

September \_\_, 2005

John Fowler  
Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 809  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Fowler:

**Background:**

As you are aware from your recent attendance at the Southwest NCSHPO meeting in Las Vegas, NCSHPO has formed a task force to examine the nationwide programmatic agreement NCHPO shares with the Council and the Bureau of Land Management. The document is 8 years of age and describes what was then a new program and series of activities that were prospective in nature. The NCSHPO believes it is appropriate to give the 1997 agreement a “check up.” Since 1997 SHPOs and State BLM offices have established protocols, changes have been made to 36CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties, and Tribal Historic Preservation Office programs have been established. In addition, roles of some of the players have changed direction from that envisioned in the document.

Knowing that the Council had determined that the PA needed review, the NCSHPO established BLM Task Force. The first project was a survey of affected SHPOs to determine how well the agreement was working.

At our recent meeting, the Task Force provided you with a copy of the draft report highlighting issues directly relating to obligations made within the nationwide agreement. The responses to the questionnaire reveal an immediate need for attention at the national level on issues that are beyond resolution on a state level.

**NCSHPO Recommendations**

1. The Board of Directors of NCSHPO requests the Council advance this programmatic agreement to the top of its list of agreements to review.
2. In addition, the NCSHPO requests the Advisory Council to work with BLM to create a liaison position for the Bureau of Land Management, to address directly problems that arise between BLM, SHPOs, tribes and the public. (While the Programmatic Agreement envisioned this as a role for the BLM Preservation Board, they have not acted in this capacity).

3. Finally, NCSHPO prefers to see this position situated in the West. The majority of BLM lands are in the West, the affected public and tribes are in the West, and the affected SHPOs are in the West.

The NCSHPO and the SHPOs in the BLM States stand ready to assist the Council in its efforts to secure a BLM liaison.

#### Current Task Force Activities

The NCSHPO BLM Task Force is ready to work with the BLM and Council on an amended agreement. In the meantime, the SHPOs will be working with their counterparts at the BLM to affect changes in the State Protocols to address some of the issues that can be resolved on a local level.

Please inform either me or Nancy Schamu, Executive Director of NCSHPO, of your timeline for working on the nationwide agreement and your views on securing a BLM liaison.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Baldrice,  
Chair, NCSHPO BLM Task Force and  
Nevada Deputy SHPO

cc: Jay D. Vogt, President, NCSHPO  
BLM Task Force Members  
Nancy Schamu, Executive Director