



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

January 26, 2010

Mr. Karl Cordova  
Superintendent  
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument  
1100 Ruins Drive  
Coolidge, AZ 85128

Dear Mr. Cordova:

The Society of American Archaeology (SAA) is writing to support the proposed expansion of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Pinal County, Arizona. Expanding the Monument's southern boundary to capture more of the Casa Grande prehistoric community will benefit the American people by enhancing the Monument's educational and interpretive mission.

SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,000 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states as well as many other nations around the world.

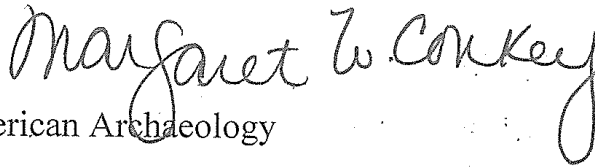
The Monument is the oldest archaeological unit of the National Park Service and the only one to showcase the lives of the ancient Hohokam people in the National Park System. The Hohokam people dominated the central and southern portions of what is now the state of Arizona for many centuries, and are the ancestors of the modern Tohono O'odham nation.

SAA also encourages you to consider adding to the expansion proposal a number of important archaeological sites along the north side of the Gila River nearby. This area contains some of the last remaining intact Hohokam village sites along the Gila River including the Escalante Ruin Platform Mound, Poston Butte Ballcourt Village and associated prehistoric

agricultural fields. Addition of these ruins to the Monument would greatly add to its value as an interpretive center of Hohokam culture, bring more heritage tourism into local communities, and protect these irreplaceable ruins for future generations.

SAA urges the National Park Service, working with willing land owners and the citizens of Pinal County, Arizona, to include these archaeological sites in the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Margaret Conkey  
President, Society for American Archaeology

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret W. Conkey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

cc: Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick