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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

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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 (NMCRI 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 (NMCRI 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.

Sincerely

Richard Reycraft

Richard Reycraft
HPD Staff Archaeologist