Appendix C: Cultural Resources, Middle Venada 595, Sandoval County, New Mexico

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1.1 CUITURE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Culture history for the Middle Rio Grande Valley is described chronologically as including the Paleoindian (10,000 to 6,000 years BC), Archaic (6,000 years BC to AD 400), Puebloan (400-1600 AD), and Historic Periods (1600 AD to Recent).

The Paleoindian and Archaic Periods

The Paleoindian and early Archaic Periods are characterized by nomadic hunting and gathering bands of people. Paleoindian and Archaic sites are represented by lithic scatters with some diagnostic artifacts, mostly related to hunting and food-processing sites with a few habitation sites. No Paleoindian or Archaic Period sites are known to occur in the Rio Grande Floodway.

The Puebloan Period

In the project area, the prehistoric Puebloan Period generally follows what is known as the Rio Grande Valley Sequence. The Puebloan Period is characterized by increasing population sizes, migrations of peoples, more sedentism and aggregation of people into larger villages, an increasing dependence on horticulture and agriculture, and a more intense use of the environment. Many smaller groups, however, remain nomadic. Small pithouse villages, larger above-ground roomblocks, and huge adobe pueblos with scattered field houses become common. These permanent villages and base camps are primarily located near reliable water sources. This includes areas along the Rio Grande, on ridges, gravel terraces, or alluvial slopes adjacent to major drainages, and occasionally in the vicinity of ephemeral lakes known as playas. Other sites, such as temporary camps, resource procurement stations, and many of the undated lithic sites, are found scattered throughout the region. As sedentism increases, so does the use of water management techniques, and surface water flow control features become more common, and local and long distance trade is important.

The Historic Period

The Protohistoric Period includes population movements as groups try to adjust to the encroachments of other Tribes as European exploration begins and Tribes try to relocate. Diseases new to the Americas spread across the landscape causing disruption to tribal lifeways. The Historic Period in the Southwest began with the 1540 Spanish entrada. Eventually the Spanish colonized the Rio Grande Valley in the 1600s. Horticulture, agriculture, and ranching are intensified as European culture began to dominate and manage the area.

For an understanding of the Rio Grande Floodway in the Albuquerque area, the following historic text is adapted from Everhart (2004a, 2004b):

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) was organized in 1925 under the State's 1923 Conservancy Act to deal with the severe flooding, waterlogged lands, and failing irrigation facilities (Ackerly

et al. 1997:20-21; Scurlock 1998:281; Wozniak 1987:134; Biebel 1986:15-16). By 1928, a reclamation, flood control, and irrigation plan was developed (Burkholder 1928) and between 1930 and 1934 major portions of the plan, including flood control levees, riverside drainage canals, and irrigation ditches and diversions, were constructed by the MRGCD (Ackerly et al. 1997:21; Scurlock 1998:281; Wozniak 1987:134-138; Berry and Lewis 1997:12-15). The new facilities were to provide for the efficient delivery of irrigation water, prevent flood hazards and provide flood protection measures, regulate the Rio Grande channel and stream flows and provide drains to reclaim land that had become saturated and saline from high groundwater levels (Ackerly et al. 1997:20-21). The development and rehabilitation work conducted by the MRGCD had impacts to the whole MRG area (Ackerly et al. 1997:20-24; Biebel 1986:15-16). MRGCD construction incorporated "...about 70 independent community ditches in to a single [irrigation] system" (Ackerly et al. 1997:29; Burkholder [1928:25] and Linford [1956:292] in Wozniak 1987:130, 138). The extreme upstream portion and original headings of numerous historic acequias were cut off from the downstream portions of their ditch alignments by the construction of the flood control levees and riverside drains. During the Depression and continuing into the war years, funding the construction and maintenance of MRGCD's structures and equipment became a never-ending problem (Ackerly et al. 1997:20-24, 26, 57; Biebel 1986:15-16, 22-23; Welsh

1985:110-111, 166; Wozniak 1987:138-143).

The Flood Control Act of 1948 authorized several projects in New Mexico and called for a comprehensive plan for the Rio Grande, and recommended other projects "...to control the heavy sedimentation of the river, and to upgrade the present irrigation systems to gain efficiency" (Crawford *et al.* 1993:26; Welsh 1985:115; Ackerly *et al.* 1997:57). At about the same time, a "...memorandum of agreement [was] signed between the Interior secretary and the Chief of Engineers on 25 July 1947" that "...delineated the areas of responsibility for USACE and Reclamation in the Rio Grande basin" (Welsh 1985:115; Wozniak 1987:143).

By 1950, "The levees built with MRGCD money suffered from extensive erosion" (Welsh 1985:166). Starting in 1951 USACE and the Bureau of Reclamation began a comprehensive Rio Grande Floodway project, authorized in 1950, that constructed and rehabilitated flood control levees and installed thousands of Kellner jetty-jacks to armor the river banks and maintain the Floodway (Crawford *et al.* 1993:26-27; Ackerly *et al.* 1997:57-58; Welsh 1985:166; Scurlock 1998:282, 328, 354). The major channel modification project to maintain channel capacity was completed by the Bureau in 1959 and "The Corps of Engineers reconstructed the levee- riverside drains in the Albuquerque area in 1958" with most of the Corps and Reclamation work being completed between 1962 and 1964 (Ackerly *et al.* 1997:57-58; Scurlock 1998:282, 354; Crawford *et al.* 1993:43).

Numerous archaeological surveys have been conducted and histories written regarding the long human occupation of the Albuquerque area. Until recently, very few cultural resources surveys had been conducted within the riparian/Bosque areas, i.e., within the Rio Grande's confined floodplain between the flood control levees. Restoration work, however, was pushed to the forefront subsequent to two Bosque wildfires that occurred in the summer of 2003. Recent archaeological work in the Bosque includes M. Marshall (2003), Everhart (2004a, 2004b), Estes (2005), Walt, Marshall and Musello (2005), Marshall and Walt (2006), as well as one report for flood control levee rehabilitation by Kneebone (1993) and an addendum by Kneebone and Everhart (1997). Other archaeological work in the area has primarily been associated with cultural resources compliance and management requirements, and for specific projects such as highway construction and maintenance, and installation of utility lines such as Koczan (1991), Marshall (1991), and Schmader (1994, 1990). General histories on MRG Flood Protection Projects between Corrales and San Marcial have been prepared by Dodge and Santillanes (2007) and Berry and Lewis (1997). Information regarding Albuquerque District Corps of Engineers' history and projects may be found in Welsh (1997, 1985). The Ackerly et al. (1997) and Wozniak (1987) reports, prepared for the Bureau of Reclamation and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, provide significant overviews regarding the development of irrigation in the MRG and both include a substantial list of references. Burkholder (1928) provides information regarding the initial plan for flood control, drainage, and irrigation work by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. The above reports and references provide a significant amount of culture history information for the project area; therefore, a detailed culture history is not provided in this document.

1.2 Tables

Table 1: Previous Surveys within the APE

NMCRIS			No. of	
Activity	Type of	Acres	Doc.	Performing Agency/
No.	Survey	Surveyed	Sites	Survey Year
35513	Linear	3.8	0	NM State Highway & Transportation Department (1991)
39720	Block	915	36	US Environmental Protection Agency Region VI (1990)
45535	Linear	4683.28	35	NM State Highway & Transportation Department (1995)
51324	Linear	120.6	15	US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District (1996)
63771	Linear	158.27	8	US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (2001)
77347	Linear	28	0	NM State Highway & Transportation Department (2002)
145830	Linear	6.97	1	Okun Consulting Solutions (2020)

Table 2: Isolated Occurrences

IO No.	Description
1	(1) Cornflower Blue Glass Marble
2	(3) Cornflower Blue Glass Marbles
3	(1) Barbed Wire Section
4	(1) Flattened Metal Can Fragment
5	(1) White Coarse Quartzite Flake, Length 4-6 cm
6	(1) Isolated Feature. 5 Potential Rock Alignments
7	(1) Large Piece of Welded Iron
8	(1) White Calcedony Biface, Length 7 cm

1.3 Figures



Figure 1. Area of Potential Effect for the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 Project

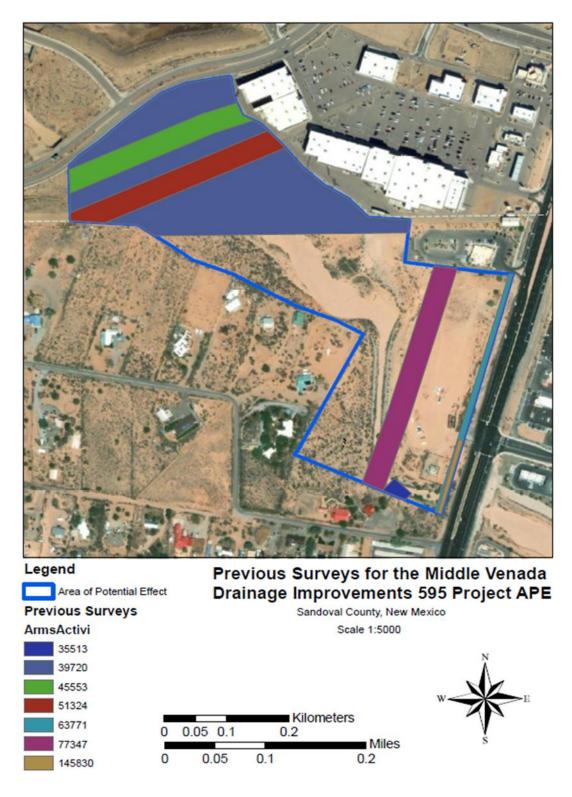


Figure 2. Previous Surveys for the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 Project APE

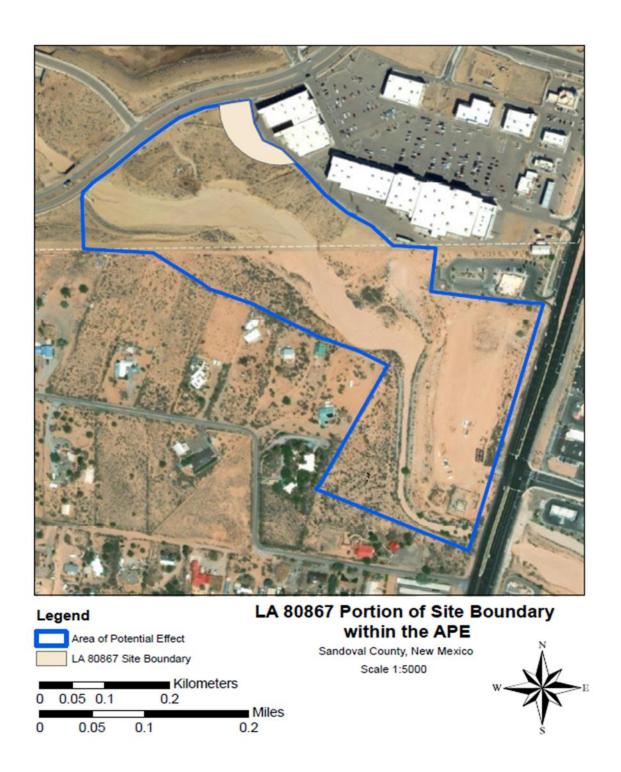


Figure 3. LA 80867 Portion of Site Boundary within the APE

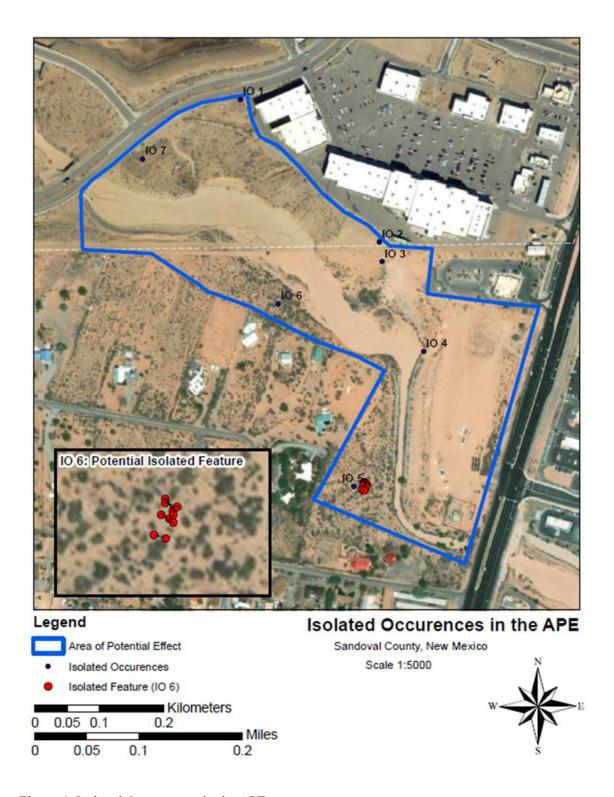


Figure 4. Isolated Occurrences in the APE

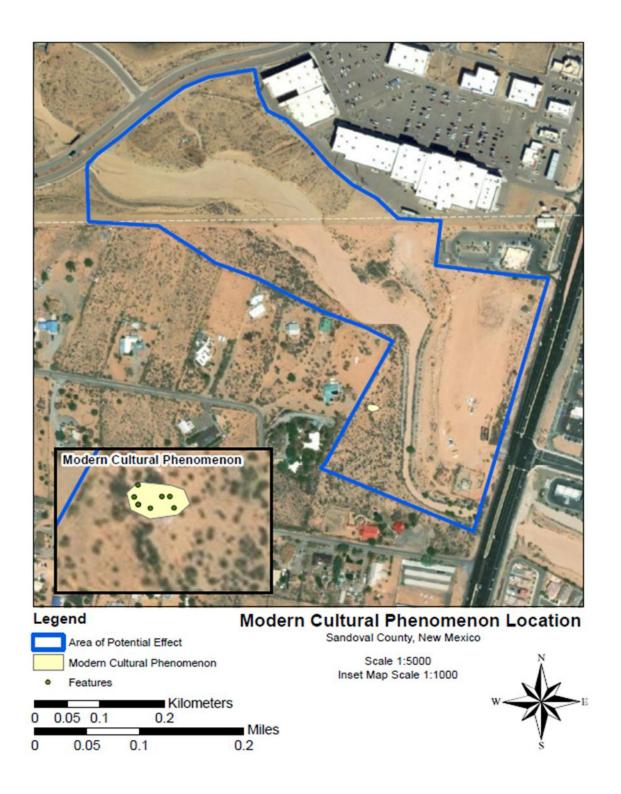


Figure 5. Modern Cultural Phenomenon Location

1.4 SHPO Correspondence



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109-3435

Log 117552

June 30, 2022

Planning, Project and Program Management Division Planning Branch Environmental Resources Section

Dr. Jeff Pappas State Historic Preservation Officer Historic Preservation Division Bataan Memorial Building 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Dr. Pappas:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, is seeking your concurrence in our determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 project located in the City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (SSCAFCA) has requested funding for the project under Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. The Corps will be designing and implementing the project for the non-Federal sponsor, SSCAFCA is proposing to construct a water quality facility in the main stem of the Venada Arroyo modelled after the existing water quality structure currently in place in the Montoyas Arroyo, which has proven to be successful at mitigating downstream flows and improving water quality. The goal of the project is to reduce flood water and reduce flood damage impacts. The work will consist of removing debris and contaminants from storm flows as well as incorporating flood prevention measures to reduce downstream flow rates before the water is discharged into the Rio Grande. The project is still being designed, but the area of potential effect (APE) has been identified. The project will also involve conducting geophysical investigations in the Venada Arroyo to evaluate the overall condition of the substrate. This will involve Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT) at seven locations. The CPT will occur to a depth of 20 feet and the locations may be moved up to 10 feet from the locations shown on the map. The locations have been buffered to account for this in Enclosure 1.

The APE for the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 project is behind a shopping center located at the intersection of NM 528 and Montoya Road. It is on an L-shaped property in a highly developed area. The APE is bordered by the shopping center to the north, NM 528 to the east, a housing development to the south.

and Lincoln Ave NE to the west (Enclosure 1). This legal location for the APE is the SE and SW 1/4s of Sec 25 T13N, R 3E and the NE, NW, and SE 1/4s of Sec 36 T13N R3E. The APE is shown on the USGS 7.5- Minute quadrangle map Bernalillo, NM (35106-C5; 2020).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4, the APE includes an area of 49 acres. On December 13, 2021 Corps archaeologist Jessica Gisler conducted a search of the State of New Mexico Archaeological Records Management Section's New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) database and map server, the State Register of Cultural Properties, and the National Register of Historic Places. There have been seven surveys partially within the APE that were performed to current standards (Enclosure 2). Those surveys are summarized in Enclosure 3. Only one of the previous surveys found a site potentially within the APE. In 1990, the US Environmental Protection Agency Region VI contracted Rio Grande Consultants, Inc. to perform 915-acre linear survey (NMCRIS Activity No. 39720). One cultural resource site (LA 80867) was located potentially within the APE (Enclosure 4). The NMCRIS GIS viewer does not have a site boundary for that site, and the site forms stated that the GPS coordinates were taken from outside of the site boundary. LA 80867 was not relocated during our survey and is assumed to be located outside of the APE. LA 80867 is a multicomponent prehistoric habitation site dating between 5500 BC - 1300 AD. The site was tested and determined to be not eligible. The SHPO concurred with that determination in 1992.

Corps archaeologists Jessica Gisler and Jonathan Van Hoose conducted a survey of the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 Project APE on 12/16/2021. The archaeologists performed an intensive survey by walking 15m E-W and then N-S transects. Surface visibility was approximately 60 percent. The understory consisted primarily of sagebrush and mixed grasses and forbs. No overstory was present. The area has been heavily disturbed by previous construction activities. Two roads have been created to allow heavy equipment to access the arroyo (Enclosure 5). Several manhole covers were also noted in the survey area. Modern trash and construction debris are widespread throughout the APE and within the Middle Venada Arroyo (Enclosures 6 and 7). No cultural resource sites, eight isolated occurrences, and one modern cultural phenomenon were located during this survey.

The eight isolated occurrences are summarized in Enclosure 8. IOs 1 and 2 are both cornflower blue glass marbles of unknown age. IO 3 is a small length of barbed wire of unknown age. IO 4 is a flattened metal can fragment of unknown age. IO 5 is a white Quartzite flake measuring 4-6 cm in length. IO 6 is a potential Isolated Feature. It consists of five potential rock alignments (Enclosures 9, 10, and 11). It doesn't appear to be a check dam or part of a foundation. Some of the alignments cross over each other and a few only consist of three rocks. The identification of the feature as a rock alignment is not certain. IO 7 is a large piece of welded iron of unknown age. IO 8 is a white Calcedony biface measuring 7 cm in length. None of the IOs could be dated to a specific time frame. It is the Corps' opinion that the informational potential of these

isolated occurrences has been exhausted with recordation. The Corps determines that the eight isolated occurrences are not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and we seek your concurrence.

The modern cultural phenomenon consists of a modern abandoned camp site that has been decorated with geometric pebble designs (Enclosures 12 and 13). The site likely dates to 2019 based on a 2019 penny that was found in a trash pile. The site consists of a modern trash pile and six geometric pebble designs (circles, a square, a serpentine shape, and the outline of a tent). The geometric pebble designs are shown in Enclosures 14-16. The site is definitely modern and was likely created by an unhoused individual who was using the arroyo as a camp site. The geometric pebble designs were likely an attempt to beautify the area where they were temporarily living. Therefore, it is not old enough to be considered for eligibility on the NRHP. The Corps wanted to share information on this modern camp site so that it won't be mistaken for an archaeological site in the future.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2, consulting parties in the Section 106 process identified for the proposed project includes the Corps and your office. Scoping letters were mailed to tribes having cultural resources concerns in Sandoval County, including the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Kewa Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh, Pueblo de Cochiti, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Zia, and The Hopi Tribe, on April12, 2021. No Traditional Cultural Properties and no Indian Trust Assets are known to occur within or adjacent to the Rio Rancho Industrial Park.

The seven CPT locations are not within the vicinity of the eight isolated occurrences. It is the Corps' opinion that the informational potential of these isolated occurrences has been exhausted with recordation. The eight isolated occurrences are not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based upon the information above, the Corps determines that the proposed Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 project would result in **no historic properties affected**. The Corps seeks your concurrence with our determination.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding the proposed Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 project, please contact Jessica Gisler, archaeologist, by e-mail at jessica.l.gisler@usace.army.mil, or myself at (505) 342-3281 or by email at danielle.a.galloway@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Andrew Zink

Digitally signed by Andrew Zink Date: 2022.07.13 14:12:35 -06'00' PRICE.DANA.MARC Digitally signed by PRICE.DANA.MARCELLA.1300468680 Date: 2022.06.30 15:54:28 -06'00' (for)

Danielle A. Galloway Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Comments:

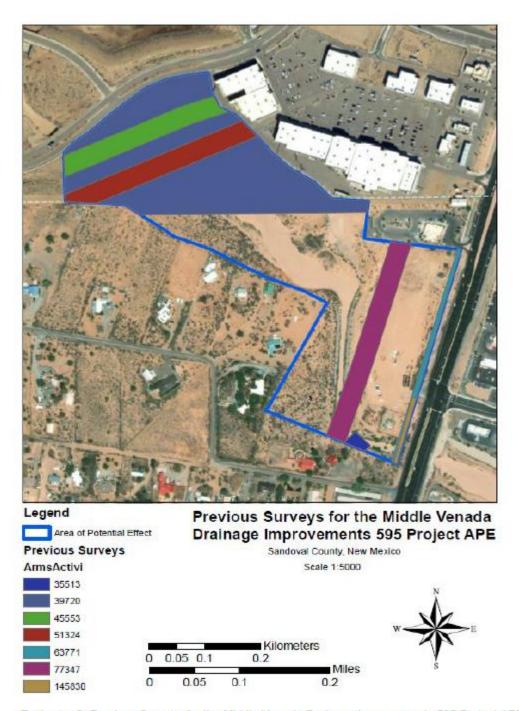
-The COE still needs to upload a shapefile for the surveyed space to the NMCRIS map Service.

-Also, when a previously recorded site is plotted in the APE and not relocated during the current investigation, there should be a LA Form consisting of only the first two pages and Item 12 of the form completed. This LA Form will explain the efforts the COE took to locate the site and reasons for why it was not encountered.

Enclosures



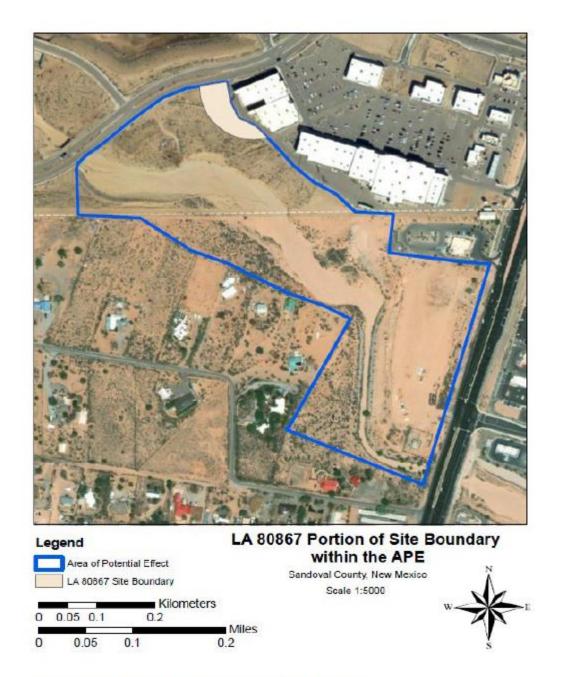
Enclosure 1. Area of Potential Effect for the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 Project



Enclosure 2. Previous Surveys for the Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 Project APE

Enclosure 3. Previous Surveys within the APE

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63771	Linear	158.27	8	US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (2001)	
77347	Linear	28	0	NM State Highway & Transportation Department (2002)	
145830	Linear	6.97	1	Okun Consulting Solutions (2020)	



Enclosure 4. LA 80867 Portion of Site Boundary within the APE



Enclosure 5. Overview of Two Access Roads Crossing the APE. Photo taken facing East.



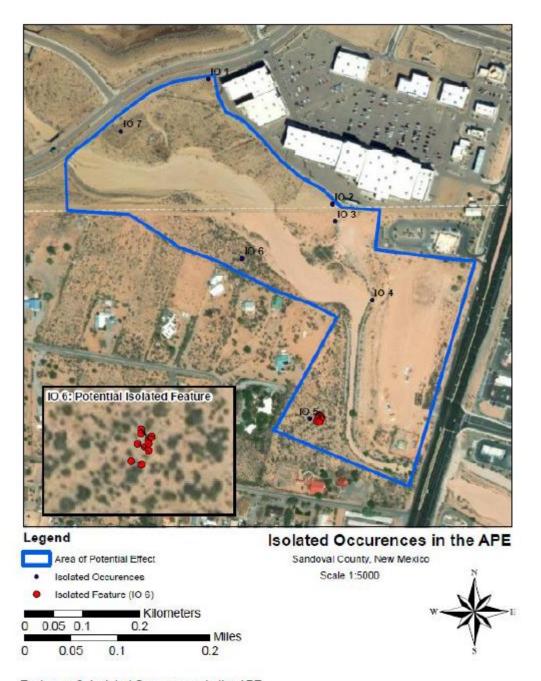
Enclosure 6. Trash and Construction Debris throughout the APE. Photo taken facing North.



Enclosure 7. Trash and Construction Debris throughout the APE. Photo taken facing North.

Enclosure 8. Isolated Occurrences

IO No.	Description
1	(1) Cornflower Blue Glass Marble
2	(3) Cornflower Blue Glass Marbles
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7	(1) Large Piece of Welded Iron
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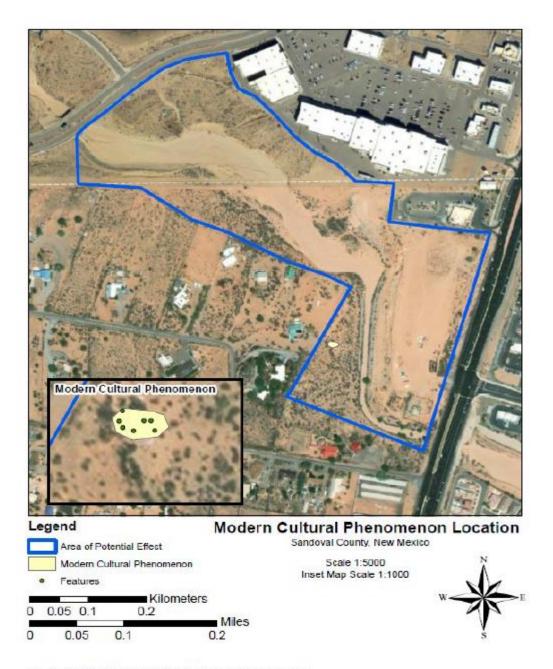
Enclosure 9. Isolated Occurrences in the APE



Enclosure 10. Isolated Occurrence 6. Potential Rock Alignments.



Enclosure 11. Isolated Occurrence 6. Potential Rock Alignments.



Enclosure 12. Modern Cultural Phenomenon Location



Enclosure 13. Overview of Modern Cultural Phenomenon. Photo taken facing South.



Enclosure 14. Tent Outline.



Enclosure 15. Circle Outline.



Enclosure 16. Serpentine Shape Outline.

1.5 Tribal Correspondence

From:

Greg Kaufman Gisler, Jessica Lee (Jess) CIV USARMY CESPA (USA) To:

Cc:

[Non-DoD Source] RE: Section 106 Consultation Request Subject:

Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 12:05:26 PM

Attachments: image001.png

Jessica -

The Pueblo of Sandia has no objection to the project and concurs in your determination of "no historic properties affected." We welcome the water quality benefits it hopefully will realize. Good luck.

Regards, Greg



Greg Kaufman

Environment Director Pueblo of Sandia 481 Sandia Loop Bernalillo, NM 87004

gkaufman@sandiapueblo.nsn.us

Office: 505-771-5080 Cell: 505-340-7616

From: Monica Murrell

To: Gisler, Jessica Lee (Jess) CIV USARMY CESPA (USA)

Cc: Joey Sanchez; Emery Leon

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Section 106 Consultation Request

Date: Friday, July 22, 2022 9:08:21 AM

Ms. Gisler,

The Pueblo of Santa Ana Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has reviewed the cultural resources investigation results provided in your request for consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in reference to the proposed Middle Venada Drainage Improvements 595 project, in the City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The THPO concurs with the Corps determination of No Historic Properties Affected. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Monica L. Murrell, M.A., RPA

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer & Director, Santa Ana Historic Preservation Department 02 Dove Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004
Cell: (505) 220-8073

Email: monica.murrell@santaana-nsn.gov



1.6 References

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