



FEMA

August 23, 2006

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Mojave Water Agency Groundwater Monitoring Wells Replacement Project, FEMA-DR-1577-CA, Project Worksheet 560

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the enclosed technical report and summarize the results of an archaeological field review of lands potentially affected by a project proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) has applied for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), to replace seven groundwater-monitoring wells that were located along the Mojave River in San Bernardino County, California (Figure 1). The monitoring wells were lost as a result of the severe storms, flooding, and debris flows that occurred in the region from December 27, 2004, through January 11, 2005. The natural disaster resulted in the presidential disaster declaration FEMA-DR-1577-CA. FEMA is proposing to fund the project under the Public Assistance (PA) Program that was implemented in response to the presidentially declared disaster. The attached report presents the results of a literature and archival review and an archaeological field survey of lands potentially affected by the proposed projects. This report was prepared by Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants (NISTAC), as a consultant to FEMA, to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and the Programmatic Agreement (PA) among FEMA, the State Historic Preservation Officer, OES, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In summary, a field review of the project area was supplemented by a cultural resources records review conducted at the San Bernardino Museum Archaeological Information Center (SBAIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System. In addition to the literature review, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted for a review of its Sacred Lands File as well as a list of Native American groups and individuals it believes should be contacted. The Sacred Lands File search was negative. FEMA sent letters to those groups and individuals listed by the NAHC. To date no responses have been received. An archaeological survey of the APE was undertaken on March 27 and May 22, 2006, by NISTAC. The results of the survey were negative.

Project Description

The proposed project consists of replacing the wells that were destroyed in the disaster with wells that are relocated to more accessible and less flood prone areas and that use enhanced well designs. MWA would construct seven nested groundwater-monitoring wells at five locations along the Mojave River, between Barstow and Victorville in San Bernardino County.

Area of Potential Effects (APE) Determination

The area of potential effects (APE) for each well site location has been established as the well site itself and a 150-foot buffer around each well. The 150-foot buffer was surveyed for cultural resources to accommodate for the movement and staging of vehicles during construction near each well site. Figures 5-1 through 5-5 in the enclosed report depict the APEs for the individual well sites. Pursuant to Stipulation VII.A. of the PA, FEMA seeks your concurrence with its determination of the APE.

Literature Review

Pursuant to Stipulation VII.B. of the PA, the project area was subject to a cultural resources literature review. The enclosed report provides a complete description of the literature review.

Natural Setting

The enclosed report provides a complete description of the natural setting.

Prehistory, Ethnohistory, and History

The enclosed report provides a complete description of the prehistory, ethnohistory, and history of the project area.

Cultural Resources Inventory Methods and Results

Mr. Brian W. Hatoff, M.A., RPA, of NISTAC, qualified as an archaeologist under the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, served as the Principal Investigator. Mr. Dustin Kay, B.A., conducted the field surveys. The enclosed report provides a complete description of survey methods and results.

Findings and Conclusions

The results of the archaeological survey were negative for cultural resources within all areas surveyed. This letter and enclosed report provides a description of the undertaking, an APE determination, relevant maps, and a description of the steps FEMA has taken pursuant to Stipulation VII.C. of the PA to identify historic properties. No properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were identified through a literature review or pedestrian survey of the project area. Therefore, the proposed projects are not expected to have any effect on historic properties.

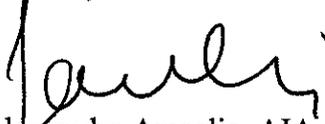
There is always the possibility that previously recorded or previously unidentified archaeological resources could be discovered during project construction. In accordance with Stipulation X of the PA, FEMA will require MWA to stop work in the event of an unexpected discovery and will comply with the steps outlined in Stipulation X.

Mr. Milford Donaldson
August 23, 2006
Page 3

In accordance with Stipulation VII of the PA, FEMA has conducted the Standard Project Review. FEMA made a determination of "no historic properties affected" and, in accordance with the PA, is submitting for review the enclosed report supporting that determination. In accordance with Stipulation VII, FEMA may authorize funding for the project unless you object to this determination within 21 days of your receipt of this documentation.

If you have questions, you can contact me at (510) 627-7284 or Mr. Hatoff at (510) 874-3195.

Sincerely,



Alessandro Amaglio, AIA
Environmental Officer

Enclosure

Cc:
Dennis Castrillo, OES
Charles Rabamad, OES (enclosure omitted)
Anna Garcia, MWA
Roxie Trost, BLM
Bruce Kinney, CDFG