

**From:** [Trish Byers](#)  
**To:** [Reycraft, Richard, DCA](#)  
**Cc:** [Kim Parker](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rancho Viejo Solar Project (NMCRI 150271)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:35:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Rick,

We spoke on the phone a few weeks ago about the different options our client, AES, has regarding their Rancho Viejo Solar Project. The project area had two sites, LA 200751 and LA 200755 that were of concern for the NMHPD.

LA 200751 is a large prehistoric site located within the upper northeast corner of the project area. AES has opted to completely avoid the site. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site.

LA 200755 is a large historic site within the western most portion of the proposed access road. AES has opted to completely avoid the site by diverting their access road. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site.

Given the new project parameters, we would like to confirm no further work to our report is required and the initial consultation letter would suffice. I have attached a series of images to this email to help you complete your review.

Additionally, we sent out a crew today to survey the portions of the road that were altered from the original plan. This included the western reroute to avoid LA 200755 and the eastern portion of the road that was slightly altered. Would it be acceptable for use to write an addendum for this project that covers this new survey area, or does it need to be included in the original report?

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Thank you,

**Trish Byers**

Assistant Project Manager (Archaeologist) – She/Her

**SWCA Environmental Consultants**

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Michelle Lujan  
Grisham  
Governor

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January 23, 2022

Trish Byers  
Assistant Project Manager (Archaeologist)  
SWCA  
trish.byers@swca.com

Re: Log# 118830, Rancho Viejo Solar Project in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 150271)

Dear Ms. Byers:

The SHPO concurs with the following site avoidance recommendations:

LA 200751 -AES has opted to completely avoid the site. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site.

LA 200755- AES has opted to completely avoid the site by diverting their access road. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site.

However, each site should be protected with temporary fencing placed 30 feet out from the site boundary and the proposed 100ft buffer should be clearly marked and visible to construction crews.

Finally, regarding new survey of the portions of the road that were altered from the original plan (western reroute to avoid LA 200755 and the eastern portion of the road that was slightly altered) an addendum survey report is sufficient. The addendum report should be uploaded into the NMCRIS database.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me by phone at (505)-452-6115 or e-mail me at richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely

*Richard Reycraft*

Richard Reycraft  
HPD Staff Archaeologist



Michelle Lujan  
Grisham  
Governor

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November 29, 2022

Kimberly A. Parker  
Cultural Resources Program Directory – New Mexico Four Corners  
SWCA  
kparker@swca.com

Re: Log# 118484, A Class III Cultural Resources Survey of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIIS 150271)

Dear Ms. Parker:

I am writing in response to the above referenced survey report submitted by you on November 14, 2022. I have reviewed the report entitled "*A Class III Cultural Resources Survey of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIIS 150271)*" by SWCA, as well as the LA site forms for associated with this survey report. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with information and recommendations provided in the report with the following exceptions:

Site LA 200751, this site contains approximately 1000 surface lithic artifacts of which only 10% were analyzed by field personnel. The LA site form is ambiguous concerning depth of deposits at this site, at first stating that "STU showed cultural remains only within the first 10 cmbgs", but later indicating "STU 3 contained one noncortical broken obsidian flake 1-2 cm in size at 25 cmbgs.". Additionally, the presence of discreet artifact concentrations, and a positive STU (#3) adjacent to one of these concentrations indicates that this site may retain integrity of horizontal and vertical provenience. The SHPO determines that LA 200751's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is Undetermined pending archaeological testing to determine the nature and extent of the site's deposits, and a more comprehensive analysis of the sites surface artifact assemblage.

Site LA 200755, this site contains six features. Feature 1, a circular depression with an interior rectangular foundation is enigmatic but may represent the remains of a homestead structure with associated artifact scatter, the remaining features also appear to be representative of homesteading/livestock activities along with an access road. The artifact assemblage is relatively large and diverse and is associated with activities that took place during the site's occupation (as opposed to external trash dumping). The features appear to be discreet and may be representative of different activity areas (domestic vs. livestock/ranching activities). This site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is Undetermined pending archaeological testing to determine the nature and extent of the site's deposits.

As per section 7.16.6.1 of Santa Fe County's Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC): Any proposed development of a (i) non-residential use, (ii) a multi-family use, or (iii) any division or subdivision of land encompassing 10.0 acres or more and any application for small scale sand and gravel extraction, or a DCI, within an area of "medium" potential for discovery of archeological resources on Map 7-1, shall first investigate the property for archeological resources, and shall preserve, mitigate, or treat the archeological resources as specified herein before making application for a development permit.

Sites considered undetermined for the NRHP should be treated as “significant” under the SLDC until such time that a definitive eligibility can be determined. Therefore, these sites should be avoided by all ground disturbing construction associated with the proposed solar array until archaeological testing can occur.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me by phone at (505)-452-6115 or e-mail me at [richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov](mailto:richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov).

Sincerely

*Richard Reycraft*

Richard Reycraft  
HPD Staff Archaeologist



Michelle Lujan  
Grisham  
Governor

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March 8, 2023

Jose E. Larranaga  
Building and Development Supervisor  
Santa Fe County  
joselarra@santafecountynm.gov

Re: Log# 119127-CASE #23-55010 Rancho Viejo Solar Project conditional Use Permit

Dear Mr. Larranaga:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with the following site avoidance recommendations that have been confirmed by SWCA for their clients regarding the Ranch Viejo Solar Project (see attached):

LA 200751 -AES has opted to completely avoid the site. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site. This project will not affect this historic property.

LA 200755- AES has opted to completely avoid the site by diverting their access road. There will be no ground disturbing activities within 100 ft of the site. This project will not affect this historic property. We recommend that each site should be protected with temporary fencing placed 30 feet out from the site boundary and the proposed 100ft buffer should be clearly marked and visible be construction crews.

Finally, The SHPO has yet to receive an addendum report for the new cultural resource survey of the portions of the road that were altered from the original plan (western reroute to avoid LA 200755 and the eastern portion of the road that was slightly altered). Thus, until we receive this report, the new road alignment has a potential to adversely affect historic properties.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me by phone at (505)-827-6162 or e-mail me at richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely

*Richard Reycraft*

Richard Reycraft  
HPD Staff Archaeologist



Michelle Lujan  
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March 16, 2023

Trish Byers  
Assistant Project Manager (Archaeologist)  
SWCA  
trish.byers@swca.com

Re: Log# 119282 -CASE #23-55010 Rancho Viejo Solar Project conditional Use Permit-NMCRIS #152338

Dear MS Beyers:

Thank you for submitting this project report to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). I have read the submitted archaeological survey report entitled "*A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project Access Road Reroute in Santa Fe County, NM*" (NMCRIS#152338). The SHPO concurs with the report results for the new road alignment. This project will have no effect on historic properties.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me by phone at (505)-827-6162 or e-mail me at richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely

*Richard Reycraft*

Richard Reycraft  
HPD Staff Archaeologist

Cc: Jose Larranaga



Michelle Lujan  
Grisham  
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April 4, 2024

Kimberly Parker  
Cultural Resources Program Director, New Mexico – Four Corners  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
New Mexico – Four Corners  
7770 Jefferson Street NE, Suite 410  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
kparker@swca.com

Re: Log# 122238, A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project Access Road  
Reroute in Santa Fe County, NM (NMCRIS#154110)

Dear Ms. Parker:

I have read the aforementioned survey report (NMCRIS# 154110) submitted by you to this office on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The SHPO concurs with the reports results and recommendations. Specifically, the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office concurs that archaeological sites LA 203679 and LA 203750 are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of cultural properties.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me by phone at (505)-827-6162 or e-mail me at richard.reycraft@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely

*Richard Reycraft*

Richard Reycraft  
HPD Staff Archaeologist