affected tribes of proposed actions, plans, projects, activities, or decisions which may adversely affect Indian sacred sites or restrict access or ceremonial use of such sites;

d. consultation with federally recognized tribes is carried out when contemplated Reclamation actions could cause adverse effects, or to discuss other issues associated with the EO; and

e. confidentiality of information relating to sacred sites is protected.

I am also directing the Regional Directors to provide copies of this guidance to tribes in their regions who may have sacred sites potentially affected by Reclamation actions. Copies should also be sent to tribes outside of the Reclamation states who are thought to have an interest in sacred sites located within that region.

Questions or comments about this document should be directed to Ms. Adrienne Marks, W-6100, via electronic mail, or faxed at 202-208-6688 or she can be reached at (202) 208-5000.

Attachments