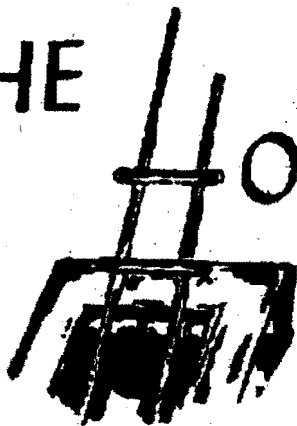


THE HOPI TRIBE



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lq/s

Benjamin H. Nuvamsa
CHAIRMAN

Todd Honyaoma Sr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

September 4, 2007

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

STB Docket NO FD 34075

Dear Ms. Johnson Ball,

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 29, 2007, with an enclosed Environmental Impact Statement, regarding Six County Association of Governments, Construction and Operation – 43-mile Central Utah Rail Project between Juab and Salina, Utah. Because the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Fremont and Ancestral Pueblo prehistoric cultural group in this project area, known to Hopi people as *Hisatsinom*, or People of Long Ago, and the Hopi Cultural Preservation office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural properties, we appreciate the Surface Transportation Board's continuing solicitation of out input and your efforts to address our concerns.

In our July 1, 2001, April 13, 2003, and June 27, 2006, letters on this proposal, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office requested consultation on proposed impacts to archaeological sites and cultural resources that are our ancestral sites and Traditional Cultural Properties.

In our June 26, 2006, letter we reviewed the cultural resources inventory report that identifies 16 prehistoric sites recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register and described as lithic scatters, 10 prehistoric sites recommended as eligible and described as temporary camps, and 1 prehistoric site recommended as eligible and described as a habitation site. In addition there are 8 prehistoric sites described as lithic scatters that are recommended as ineligible for listing on the National Register. We stated that we have determined that this project is likely to adversely affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe, and requested additional consultation, including to be provided with a copy of the draft cultural resources treatment plan for review and comment.

Phillis Johnson-Ball

August 4, 2007

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We have now reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement. We understand Alternative A (No Action) would have no effect on cultural resources, Alternative B (Proposed Action) will potentially adversely effect 29 prehistoric sites, and Alternative C will potentially adversely effect 12 prehistoric sites.

Therefore, from a cultural resources preservation perspective, we support Alternative A (No Action) in this draft Environmental Impact Statement. If this project must be implemented, Alternative C impacts fewer cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe than the Proposed Action. Because the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has been consulting on this proposal since 2001, and we are a Native American tribe, not the public, we hope the Surface Transportation Board will accept our comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In any case, we reiterate that we have determined that this project is likely to adversely affect cultural resources significant to the Hopi Tribe, and request additional consultation, including to be provided with a copy of the draft cultural resources treatment plan for review and comment.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Xc: HDR Engineering, 3995 South, 700 East, Suite 100, SLC, UT 84107-2594
Utah State Historic Preservation Office