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November 10, 2023

Jeff Pappas, Ph.D.
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: A Class III Cultural Resources Survey Addendum of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 154110)

Dear Dr. Pappas:

On behalf of AES Clean Energy, LLC (AES), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is reaching out to you for comment, review, and concurrence of the results of additional intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey conducted for the development of the Rancho Viejo Solar Project located on private lands within Santa Fe County. Per the Santa Fe County Sustainable Land Development Code, this survey was conducted to the standards set forth in New Mexico Administrative Code 4.10.15: Standards for Survey and Inventory.

AES is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain the Rancho Viejo Solar Project in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, located entirely on private land. The Rancho Viejo Solar Project will include a solar field, transmission line, substation, and access road. SWCA was contracted to conduct additional survey for an adjustment to the access road as well as a small piece of land within the larger parcel adjacent to the solar facility. This work was completed under NMCRIS 154110. The initial survey for the project was done under NMCRIS 150271 and a previous addendum under NMCRIS 152338. This cultural resource survey and report was completed to support AES' application for the Rancho Viejo Solar Project to Santa Fe County for compliance with Santa Fe County's Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), which was adopted in Ordinance 2016-9 on December 13, 2016. The 2016 SLDC governs land use and development throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. The 2016 SLDC contains the regulations that a property owner must follow when building or remodeling a structure. It also explains the process by which land use and development can occur.

In total, 33.46 acres were surveyed for this addendum. This survey resulted in the recording of one new and one previously recorded archaeological site. No isolated occurrences were located.

Of the two sites, one is a small prehistoric artifact scatter consisting of only ceramics from at least two different vessels (LA 203679). The other, LA 203750, is an old road/trail that may be a portion of an abandoned alignment of New Mexico Highway 14. This portion of the alignment was added to the boundary for LA 200755 during NMCRIS 153060 by Townsend Archaeological Consultants. During the current activity, based on recommendations from the Historic Preservation Division (as written in NMCRIS), it has been separated from LA 200755 and given a new number: LA 203750.



Both sites are recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No mitigation is recommended for any of the sites.

We respectfully ask for your review and concurrence on this project. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or if any additional information is needed. I can be reached via email at kparker@swca.com or by phone at 505-431-2564.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kimberly A. Parker'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K' and 'P'.

Kimberly A. Parker
Cultural Resources Program Director – New Mexico Four Corners