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Division of Conservation Archaeology
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April 14, 1999

Mr. Jeffrey C. Blagg
Blagg Engineering Inc.
P.O. Box 87
Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413

RE: The archaeological inspection of one proposed soil remediation staging area.

Dear Mr. Blagg:

Enclosed please find a copy of DCA Technical Report No. 99-DCA-046, *A Cultural Resources Inventory of Blagg Engineering Inc.'s Proposed Soil Remediation Staging Area Located Near Star Lake, McKinley County, New Mexico*. This report details the survey of a 600 x 600 foot block area to be utilized in a soil remediation program. The proposed project area is situated on State of New Mexico land.

One isolated occurrence was recorded during the survey. Recordation of the isolate is sufficient to have exhausted its research potential, and no further work is recommended. Archaeological clearance is recommended for Blagg Engineering Inc.'s proposed soil remediation staging area. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Proper
Staff Archaeologist

Enclosure

cc: New Mexico State Archaeologist

A Cultural Resources Inventory of
Blagg Engineering Inc.'s Proposed
Soil Remediation Staging Area
Located Near Star Lake, McKinley County, New Mexico

San Juan County Archaeological Research Center and Library
DCA Report No. 99-DCA-046

Prepared by
Michael J. Proper

Submitted by
Larry L. Baker, Executive Director
San Juan County Museum Association,
Division of Conservation Archaeology
P. O. Box 125
Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413
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New Mexico State Archaeological Survey Permit No. 99-010

Submitted to
Archeologist
Historic Preservation Division,
Office of Cultural Affairs
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Prepared for
Blagg Engineering Inc.
P.O. Box 87
Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413
(505) 632-1199

ARMS PROJECT/ACTIVITY NO. 64470

April 14, 1999

ABSTRACT

On April 9, 1999, the Division of Conservation Archaeology of the San Juan County Museum Association conducted the Class III archaeological resources inventory of Blagg Engineering Inc.'s proposed soil remediation staging area. The project area is located in McKinley County, New Mexico on land under the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico. The legal description for the project is the N 1/2 of Section 16, T.19 N., R.6 W., NMPM. The project area can be located on the 7.5' USGS Star Lake, New Mexico Quadrangle, 1961. A total of 14.69 acres was intensively inventoried.

One isolated occurrence was recorded during the survey. Recordation of the isolate is sufficient to have exhausted its research potential, and is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological clearance is recommended for Blagg Engineering Inc.'s proposed soil remediation staging area.

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INTRODUCTION

The cultural resources inventory of Blagg Engineering Inc.'s (Blagg) proposed soil remediation staging area was conducted on April 9, 1999 by the Division of Conservation Archaeology (DCA) of the San Juan County Museum Association. The cultural resource survey was conducted to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project and to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project area is located on land under the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico within McKinley County, New Mexico. The Class III cultural resources inventory of the soil remediation staging area was completed under the authority of State of New Mexico Cultural Archaeological Survey Permit No. 99-010.

The project was undertaken at the request of Mr. Jeffery Blagg, of Blagg Engineering, Inc. The project was administered by Larry L. Baker, Executive Director, San Juan County Archaeological Research Center and Library, for DCA. The field work was conducted by Michael J. Proper. Figure 1 shows the general location of the project area.

One isolated occurrence was recorded during the inventory. Recordation of the isolate is sufficient to have exhausted its research potential, and is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No further work is recommended for the isolate. Archaeological clearance is recommended for Blagg's proposed soil remediation staging area. Details of the project, survey, cultural resources, and recommendations are included later in this report.

DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

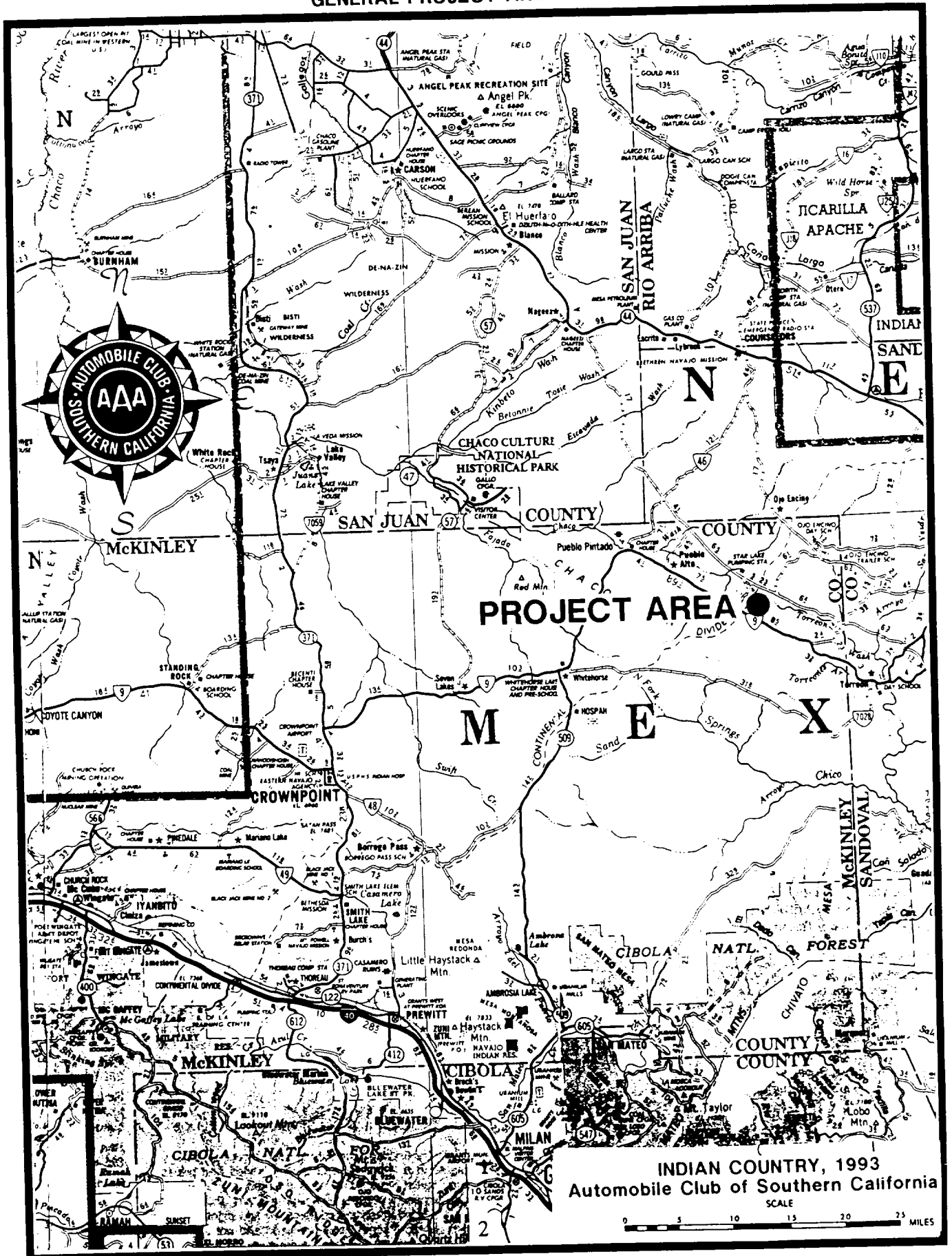
Blagg Engineering Inc. proposes to utilize a 600 foot x 600 foot staging area for a soil remediation program. The proposed area is located on an abandoned well pad. The project will involve the blading, leveling and clearing the staging site. The types of ground disturbance expected to result from the project include surface and subsurface disturbance associated with the construction of the location. Heavy equipment will be used during all phases of the construction. Access to the project area will be from existing dirt roads. A total of 14.69 acres was inventoried for the project.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Blagg's Proposed Soil Remediation Staging Area
Legal Description (Figure 2):

Staging area:	N 1/2 of Section 16 T.19 N., R.6 W., NMPM McKinley County, New Mexico
Map Reference:	7.5' USGS Star Lake, New Mexico, 1961
Land Jurisdiction:	State of New Mexico

GENERAL PROJECT AREA MAP



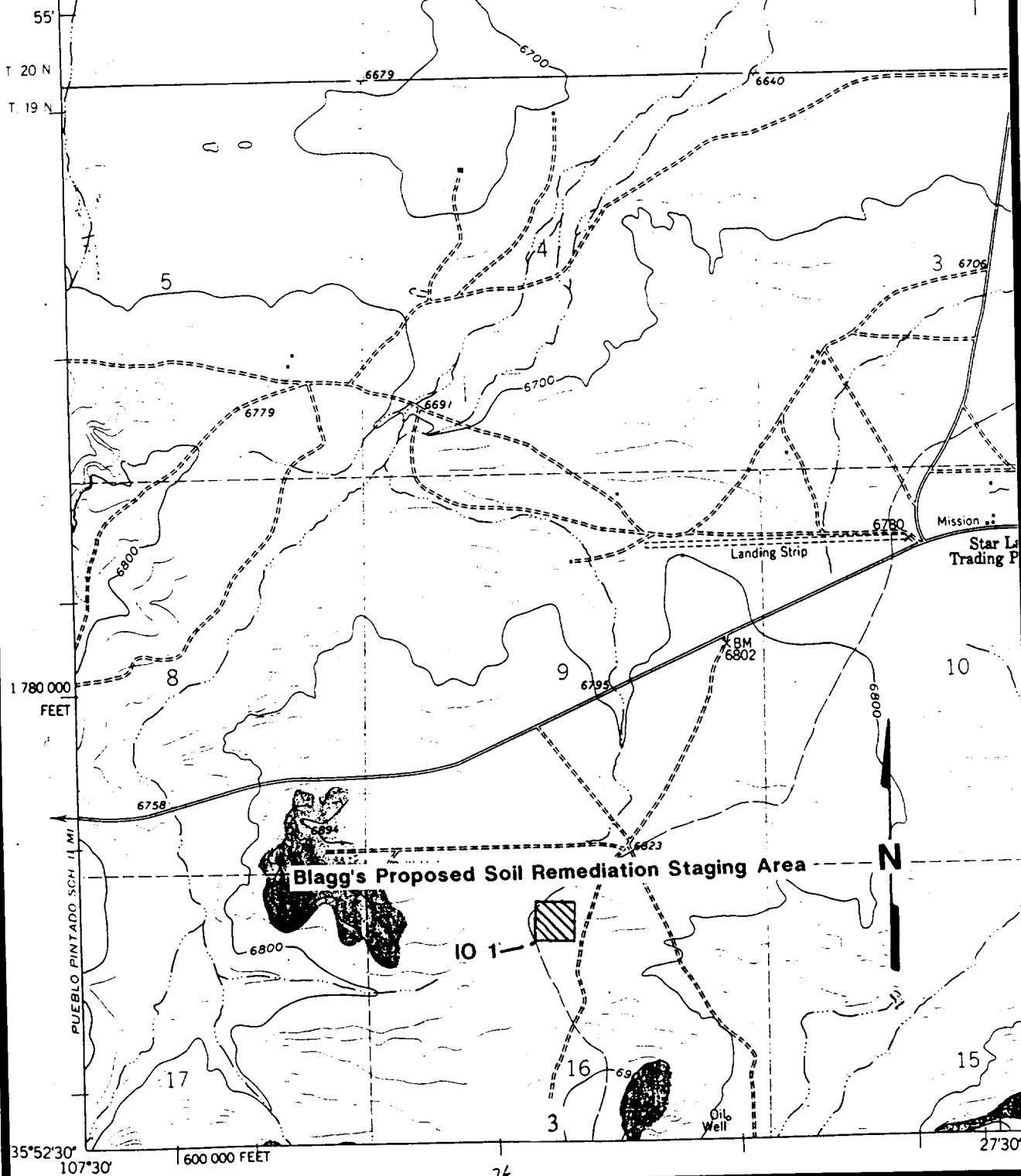
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Figure 1. Map of the general project area.

VICINITY MAP

Star Lake, NM
7.5' USGS Quad., 1961
Section 16, T.19 N., R.6 W., NMPM
McKinley County, New Mexico
New Mexico State Land

0 .5 1 mile
33



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Figure 2. Vicinity map showing the location of Blagg's proposed soil remediation staging area with the cultural resources.

Blagg's Proposed Soil Remediation Staging Area - cont.

Area of Effect:

Staging Area: 600 ft. x 600 ft.
Total Area of Effect: 8.26 acres

Total Area Surveyed (Area of Effect and Cultural Buffer Zone)

Staging Area: 800 ft. x 800 ft.
Total Area of Effect: 14.69 acres

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CURRENT CULTURAL SETTING

The Blagg soil remediation staging project area is located on an abandoned well pad. The staked staging area is located on a low mesa top in a scrubland vegetative setting. Plant species include sagebrush, blue grama grass, and prickly pear cactus. Sediments in the general project area are a residual silty sand. A maintained dirt road is located to the east of the proposed staging area.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Searching existing records is essential in any cultural resources management undertaking in order to determine what portions of an area have been previously inspected and what sites, if any, have been identified. On April 8, 1999, a records search of the previously recorded site records at DCA and the Laboratory of Anthropology/ARMS data base was completed. The file search was completed prior to initiating field work for the project. The locations of previously recorded sites are illustrated on the Nearby Sites Map in Appendix A, which is included only with the State Historic Preservation Office copies of this report. The results of the file search indicate no previously recorded sites are located within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project area.

FIELD METHODS

The survey of the proposed block staging area was conducted on April 9, 1999 by Michael J. Proper. The project area was staked prior to conducting the survey. The inventory was conducted using straight line pedestrian transects spaced at intervals of 10 m. The area of inventory included the 600 x 600 feet block area with a 100 foot cultural buffer zone on each side of the block area for a total surveyed area measuring 800 x 800 feet.

Isolated occurrences were recorded and plotted on USGS 7.5' topographic maps. A DCA isolate recordation form was completed for each isolate. Isolated occurrence definitions applied to cultural resources comply with standards set forth in the Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance of Permits to Conduct Archaeological Investigations (Rule 82-R1) issued by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division.

CULTURAL RESOURCE FINDINGS

One isolated occurrence was recorded during the archaeological inventory. Vegetation in the area of the isolate consists of sagebrush, various grasses, broom snakeweed, and prickly pear cactus. The immediate area surrounding the isolate was intensively examined for additional artifacts or features, however none were located. The location of this resource in relation to the project area is shown in Figure 2.

Isolated Occurrence No. 1 (IO1) consists of a single obsidian flake fragment; no cortex is present. The isolate measures 3.0 x 3.0 x .5 cm. IO 1 is located 15 m southwest of the southwest corner stake to the proposed staging area, in the cultural buffer zone.

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Evaluation of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60) is important for the current and future management of cultural resources. The eligibility status relates to cultural resource significance, which consequently provides guidance with respect to the treatment of properties relative to proposed actions. Thus appropriate recommendations can be made in consideration of both the resource and proposed action.

The evaluation of cultural resources for eligibility to the National Register is composed of three parts; 1) an assessment of integrity, 2) a consideration of eligibility criteria and exceptions, and 3) a consideration of the 50-year guideline. The assessment of integrity, according to Federal regulation (36 CFR 60.4), entails "objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association" and

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4)

The 50-year guideline is simply that sites less than 50 years in age are not considered eligible for the National Register (36 CFR 60.4). Seven exceptions to the above regulations may be applied, however, these rarely apply to prehistoric and/or historic cultural resources and are not reproduced here.

Eligibility Recommendations

IO 1 does not retain any of the qualities of integrity as cited in 36 CFR 60.4. Recordation of the isolate is sufficient to have exhausted its research potential, and it is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The research potential of the isolate has been exhausted through its recordation. No further work is recommended with regard to IO 1. No previously recorded sites will be affected by the proposed use of the soil remediation block area. Archaeological clearance is recommended for Blagg's proposed soil remediation staging area.