

descendants may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Francis P. McManamon,

*Departmental Consulting Archeologist,
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3005 (a)(2), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Field Museum of Natural History which meet the definition of "sacred object" under Section 2 of the Act.

The cultural items consist of a stone mortar with a concave indentation on one side, a small basketry "hopper" with a geometric design covered with pitch which fits on top of the stone mortar, and a smooth stone pestle. The basketry is a coiled weave with white sewing of sumac, mottled sewing of bullrush, and black sewing of an unknown fiber. These items are collectively catalogued as a basketry medicine mortar (Accession 1490; Catalogue number 103496).

In 1923, these items were acquired by the Field Museum from Homer E. Sargent. In 1913, Mr. Sargent purchased these items from Ernest Juan who collected them at "San Manuel and Banning." The items are affiliated with the Serrano.

The form of these objects, their source, and the documentation concerning its acquisition lead the Museum to believe that they comprise a Serrano medicine mortar.

Representatives of the San Manuel Mission Band of Indians (Serrano) have verified this identification and have stated that these objects are needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the Field Museum have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(C), these three cultural items are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional

Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Officials of the Field Museum have also determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between these items and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Although officials of the Field Museum recognize the significant importance of these cultural items to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Field Museum asserts that it has right of possession of these cultural items. However, the Field Museum is willing to return the mortar under a compromise repatriation claim.

This notice has been sent to officials of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these objects should contact Jonathan Haas, MacArthur Curator of North American Anthropology, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605; telephone: (312) 922-9410, ext. 641, before September 26, 1997. Repatriation of these objects to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Francis P. McManamon,

*Departmental Consulting Archeologist,
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Program.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Review of Existing Coordinated Long-Range Operating Criteria for Colorado River Reservoirs (Operating Criteria)

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed decision regarding the Operating Criteria.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this action is to provide public notice that the Secretary of the Interior proposes no change to the existing Operating Criteria as a result of the current review process. The current review has been conducted as an open public process, including formal consultation with the seven Colorado River Basin States (Basin States). The results of the review indicate that modification of the

Operating Criteria is not justified at the present time.

DATES: All written comments relevant to this proposed decision received on or before September 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should send comments or questions to Bruce Moore, Bureau of Reclamation, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102, telephone (801) 524-3702, or Jayne Harkins, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89005, telephone (702) 293-8190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public review process began with a **Federal Register** notice published on August 20, 1996, announcing the review of the Operating Criteria and inviting comments during the 60 days following the notice. On October 31, 1996, another **Federal Register** notice was published announcing two public consultation meetings and extending the comment period an additional 30 days. On November 4, 1996, a Fact Sheet containing information about the Operating Criteria review and an invitation to the public consultation meetings was sent to known and anticipated interested parties and agencies, and governor-designated representatives of the Basin States, inviting their participation. Public consultation meetings were held on November 18, 1996, and December 2, 1996, to receive comments on issues and questions from all interested parties.

Comments from the two **Federal Register** notices were received from 18 respondents. The comments were reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation for identification and analysis of the issues. A set of all comment letters received was provided to any interested party requesting a copy. A synopsis of the issues raised during the public review process was sent to all interested parties and participants in a March 1997 newsletter entitled the *River Review*.

In response to requests, another public consultation meeting and an additional 45-day comment period were announced in the **Federal Register** on March 28, 1997. On April 4, 1997, a letter from the Team Leader containing the preliminary results of Reclamation's analysis on each major issue area and an invitation to attend a public consultation meeting on the preliminary results and analysis was sent to all 18 respondents, Governor-designated representatives of the Basin States, and any others who had attended meetings or expressed an interest in the review of the Operating Criteria. On April 22, 1997, a final public consultation