

Appendix C

Cultural Resources

Acequia de Chamita – Staging Area Selection



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

October 7, 2025

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

HPD Log 126562
Received 10/7/2025

Michelle M. Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

RE: HPD Log # 124037

Dear Ms. Ensey:

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps), seeks your concurrence on a determination of **no adverse effect to historic properties** for the proposed staging area for an upcoming Corps project on the Acequia de Chamita in north of the Rio Chama and near the community of Chamita, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The acequia's diversion structure is located approximately 6.4 km (≈ 4 miles) upstream of the Rio Chama's confluence with the Rio Grande (Enclosure 1).

We previously consulted with you regarding both a geotechnical drilling project and the rehabilitation of the acequia structure within the area of potential effect (APE) and received your concurrence with our no adverse effect determination on December 13, 2024 (HPD Log # 124037). Since that time, the Corps has selected a staging area for the proposed construction (Enclosure 2) immediately north of the acequia (LA 100724) and within the area surveyed for the prior consultation (NMCRIS 156910). No historic properties were identified within the area proposed for staging. As noted in our previous consultation, although the acequia LA 100724 is overall eligible for NRHP listing, the portions of the acequia system within the APE were constructed within the last 25 years and do not themselves contribute to the acequia's eligibility. Placing the staging area in this location will not adversely affect the acequia.

In sum, the Corps determines that the staging area will **no adverse effect to historic properties**. We seek your concurrence with this determination.

If you have any questions or require additional information concerning the staging area or other work for the Acequia de Chamita Rehabilitation Project, please contact archaeologist Jonathan Van Hoose at (505) 342-3687 (jonathan.e.vanhoose@usace.army.mil) or me at (505) 342-3661 (Danielle.a.galloway@usace.army.mil). You may also provide comments to the above address.

Sincerely,


VAN
HOOSE.JONATHAN.E.1
103293312

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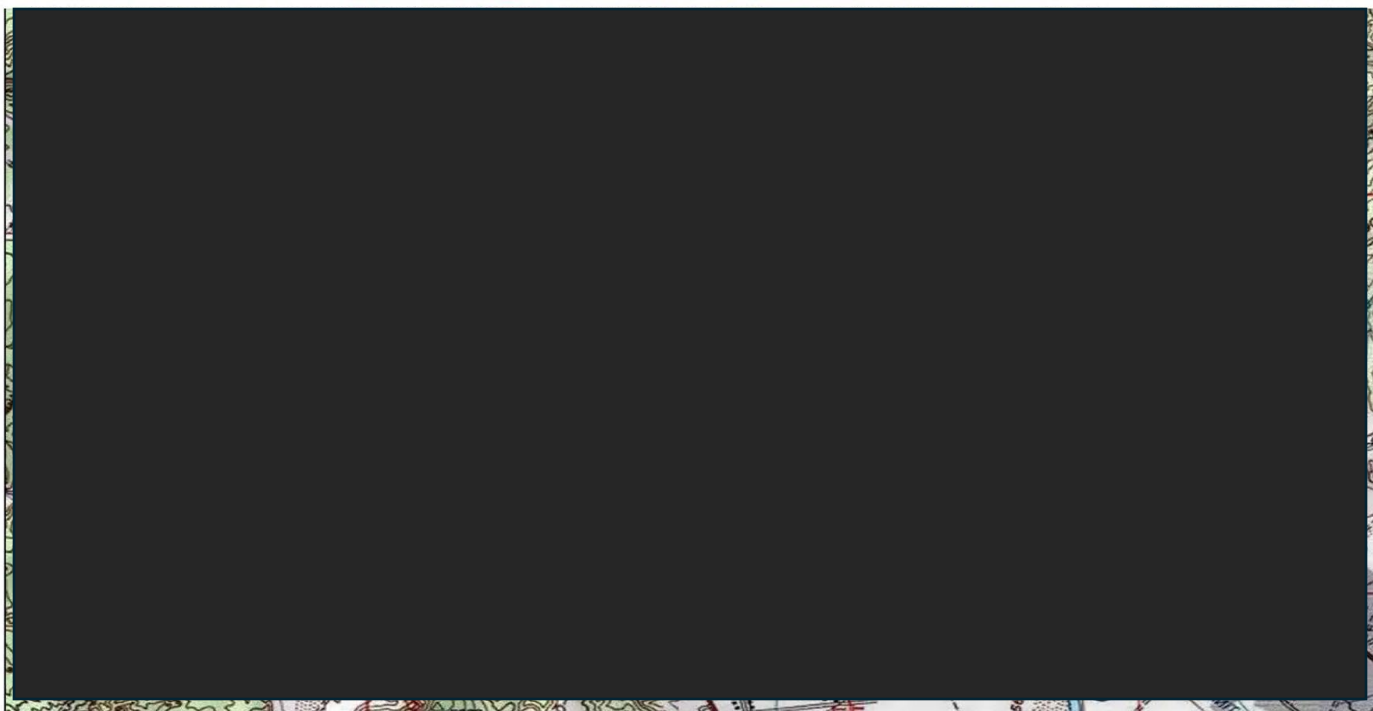
For Danielle Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

I CONCUR

Cortney Wands
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 Michelle Ensey
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

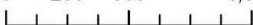


Acequia de Chamita Survey Extent

-  Survey Area
-  Staging Area



0 250 500 1,000 Meters



Enclosure 1. Project location.

SHPO Concurrence



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

November 14, 2024

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

HPD Log #124037
Received 11/14/2024

Michelle M. Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Ensey:

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps), Operations Division, seeks your concurrence on determinations of **no adverse effect to historic properties** for the planned drilling of two (2) borings for geotechnical analysis associated with an upcoming Corps project on the Acequia de Chamita in north of the Rio Chama and near the community of Chamita, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The acequia's diversion structure is located approximately 6.4 km (\approx 4 miles) upstream of the Rio Chama's confluence with the Rio Grande (Enclosure 1).

The Corps is planning a project to improve the functioning of the Acequia de Chamita, and is currently developing recommendations to remove a buried conduit and construct a concrete lined open channel in its place, with the goal to enhance and improve the efficiency of the acequia, to reduce maintenance, eliminate a hazardous situation, and support the surrounding riparian vegetation through the seepage of moisture into the soil. This portion of the acequia was previously constructed by the Corps in 2002, and has been subjected to Corps modification and rehabilitation during the 1990s and early 2000s under "no adverse effect" determinations (see previous NMCRIS activities 38809 and 49652, and HPD log 65821), and none of the portions of the acequia planned for the current construction project are expected to involve original or older components. While the Corps determined the acequia system (LA 100724) itself eligible for NRHP listing during its earlier consultations, we determine that, for the purposes of this project, the portions of the acequia that were constructed or replaced during or since the 1990s are not themselves significant and do not contribute to the resource's significance. As such, we determine that any work that might directly affect these elements would result in no adverse effect to LA 100724.

The Corps rehabilitation work is currently in the design phase, and we will continue to consult with your office as our plans become more refined. To inform on this initial planning, the Corps needs to conduct a geotechnical investigation involving two (2) boring locations. Neither of these locations are within the boundaries of the acequia itself; rather, they are planned for the road bed immediately to the north and uphill of the acequia (Enclosures 2, 3, and 4). Sampling will occur with a Hollow Stem Auger and Rock Coring using a truck-mounted drill rig with support/water truck, and one additional Corps' vehicle. The planned boring size is between 4-8

inches in diameter, and the boring depth is estimated to reach 35 ft. deep. Staging will occur on the existing roadway shoulder, and the holes will be refilled after boring. The Corps determines the area of potential effect (APE) for the borings to include the footprints of the borings themselves with individual buffers of one to two meters, as well as the staging area along the road shoulders. All of these locations are within the existing constructed and bladed road bed.

While the acequia had been surveyed for the prior construction work described above, the APE for the two borings had not. Several smaller surveys have taken place in the general vicinity, and five previously documented resources are shown in the NMCRIS database as being near the APE, with one [REDACTED] shown on NMCRIS as intersecting the APE for the boring locations. In addition to the acequia itself (LA 100724), [REDACTED]

On 4 September 2024, Corps' archaeologist Jonathan Van Hoose surveyed the APE for the borings, as well as the portions of the acequia currently planned for rehabilitation, for cultural resources (NMCRIS 156910). The NMCRIS database shows simple circles as the site boundaries for [REDACTED], and such circles are often imprecisely plotted. The current Corps' survey found no evidence for any archaeological site or cultural resources within the APE, aside from the acequia itself. This confirms the findings of the Corps' earlier survey in 1995 (NMCRIS 49652), which place [REDACTED]

The majority of the surveyed area has been reworked by the construction of the highway. This includes bulldozing or other truncation of the uphill portion of the slope, constituting the very southern tip of Black Mesa, as well as earth moving for construction of a road bed under the road and downslope. While [REDACTED] is shown in NMCRIS as overlapping the survey area, earlier descriptions (including the Corps' earlier consultation on this acequia per HPD Log # 65821) place the site [REDACTED] the modification of the slope during construction has long since removed what was once the surface to a depth of several meters. Additionally, there is significant vertical separation between the locations of the boring locations and staging areas and the acequia, meaning that no portion of the acequia falls within the APE for the geotechnical boring effort.

The Corps therefore determines that the two boring locations, which will be placed alongside the existing highway and through the road bed, and use of staging areas along the existing road shoulder, would result in **no historic properties affected**. We seek your concurrence with this determination.

Because the entire portion of the Acequia de Chamita within the survey area was completely reconstructed within the last 25 years, we also determine that this portion of the acequia does not contribute to the eligibility of the overall resource, and that continued rehabilitation work on this portion would result in **no adverse effect** to LA 100724 as a historic property. We seek your concurrence on this determination as well. Further consultation on staging areas, etc., will be conducted as project planning continues.

In sum, the Corps determines that the geotechnical drilling will result in **no historic properties affected**, and that rehabilitation work on the recently-constructed portion of the Acequia de Chamita would have **no adverse effect**.

If you have any questions or require additional information concerning the Acequia de Chamita Rehabilitation Project, please contact archaeologist Jonathan Van Hoose at (505) 342-3687 (jonathan.e.vanhoose@usace.army.mil) or me at (505) 342-3661 (Danielle.a.galloway@usace.army.mil). You may also provide comments to the above address.

Sincerely,

Danielle Galloway

Danielle Galloway
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

I CONCUR
for

Cortney Wands
Digitally signed by Cortney Wands
Date: 2024.12.13 12:20:24 -0700

Michelle Ensey
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

Comments: The SHPO concurs with the determinations as proposed.

In order to complete my review, a NIAF will need to be completed and a shapefile of the survey area will need to be uploaded into NMCRIS. Please let me know when this has been done so I can complete my review.