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

March 21, 2023

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

Ms. Dawn DiPrince
State Historic Preservation Officer
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Ms. DiPrince:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (USACE) is partnering with the City of Colorado Springs, the non-Federal sponsor, to restore degraded wetland and riparian ecosystems along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The project is being conducted under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The proposed Federal (USACE) action would be within the project area and consistent with the City of Colorado Springs's plan to create a stream corridor along Spring Creek and support the greater vision for the Fountain Creek watershed to create a healthy waterway with appropriate erosion, sedimentation, and flooding that supports diverse economic, environmental, and recreational interests. USACE has the unique opportunity to address problems in the project area by restoring habitat in a rapidly developing urban area.

The project area is located along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, between Pikes Peak Avenue and Airport Road. The project area is located within 6th Meridian, Township 14 South, Range 66 West, Section 15 in USGS Quad Colorado Springs, CO. The Spring Creek basin is within the larger Fountain Creek Watershed (HUC 8: 11020003 - Fountain; HUC 4: 1102 - Upper Arkansas). Spring Creek's headwaters are located in urban Colorado Springs. The defined stream channel generally slopes from the northeast to the southwest approximately 4 miles, from just under half a mile upstream of the project area to its confluence with Fountain Creek.

For the purposes of this study, the area was divided into three reaches:

- **Reach 1: Pikes Peak North** is bordered to the west by Wagner Park, the south by Pikes Peak Ave., the north by a city fire station, and to the east by commercial businesses.

- **Reach 2: Former Wetland** is located southwest of the intersection of Pikes Peak Ave. and S. Academy Blvd and directly south of Reach 1.
- **Reach 3: South Channel** is located directly south of Reach 2 and is bordered to the west and south by private land, to the east by S. Academy Blvd.

In 2017, USACE received a letter of request for assistance from the City of Colorado Springs, City Engineering/Stormwater Division, to determine the feasibility of an aquatic ecosystem restoration project within the project area. A team from USACE met with representatives from the City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Division and Colorado Springs Utilities at the project area location in August 2022 for a site visit. The USACE began collecting necessary background information and existing conditions of the project area.

After a background records check was conducted, it was determined that the area had not previously been surveyed for cultural resources and a survey would need to be performed to identify existing cultural resources within the project area, in order to develop actions and alternatives. The attached report “A 30 Acre Cultural Resources Survey Along Spring Creek in Colorado Springs, El Paso County” provide the results of the non-collection, archaeological survey performed in December 2022 by USACE archaeologist Kaitlyn Fuqua. The purpose of this survey was to identify any existing and unknown cultural resources within the project area. No cultural resources were identified within the project area. Per 36 CFR 800, USACE will perform Section 106 duties, along with consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office and tribal consultation, when the undertakings are established for the project. If the scope or the APE changes, an additional survey may be needed.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact USACE Albuquerque District archaeologist Kaitlyn Fuqua at kaitlyn.n.fuqua@usace.army.mil, or me at danielle.a.galloway@usace.army.mil or at (505) 342-3661.

Sincerely:

(Acting For) Danielle A. Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section