



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

February 11, 2016

Mr. Cliff Schleusner
Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mr. Schleusner,

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft Memorandum of Agreement--dated January 22, 2016--between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and other parties regarding the mitigation of adverse effects to Amity Pueblo (AZ Q:15:74[ASM]) near Eager, Apache County, Arizona.

At this time, the SAA does not have new comments to provide pertaining to the language of the MOA. Rather, we believe comments #4-7 that our organization registered on November 13, 2015, remain valid and instructive.

The SAA also desires to reiterate that our chief concern as a consulting party is that the Pueblo of Zuni and other Tribes which are culturally affiliated with and/or ascribe traditional cultural values to the Amity Pueblo landscape are provided with an MOA that (1) successfully complies with both the letter and intent of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and (2) satisfactorily meets and resolves all of the Tribes' expressed needs and concerns with regard to both the immediate treatment of their ancestors and the long-term management of this historic property.

To that end, the SAA expects the final MOA to be disseminated to all parties by February 29, 2016, to contain the language needed to ensure that the excavations to be performed and the Burial Treatment and Long-Term Management Plans to be developed for Amity Pueblo will adhere to the culturally-prescribed standards and community-based needs of the consulting Tribes, as well as follow the policies of the Arizona State Historic Preservation Act (ARS §41-861 through 865) and the Arizona Antiquities Act (ARS §41-841 through 844).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Gifford-Gonzalez', written in a cursive style.

Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Ph.D.
President