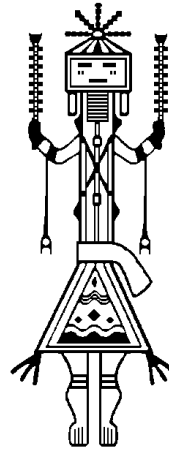


June 30, 2012

President Ben Shelly  
Post Office Box 7440  
Window Rock, Navajo Nation, AZ 86515



Dear Sir:

A few months ago, I was asked for assistance by Navajos living alongside the Colorado River on the East Rim of the Grand Canyon concerning the efforts by the Navajo tribe to construct a resort in the area. The request focused on the developmental impact upon the archaeological and cultural setting of the area. Community individuals fear tribal officials and their experts would not adequately investigate the cultural and archaeological impacts of the Navajo resort project. I was asked to relieve these fears and to evaluate any future tribal archaeological and anthropological surveys. As yet, I have not been informed the Navajo tribe has conducted or is planning an archaeological survey of the planned resort area.

I had a short visit to the East Rim of the Grand Canyon on June 1, 2012. My general purpose was to visit the proposed resort area and to estimate the scope of an archaeological survey. I was told the proposed resort area covers approximately 5,000 acres on the top of the East Rim and 2,000 acres at the bottom of the canyon adjacent to the Colorado River. However, the size of the area of the cliffs and rock terraces has yet to be determined and will prove to be the most difficult part of any archaeological survey.

During my visit to the East Rim, I became aware of an issue concerning the signing of confidentiality agreements by members of the local community. These confidentiality agreements will have a negative impact on any future scientific inquiry of the area since there is a current fear of breaking a legal confidentiality by discussing any topic concerning the area to outsiders. My recommendation would be for the Navajo tribe to rescind the confidentiality agreements and to encourage the sharing of any information of the area with archaeologists and anthropologists.

During my visit, I was taken by local Navajos to three overlooks on the East Rim. These overlooks were named One, Two and Three. I discovered tool making activities at Overlook One. A formal survey could answer the question of who made tools at this location and when tools were made. Alone, these artifacts are not significant, but they show early Indian cultural activity.

The confluence can be seen from Overlook Two which is of tribal religious significance and there is a need to have cultural anthropologists document these beliefs. I was told this site would be destroyed by the building of a restaurant to exploit the view of the confluence. A short distance away, an earth dam was constructed as I was told, by a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) project. Records for this project will need to be found and studied since there are archaeological remains in the immediate area. From the dam a short distance to the north, are three beehive structures known as the "three hogans." Far too small to be hogans, these stone beehive structures are similar in size and shape to modern Pueblo bread ovens. However, they may not have an Indian origin, but may have been constructed as a part of CCC activities. Adjacent and on the south-side of the CCC earthen dam, I discovered a large tool making

and possible rock quarry site.

Overlook Three did not have any apparent archaeological remains. However, a short distance away is the site of a historic tram used to bring remains of two airplanes that collided over this part of the Grand Canyon. A large airplane wheel still lies on this site. This area will certainly need to be documented since this may be the site for the Navajo tram to the bottom of the canyon.

As we left this area to return to Tuba City, we drove over a large area of stones. I ask the driver to stop in order to review the area. There is a good possibility, we were driving over a ruin and this area will need to be documented. In the same general area, is a historic stone enclosure known as the "sheep corral" and is quite impressive.

I fully recommend the Navajo tribe conduct an immediate Phase I\pedestrian\non-collection survey to identify archaeological and cultural resources along with literature research. Usually a sample size of 15-20% of the proposed development area would be the focus of an archaeological survey. This activity will evaluate the likelihood of cultural resources within the proposed resort area and, a report of findings and recommendations will determine the need for future archaeological activity of the area.

The Navajo tribe must face the fact that a Phase II survey may be justified for several reasons and this would involve testing of certain areas as determined by the Phase I survey. Naturally, there is a high cost for Phase II activity since testing, processing, analysis and reporting require field staff under professional supervision. If a Phase III survey must be done, the cost estimate for this undertaking for a 1 by 1 meter unit is about \$5,000. If construction proceeds, archaeological monitoring will be required and assurances must be provided that monitors are adequately trained in this area.

Since the general purpose of the Navajo Nation is to the construct tourist facilities and a tram to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the impact upon the area will be immense and the need for immediate consultation with State of Arizona and federal agencies becomes critical. For example, trail development may have to occur on National Park Service land in order to reach the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado River. Endangered species may exist within the confluence area. These concerns would require discussions with the National Park Service and other agencies.

Finally, not wanting the resort, the Navajos of the area need to be assured that the tribe has conduct adequate archaeological and cultural surveys over the proposed resort area. My role is to help relieve fears and to ensure any tribal archaeological and anthropological surveys follow professional standards. I seek your cooperation in this matter.

Since I will be in Asia until September 1, 2012, I will sign this letter electronically and it will be mailed in the Unites States.

With regards,

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cc:

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