


Six Counties Rail Project
Jeffrey Irwin to: Lori Hunsaker

Cc: "Christopher Merritt"

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Lori,

Thank you for your help last year with the Six Counties Rail Project. After consulting with a number of folks to invite participation, we are ready to move forward with the development of a Programmatic Agreement.

I've attached a Draft PA with attachments for your review. This document addresses a full range of consultation, inventory, evaluation and mitigation issues. We've edited the document since you last saw it but the overall organization is intact. We worked through some language with SITLA to clarify their role and our jurisdiction in relation to rail right-of-way on SITLA lands. Based on input from the USACOE, I added some language to the inventory, curation and confidentiality stipulations. There is a new statement about tribal monitoring based on feedback from the Paiute Indian Tribe. And I addressed some concerns about the possibility of an archaeological connection of a farmstead to the Old Spanish Trail. In recent edits I tried to make the document a bit more prescriptive in terms of the applicant's responsibilities.

See below for a list of PA highlights.

I am sending this to all signatories and concurring parties for review and comment (identified in the Whereas clauses and signature blocks in the Draft PA). I will be happy to share the comments that I receive with you. We hope to develop an agreement satisfactory to all involved.

Please review and offer comments, suggestions for edits or additions. Let me know if you would like to discuss concerns or ideas that you have.

Feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you for your time!

PA Stipulations Highlights

- Establishes STB as primary coordinator of consultation
- Identifies Signatories and Concurring Parties
- Ensures applicant will support survey and evaluations and mitigation planning prior to construction
- Establishes existing inventory and provides process for additional inventory, as required
- Provides for a records search to update the existing inventory with any recently identified historic properties in the APE
- Provides for evaluation of properties not in the existing inventory
- Ensures process for review and comment on survey, testing, mitigation plans by all signatories and concurring parties
- Provides for consideration of archaeological connection to the Old Spanish Trail at a particular site within the right-of-way (42SV2738)
- Calls for effect determinations as construction plans are refined and finalized
- Establishes avoidance as a preferred approach to historic properties but allows for mitigation
- Ensures a public component of any mitigation
- Identifies standards for professionals executing stipulation requirements and documentation standards for mitigation
- Calls for protective measures during construction and notes potential monitoring opportunities
- Notes permits required for archaeological work on federal and state land
- Establishes curation standards for archaeological collections
- Includes confidentiality provision for archaeological data and information sensitive to tribes
- Includes procedures for inadvertent discovery of archaeological materials and human remains or cultural

items



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Best,

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