

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**A Plan for Test Excavations at LA 111333,
U.S. 84/285, Santa Fe - Pojoaque Corridor,
Santa Fe County, New Mexico**

**Jeffrey L. Boyer
Eric Blinman**

**Timothy D. Maxwell
Principal Investigator**

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

During archaeological survey along U.S. 84/285 between Santa Fe and Pojoaque, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, 27 previously recorded archaeological sites were relocated; and 29 previously unrecorded sites, five traditional cultural properties (TCPs), and 311 isolated occurrences were recorded. Survey was conducted at the request of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD) in preparation for planned reconstruction of the highway. The NMSHTD has requested that the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS), Museum of New Mexico, prepare a plan for archaeological test investigations at site LA 111333, on land belonging to the Pueblo of Tesuque near the intersection of U.S. 84/285 and NM 591.

This document presents a plan for archaeological test investigations at LA 111333. Testing is designed to reveal whether intact subsurface cultural features or structures or deposits of cultural materials are present within project limits at the site. Testing is also designed to define the horizontal extent and vertical depth of subsurface deposits, features, and structures, to define the nature of subsurface cultural and natural stratigraphy, and to help evaluate the data potential of the site. These evaluations are complicated by modification of the site caused by earth-moving activities that occurred since the site was first recorded. Based on the results of testing, recommendations can be made concerning the need for subsequent data recovery investigations at LA 111333.

The New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department provided the funding for this project.

NMSHTD Project No. AC-HPP-MIP-084-6(78)166, CN 3402.

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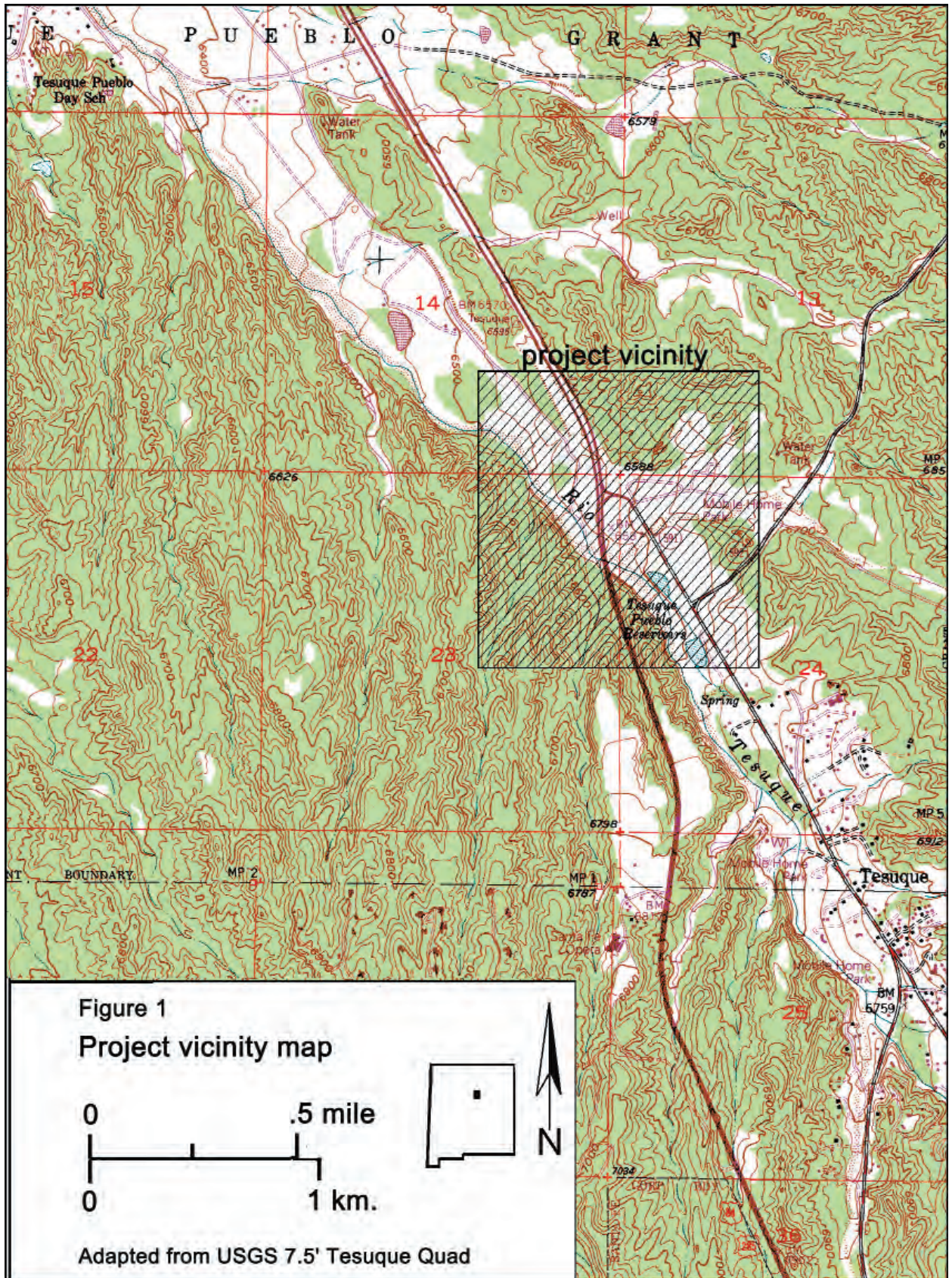
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INTRODUCTION

Between 1995 and 1998, archaeological survey was conducted along 22.4 km (14 miles) of U.S. 84/285 between Santa Fe and Pojoaque, Santa Fe County, New Mexico (Hohmann et al. 1998). Survey was conducted at the request of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD) in preparation for planned reconstruction of the highway. Twenty-seven previously recorded archaeological sites were relocated; and 29 previously unrecorded sites, five traditional cultural properties (TCPs), and 311 isolated occurrences were recorded during survey (Fig. 1).

One of the sites, LA 111333, is present within existing highway right-of-way on land belonging to the Pueblo of Tesuque near the intersection of U.S. 84/285

and NM 591 (see Appendix 1 for site location information). A program of archaeological test investigations has been determined to be necessary to define the nature, extent, and data potential of LA 111333. This evaluation is complicated by surface modification of the site caused by earth-moving activities that occurred since the site was first recorded. The NMSHTD requested that Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS), Museum of New Mexico, prepare a plan for archaeological test investigations at the site. This document presents a plan for archaeological test investigations at LA 111333 for submission to the Pueblo of Tesuque, the NMSHTD, the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (HPD) in fulfillment of that request.



DESCRIPTION OF LA 111333

The following description of LA 111333 is excerpted from Hohmann et al. (1998:25-26). Additional remarks are included based on field examination of the sites by OAS project staff. Figure 2 is a map of the site presented by Hohmann et al. (1998).

Site LA 111333 is a multi-component site with prehistoric and historic deposits . . . and covers an estimated 10 meters north/south by 25 meters east/west (250 square meters). The site consists of a probable field house and associated sparse artifact scatter and is situated to the west of the southbound lanes of U.S. 84/285 opposite the northern junction with NM 591 (the North Tesuque Y).

The site consists of a probable field house (Feature 1) and two areas of moderate density surface artifacts (one prehistoric and associated with Feature 1, the second historic and located west of Feature 1). Feature 1 consists of a four by four meter scatter of cobbles with associated surface artifacts. Rock alignments were noted with the size and composition of the feature suggesting a probable surface room.

Within a one meter diameter area surrounding the feature, a fine-grain basalt primary flake, two primary quartzite flakes, two Jemez obsidian flakes, and four secondary chert flakes were observed, along with a Kwahe'e style (i.e., paste, temper, and slip) whiteware sherd and a Abiquiu Black-on-gray (Biscuit A) bowl sherd. Located seven meters west of the field house structure is a

small but dense concentration of aqua colored glass, probably from the same bottle.

The Abiquiu Black-on-gray bowl sherd suggests dates of A.D. 1300 to A.D. 1475. Although the Kwahe'e style whiteware sherd would suggest much earlier dates, Site LA 111332 is located only 40 meters south and contains several different early ceramic forms. It is possible this early sherd is related to activities occurring at LA 111332, and that LA 111333 dates to the later PIII-PIV period. Over 33 pieces of aqua colored glass are present (probably from a single bottle). This type of glass based on color, air bubbles, seams, and finish suggests a date range of 1880 to 1920.

The feature's location on the flood plain of the Rio Tesuque may suggest an agricultural function.

OAS field inspection of LA 111333 revealed the probable remains of a small, Classic period fieldhouse and an associated artifact scatter. The structure is probably related to prehistoric farming activities at LA 111332, which is immediately south of this site. Surface modification of the site occurred as the result of earth-moving activity between the time of recording and the summer of 2002. Those activities relocated most of the surface of the site into low berms at the margins of the site boundary. Revegetation patterns suggest that scraping in some areas may have been shallow enough to leave viable grass clumps, while vegetation was completely removed elsewhere. Berm heights could be explained by removal of only a few centimeters of earth over the site surface.

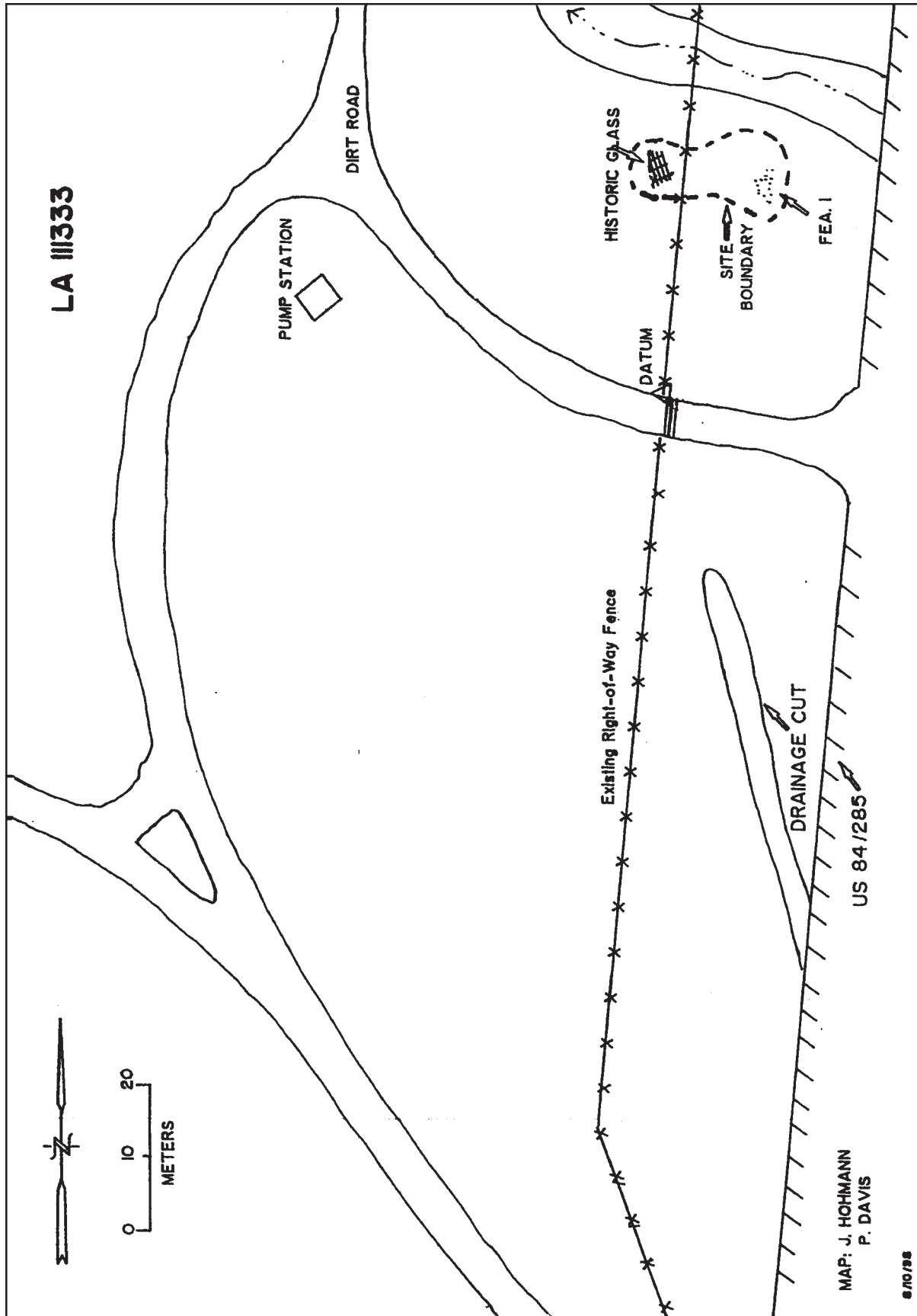


Figure 2. LA 111333 site map (from Hohmann et al. 1998).

TESTING PROCEDURES

Testing investigations at LA 111333 will follow the procedures outlined for testing investigations at other sites in the U.S. 84/285 Santa Fe-Pojoaque Corridor project (Boyer 1998; see Boyer and Lakatos 2000; Moore 2000a, 2000b). Testing investigations will employ the following general procedures, which are defined in a plan entitled *Testing and Site Evaluation Proposal* prepared by the OAS for the NMSHTD and approved by the HPD (HPD Log No. 43648). In the following discussion, the plan includes minor modifications that make certain procedures more specific, as appropriate to this project; however, the plan as presented in this discussion does not differ from the plan as approved by the NMSHTD and the HPD. Testing procedures are intended to reveal whether subsurface cultural features or structures or deposits of cultural materials are present within project limits at the site location. Testing procedures are also designed to define the horizontal extent and vertical depth of subsurface deposits, features, and structures, to define the nature of subsurface cultural and natural stratigraphy, and to allow evaluation of the data potential of the portions of sites within project limits. Specific testing procedures will be commensurate with field procedures that will be used in subsequent data recovery investigations at the site, if such data recovery investigations are determined to be necessary (see Boyer et al. 2000). This is critical in order to ensure that the results of testing investigations and subsequent data recovery investigations are comparable and can be readily integrated. Field crew members will be made familiar with this testing plan and with the more specific field procedures detailed by Boyer et al. (2000) prior to initiation of the testing program.

DEFINITION OF SITE LIMITS AND ARTIFACT DISTRIBUTION

To determine site limits, archaeologists will traverse each site using parallel transects across the site. Artifacts observed during these transects will be marked with pinflags. Site limits will be considered to be the boundary between the presence and absence of artifacts and features. The pinflags will also reveal areas of relatively higher surface artifact density and provide an indication of general artifact distribution. If artifact density across the site is so high that marking individual artifacts is impractical, only site limits and artifact concentrations will be marked with pinflags.

SITE MAPPING

The site as defined, including site boundaries, phys-

ical and cultural features, test excavation locations, auger test locations, mechanical test locations, and areas of proposed project limits will be recorded using a transit and stadia or tape. A scaled map will be produced showing these data.

SELECTION OF SITE AREAS TO BE TESTED

Areas to be tested include those of higher artifact density in relation to the site as a whole as indicated by clusters of pinflags. The location of a possible structure, as defined during initial site recording (Hohmann et al. (1998), will be tested to assess its nature and extent, and to evaluate potential damage resulting from earth-moving activities at the site. Obvious features such as hearths and rock alignments may be tested to determine if they have potential to contribute important data. Unidentifiable but visible surface manifestations of possible subsurface features will also be tested in order to determine their nature and extent. These manifestations include, but are not limited to, soil mounds, depressions, soil discolorations, charcoal/ash deposits, and rock alignments/concentrations. Archaeological testing will be limited to the existing highway right-of-way/project limits.

COLLECTION AND RECORDING

A datum will be established and a grid system oriented to cardinal directions will be imposed over each site. Depending upon the density of artifacts present on the site surface, the entire assemblage, or a sample of the assemblage, will be recorded in the field. Surface artifacts that provide data on temporal placement or cultural affiliation may be collected. Tesuque Pueblo has requested that all collected artifacts be maintained under their control. Collected artifacts will be removed to a secure location on Tesuque Pueblo lands for processing and analysis. Surface artifacts that occur within areas selected for test excavations will be collected before testing proceeds. Locations of artifacts will be recorded using either a transit and stadia or by grid designations. Feature locations and general site characteristics will be recorded using some combination of Brunton, transit, tape, and stadia. Photographs of the site and features will also be taken.

TEST EXCAVATION PROCEDURES

Test excavations will be performed entirely with hand tools. One meter by one meter test excavation units, identified by the intersections of grid lines at their southwest corners, will be excavated in areas selected for horizontal test exposures. The locations of all exca-

vation units will be recorded on the site map. Vertical control will be established by using 10 cm arbitrary levels linked to the elevation of the site datum. As natural strata are defined, test pits may be excavated using those strata as the vertical excavation units. Soil and sediment deposits will be screened through 1/4-inch mesh and all artifacts collected and recorded by excavation unit and level. Samples for flotation, pollen, or radiocarbon analysis may be taken from excavation units, as appropriate. Profiles of excavation units will be drawn, as appropriate, to illustrate natural or cultural stratigraphy and the locations of features. All excavation units will be backfilled at the completion of the testing program.

AUGERING

Auger tests may also be used to determine the subsurface extent of cultural deposits identified during test excavations. Soil removed by augering will be screened through 1/4-inch mesh, and all artifacts will be collected and recorded by test location and depth. Locations of auger tests will be recorded on the site map. All auger tests will be backfilled at the completion of the testing program.

LIMITS OF TESTING

The combined horizontal extent of tested areas will not exceed 8 sq m, excluding the auger tests. Excavation will continue until sterile soil is reached or intact cultural deposits or features are clearly defined. If deposits or features are encountered, excavation of the unit will be suspended, and the features will be examined sufficiently to determine whether they can be expected to provide chronological, artifactual, depositional, or site structural information. They will be recorded, the test units will be backfilled, and the features will be left for data recovery investigations.

EXPANSION OF TESTING ACTIVITIES

If testing results are inconclusive within the constraints outlined above--for example, the 8 sq m maximum is reached and there are equivocal results regarding the nature and extent of subsurface materials--then appropriate authorities will be contacted regarding a revised proposal for increased testing investigations. The additional testing will proceed only after the revised proposal has been approved.

HUMAN REMAINS

If human remains are encountered at LA 111333 during testing, they will be immediately protected and

left in place, and excavations in the vicinity of the remains will cease. The Pueblo of Tesuque, the BIA, the HPD, and the NMSHTD will be immediately notified of the presence of human remains at the site. Unless the remains cannot be adequately protected pending initiation of data recovery investigations, they will remain in place while consultations with the Pueblo of Tesuque, the BIA, the HPD, and the NMSHTD are conducted regarding appropriate treatment and disposition during a program of data recovery.

If they cannot be protected prior to data recovery investigations, they will be removed by excavation following consultations with the Pueblo of Tesuque, the BIA, the HPD, and the NMSHTD regarding appropriate treatment and temporary disposition. In this situation, all aspects of discovery, recovery, analysis, and final disposition will be agreed upon before excavation begins. Excavation will be consistent with current professional archaeological standards and will follow procedures for excavating features detailed by Akins (2000a, 2000b) and Boyer et al. (2000).

LABORATORY ANALYSES AND DISPOSITION OF RECOVERED ARTIFACTS AND RECORDS

All artifacts, flotation, pollen, radiocarbon, tree-ring, and other samples collected during testing will remain under the control of the Pueblo of Tesuque. Artifacts will be cleaned, sorted, and examined by the OAS. Unless specifically authorized by the Pueblo of Tesuque, artifacts will remain in facilities provided by the Pueblo of Tesuque. Analyses within each artifact material class will be conducted by the OAS according to standards established by the OAS. However, given the time frame of the testing program relative to planned construction schedules, artifacts collected during testing will be subjected to complete analyses following the testing program only if testing investigations indicate that further data recovery investigations are not warranted. If further data recovery investigations are warranted, artifacts, flotation, pollen, radiocarbon, tree-ring, and other samples collected during testing will be subjected to complete analyses following data recovery. Similarly, flotation, pollen, radiocarbon, tree-ring, and other samples collected during testing will be submitted to appropriate laboratories and specialists for complete analyses following the testing program only if testing investigations indicate that further data recovery investigations are not warranted. If further data recovery investigations are warranted, flotation, pollen, radiocarbon, tree-ring, and other samples collected during testing will be subjected to complete analyses following data recovery. Until they are submitted for analyses, flotation, pollen, radiocarbon, tree-ring, and other sam-

ples will remain in facilities provided by the Pueblo of Tesuque.

All recovered artifacts will remain under the control of the Pueblo of Tesuque during and after analyses. Field notes, maps, analytic data, and photographs will be curated by HPD's Archaeological Records Management Section (ARMS).

PUBLISHED REPORT

A report containing a summary of the test excavations, laboratory analyses, and recommendations for site management will be produced upon completion of field-

work and laboratory study. The report will be published in the OAS's Archaeology Notes series. If testing indicates that further data recovery investigations at LA 111333 are warranted, the report will also include a plan for data recovery investigations. If data recovery is required, excavations at this site will be added as an amendment to a data recovery plan for prehistoric sites in the U.S. 84/285 Santa Fe to Pojoaque Corridor project area (Boyer and Lakatos 2000). Updated site record forms will be submitted for the New Mexico Cultural Resource Management Information System (NMCRIIS) managed by the HPD.

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