

APPENDIX A: Cultural Resources

Farmer's Mutual Ditch Erosion Repair Project Supplemental Environmental Assessment Farmington, NM



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Albuquerque District

August 2025

Contents

New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer Consultation

Pueblo of Pojoaque Consultation letter

Pueblo of Pojoaque Historic Preservation Office response



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

April 24, 2025

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

Michelle Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HPD Log #125285
Received 4/25/2025

Dear Ms. Ensey:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, needs to make repairs to the Farmer's Mutual Ditch (Ditch) in San Juan County. The Ditch received heavy rainfall this summer, and a section of the access road eroded and caused damage to the articulated concrete block (ACB) matting that had been installed at an ephemeral water crossing (Figures 1-5). The Corps will need to repair this damage so that the water can be turned on for spring irrigation. The proposed repair work at will include earthwork efforts and placement of ACB matting in the drainage crossing area. The earthwork efforts will address scouring/erosion which occurred as a result of a major storm event which happened back in June of 2024. The portion of the access road going across the drainage crossing will be regraded to both fill in scour areas and act as a low water crossing. Additionally, the drainage crossing itself will be regraded to be shaped into a trapezoidal channel, and the areas to the sides of the drainage crossing will be regraded to drain towards the center of the channel. After earthwork efforts, a combination of new and existing ACB matting will be placed on the drainage crossing portion of the access road to provide armoring for erosion protection.

The project area is located in San Juan County, New Mexico, approximately one half mile west of Farmington, New Mexico. The only site located in the project area is the Farmer's Mutual Ditch (LA68213/HCP144824) itself. The Corps has previously consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about this section of the Ditch. The Corps consulted about the adverse effect that rehabilitation work would have on the Ditch and entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve those adverse effects in 2021 (HPD Log No. 113444). Additional consultation was done in 2022 when it was determined that rock scaling would need to be performed on the cliffs above the Ditch before the rehabilitation work could proceed safely (HPD Log No. 118691). The Corps has been in communication with Jeff Tafoya (Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Renewable Resources) and David (Erik) Simpson (BLM Archaeologist) regarding the need for an archaeological survey on their land where the erosion damage occurred.



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The purpose of this letter is to present the results of the survey of the erosion repair Area of Potential Effect (APE) and seek your concurrence in our determination of **no adverse effect** for the proposed Farmer's Mutual Erosion Repair project.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes an area of .95 acres. Access to the APE will be achieved through the use of an existing access road. On February 12, 2025 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. The APE for the erosion repair project was partially surveyed in 2021 By BRIC, LLC and a Class III Inventory report was prepared to satisfy MOA requirements. This inventory documented the ditch, two archaeological sites, and three isolated occurrences (IOs). The Class III Inventory report was submitted on June 17, 2021. We received concurrence from the SHPO on June 29, 2021 (HPD Log 115375). No cultural resources besides the Ditch itself were located in within the APE for the proposed erosion repair. There have been five other surveys performed within .5 miles of the erosion repair APE. They are summarized in the table below.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Surveys within .5 Miles of the APE

NMCRIS Activity No.	Performing Organization	Date of Survey	Acres	Resources Located
4513	NM State University San Juan Campus	2/22/1978	243.44	3
55783	4-Corners Archaeological Services	2/5/1996	61.8	0
58634	Archaeological Services by Laura Michalik	10/9/1997	7.38	0
58942	Archaeological Services by Laura Michalik	10/9/1997	52.17	0
147384	BRIC, LLC	2/23/2020	23.34	4
151375	US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District	11/1/2022	42.7	0

Gisler conducted a survey of the proposed erosion repair APE on February 14, 2025 (Figure 6). Gisler performed an intensive survey by walking 15m E-W and then N-S transects. A total of .95 acres were surveyed. Surface visibility was approximately 80-90 percent. The understory consisted primarily of mixed grasses. No overstory was present in the majority of the APE. Willows were present along the San Juan River. No cultural resource sites and no isolated occurrences were identified during this survey. A site update was filled out for the Ditch at this time. During the survey it was noted that the contractor had installed the ACB Matting slightly outside (approximately 50 ft) of the corridor surveyed by BRIC, LLC in 2021. This was a contractor error. It also appears that out of compliance construction has been completed in the past in this drainage



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valley. A large cement culvert had been installed upslope from the erosion repair APE (Figure 5) in an area with no previous survey. The APE is within a drainage valley that funnels large amounts of water into the San Juan River. It has also been subjected to multiple construction efforts throughout the recent past. Therefore, there was a low probability of finding intact cultural resources.

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 San Juan County, including the Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Cochiti, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Jemez, Kewa Pueblo, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Pueblo of Picuris, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Taos, Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Zia, Pueblo of Zuni, All Pueblos Council of Governors, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Ten Southern Pueblos Council, Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council, Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, The Hopi Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of San Felipe, and the Kiowa Tribe, on February 28, 2025. No Traditional Cultural Properties and no Indian Trust Assets are known to occur within or adjacent to the Farmer's Mutual Acequia.

Based upon the information above, the Corps determines that the proposed erosion repair project would result in **no adverse effect**. While the Farmer's Mutual Ditch is within the project area, the proposed work is to repair damage to the construction that has already been consulted on. The adverse effect to the Ditch that occurred during that construction has already been mitigated through the executed MOA. The Corps seeks your concurrence with our determination.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding the proposed erosion repair project, please contact Jessica Gisler, archaeologist, by e-mail at jessica.l.gisler@usace.army.mil, or myself at (505) 342-3661 or by email at Danielle.A.Galloway@usace.army.mil.

Concur, No Adverse Effect

Sincerely,

for the New Mexico State
Historic Preservation Officer

Signing for Danielle A. Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section



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Enclosures





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Figure 1. Erosion of the Access Road.



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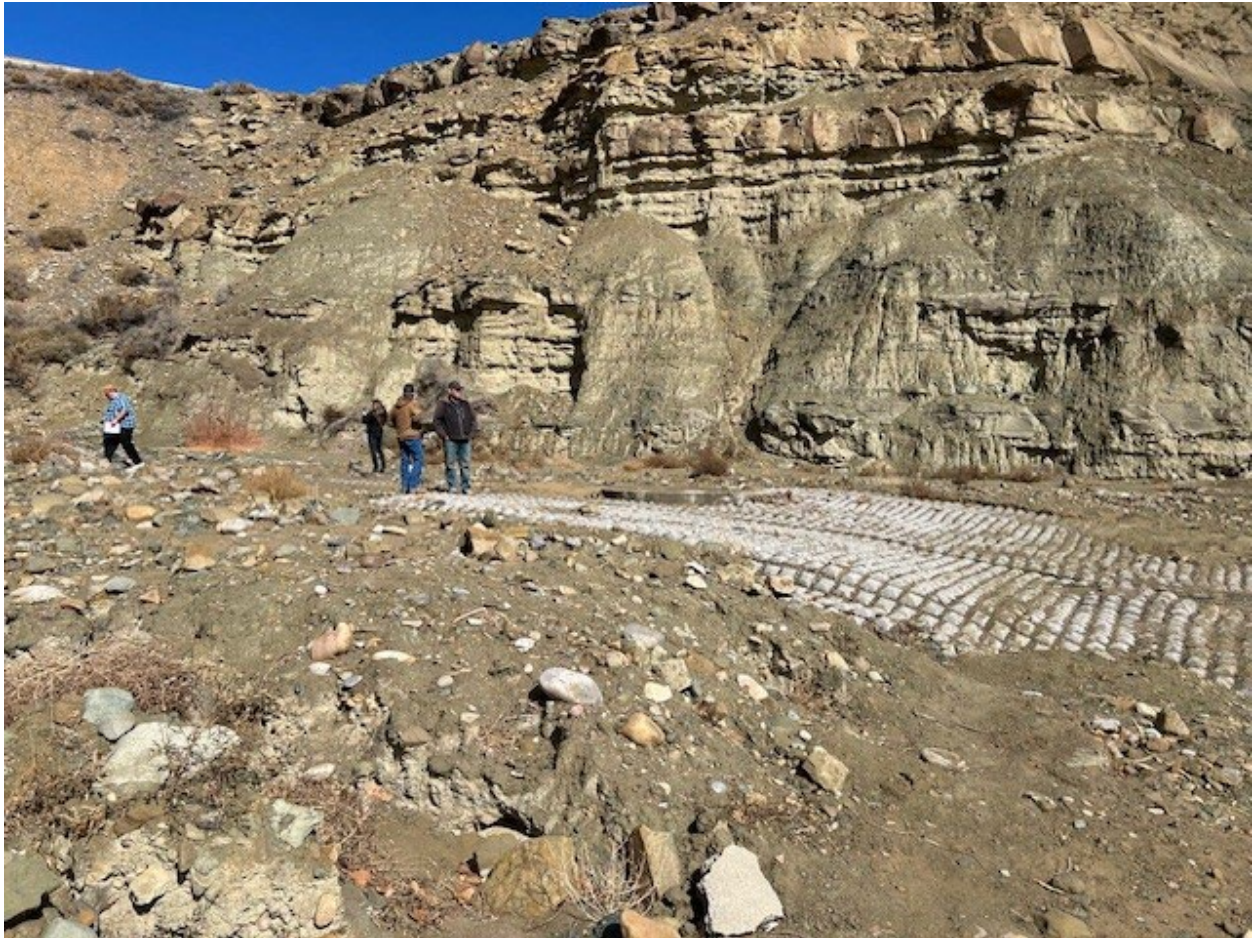


Figure 2. Damage to the ACB Matting



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Figure 3. Erosion of the Access Road



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Figure 4. Damage to the ACB Matting



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Figure 5. Pieces of the Culvert that was Installed Upsl



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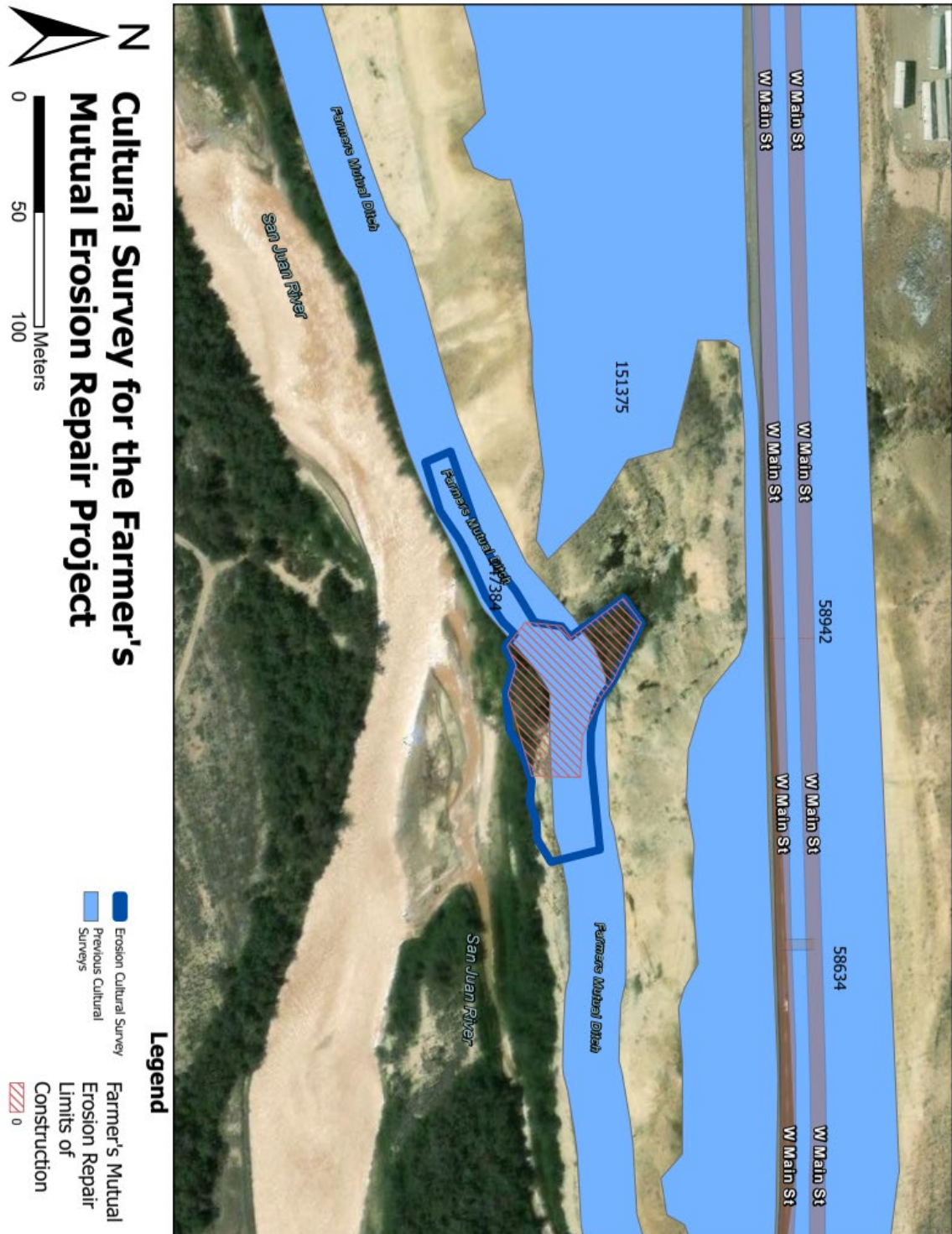


Figure 6. Cultural Survey for the Farmer's Mutual Erosion Repair Project



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March 7, 2025

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

Honorable Jenelle Roybal
Governor, Pueblo of Pojoaque
78 Cities of Gold Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Dear Governor Roybal:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, needs to make repairs to the Farmer's Mutual Ditch (Ditch) in San Juan County. The Ditch received heavy rainfall this summer, and a section of the access road eroded and caused damage to the articulated concrete block (ACB) matting that had been installed at an ephemeral water crossing (Figures 1-5). The Corps will need to repair this damage so that the water can be turned on for spring irrigation. The proposed repair work will include earthwork efforts and placement of ACB matting in the drainage crossing area. The earthwork efforts will address scouring/erosion which occurred as a result of a major storm event which happened back in June of 2024. The portion of the access road going across the drainage crossing will be regraded to both fill in scour areas and act as a low water crossing. Additionally, the drainage crossing itself will be regraded to be shaped into a trapezoidal channel, and the areas to the sides of the drainage crossing will be regraded to drain towards the center of the channel. After earthwork efforts, a combination of new and existing ACB matting will be placed on the drainage crossing portion of the access road to provide armoring for erosion protection.

The project area is located in San Juan County, New Mexico, approximately one half mile west of Farmington, New Mexico. The Corps has previously consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about this section of the Ditch. The Corps consulted about the adverse effect that rehabilitation work would have on the Ditch and entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve those adverse effects in 2021 (HPD Log No. 113444). Additional consultation was done in 2022 when it was determined that rock scaling would need to be performed on the cliffs above the Ditch before the rehabilitation work could proceed safely (HPD Log No. 118691). The Corps has been in communication with Jeff Tafoya (Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Renewable Resources) and David (Erik) Simpson (BLM Archaeologist) regarding the need for an archaeological survey on their land where the erosion damage occurred. The purpose of this letter is to present the results of the survey of the erosion repair Area of Potential Effect (APE) and seek your concurrence in our determination of **no historic properties affected** for the proposed Farmer's Mutual Erosion Repair project.



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Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes an area of 0.95 acres. Access to the APE will be achieved through the use of an existing access road. On February 12, 2025 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. The APE for the erosion repair project was partially surveyed in 2021 By BRIC, LLC and a Class III Inventory report was prepared to satisfy MOA requirements. This inventory documented the ditch, two archaeological sites, and three isolated occurrences (IOs). The Class III Inventory report was submitted on June 17, 2021. We received concurrence from the SHPO on June 29, 2021 (HPD Log 115375). No cultural resources were located in within the APE for the proposed erosion repair. There have been five other surveys performed within 0.5 miles of the erosion repair APE. They are summarized in the table below.

Table 1. Previous Cultural Surveys within 0.5 Miles of the APE

NMCRIS Activity No.	Performing Organization	Date of Survey	Acres	Resources Located
4513	NM State University San Juan Campus	2/22/1978	243.44	3
55783	4-Corners Archaeological Services	2/5/1996	61.8	0
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Gisler conducted a survey of the proposed erosion repair APE on February 14, 2025 (Figure 6). Gisler performed an intensive survey by walking 15m E-W and then N-S transects. A total of 0.95 acres were surveyed. Surface visibility was approximately 80-90 percent. The understory consisted primarily of mixed grasses. No overstory was present in the majority of the APE. Willows were present along the San Juan River. No cultural resource sites and no isolated occurrences were identified during this survey. During the survey it was noted that the contractor had installed the ACB Matting slightly outside (approximately 50 ft) of the corridor surveyed by BRIC, LLC in 2021. This was a contractor error. It also appears that prior construction was completed in the past in this drainage valley. A large cement culvert had been installed upslope from the erosion repair APE (Figure 5) in an area with no previous survey. The APE is within a drainage valley that funnels large amounts of water into the San Juan River. It has also been



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subjected to multiple construction efforts throughout the recent past. Therefore, there was a low probability of finding intact cultural resources.

Based upon the information above, the Corps determines that the proposed erosion repair project would result in **no historic properties affected**. We seek your comment on this determination.

The Corps is seeking input from tribes regarding the proposed erosion repair project and asking if consultation is wanted for this project. The purpose of this scoping letter is to provide you with the opportunity to submit concerns or comments regarding potential effects. Specifically, any concerns you may have regarding the environment such as natural, biological, or cultural resources; wildlife, vegetation, and special status species; air, water, or sound quality; aesthetics; health and safety; Traditional Cultural Properties; or Indian Trust Assets that may occur within or adjacent to the project area. The Corps respectfully requests that comments be submitted by April 7, 2025.

Should previously unknown artifacts or historic properties be encountered during construction, work would cease in the immediate vicinity of the resource. A determination of significance would be made, and further consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and with tribes that may have concerns or interests in the project area would be conducted to determine the best course of action.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding the proposed erosion repair project, please contact Jessica Gisler, archaeologist, by e-mail at jessica.l.gisler@usace.army.mil, or myself at (505) 342-3661 or by email at Danielle.A.Galloway@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Danielle A. Galloway

Danielle A. Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Enclosures



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Figure 1. Erosion of the Access Road.



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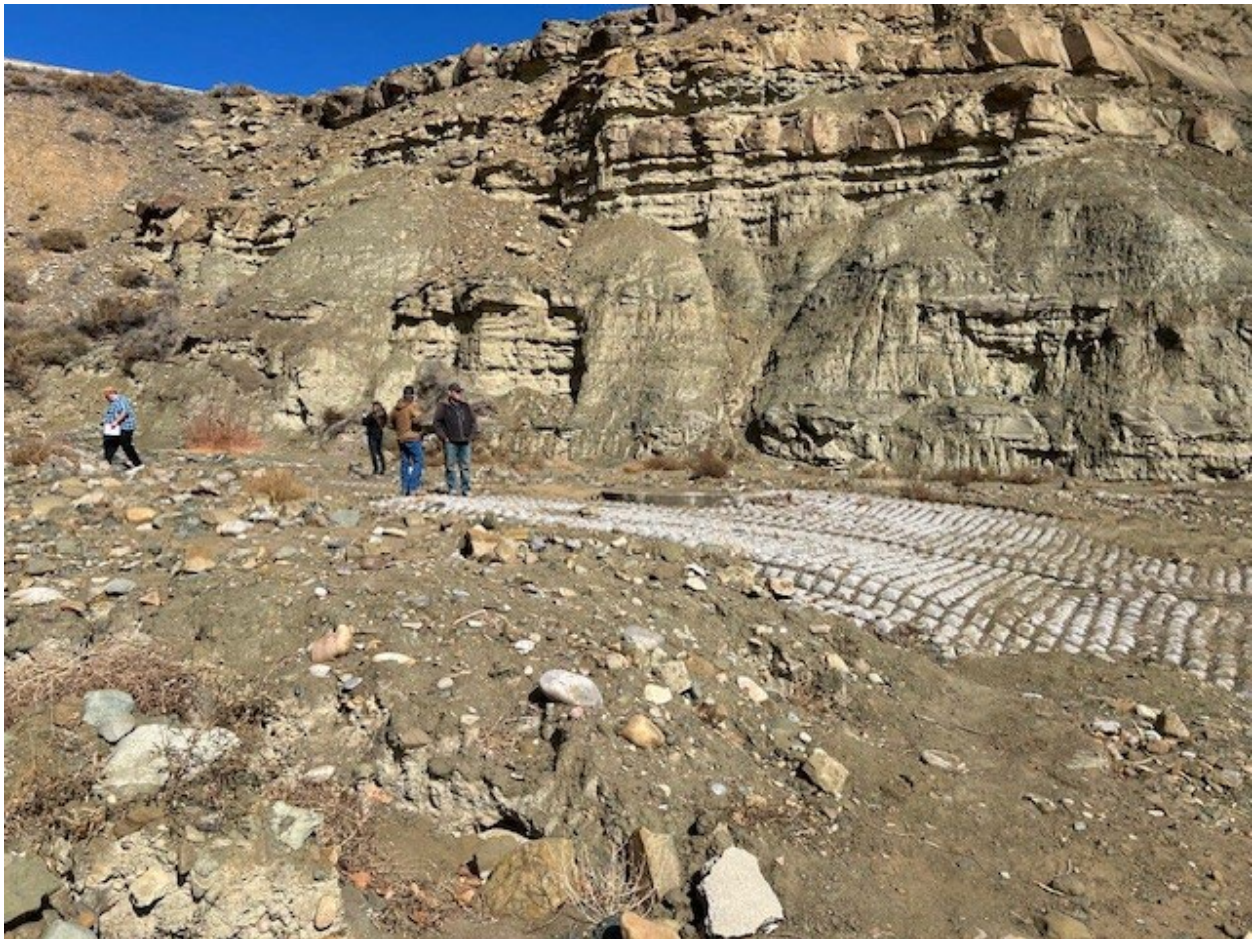


Figure 2. Damage to the ACB Matting



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Figure 3. Erosion of the Access Road



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Figure 4. Damage to the ACB Matting



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Figure 5. Pieces of the Culvert that was Installed Upslope

From: [Galloway, Danielle A CIV USARMY CESPA \(USA\)](#)
To: [Gisler, Jessica Lee \(Jess\) CIV USARMY CESPA \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: USACE Farmer's Mutual Ditch Repair Consultation: Pueblo of Pojoaque
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 1:31:31 PM
Attachments: [USACE Farmer's Mutual Ditch Repair Pueblo of Pojoaque.pdf](#)

FYI...

From: Lopez, Fermin <FLopez@pojoaque.org>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 9:14 AM
To: Galloway, Danielle A CIV USARMY CESPA (USA) <Danielle.A.Galloway@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: USACE Farmer's Mutual Ditch Repair Consultation: Pueblo of Pojoaque

Good morning, Danielle. I pray you are in good health and good spirits.

I am in receipt of your email request for consultation regarding the above-mentioned project. At this time, we will not provide consultation but will defer to Pueblos that would like to participate.

Have a great day!

Thank You!

Fermin Lopez
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Pueblo of Pojoaque Historic Preservation Office
39 Camino del Rincon STE #3
Santa Fe, NM 87506
505-231-0237 Cell
flopez@pojoaque.org



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From: Fuqua, Kaitlyn N CIV USARMY CESPA (USA) <Kaitlyn.N.Fuqua@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Edwards, Lois <LEdwards@pojoaque.org>
Cc: Bernstein, Bruce <bbernstein@pojoaque.org>; Gisler, Jessica Lee (Jess) CIV USARMY CESPA (USA)

<Jessica.L.Gisler@usace.army.mil>

Subject: USACE Farmer's Mutual Ditch Repair Consultation: Pueblo of Pojoaque

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, needs to make repairs to the Farmer's Mutual Ditch (Ditch) in San Juan County, New Mexico, due to damage to the articulated concrete block matting installed at the ephemeral water crossing. The Corps will need to repair this damage so that the water can be turned on for spring irrigation. The proposed repair work will include earthwork efforts and placement of ACB matting in the drainage crossing area. The attached consultation describes the proposed undertakings in more detail. The Corps is seeking input from tribes regarding the proposed erosion repair project. The purpose of this scoping letter is to provide you with the opportunity to submit concerns or comments regarding potential effects. The Corps respectfully requests that comments be submitted by **April 7, 2025**. Please contact USACE archaeologist, Jessica Gisler, at jessica.l.gisler@usace.army.mil with any questions or comments regarding this project.