

City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, NM 87103
Planning Department
Alan Varela, Interim Director

Tim Keller, Mayor
Sarita Nair, CAO

DATE: October 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Albuquerque Archaeological Ordinance - Compliance Documentation

Case Number(s): PR-2018-001577 SI-2024-01458
Agent: Dekker
Applicant: Mesa Film Studios, LLC
Legal Description: See attachments to application for preliminary plat and boundary survey
Zoning: NR-SU
Acreage: 60
Zone Atlas Page(s): D-5-Z and D-6-Z

CERTIFICATE OF NO EFFECT: Yes No
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL: Yes No

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Historic Google Earth Images, NMCRIS records, NMHPD consultation letter (HPD Log no, 123768)

SITE VISIT: N/A

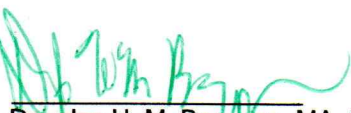
RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 60 acres falls within the boundary of LA 103036, a WWII bombing range, that has been determined eligible for nomination to the NRHP under Criteria A and D. A treatment plan has been devised through consultation with NMHPD (see consultation letter HPD Log no. 123768). This letter recommends the creation of an historic context for the bomb targets on these bombing ranges on the west mesa.

SUBMITTED BY:

SUBMITTED TO:

Planning, Development Services


10-28-2024
Douglas H. M. Boggess, MA, RPA Date
Senior Principal Investigator
Acting City Archaeologist
Lone Mountain Archaeological Services, Inc.



Michelle Lujan-Grisham
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

October 23, 2024

Douglas Boggess
City of Albuquerque Archaeologist
Lone Mountain Archaeological Consultants
1717 Louisiana Blvd.
Albuquerque, NM 87501

Via email only

RE: Mesa Film Studios (HPD log 123768)

Dear Mr. Boggess:

Thank you for advancing the consultation concerning the proposed Mesa Film Studios to be located at 7401 Paseo de Volcan NW, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As you know, on October 17th, I participated in a teleconference with the City of Albuquerque concerning the project and where more precise information on the project and area of potential effects was presented.

Because the property is owned by the City of Albuquerque, the consultation falls under the New Mexico Cultural Properties Protection Act (N.M. Stat. §§ 18-6A-1 through 6). Because the property was recently surveyed and one historic period archaeological site (LA 103036) was identified and determined eligible for the National register of Historic Places (NRHP) no additional field work is needed. However, per (N.M. Stat. §§ 18-6A-5) subdivisions of the state "...shall cooperate with the officer (SHPO) and exercise due caution to ensure that cultural properties are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed." But there are no rules or requirements defining how to implement the statute.

Our review shows that the Petroglyphs National Monument is not listed in the State Register of Properties. Although we encourage the City of Albuquerque to consult with the National Parks Service about the proposal, the State of New Mexico has no statutory or regulatory requirements regarding consultation.

I understand that the bomb targets can be temporarily avoided as the property is developed, but long-term protection is not feasible. Although we have no rules defining a process to ensure that cultural properties are not damaged or destroyed, the SHPO

recommends that the City of Albuquerque cause to be prepared a short history describing the development of U.S. Army Air Corps bomb targets and ranges on Albuquerque's west mesa. We also recommend that all bomb targets on city property be included in the history to mitigate effects on historic properties that may result from future development.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me directly at 505-827-4225 or email me at bob.estes@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Estes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John R. (Bob) Estes, PhD
Archaeology Review