



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Aztec Ruins National Monument
#84 County Road 2900
Aztec, New Mexico 87410-9715
505-334-6174

In Reply to: A2215

September 23, 2011

Adam Okun
Parametrix
8801 Jefferson NW, Building B
Albuquerque, NM 87113-2439

Re: Archaeological Survey for a Proposed Pedestrian Bridge and Trail, Aztec, San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Adam,

Thank you for sending your report and supporting documentation on the cultural resource survey of the location for the pedestrian bridge and trail that has been proposed by the City of Aztec. The National Park Service has been working closely with the City and its contractors on this project for some time, and I appreciate your coordinating the archeological survey by Parametrix, as the west side of this project area is situated within Aztec Ruins National Monument.

The survey located four archeological sites in the proposed project area, two of them within the national monument, including one new site (LA 169424) and another site (LA 1674) in the monument that was previously documented by both NPS and San Juan College. We concur with your assessment that both sites contain significant prehistoric archeological resources and are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, while the heavily disturbed historic component at LA 1674 does not appear to be significant. On August 18, 2011, Superintendent Larry Turk sent a letter and site form for LA 1674 to the State Historic Preservation Office with similar recommendations; On August 24, the SHPO concurred that LA 1674 was eligible to the Register, though the historic component lacked sufficient integrity. We are in agreement with you that LA 169424 is also eligible and has excellent potential to yield significant archeological data.

The proposed bridge location and trail route weaves between LA 1674 and 169424, but does not encroach upon the known archeological resources at either of the two sites. The trail crosses a portion of the historic component at LA 1674. Your report provides recommendations to route the trail toward the south of LA 1674 where impacts are least likely to occur, and further outlines measures that would decrease the possibility of impacts to historic properties. We agree that an approach to construction that depends upon fill to accomplish grading (instead of mechanical cutting) and fencing of significant cultural resources to prevent any construction encroachment should be effective to further ensure that the project has no adverse effect on cultural resources. It should be emphasized to City and construction personnel that close coordination with park staff also will enable the project to

proceed without damaging significant cultural (or other) resources. I can be reached at extension 235 and would be happy to work together with any involved parties to see that this is accomplished.

Thanks again for your cooperation with us and for sending copies of your report on findings on this proposed project. The report and recommendations are sound and the National Park Service is in concurrence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Brown", with a stylized, flowing script.

Gary M. Brown
Chief of Cultural Resources