

Four Southern Tribes Cultural Working Group Meeting

**Pecos Industrial Rail Access
and Train Extension (PIRATE)**

**Docket No. FD 36501
Union Pacific Railroad Company
Construction and Operation Exemption
in Maricopa County, Arizona**



December 19, 2024

Presentation Overview

Project Recap

- Project description
- Identification and evaluation of historic properties

Archaeological Site Damage

- Damage summary
- Damage area recap
- Noninvasive damage assessment results
- Invasive damage assessment results

Next Steps

- Finalize report
- Board addresses Section 110(k)
- Section 106 and NEPA resume
- Consultation continues



Project Recap

PIRATE Project Description

- Approximately 6 miles of new single track rail line in Maricopa County
- Connection of UP's Phoenix Subdivision main line track to industrial properties southeast of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
- Approximately 2.5 miles of new support track along the main line between Power and Ellsworth Roads

Map Redacted

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties

- Four prehistoric sites eligible for listing on the NRHP were identified in the APE
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- It was determined that the project would adversely affect these sites, and an MOA and Historic Properties Treatment Plan were drafted

Photos Redacted

Sensitive Cultural Areas in the APE

Map Redacted



Archaeological Site Damage

APE, Site Locations, and Damage Areas

[REDACTED]

Damage Area 1 at [REDACTED] – Pre- and Post-Damage Conditions

May 2022: Pre-damage conditions in the APE
at [REDACTED]

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August 2023: Post-damage conditions in
the APE at [REDACTED] following
retention basin excavation and material
stockpiling [REDACTED].

Damage Area 2 at [REDACTED] – Pre- and Post-Damage Conditions

May 2022: Pre-damage conditions at
[REDACTED] in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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August 2023: Post-damage conditions at
[REDACTED] following retention basin
excavation in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Damage Area 3 at [REDACTED] – Pre- and Post-Damage Conditions

May 2022: Pre-damage conditions at

[REDACTED] in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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August 2023: Post-damage conditions at
[REDACTED] following grading and
equipment storage in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Damage Area 4 at [REDACTED] – Pre- and Post-Damage Conditions

May 2022: Pre-damage conditions in the APE
at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

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August 2023: Post-damage conditions in the
APE at [REDACTED] following grading
activities [REDACTED].

Damage Area 5 at [REDACTED] – Pre- and Post-Damage Conditions



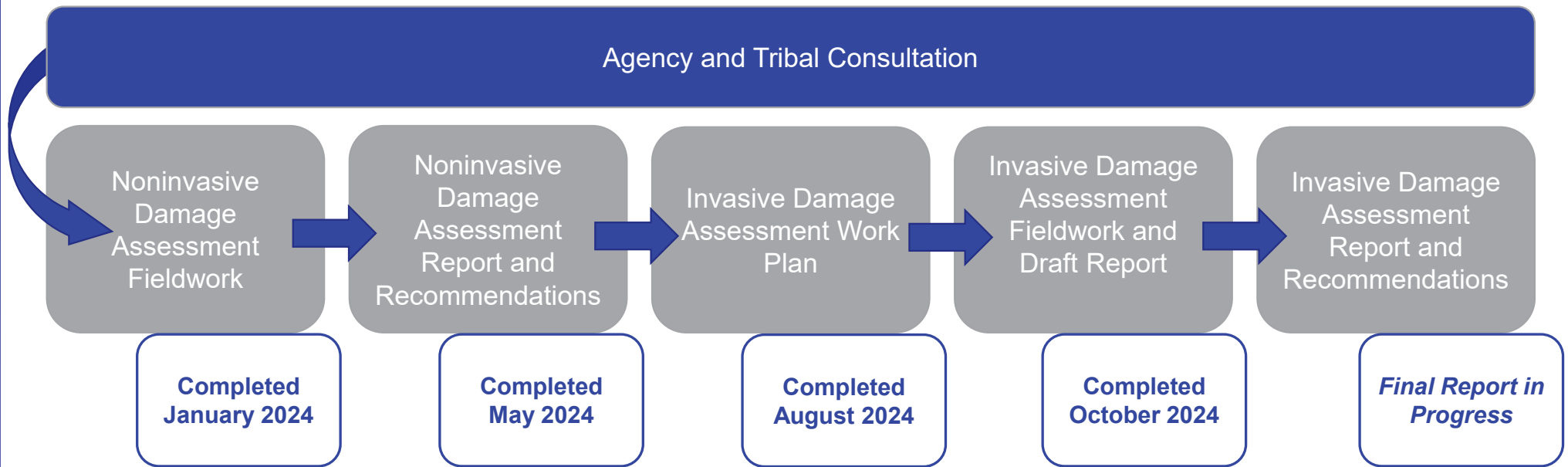
May 2022: Pre-damage conditions at

[REDACTED] in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

August 2023: Post-damage conditions at
[REDACTED] following vegetation
removal in the APE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].



Damage Assessment Process



Noninvasive Damage Assessment Fieldwork Results and Recommendations

Damage Class	Definition	Damage Area	Invasive Fieldwork Recommendations
Major Damage	Surface disturbance is deeper than 2 feet (60.96 centimeters [cm]) <u>or</u> intersects previously recorded artifact concentrations (ACs) or features <u>or</u> intersects human remains	Damage Areas 1 and 2	Conduct geomorphological trenching in Damage Areas 1 and 2 Sample screen 3% of material stockpile in Damage Area 1
Moderate Damage	Surface disturbance is less than 1 foot (30.49 cm) deep <u>and</u> intersects any previously recorded ACs or features, <u>or</u> if the surface disturbance is between 1 and 2 feet (30.49 cm - 60.96 cm) deep	Damage Area 4	None
Minor Damage	Surface disturbance is less than 1 foot (30.49 cm) deep <u>and does not</u> intersect any previously recorded ACs or features	Damage Areas 3 and 5	Removal of vegetative material at Damage Area 5 with qualified archaeological monitor

Invasive Damage Assessment Geomorphological Results

- Stratigraphy was compared to that recorded by previous researchers in the same general location.
- No remaining archaeological potential within Damage Area 1 and 2 retention basins.

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Invasive Damage Assessment Stockpile Sample Screening Results

- Sample screening of the stockpile identified modern construction debris and a sparse number of precontact and historic artifacts in unconsolidated fill.
- The stockpile was not derived from the Damage Area 1 retention basin.
- The origin of the stockpile is unknown but is likely derived from [REDACTED].

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Invasive Damage Assessment Vegetation Removal Results

- No additional damage to the site occurred during vegetation removal.
- No artifacts were identified.
- Material was deposited at a traditional landfill.

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Next Steps

Next Steps

- OEA will finalize and distribute the invasive damage assessment results report.
- The Board will address the applicability of Section 110(k).
- The Section 106 and NEPA processes will remain on hold until the Board addresses Section 110(k).
- OEA will continue government-to-government consultation, as requested.
- OEA will continue to share information with all consulting parties.



Discussion

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E-Filing and Board Decisions

- To submit a comment, go to: <https://www.stb.gov/proceedings-actions/e-filing/>
- To review Board decisions, go to: <https://www.stb.gov/proceedings-actions/decisions/>
- Search for Docket No. FD 35601

Thank you

