



December 11, 2023

Ms. Glenda Luhnnow
 Manager/Archaeology and Cultural Resources,
 Jacobs

Re: Consulting Party Site Damage Update – Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE), Surface Transportation Board Docket No. FD 36501

Dear Ms. Luhnnow:

In response for your request for input regarding the Consulting Party Site Damage Update for the proposed PIRATE rail project. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800 § 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Mesa Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the project in consultation with the City of Mesa Archaeologist, Alison Stoltman and have provided the following response:

- Regarding the spoils pile in the wye, mechanical screening would process a higher volume and depending on the mesh size can catch small artifacts. Mechanical processing does, however, have a higher possibility of damage to artifacts. Additional information on the sampling strategy and the type of mechanical devices used is required to assess the potential for damage. Furthermore, we would defer to the descendant nations on the preference between mechanical and hand screening in consideration of the potential of uncovering ancestors. Due to our small staff, we could not commit to participating in the screening process.
- It is important to determine the origin of the spoil. Sample screening will then be the best way to evaluate the potential of cultural materials.
- We have no further feedback on the *Proposed Framework for Comprehensive Archaeological Site Damage Assessment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act*, distributed on November 14, 2023?

Thank you for opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Kopaskie-Brown".

Mary Kopaskie- Brown
 Historic Preservation Officer
mary.kopaskie-brown@mesaaz.gov
 (480) 644-3850

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Stoltman".

Alison Stoltman
 Acting Deputy Director/City Archaeologist
 Arizona Museum of Natural History
alison.stoltman@mesaaz.gov, (480) 644-4040



cc: Robert Apodaca, Deputy Director Development Services
Rachel Nettles, Assistant Planning Director
Brett Hanlon, Principal Planner (City of Mesa)
Maura Jackson, Historic Preservation Planner (City of Mesa)
Kellie Rorex, Senior Planner (City of Mesa)