



conserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources" 417

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In reply, please refer to SHPO-2000-1858 (2258)

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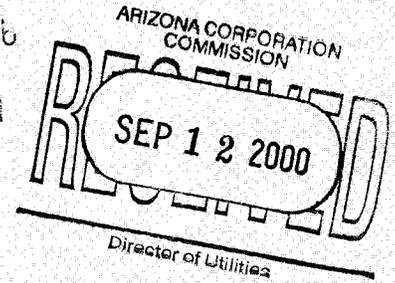


DOCKETED

Deborah R. Scott
Arizona Corporation Commission, Utilities Division
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL



DOCKETED BY

RE: Salt River Project's San Tan Expansion Project

Jane Dee Hull
Governor

State Parks
Board Members

Chair
Vernon Roudebush
Safford

Dear Ms. Scott:

Thank you for consulting with this office regarding the above-referenced state plan located near Val Vista Drive and Warner Road in Gilbert, Maricopa County, Arizona. Salt River Project (SRP) intends to construct natural gas-fired electrical generating facilities and associated intraplant transmission lines and switches, which are subject to approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission. I have reviewed the documents submitted and offer the following comments pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Act of 1982 (i.e., A.R.S. § 41-861 to 41-864).

A review of our records indicates that the subject property has not been previously surveyed to determine the presence or absence of historic properties (i.e., any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, Traditional Cultural Place, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the State or National Registers of Historic Places). Thus, this office recommends that a qualified cultural resource specialist systematically survey the entire project area in order to locate and evaluate any cultural resources that may be present. A list of qualified consultants that could perform the work is available from this office upon request.

Once the survey has been completed, a copy of the report should be sent to this office for review and comment. If prehistoric or historic sites are identified within the project area, it may be necessary to have archaeological testing performed at the sites to evaluate their eligibility for inclusion in the State or National Registers of Historic Places. If Register-eligible properties cannot be avoided by the proposed activities, then it may be necessary to implement a data recovery (i.e., archaeological excavation) program.

If a federal permit is required for any portion of the proposed plan (e.g., a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), the project proponents should be aware that the project may need to be reviewed by the federal agency and this office pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented by 36 C.F.R. 800. The state and federal regulations regarding historic preservation are slightly different.

The applicant should be aware that if prehistoric or historic features or deposits containing human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during ground-disturbing activities situated on private land, Arizona law (i.e., A.R.S. § 41-865) requires that work cease in the immediate area of the discovery and that the Director of the Arizona State Museum be notified immediately.

Walter D. Armer, Jr.
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Salt River Project's San Tan Expansion Project

We appreciate your cooperation with this office in considering the effects of state plans cultural resources situated in Arizona. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (602) 542-7137 or electronically via mbilsbarrow@pr.state.az.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Bilsbarrow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew H. Bilsbarrow, RPA
Compliance Specialist/ Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

cc.
Rick Anduze, Salt River Project
Post Office Box 52025
Phoenix, Arizona 85072