

PIKE SOLAR LLC



Appendix AA- Class I Cultural Resources Report



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Memorandum

To: JSI Construction Group, LLC and Pike Solar, LLC **Date:** October 2 2020
From: Poppie Gullett, Historian; Thomas Carr, Archaeology Principal Investigator
Pinyon Project #: 120121502
Subject: El Paso County 1041 Permit State-Level Cultural Resources Review, Class I Cultural Resource Survey

This Class I Cultural Resource Survey technical memorandum and the attached documents are provided to support the review of cultural resources within the proposed permit study area (study area). The project proponent, Pike Solar, LLC (Pike Solar), proposes to develop a solar energy site on 3,627 acres of contiguous land in El Paso County, Colorado. This project requires an El Paso County (County) 1041 zoning permit. As part of the permitting process, the County must evaluate the project's potential effects on areas that contain "historical, natural, or archaeological resources of statewide importance." At this time, there is no state or federal nexus for the project, so neither Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) nor the Colorado Register of Historic Places Act (CRS 24-80.1) apply to the project. Review of historic resources for this project was undertaken by Pinyon Historian Poppie Gullett, who exceeds the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualifications Standards in Architectural History. Review of archaeological resources for the project was undertaken by Pinyon Archaeologist Thomas Carr, who exceeds the requirements of the SOI Professional Qualifications Standards in Archaeology.

Study Area:

A study area for the project was established based on information provided by Pike Solar, which encompasses several undeveloped parcels along Squirrel Creek Road. The study area is represented on an enclosed map (Figure 1) by a red line.

File Search:

To determine the presence of previously recorded resources in the study area, a file search of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) COMPASS database was completed on September 14, 2020.

Table 1: COMPASS Database Results

Resource Number and Name	Resource Type	Eligibility Assessment (Year)
SEP.1787	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (1992)
SEP.3982	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2001)
SEP.4238	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2002)
SEP.4239	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2002)
SEP.4719	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2005)
SEP.4831	Historical Archaeology/Archaeological	Officially Not Eligible (2008)

Resource Number and Name	Resource Type	Eligibility Assessment (Year)
██████████	██████████	██████████
5EP.4845	Archaeological	Officially Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4846	Historical Archaeology/Archaeological	Officially Not Eligible (2009)
██████████	██████████	██████████
5EP.4850	Archaeological	Officially Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4852	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4853	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4854	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4857	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4867	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4868	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4870	Historical Archaeology	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4871	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4876	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4877	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4879	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4884	Historical Archaeology	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.4885	Archaeological	Field Not Eligible (2008)
5EP.6912.1 Unnamed Ditch Segment	Historical Archaeology	Does Not Support Eligibility of Entire Linear Resource (2008)

Definitions:

To provide a contextual understanding of the above information, the following definitions have been adapted from the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual*, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (2007).

- **Historical Archaeology:** A historical archaeological site is a location with remains from the historic period that can be studied using archaeological techniques. These sites often have artifacts and indications of in situ subsurface remains. In Colorado, the historic period begins with the early European contact with native peoples.
- **Archaeology:** In Colorado, these sites date to the time before sustained European contact with Native American populations. European contact occurred at different times across the state but generally took place between the early 1700s and approximately 1840. The prehistoric archaeological resources range from large habitation complexes, such as those found at Mesa Verde, to an isolated stone flake on the eastern plains.
- **Historic: (Architectural)** These resources consist of buildings and structures related to the historical (post European contact) settlement and development of an area. This includes historical houses, cabins, mines, barns, schools, commercial buildings, and factories. Structures such as roads, canals, bridges, and trails are also included in this category. Many of these resources are also considered to be historical archaeological sites.

- *Field v. Official Determinations:* Field-determined resources were assessed in the field without an official OAHF concurrence. Official resources have OAHF concurrence.
- *Eligible v. Not Eligible:* Eligible resources were determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Not eligible resources were determined to not be eligible for inclusion.
- *Needs Data:* Needs Data resources were surveyed but not determined to be either eligible or not eligible to the NRHP. In practice for archaeological and historical archaeological sites, these locations may be recommended for additional survey to gather more information.

Historic Resources:

No previously recorded historic resources were identified via the COMPASS search. In addition to the COMPASS database search, a search of the El Paso County Assessor database for the study area was completed to determine if parcels within the study area contain unrecorded, potentially historic resources. In addition, the review consulted a site-specific GeoSearch report, aerial photographs, topographic maps, El Paso County assessor data. The Williams Creek Pump Station, built in 2015, is located within the study area (see Figure 1). No built environment features over 50 years of age were located on the associated parcels that comprise the study area.

Archaeological Resources

The remaining sites identified through the search are field not eligible archaeological or historical archaeological sites.

Several archaeological surveys within the search area have been completed previously, which combined cover roughly 1,589 acres of the site (Table 2). The most extensive survey in the study area is MC.R.R82, the 2009 *Class I And Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of The Southern Delivery System Project, Chaffee, El Paso, Fremont, And Pueblo Counties, Colorado*. This survey covered approximately 1,200 acres of both the north and south portions of the study area. Most of the other surveys completed in the area are pipeline surveys or are surveys of smaller acreage.

Table 2: Previously Completed Archaeological Surveys

Survey ID	Survey Name	Year Completed
EP.CM.R2	An Archaeological Inventory Of 216 Acres and Limited Subsurface Testing of Sites 5ep.1779 And 5ep.1780 Northeast of Fountain, El Paso County, Colorado (Mined Land Reclamation)	2003
EP.DA.R32	Class I And III Archaeological Survey and Comprehensive Architectural Resources Survey for The New Southeast Colorado National Cemetery Project, El Paso County, Colorado	2010
EP.E.R4	Colorado Interstate Gas Company Nixon Lateral Pipeline: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, El Paso County, Colorado	2003
EP.E.R8	Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory of The Proposed Midway Expansion Project, El Paso County, Colorado	2002

Survey ID	Survey Name	Year Completed
EP.R.NR6	Southern Delivery System: Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Of 1.56 Acres for Two Proposed Water Well Locations and Associated Access Road, El Paso County, Colorado (Mwh-Tkg)	2009
EP.R.R2	Southern Delivery System Geotechnical Corridor - Report 2: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of Approximately 157 Acres In El Paso County, Colorado (Nwh-Tkd5/03-B-065)	2005
EP.RE.R1	Midway to Geesen OPGW Installation Project Class III Cultural Resource Inventory	2013
MC.E.R35	Colorado Interstate Gas Company's Proposed Valley Line Expansion And 5c-24 Central Pipelines: Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation in Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso & Weld Counties, Colorado	2002
MC.E.R95	A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory and Test Excavation for The Proposed Raton 2010 Expansion Project in Las Animas, Huerfano, Pueblo, and El Paso Counties, Colorado (Original and Addendum)	2010
MC.R.R82	A Class I And Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of The Southern Delivery System Project, Chaffee, El Paso, Fremont, and Pueblo Counties, Colorado (Volumes 1-3) (Original and 4 Addendums)	2009

Conclusions

This memorandum is intended to identify previously recorded cultural and potential cultural resources within the study area. The study area has been the subject of previous surveys, and found to have a limited site density, with one officially eligible archaeological resource within the study area and two sites designated as "needs data." At this time no work is planned within the vicinity of [REDACTED]

Recommendations

Outside of the above-listed previous archaeological surveys, roughly 2,038 acres of the remaining study area have not been surveyed for archaeological potential. Based on the site density, once a ground disturbance footprint is established, a Class III pedestrian survey of the remaining un-surveyed 2,038 acres of the site is recommended. Refer to the Study Area Map for more details on study area coverage. (Figure 1)

Should archaeological material be discovered during construction, the contractor will cease work in the vicinity of the discovery and contact the project manager, who will contact an archaeologist to take next steps.

If human bones are discovered during ground disturbing activities, work will immediately cease and the coroner will be contacted. For more information please refer to the incidental find memorandum (Attachment 3).

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Public Disclosure of Archaeological site locations prohibited (16USC47 [36CFR296.18])

Information contained in this report is confidential and access to this information is restricted by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (as amended), and Colorado Revised Statutes 24-72-203(1) and 24-80-405(2).

Attachment

Figure I: Study Area Map

Figure 1: Study Area Map



