

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



June 1, 2020

Attention: Robert Whitlam, Ph. D., State Archaeologist
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

Project Name: LIGO STEM Observatory Project

Subject: Revision of APE; Completion of Section 106 Cultural Resources Survey Report; Request for Concurrence (HCRC#2020-600-004, WISAARD project number 2020-04-02572)

Dr. Whitlam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF), as the lead federal agency for the proposed Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) STEM Exploration Center (LExC), is following up on our February 7, 2020 initiation of Section 106 consultation letter. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4, our cultural resources contractor, Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., completed a pedestrian survey to identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and documented the results of these efforts in a cultural resources survey report. We request your concurrence on our finding of “No Historic Properties Affected,” as described below and as supported by the attached documentation.

Please note that, following consultation with the interested tribes, the APE was slightly expanded from the initial map your department received as a part of the “Area of Potential Effects” notification on February 7, 2020. The APE map was modified to better reflect the description of proposed ground disturbance associated with the installation of utilities required for this undertaking. Additional areas of direct impact for associated utility corridors were added to the APE.

The cultural resources survey of the revised APE was completed on March 17, 2020 and the results documented in a Cultural Resources Survey Report. The revised APE is captured on the map figures presented in Appendix A of the report. The report also includes the results of initial consultation efforts with area tribes and documentation of a single historic archaeological site, 45BN02067 (temporary site number LIGO20-S-01). Site 45BN02067 was evaluated against the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for eligibility and was determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP. Based on the results

of the Cultural Resources Survey Report, NSF has determined that the undertaking will result in a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected.”

Please review the Cultural Resources Survey Report, 45BN02067 site form, and resource eligibility determination for 45BN2067 that were submitted through WISAARD under the project number 2020-04-02572. We respectfully request that you provide concurrence or comments within 30 days. If you have questions, please contact me at (703)292-4592 or cblanco@nsf.gov.

Yours sincerely,

/s/

Caroline M. Blanco
Federal Preservation Officer
Assistant General Counsel
National Science Foundation

Cc (via email): Rob Whitlam, SHPO
Warren Hurley and So Yon Bedlington, DOE
Arrow Coyote, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Bambi Rodriguez, Nathan May, and Teara Farrow Ferman, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Mike Sobotta, Josiah Pinkman, Lucy Samuels, Jared Norman, and Jessica Glindeman, Nez Perce Tribe
Rose Ferri, Trina Sherwood, Luciana Chester, and Laurene Contreras, Yakama Nation
Rex Buck and Alyssa Buck, Wanapum
Keith Mendez, MSA Cultural Resources, cultural resource program database manager for the Hanford Site

Attachments:

HCRC#2020-600-004 Cultural Resources Report
Comments from consulting parties/tribes on LExC