



# United States Department of the Interior



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MAY 8 2014

Matt Ambroziak, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
12300 West Dakota Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Ambroziak,

As you are aware, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in cooperation with your office, Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing improvements to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) near Las Vegas, Nevada. While FHWA is the lead agency, as previously agreed, the BLM would be responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the undertaking, the Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossing and Pavement Improvement Project.

This letter serves as a summary finding for the project, which will be included with the BLM's Cultural Resource Inventory Negative Report (BLM Report Number 53-2714). Both the letter and the report will be sent to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as part of the BLM's annual submission per the BLM-State Protocol Agreement under NHPA.

The Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossing and Pavement Improvement project is located in Clark County, Nevada. The project components are improvements to two low water crossings (e.g. across Sandstone Wash and Red Rock Wash) on the Scenic Loop Drive and Moenkopi Road, an improved Visitor Center parking area, and the installation of a flood warning system. All of these areas were subjected to a Class III cultural survey in March 2013, during the cultural survey of the entire Scenic Loop area, including Moenkopi Road. In advance of the field reconnaissance survey, the Nevada Cultural Resource Inventory System (NVCRIS) and BLM's records were reviewed to determine if any previously recorded sites were located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE), e.g. both direct and indirect. The result of the records review revealed that there were not any known previously documented sites that would be directly affected by the current proposed undertaking. During the reconnaissance survey, as it relates to the Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossing and Pavement Improvement project areas, there were not any cultural

sites identified within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of the Scenic Loop and Moenkopi roads. This area was determined by the BLM to be the direct APE. Only one historic site situated near the Sandstone Quarry exit was identified that falls within the indirect APE (visual, atmospheric and audible) of the project area; e.g. within one mile of the visual APE. This site -- the Sandstone Quarry site (26CK419) -- however, will not be adversely affected by the undertaking, as the undertaking will be creating an effect that is similar in kind to the existing infrastructure.

In sum, approximately a total of 26 acres was surveyed in areas that will be covered by the Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossing and Pavement Improvement project, including the parking areas proposed for improvement, and other immediately adjacent areas that are situated within the APE. As a result, under the BLM-State Protocol Agreement, the BLM finds *no historic properties will be affected* by the undertaking and that no further Section 106 review is required.

In addition, based on relevant previous Native American consultation, such as for the development of the current Resource Management Plan, the BLM determines that there are not any areas that would be affected by the project which relate to Native American religious concerns or would be culturally sensitive.

Our office appreciates the opportunity to cooperatively work with CFLHD and the work that has been accomplished by your office to complete the project.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Spencer  
Field Manager  
Red Rock-Sloan Canyon Field Office

cc: BLM (SHPO) Administrative File  
Chad Vellinga, BLM Project Engineer  
Brett Weiland, CH2M Hill

MRS:mab