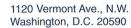
# APPENDIX G SHPO AND TRIBAL CONSULTATION





#### Federal Railroad Administration

NOV 2 8 2007

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
Office of Historic Preservation
California State Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: NHPA Section 106 Project Review Team

RE: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance for the Proposed DesertXpress—San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead agency for Section 106 compliance and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed DesertXpress Project. FRA has obtained the services of CirclePoint and Jones and Stokes to prepare Section 106 materials to comply with the Section 106 regulations (36 CFR 800) of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are cooperating agencies and have designated FRA as the lead agency for the Section 106 process. The DesertXpress Project presents the above agencies with approval actions and represents an undertaking per 36 CFR 800.16(y). A major portion of the proposed project lies within the jurisdiction of BLM in California and Nevada, and Section 106 documentation is being coordinated with their cultural resources staff. FRA intends to provide all findings, determinations, and submissions for this undertaking for review by BLM prior to submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC (the project Applicant) has proposed to construct and operate a privately financed interstate high-speed passenger train from Victorville, California to Las Vegas, Nevada (see Location Map and Project Alignment Map). The proposed action would be a fully grade-separated, dedicated double track passenger-only railroad along an approximately 200-mile corridor, from Victorville California to Las Vegas, Nevada. The DesertXpress alignment would extend within or adjacent to Interstate-15 (I-15) for about 170 miles and adjacent to existing railroad lines (and right-of-way) for about 30 miles. The proposed action would include a passenger station and one primary maintenance facility in Victorville and a passenger station and one light

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The use of such railroad rights-of-way would be subject to BNSF Railway Company approval. No federal agency has the authority to force a railroad to sell, lease, or otherwise allow DesertXpress to use the right-of-way of an existing railroad.

maintenance facility in the Las Vegas area. Several alternative routings, stations, and maintenance facility site options will be considered in the EIS.

In accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.4(a)(1 through 4), we are seeking consultation with SHPO on the adequacy of the following scope of efforts to identify historic properties in San Bernardino County. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined below and a set of maps is enclosed. The review of existing background information is described as well as the efforts to involve consulting parties and Native American Tribes. Per 36 CFR 800.3 (c)(4), after 30 days FRA will assume concurrence with this letter if no response has been received and we will proceed to complete identification and evaluation of historic properties and assessment of potential adverse effects.

# 1) Definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE):

A) Areas in the median or right-of-way of I-15 that were disturbed by Interstate construction. Due to construction of the Interstate, archaeological sites in areas where ground was disturbed have likely been destroyed below the depth of the proposed construction for DesertXpress; therefore, there is little to no potential to affect archaeological sites that have integrity and the areas that comprise the Interstate construction footprint are not included in the APE.

The Interstate Highway System is exempt from Section 106 review except for elements of national and exceptional importance, and this section of I-15 contains no such elements. Therefore, there is no potential to affect buildings or structures that could be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in disturbed areas of the I-15 and these areas are not included in the APE. Exceptions to this would be if there are non-Interstate bridges or other overcrossings that would have to be altered to accommodate the Desert Express. Those non-Interstate bridges or other overcrossings would be included in the APE.

- B) Undisturbed areas in the median or right-of-way of I-15. There is the potential for archaeological sites to retain integrity in areas outside of the Interstate construction footprint (e.g., medians of great width, right-of-way that extends well beyond the shoulder or rest areas, etc.); therefore, the APE would include any areas where construction would affect undisturbed ground.
  - For locations where the DesertXpress would be located along the edge of the I-15 right-of-way, buildings or structures that could be affected by visual changes to their setting would be included within the APE.
- C) Construction outside the I-15 right-of-way. For archaeological sites, the APE would include all areas of ground that would be disturbed by construction or construction staging.
  - The APE would include all buildings, structures, and objects that would be altered or that could be affected by visual changes to their setting.
- D) Construction inside railroad (BNSF Railway Company [BNSF] or other) right-of-way. Areas previously undisturbed by track or railroad activity may

have potential for archaeological sites to retain integrity; therefore, the APE would include any areas where construction would affect undisturbed ground. Areas where the BNSF previously had a 2nd track or sidings would not be affected by the re-introduction of railroad activity and would be excluded from the APE.

Railroad stations, buildings, and ramps that are associated with the railroad would be included within the APE. In addition, any bridges or culverts that could be potentially altered would also be included within the APE.

- E) Additional construction support areas along the proposed alignment. The construction of the proposed DesertXpress may require some of the following: storm water detention basins, utility realignments, access roads, storage areas, borrow sites, and disposal sites. These easements would also be included within the APE as necessary.
- 2) Review Existing Information on Historic Properties within or Near the APE: A records search with the San Bernardino Archaeological Information Center was conducted on August 10, 2006. Results of the search indicate that there are 102 Historic Properties within the APE.

Regarding archaeological sites in or near the APE, a field survey is planned for all portions of the APE that has not been surveyed within the last five years. Given the size of the project, previously unidentified historic and prehistoric resources are anticipated. Resources that have not been previously evaluated would need to be evaluated according to National Register criteria. Determinations of eligibility of these properties will be submitted to you for your concurrence in future correspondence.

Research and field investigation of the built environment by a qualified architectural historian indicates there may be a historic district associated with former Route 66 between Victorville and Barstow. In addition, there are several buildings within the APE that are more than 50 years of age outside the historic district boundaries that would need to be evaluated according to National Register criteria. Determinations of eligibility of these properties will also be submitted to you for your concurrence in future correspondence.

3) Consulting and Interested Parties: A list of consulting and interested parties was compiled of those who may have knowledge or concerns with historic properties in the area, and the list is attached to this letter. Letters were sent to interested parties in November 2006, and to additional parties in January 2007, requesting information regarding any historic buildings, districts, sites, objects, or archeological sites of significance within the project area. A sample letter is included as an attachment for your reference. To date, we have received three responses all from within Nevada including: The City of Las Vegas Planning and Development Department, The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, and Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning.

Native American Consultation: Native American consultation began with a 4) letter dated August 10, 2006, sent to the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands Inventory, and list of Indian Tribes and Native American Groups who may have knowledge of cultural resources or properties of traditional religious and cultural significance in the proposed project area. On August 24, 2006, a letter was received from the NAHC providing a list of Native American tribal contacts and stating that a record search of the Sacred Lands File had been conducted and that it had failed to indicate the presence of any known cultural resources important to Native Americans in the project area or APE. In discussion with the Las Vegas and Barstow BLM, additional Native American contacts were added to the contact list to provide a comprehensive list for both Nevada and California. On March 8, 2007, the FRA sent letters informing the identified tribes of the project and soliciting their participation in the environmental study process. To date, six responses have been received and are being incorporated into the planning stages of the project. The list of tribes contacted and a sample letter is attached for reference.

We look forward to any comments you may have regarding the proposed scope of efforts to identify historic properties. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact Mr. David Valenstein, Environmental Program Manager, at (202) 493-6368 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:david.valenstein@dot.gov">david.valenstein@dot.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Yaohmetz

Associate Administrator For Railroad Development

Enclosures:

Location Map

Project Alignment Map

Area of Potential Effects Map

List of Proposed Consulting and Interested Parties, and Sample Letter

Letter Dated April 10, 2006 to NAHC Letter Dated August 24, 2006 from NAHC

List of Native American Groups and Letter

cc: R. Rotte, J. Shearer, S. Rowe – BLM

C. Glidden - STB

M. Khaled - FHWA

S. Steinwert, Project Manager, CirclePoint

R. Starzak, Senior Architectural Historian, Jones & Stokes

C. Shaver, Senior Archaeologist, Jones & Stokes





#### Federal Railroad Administration

Mr. Ronald M. James Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Nevada Historic Preservation Office 100 North Stewart Street Carson City, NV 89701-4285

NOV 2 8 2007

Attn: NHPA Section 106 Project Review Team

RE: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance for the Proposed DesertXpress—Clark County

Dear Mr. James:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead agency for Section 106 compliance and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed DesertXpress Project. FRA has obtained the services of CirclePoint and Jones and Stokes to prepare Section 106 materials to comply with the Section 106 regulations (36 CFR 800) of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are cooperating agencies and have designated FRA as the lead agency for the Section 106 process. The DesertXpress Project presents the above agencies with approval actions and represents an undertaking per 36 CFR 800.16(y). A major portion of the proposed project lies within the jurisdiction of BLM in California and Nevada, and Section 106 documentation is being coordinated with their cultural resources staff. FRA intends to provide all findings, determinations, and submissions for this undertaking for review by BLM prior to submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC (the project Applicant) has proposed to construct and operate a privately financed interstate high-speed passenger train from Victorville, California to Las Vegas, Nevada (see Location Map and Project Alignment Map). The proposed action would be a fully grade-separated, dedicated double track passenger-only railroad along an approximately 200-mile corridor, from Victorville California to Las Vegas, Nevada. The DesertXpress alignment would extend within or adjacent to Interstate-15 (I-15) for about 170 miles and adjacent to existing railroad lines (and right-of-way) for about 30 miles. The proposed action would include a passenger station and one primary maintenance facility in Victorville and a passenger station and one light

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The use of such railroad rights-of-way would be subject to BNSF Railway Company approval. No federal agency has the authority to force a railroad to sell, lease, or otherwise allow DesertXpress to use the right-of-way of an existing railroad.

maintenance facility in the Las Vegas area. Several alternative routings, stations, and maintenance facility site options will be considered in the EIS.

In accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.4(a)(1 through 4), we are seeking consultation with SHPO on the adequacy of the following scope of efforts to identify historic properties in Clark County. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined below and a set of maps is enclosed. The review of existing background information is described as well as the efforts to involve consulting parties and Native American Tribes. Per 36 CFR 800.3 (c)(4), after 30 days FRA will assume concurrence with this letter if no response has been received and we will proceed to complete identification and evaluation of historic properties and assessment of potential adverse effects.

# 1) Definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE):

A) Areas in the median or right-of-way of I-15 that were disturbed by Interstate construction. Due to construction of the Interstate, archaeological sites in areas where ground was disturbed have likely been destroyed below the depth of the proposed construction for DesertXpress; therefore, there is little to no potential to affect archaeological sites that have integrity and the areas that comprise the Interstate construction footprint are not included in the APE.

The Interstate Highway System is exempt from Section 106 review except for elements of national and exceptional importance, and this section of I-15 contains no such elements. Therefore, there is no potential to affect buildings or structures that could be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in disturbed areas of the I-15 and these areas are not included in the APE. Exceptions to this would be if there are non-Interstate bridges or other overcrossings that would have to be altered to accommodate the Desert Express. Those non-Interstate bridges or other overcrossings would be included in the APE.

- B) Undisturbed areas in the median or right-of-way of I-15. There is the potential for archaeological sites to retain integrity in areas outside of the Interstate construction footprint (e.g., medians of great width, right-of-way that extends well beyond the shoulder or rest areas, etc.); therefore, the APE would include any areas where construction would affect undisturbed ground.
  - For locations where the DesertXpress would be located along the edge of the I-15 right-of-way, buildings or structures that could be affected by visual changes to their setting would be included within the APE.
- C) Construction outside the I-15 right-of-way. For archaeological sites, the APE would include all areas of ground that would be disturbed by construction or construction staging.
  - The APE would include all buildings, structures, and objects that would be altered or that could be affected by visual changes to their setting.
- D) Construction inside railroad (BNSF Railway Company [BNSF] or other) right-of-way. Areas previously undisturbed by track or railroad activity may

have potential for archaeological sites to retain integrity; therefore, the APE would include any areas where construction would affect undisturbed ground. Areas where the BNSF previously had a second track or sidings would not be affected by the re-introduction of railroad activity and would be excluded from the APE.

Railroad stations, buildings, and ramps that are associated with the railroad would be included within the APE. In addition, any bridges or culverts that could be potentially altered would also be included within the APE.

- E) Additional construction support areas along the proposed alignment. The construction of the proposed DesertXpress may require some of the following: storm water detention basins, utility realignments, access roads, storage areas, borrow sites, and disposal sites. These easements would also be included within the APE as necessary.
- 2) Review Existing Information on Historic Properties Within or Near the APE: A records search with the Southern Nevada Archaeological Archive, Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas was conducted on October 12, 2006. Results of the search indicate that there are 24 archaeological sites within the APE.

Regarding archaeological sites in or near the APE, a field survey is planned for all portions of the APE that have not been surveyed within the last five years. Given the size of the project; previously unidentified historic and prehistoric resources are anticipated. Resources that have not been previously evaluated would need to be evaluated according to National Register criteria. Determinations of eligibility of these properties will be submitted to you for your concurrence in future correspondence.

Research and field investigation of the built environment by a qualified architectural historian indicates there are no known historic properties within the APE in the state of Nevada. However, there are several buildings within the APE that are more than 50 years of age that would need to be evaluated according to National Register criteria. Determinations of eligibility of these properties will also be submitted to you for your concurrence in future correspondence.

3) Consulting and Interested Parties: A list of consulting and interested parties was compiled of those who may have knowledge or concerns with historic properties in the area, and the list is attached to this letter. Letters were sent to interested parties in November 2006, and to additional parties in January 2007, requesting information regarding any historic buildings, districts, sites, objects, or archeological sites of significance within the project area. A sample letter is included as an attachment for your reference. To date, we have received three responses all from within Nevada including: The City of Las Vegas Planning and Development Department, The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, and Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning.

4) Native American Consultation: Native American consultation began with a letter dated August 10, 2006, sent to the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a review of the Sacred Lands Inventory, and lists of Indian Tribes and Native American Groups who may have knowledge of cultural resources or properties of traditional religious and cultural significance in the proposed project area. On August 24, 2006, a letter was received from the NAHC providing a list of Native American tribal contacts and stating that a record search of the Sacred Lands File had been conducted and that it had failed to indicate the presence of any known cultural resources important to Native Americans in the project area or APE. In discussion with the Las Vegas and Barstow BLM, additional Native American contacts were added to the contact list to provide a comprehensive list for both Nevada and California. On March 8, 2007, the FRA sent letters informing the identified tribes of the project and soliciting their participation in the environmental study process. To date, six responses have been received and are being incorporated into the planning stages of the project. The list of tribes contacted and a sample letter is attached for reference.

We look forward to any comments you may have regarding the proposed scope of efforts to identify historic properties. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact Mr. David Valenstein, Environmental Program Manager, at (202) 493-6368 or via e-mail at david.valenstein@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark E Yachmetz
Associate Administrator
For Railroad Development

Enclosures:

Location Map

Project Alignment Map

Area of Potential Effects Map

List of Proposed Consulting and Interested Parties, and Sample Letter

Letter Dated April 10, 2006 to NAHC Letter Dated August 24, 2006 from NAHC List of Native American Groups and Letter

cc: R. Rotte, J. Shearer, S. Rowe - BLM

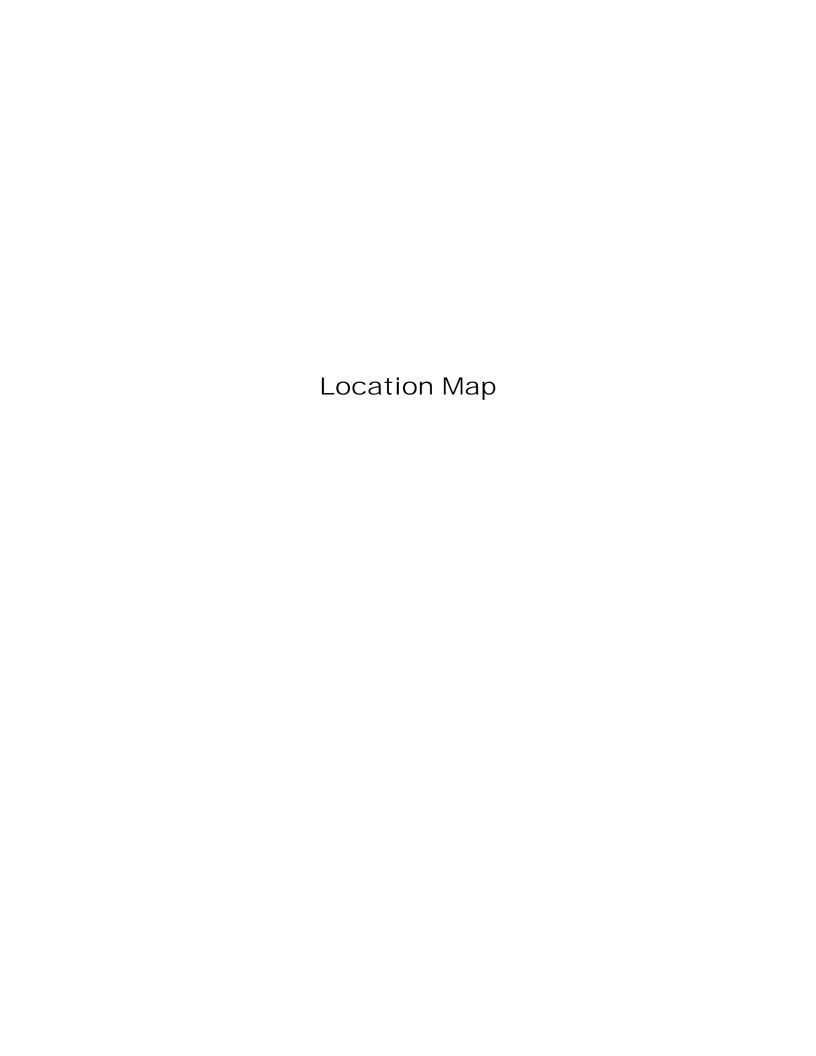
C. Glidden - STB

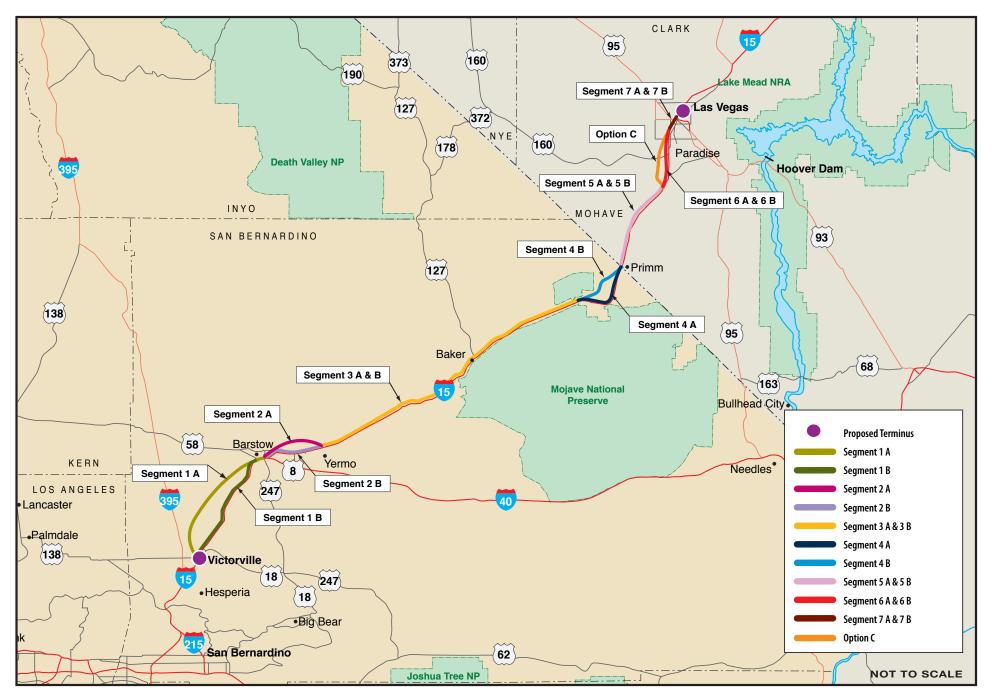
M. Khaled - FHWA

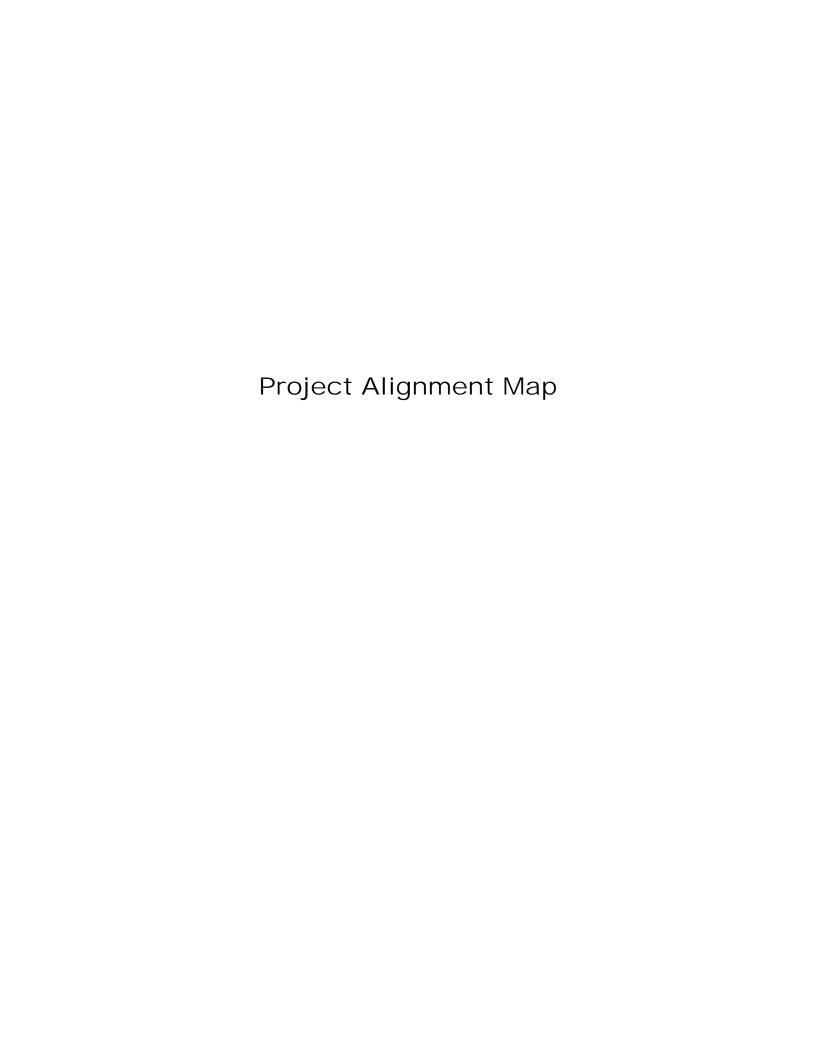
S. Steinwert, Project Manager, CirclePoint

R. Starzak, Senior Architectural Historian, Jones & Stokes

C. Shaver, Senior Archaeologist, Jones & Stoke







# Area of Potential Effects

**Available Upon Request** 

# List of Proposed Consulting and Interested Parties and Draft Letter

## LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES: DESERT XPRESS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: CALIFORNIA Rolla Queen District Archaeologist California Desert District Bureau of Land Management 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos Moreno Valley, CA 92553

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: CALIFORNIA

Sierra Club, San Gorgonio Chapter, Mojave Group 4079 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 92501-3204

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: NEVADA

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Southern Nevada Office P. O. Box 230432 Las Vegas, NV 89105

Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter Nevada and Eastern California PO Box 8096 Reno, NV 89507

The Nevada Environmental Coalition, Inc. 10720 Button Willow Drive Las Vegas, NV 89134

#### PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS: CALIFORNIA

California Preservation Foundation Roberta Deering—Executive Director 5 Third Street, Suite 424 San Francisco, CA 94103

California Route 66 Preservation Foundation P.O. Box 290066 Phelan, CA 92329-0066

#### PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS: NEVADA

Preserve Nevada UNLV Dept. of History Box 455020 Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020 Preservation Association of Clark County P.O. Box 96686 Las Vegas, NV 89193-6686

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS: CALIFORNIA

Mojave River Valley Museum P.O. Box 1282 Barstow, CA 92311

California Historical Society 1120 Old Mill Road San Marino, CA 91108

Chinese American Museum Attn.: Sue Ellen Chang El Pueblo de Los Angeles Suite 400 Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS: NEVADA

Nevada Historical Society 1650 North Virginia Street Reno, Nevada 89503

Nevada State Museum & Historical Society 700 Twin Lakes Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Nevada State Railroad Museum 2180 South Carson Street Carson City, NV 89710

Nevada Archaeological Association PO Box 73145 Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

#### BAKER

Baker Community Services District PO Box 590 Baker, CA 92309

#### **BARSTOW**

Scott Priester City of Barstow Community Development Director/City Planner 220 East Mountain View Street Barstow, CA 92311

#### PARADISE CITY

Clark County Commission 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. Las Vegas, NV 89155

## **VICTORVILLE**

Bill Webb, AICP City of Victorville Development Director PO Box 5001 Victorville, CA. 92393-5001

#### LAS VEGAS

Margo Wheeler, AICP City of Las Vegas Development Services Director 731 South Forth Street Las Vegas, NV 89101

#### RAILROAD ORGANIZATIONS

Pacific Railroad Society P.O. Box 80726 San Marino, CA 91108-8726

Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society P.O. Box 93697 Pasadena, CA 91109-3697

San Bernadino Railroad Historical Society P.O. Box 2878 San Bernadino, CA 92406-2878

California State Railroad Museum 111 "I" Street Sacramento, CA 95814-2265

Las Vegas Railroad Society 4795 Wynn Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

#### HIGHWAY ORGANIZATIONS

National Historic Route 66 Federation P.O. Box 1848, Dept. WS, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352-1848

## OTHER

Bill Mann c/o Shortfuse Publishing Co. 30 Hilltop Terrace Barstow, CA 92311

The Center for Land Use Interpretation 9331 Venice Boulevard Culver City, CA 90232 Contact: Matt Coolidge

Dick and Kathy Thompson 18757 Kamana Road Apple Valley, CA 92307

Don Hendricks 609 North Crestline Drive Las Vegas, NV 89107-1395

Liz Warren PO Box 19039 Jean, NV 89019

#### SAMPLE INTERESTED PARTY LETTER: DESERTXPRESS

Date

Name Address City, State Zip

RE: Desert Xpress High Speed Train—Request for information on historic properties

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Federal Railroad Administration, Jones & Stokes is preparing historic and cultural resources documentation regarding the private proposal for the DesertXpress high-speed train project, in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of our research, we are contacting local historical organizations, libraries, and city planning departments to help identify any historic buildings, districts, sites, objects, or archaeological sites of significance within the project area.

The proposed project involves a high-speed train that extends generally along Interstate 15 (I-15) between Victorville, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Since the entire alignment is over 177 miles in length, individual Area of Potential Effects (APE) Maps are not being provided; however, specific APE figures of the alignment will be made available upon request. The enclosed Figure 1 is an overall Project Alignment Map from Victorville to Las Vegas. If you have concerns or question about an area, please mark the accompanying map provided, and return to Jones & Stokes, or call the number below to describe portion of the project alignment you would wish to see in more detail.

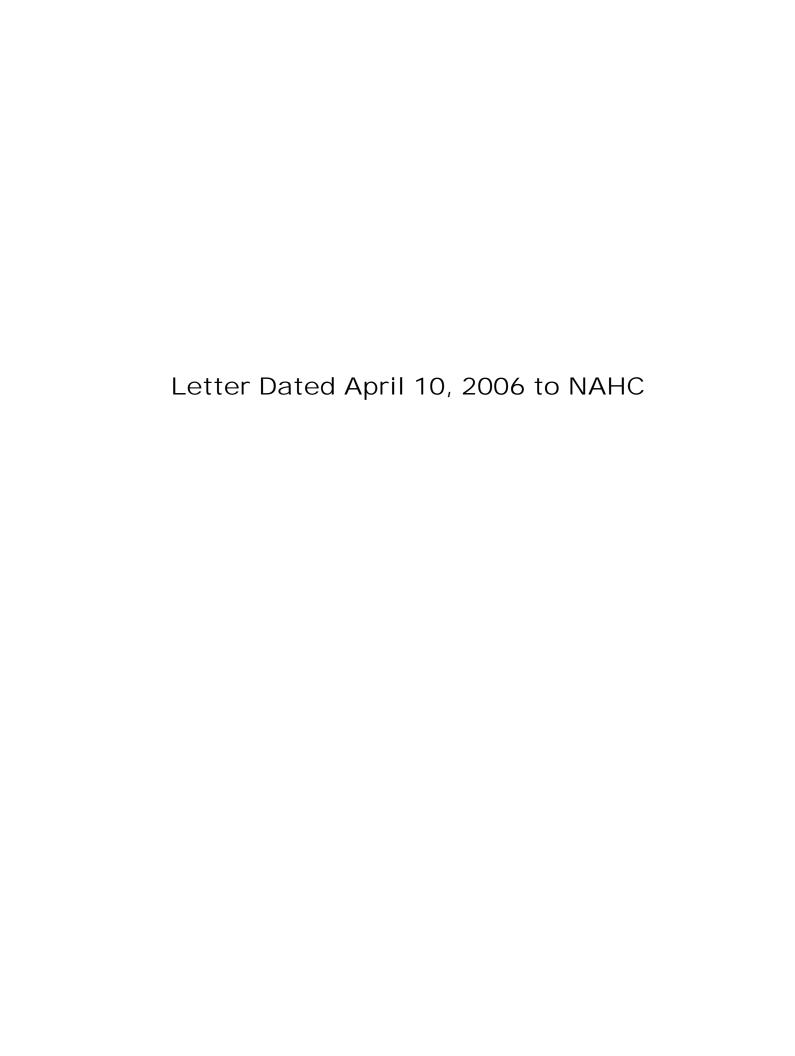
As part of our survey of the project area, we are examining local, state, and federal lists of historic properties and previous surveys. We are also conducting research on the properties within the project area to determine their archeological, architectural, and historical significance. Our assessments of significance will be based on the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Any information you can provide will help assure that historic properties are considered and protected.

I am enclosing an overall project alignment map, Figure 1, for your review, and to solicit your input. We would appreciate your comments identifying any resources, concerns, or issues pertinent to this project by January 18, 2007. Please feel free to call me at (213) 627-5376 if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

David Greenwood Architectural Historian II

Figure 1: Overall Project Alignment Map



Native American Heritage Commission 915 Capitol Mall, Room 364 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sacred Lands File request for Desert Xpress (Project No: 06334.06)

Dear NAHC:

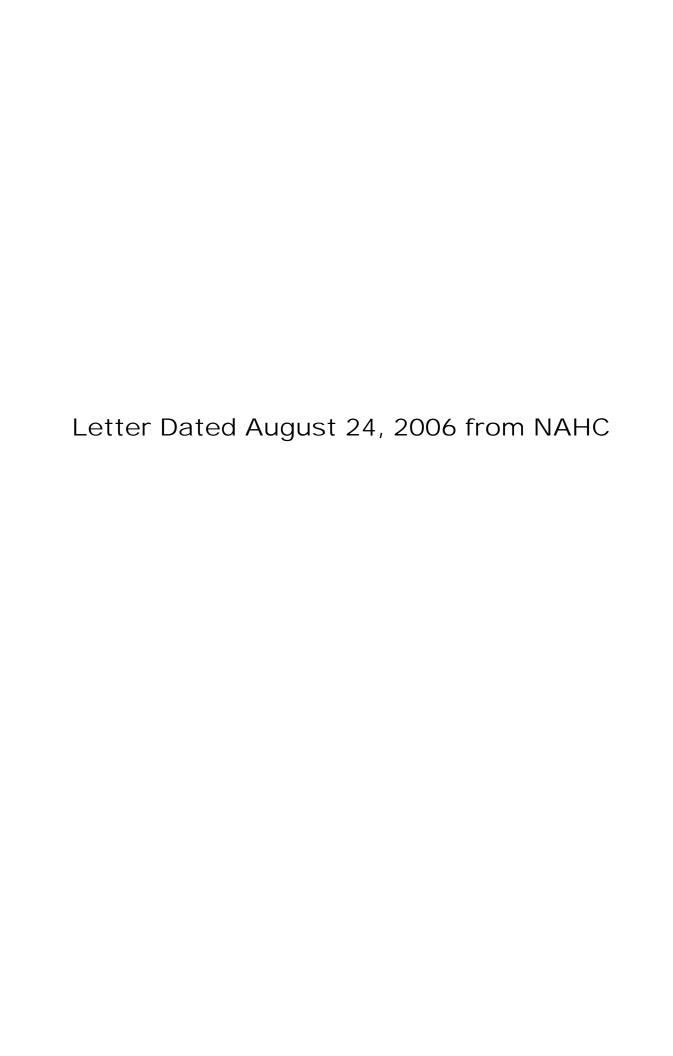
Jones & Stokes is currently undertaking a cultural resources study for the proposed Desert Xpress project along Interstate 15 between Victorville, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. The accompanying maps include the portion of the project area contained within San Bernardino County (Victorville area to the Nevada border). Each figure displays portions of the project area on 7.5'-series USGS maps with a 1-mile buffer already delineated for your convenience.

Please review the sacred lands files for any Native American cultural resources that may be within or adjacent to the proposed project alignment. I would also like to request a list of Native American individuals and organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources within the project area.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience at (951) 506-4038 if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,

Christopher L. Shaver Project Archaeologist Jones & Stokes



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION 915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 (916) 653-4082 Fax (916) 657-5390 Web Site www.nebc.ce.gov

August 24, 2006

Mr. Christopher L. Shaver, Project Archeologist

MOONEY - JONES & STOKES

41245 Lyndie Lane, Suite 200

Temecula, CA 92591

Sent by FAX to: (951) 506-4138

Number of Pages: 4

Re: Request for a Sacred Lands File records search for the proposed Desert Xoress Project
Victorville are to the Nevada Border, San Bernardino County, California: USGS 7.5 Minute
Quadrangles include Apple Valley North, Victorville, Turtle Valley, Helendale, Wild Crossing, Hodge,
Yermo, Nebo, Hinkley, Barstow, Harvard Hill, Manix, Alvord Mountain East, Croero Hill, Dunn, West
of Soda Lake, Soda Lake, North, Baker, Halloran Springs, Turquoise Mountain, Valley Wells,
Solomons Knob, Mineral Hill, Mescal Range, Clark Mountain, Ivanpah Lake

Dear Mr. Shaver:

The Native American Heritage Commission was able to perform a record search of its Sacred Lands File (SLF) for the affected project areas (APEs). The SLF failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the Sacred Lands File does not guarantee the absence of cultural resources in any project area. This project sites are in close proximity to previously discovered prehistoric burial sites and is believed to hold numerous cultural resources.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Enclosed is the name of the nearest tribes that may have knowledge of cultural resources in both project areas. A list of Native American contacts for the project is attached to assist you. The Commission makes no recommendation of a single individual or group over another. It is advisable to contact the person listed; if they cannot supply you with specific information about the impact on cultural resources, they may be able to refer you to another tribe or person knowledgeable of the cultural resources in or near the affected project area.

Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 15064.5(f) and Section 15097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.6 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.



If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton, Program Analyst

Attachment: Native American Contact List

# Native American Contact San Bernardino County August 24, 2006

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Africa Dorame, Environmental Coordinator

500 Merriman Ave

Mojave

Needles

, CA 92363

region9epa@ftmojave

(760) 326-1112

(760) 629-4591

(760) 629-5767 Fax

Serrano Band of Indians

Goldie Walker

6588 Valeria Drive

Highland

,CA 92346

Serrano

(909) 862-9883

Kem Valley Indian Council

Robert Robinson, Historic Preservtion Officer

P.O. Box 401

Weldon , CA 93283

brobinson@mchsi.

(760) 378-4575

(Home)

Tubatulabal

Kawaiisu .

Koso

**Yokuts** 

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Sefety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Desert Xpress Project No. 06334.06, extends from Victorville to Nevada State Line; San Bernardino County, California.

Moiave

Mojave

Serrano

Chemehuevi

# Native American Contact San Bernardino County August 24, 2006

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Deron Marquez, Chairperson

PO Box 266

, CA 92369

Serrano

Patton dmarquez@sanmanu (909) 864-8933 EXT

-3070

(909) 864-3370 Fax

Soboba Band of Mission Indians Robert J. Salgado, Sr., Chairperson

P.O. Box 487

Luiseno ,CA 92581

San Jacinto luiseno@soboba-nsn.

(951) 654-2765

(951) 654-4198 - Fax

Chemehuevi Reservation Charles Wood, Chairperson

P.O. Box 1976

,CA 92363 Chemehuevi Valley

chemehuevit@yahoo.

(760) 858-4301

(760) 858-5400 Fax

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Nora McDowell, Chairperson

500 Merriman Ave

, CA 92363 Needles

mojave@ftmojave. (760) 629-4591

(760) 629-5767 Fax

Ti'At Society Cindi Alvitre

6602 Zelzah Avenue

, CA 91335 Reseda

pimugirl@aol.com (714) 504-2468 Cell Gabrielino

Chemehuevi

Colorado River Reservation Betty Cornelius, Cultural Contact

Route 1, Box 23-B

AZ 85344 Parker

svmi@rraz.net (928) 669-9211

(928) 669-5675 Fax

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Britt W. Wilson, Cultural Resource Coordinator

Banning

, CA 92220

Cahuilla

245 N. Murray Street, Suite C

Serrano

britt\_wilson@morongo.org

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San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

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This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Desert Xpress Project No. 06334.06, extends from Victorville to Nevada State Line; San Bernardino County, California.

List of Native American Groups and Letter

## LIST OF NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS: DESERT XPRESS

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Deron Marquez, Chairperson PO Box 266 Patton, California 92369

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Bernadette Brierty, Cultural Resources Coordinator PO Box 266 Patton, California 92369

Serrano Band of Indians Goldie Walker 6588 Valeria Drive Highland, California 92346

Soboba Band of Mission Indians Robert J. Salgado, Sr., Chairperson PO Box 487 San Jacinto, California 92581

Chemehuevi Reservation Charles Wood, Chairperson PO Box 1976 Chemehuevi Valley, California 92363

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Nora McDowell, Chairperson 500 Merriman Avenue Needles, California 92363

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Africa Dorame, Environmental Coordinator 500 Merriman Avenue Needles, California 92363

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe AhaMakav Cultural Society Linda Otero, Director P.O. Box 5990 Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

Ti'At Society Cindi Alvitre 6602 Zelzah Avenue Reseda, California 91335

Colorado River Reservation Betty Cornelius, Cultural Contact Route 1, Box 23-B Parker, Arizona 85344

Morongo Band of Mission Indians Britt W. Wilson, Cultural Resource Coordinator 245 N. Murray Street, Suite C Banning, California 92220

Kern Valley Indian Council Robert Robinson, Historic Preservation Officer PO Box 401 Weldon, California 93283

Timbisha Shoshone Barbara Durham, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer PO Box 206 900 Indian Village Rd. Death Valley, California 92328

Joseph Kennedy, Chairperson 785 N. Main Street, Suite Q Bishop, California 93514

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Alfreda L. Mitre, Chairperson One Paiute Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Moapa Band of Paiutes Darren Daboda, Chairman P.O. Box 340 Moapa, Nevada 89025

# SAMPLE NATIVE AMERICAN LETTER—SENT MARCH 8, 2007: DESERTXPRESS

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Deron Marquez, Chairperson PO Box 266 Patton, CA 92369

Dear Mr. Marquez:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is in the process of conducting a cultural resources study for a private proposal to construct and operate the Desert Xpress high-speed rail line between Victorville, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. The high speed trains would travel between Victorville and Las Vegas in under 1 hour and 45 minutes. Jim Shearer of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has agreed to act as the point of contact for both the BLM and FRA since the majority of this proposed project is located on public land administered by BLM (See the accompanying general area maps illustrating the proposed rail line alternatives). FRA and BLM are contacting you to request your participation in the preparation of studies to identify traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, resource collecting areas, or any other areas that may be of concern to your tribe.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, FRA is serving as the lead Federal agency and BLM, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are cooperating agencies for the proposed project. FRA has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed project. CirclePoint and Jones & Stokes are assisting FRA and the cooperating agencies in preparing the EIS and in completing an archaeological inventory of the project area in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470).

Since the entire alignment is approximately 190 miles long, individual USGS 7.5'-series topographic maps for the entire alignment are not being provided. However, specific figures of the alignment will be made available upon request. If you have concerns or questions about a specific area along the path of the alignment, please mark the accompanying map and return it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope or call the phone number below to describe portions of the project alignment you would wish to see in more detail.

Jones & Stokes has completed a search of the prehistoric and historic resource files at the San Bernardino County Archaeological Information Center as well as at the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies Division of Cultural Resources at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Both of these institutions provided information regarding numerous archaeological sites within the project area along its 190-mile length. In an effort to supplement this data, Jones & Stokes also initiated a search with the California Native

American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Sacred Land Files. However, no resources were identified by the NAHC within the project area.

The purpose of this letter is to consult with you on a government-to-government basis and to solicit your input regarding the proposed project. If you have any knowledge regarding traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, resource collecting areas, or any other areas of concern, we would like to hear from you or a member of your tribe. Knowing that some information is not available outside of the Native American Community, we encourage your participation in this investigation. Providing comments now does not limit your ability to comment at a later time. FRA will ensure that any information that you provide to us will remain subject to the confidentiality provisions of NHPA (Section 304).

At your request, BLM management and staff will be available to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with the proposed Desert Xpress project and to resolve any resource conflicts related to the proposed project. Please contact Mr. Jim Shearer at the following address if you have any questions or if you wish to participate in a meeting on this project or related issues.

Jim Shearer Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, California 92311

Phone: (760) 252-6034

Comments, suggestions or concerns should be provided to Mr. Shearer by phone or by letter no later than Friday, March 30, 2007 so that we may include your views in our report. In addition, you may contact me at (202) 493-6368 directly should you have any concerns or questions regarding the overall environmental process.

Sincerely,

David Valenstein Environmental Program Manager

CC: C. Glidden – STB

R. Rotte – BLM

G. Fong – FHWA

C. Shaver – J&S

J. Cook – CirclePoint

R. James – NV SHPO

M. Donaldson – CA SHPO

Enclosures