



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 05814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 7, 2004

Acquisition Branch

SUBJECT: Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project (TMFCP); Proposed Access Agreement; Request for Access to Conduct Cultural Resources Survey; Storey County, Nevada

Dear Property Owner:

We are writing you again to clarify information provided in our previous letter in late November regarding access to your property for archaeological surveys as part of the TMFCP.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a study to evaluate the need for flood protection and ecosystem restoration along the Truckee River from downtown Reno to Pyramid Lake. At the present time, we do not have non-Federal sponsors for the proposed TMFCP. While there is local interest, the USACE has not entered into any agreements with any of these interested parties.

The USACE held a public meeting in Lockwood, Nevada, on October 28, 2004, to update the citizens of Storey County on the project's progress and provide the residents an opportunity to have a voice in the planning process. Additionally, on November 4, 2004, USACE team members met with the Storey County Board of Commissioners to introduce them to the USACE requirement to be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. USACE drafted a programmatic agreement to ensure compliance will be implemented. During this meeting, the USACE requested that Storey County consider participating in Section 106 consultation as a concurring party to this programmatic agreement. USACE also informed the Commissioners of the need for the surveys and for potential access to properties along the Truckee River.

In our earlier letter, we requested access to your property but failed to provide additional information regarding why we were requesting access. The requested access is for USACE to perform a cultural resources survey in the areas depicted on

enclosed map or maps attached to the original permission request. Cultural resources are defined as archeological or historical properties that are more than 50 years old. Results from the surveys will be used in the planning process to help define a preferred alternative, and provide necessary background information for an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The archaeological survey will be restricted to onsite observation. No areas of ground surface will be disturbed. This activity will be conducted by two to four archeologists walking 15 to 20 meters apart in parallel lines or transects. Motor vehicles will not be used off any road on private property, and all vehicles will be parked to avoid interfering with traffic or the daily routines of the property owners. The archeologists will be looking for remnants of past habitation, both prehistoric and historic. The proposed schedule to perform this work will be during this winter and possibly spring of 2005, depending on weather conditions.

The request to access your property is temporary, and it is only for the archaeologist and his staff to conduct the survey. If you have not already, please review the previously provided access agreement; and, if agreeable to you, sign and return the original and one copy of the agreement to us in the provided pre-addressed envelope. You may retain the other copy for your files, pending our providing you with a fully executed agreement. In addition, please provide us with day and evening phone numbers and/or email address, as indicated in the agreement. Once we have returned a signed agreement to you, a representative from our office will contact you either by phone or in person at least 72 hours before entering onto your property.

Thank you for your patience and consideration of this matter, and should you grant access, we would look forward to meeting you when conducting fieldwork. Your point of contact for this access request is Mike Garrett, Real Estate Division. You can reach him at (916) 557-6880 or -6809, or at michael.j.garrett@usace.army.mil. If you have any questions regarding the surveying, you may contact Richard Perry, Archeologist, at either (916) 557-5218 or richard.m.perry@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Ken Fox

Chief, Acquisition Branch