

April 17, 2023

Dear Secretary Hitchcock and
Commissioners of the Native American Heritage Commission,

My name Aurelia Torres, Cultural Monitor for the Kizh Nation-Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians. I attended the last NAHC meeting and I have been the primary Cultural Monitor assigned to the WRF-3 City of Corona Project.

Over the duration of the project, I have been able to personally witness the meetings here with the NAHC, with the City of Corona, the MLD meetings both in person and via zoom, the weekly assigned spot checks, and any extra work onsite to both protect the Ancestral Remains Trench and all spoils piles that contain potentially more Ancestors Remains and/or cultural materials.

Having that honor, I have been able to listen to all parties requests, and see these requests be put into place. Unfortunately, over several months I have also seen the protective construction material being to weather. The sun, rain, wind, and possibly even unauthorized people onsite botch the protective construction material and put the Ancestral Remains Trench and other piles in jeopardy of more damage.

Per the February 6, 2023 City of Corona meeting that included the 3 MLDs. **The tribes requested the new insulated Conex Box have an assigned security camera (see Appendix 1).** This camera is to be specifically focused on the Ancestral Remains Conex Box. Regretfully, this security request has not been fulfilled as of today and it does not sound like there are any definite answers to who will be responsible for ordering the camera, paying for the camera or even monitoring the camera. When the Corona City Representative Serena is asked about the camera status her

response has been respectively unclear. This type of feedback seems dismissive and I know the Kizh Nation is wondering why this security request is taking so long?

Also, due to recent heavy rains, wind and sun the **Ancestral Remains Trench coverage that consists of 2 attached chainlink fencing panels, black plastic, and double sandbags buckled created a pool of black plastic that took on water(see Appendix 2)**. The pocket of water was heavy and these materials slipped into the top part of the safety shoring. Thankfully, nothing fell into the trench with the Ancestors Remains. But once all parties onsite saw the pocket of water above the ancestor's trench at the request of the onsite MLDs' called for a crew to be onsite as soon as possible to avoid any further damage to the trench. The Kizh Nation was appreciative to the City of Corona for the fast attention and during this time the City crew pulled the black plastic as taunt as they could and tried to secure it. That was a temporary fix but more extensive repositioning of the construction materials is needed as soon as possible. As of yesterday it seems the City was talking about prioritizing the perimeter fencing at the south spoils pile and the fencing around less sensitive trench at the North end of the project. While the Ancestral Remains Trench will have to be stabilized at a later date and time. The Kizh Nation would like to know why this decision is being made, and why the Ancestral Remains Trench is lower on the City's list of priorities?

As I stated before, being assigned to the project since the beginning, I have attended many discussions regarding the WRF-3 Project and I feel I have a good grasp of what is going on. I appreciated the way the City of Corona had responded to the requests up until a few months ago. It is unfortunate that I now see a sense of reluctance to fulfill some of the simplest request, such as the security camera on the insulated conex that houses the out of situ Ancestral Remains and the need to protect the in-situ Ancestral Remains from further erosion. We would like to know if the City of Corona can clarify why they have recently taken this approach?

I have also attached two landscape photos of the areas I spoke about in this letter so Secretary Hitchcock and the NAHC Commissioners can familiarize themselves with what I am describing in this letter.

If anyone on the commission has any questions please feel free to reach out to me for further clarification.

Warmest Regards,

Aurelia Torres

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Appendix 1



Appendix 2

