



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**ARIZONA
STATE MUSEUM**

Arizona State Museum

PO Box 210026

Tucson AZ 85721-0026

(520) 621-6281

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

6 January 2022

Adam Assenza
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption –
In Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Assenza,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in consultation regarding the above-listed project. As depicted on maps included in your letter to Dr. Patrick Lyons, dated 10 December 2021, the proposed project area is located near the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, within Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona. The proposed project area crosses multiple jurisdictions, including Arizona State Land Department, the Town of Gilbert, the City of Mesa, and Town of Queen Creek, and Unincorporated Maricopa and Pinal County. At least nine archaeological sites are present within the project area, several of which are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

Arizona State Museum (ASM) is responsible for administering the Arizona Antiquities Act (AAA; A.R.S. §41-841 *et seq.*) and which protects cultural resources and human remains on city, county, and state owned lands in Arizona. ASM also administers A.R.S. §41-865, which protects human remains and funerary objects on private lands in Arizona.

In order to comply with the AAA, a professional archaeologist must be consulted to identify any archaeological sites that are located on city, county, state, or private land within the project area. If present, potential adverse effects to these sites must be mitigated by an ASM-approved plan. You can find a list of archaeological consultants currently permitted to work on city, county, or state lands in Arizona here:
<https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/crm/document/aaa-qualified-consultants>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at splummer@arizona.edu. / 520-621-4795

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shannon Plummer".

Shannon Plummer, M.A., R.P.A.
Arizona State Museum
Arizona Antiquities Act Administrator

From: [Plummer, Shannon D - \(splummer\)](#)
To: [Assenza, Adam](#)
Cc: Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com; [Lyons, Patrick D - \(plyons\)](#)
Subject: RE: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation
Date: Thursday, January 6, 2022 5:08:44 PM
Attachments: [STA DocketNoFD36501 ASMcomments.pdf](#)

Hello Mr. Assenza,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in consultation regarding the proposed UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access project. Attached is ASM's response to the below request for information.

We prefer correspondence via email. Please cc me on future communications (splummer@arizona.edu), as I act as Dr. Lyons' designated representative in matters relating to ASM's administration of the Arizona Antiquities Act.

Many thanks,
Shannon

Shannon Plummer, M.A., R.P.A.
Arizona Antiquities Act Administrator

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From: Lyons, Patrick D - (plyons)
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Plummer, Shannon D - (splummer) <splummer@arizona.edu>
Subject: FW: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Patrick D. Lyons, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Arizona State Museum
Professor, School of Anthropology

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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From: Buckley, Maggie <Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com>

Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 3:04 PM

To: Lyons, Patrick D - (plyons) <plyons@arizona.edu>

Cc: Adam.Assenza@stb.gov; Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov>; Phoebus, Elizabeth (Betsi) <Betsi.Phoebus@jacobs.com>

Subject: [EXT]UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

External Email

Hello Dr. Lyons,

The Union Pacific Railroad Company intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. An initial agency consultation letter is attached that provides additional information about the project and requests your agency's input regarding the proposed rail line by January 10, 2022. This letter was also mailed to your office on December 9, 2021. Please let us know if you prefer to receive future correspondence by mail or electronically and the preferred point of contact for your agency.

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Assenza, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis Project Manager, at (202) 245-0301 or Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Thank you,

Maggie Buckley | [Jacobs](https://www.jacobs.com) | Environmental Project Manager (she/her)
O: 425.233.3117 | M: 206.949.5955 | maggie.buckley@jacobs.com
999 W Riverside Avenue, Suite 500 | Spokane, WA 99201 | USA

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