

Appendix L

Section 106 Consultation and Section 4(f) Coordination

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Introduction

This appendix provides copies of the non-tribal Section 106 consultation letter, the tribal Section 106 consultation letter, and the Section 4(f) coordination letter distributed to stakeholders, as well as a distribution list of stakeholders who received each letter. In each subsection of this appendix, all the stakeholders on the distribution list received a letter identical to the letter included at the start of the subsection.

Copies of the correspondence received from stakeholders in response to the consultation and coordination letters are provided in each respective subsection following the distribution list. This appendix will be updated in the Final EA to include additional correspondence that was received during the consultation and coordination processes that occurred after the Draft EA was published.

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L.1 Section 106 Consultation (Non-Tribal)

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Section 106 Example Letter (Non-Tribal)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

February 6, 2026

Maricella Benitez
Town Planner
Town of Florence
224 W 20th Street P.O. Box 2670
Florence, AZ 85132

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Maricella Benitez:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementing the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project). An early coordination letter providing information about the Project and soliciting input was previously sent to your organization on November 20, 2025.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §470 et seq., as amended) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In the context of Section 106, an “undertaking” is defined as any project, activity, or program that is funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a federal agency. Compliance with Section 106 requires agencies to consider the effects of such undertakings on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP. Regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA are provided in Title 36 CFR Part 800, *Protection of Historic Properties*.

The FAA has determined that the Project is an undertaking as defined under the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR § 800.16(y)). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation with your organization and request concurrence on the definition of the initial area of potential effect (APE) and proposed methodology to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE and assess potential adverse effects on Section 106 properties.

Project Description

The Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established Study Areas to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. (Please see the attached **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect.**)

Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be studied, including the primary airport Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The nine additional satellite airports are:

- BXK – Buckeye Municipal Airport
- CHD – Chandler Municipal Airport
- DVT – Phoenix Deer Valley Airport
- FFZ – Falcon Field Airport
- GEU – Glendale Regional Airport
- GYR – Phoenix Goodyear Airport
- IWA – Mesa Gateway Airport
- P19 – Stellar Airpark
- SDL – Scottsdale Airport

Identification of Initial APE

Federal regulations require the FAA to define an APE as the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking. The FAA initially defined the APE as contiguous with the Supplemental Study Area boundary (see **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect**).

A total of 916 NRHP-listed properties were initially identified. Consultations to identify other listed or eligible resources are ongoing. In addition, 17 tribal lands/reservations, 17 state historic sites, and 192 cemeteries were identified within the initial APE. A list of historic and cultural resources, including tribal lands, identified will be included in the forthcoming EA.

Methodology to Assess Potential Effects on Section 106 Properties

The Project does not include land acquisition, construction, or other ground-disturbing activities that could result in physical impacts to Section 106 properties. Therefore, the assessment of effects will focus on reviewing historic and cultural properties located within the APE to determine if a significant or reportable increase in noise or a change in visual setting would diminish the integrity of a property’s setting for which the setting contributes to historic or cultural significance.

Noise exposure levels will be calculated via high fidelity four-dimensional (lateral, vertical, speed) flight scenario modeling using FAA’s Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) at points within the APE representing the receptor point sets. Noise exposure results will be evaluated for the purpose of identifying potential adverse effects to historic properties that are listed and/or eligible to be listed in the NRHP. In the event that a significant or reportable noise increase, as defined in FAA Order 1050.1F, is identified at a receptor point, the surrounding area will be examined for the presence of NRHP-listed or eligible to be listed historic properties.

Request for Concurrence

The FAA requests that you review the initial APE and proposed methodology to assess potential effects on Section 106 properties and provide your concurrence. Based on your review, we would appreciate any additional information you may have pertaining to NHRP-listed or NRHP-eligible properties.

FAA Contact Information

Your timely response within the next 30 days will greatly assist us in our environmental review of the Project. Please provide your response using one of the following methods:

Attention: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

For additional information and the most recent developments on this project, please visit the PHX Area FAA Modernization Project community engagement website https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/phx.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

Attachments:

Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect

Section 106 Distribution List (Non-Tribal)

Organization	Role	Title	Last Name	First Name	Address	City, State Zip
Town of Florence	Town Planner	Ms.	Benitez	Maricella	224 W 20th Street P.O. Box 2670	Florence, AZ 85132
Town of Jerome	Zoning Administrator	Mr.	Blogett	William	600 Clark Street	Jerome, AZ 86331
Cottonwood Historic Preservation Commission	Chairwoman	Ms.	Detjen	Kristina	827 N Main Street	Cottonwood, AZ 86326
City of Cottonwood	Interim Community Development Director	Ms.	Eva	Cutro	111 N Main Street	Cottonwood, AZ 86326
City of Glendale	Interim Deputy Director	Mr.	Hoskins	Duane	5754 W Glenn Dr	Glendale, AZ 85301
Town of Oro Valley	Parks and Recreation Director	Mr.	Jankowski	Matthew	680 W Calle Concordia	Oro Valley, AZ 85704
City of Mesa	Historic Preservation Officer	Mr.	Kriegl	Matthew	55 N Center	Mesa, AZ 85201
City of Tempe	Historic Preservation Officer	Dr.	Lechner	Zachary	P.O. Box 5002	Tempe, AZ 85820
Tempe Historic Preservation Commission	Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer	Dr.	Lechner	Zachary	31 E 5th Street	Tempe, AZ 85821
State of Arizona	Historic Preservation Officer	Ms.	Leonard	Kathryn	1110 W Washington Street, Suite 100	Phoenix, AZ 85007
City of Globe	Community Development Director	Mr.	Manfredi	Tony	150 Pine Street	Globe, AZ 85501
Sedona Historic Preservation Commission	Chair	Mr.	Meyers	Nate	102 Roadrunner Drive	Sedona, AZ 86336
Sedona Historical Society	Executive Director	Mr.	Meyers	Nate	735 Jordan Road	Sedona, AZ 86336
Pima County	Cultural Resources & Heritage Preservation Manager	Mr.	Milliken	Ian	201 N Stone Avenue, 6th Floor	Tucson, AZ 85701
City of Prescott	Preservation Specialist	Ms.	Nunez	Kaylee	201 N Montezuma Street	Prescott, AZ 86303
City of Scottsdale	Senior Director	Ms.	Perreault	Erin	7447 East Indian School Road	Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Glendale Historic Preservation Commission	Chair	Mr.	Quinn	Timothy	5850 West Glendale Avenue	Glendale, AZ 85301
City of Phoenix	Historic Preservation Officer	Ms.	Ruter	Helana	200 West Washington Street	Phoenix, AZ 85003
Casa Grande Historic Preservation Commission	Senior Planner	Ms.	Sarnowski	Jaclyn	510 E Florence Boulevard	Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Organization	Role	Title	Last Name	First Name	Address	City, State Zip
City of Peoria	Library and Cultural Services Manager	Mr.	Washburn	Nathaniel	8401 West Monroe Street	Peoria, AZ 85345
Maricopa Association of Governments	Executive Director	Mr.	Zuercher	Ed	302 North First Avenue, Suite 200	Phoenix, AZ 85003
Chandler Historic Preservation Commission	Chair	Mr.	Weight	Kevin	Chandler City Council Chambers 88 E. Chicago Street	Chandler, AZ 85225-5517
Mesa Historic Preservation Board	Chair	Mr.	Babos	James	57 East 1st Street	Mesa, AZ 85201
Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission		Ms.	Brown	Patricia	11000 N La Canada Drive	Tucson, AZ 85737
Peoria Historic Preservation Commission	Chairperson	Ms.	Okeke	Tobechukwu	8401 West Monroe Street	Peoria, AZ 85345
Prescott Preservation Commission	Chair	Mr.	Sprain	Richard	201 N Montezuma Street Council Chambers, 3rd Floor	Prescott, AZ 86301

Section 106 Responses (Non-Tribal)

 Outlook

Arizona SHPO-2025-1479 (185071)

From David Zimmerman <dzimmerman@azstateparks.gov>

Date Tue 2/10/2026 2:26 PM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

Cc Mary-Ellen Walsh <mwash@azstateparks.gov>

You don't often get email from dzimmerman@azstateparks.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

The Arizona SHPO is in receipt of your letter with the subject "Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project" dated February 6, 2026.

In addition to describing the proposed undertaking, the letter requests SHPO comments on the proposed Initial Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking. The map indicating the Initial APE and included with the letter, lacks sufficient resolution for us to make substantial comments on the Initial APE. We request additional maps with more detailed resolution be provided.

SHPO understands that a full Class I inventory of historic properties is being prepared. We request Class I data be provided as soon as available for our review and comment, as it may have implications for the extent of the APE.

SHPO further understands that lands within the initial APE include those belonging to 17 tribal nations. We recommend that the FAA pay close attention to identifying TCPs and properties of religious and cultural significance to tribes that occur both within and outside tribal nation boundaries.

Thank you for consulting with the Arizona SHPO. We look forward to receiving more information as described above, and to continuing consultation during the development of the Draft EA.

Sincerely,

David Zimmerman

Archaeological Compliance Specialist

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

Arizona State Parks & Trails

1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 100

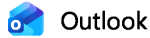
Phoenix, AZ 85085

(928) 732-9644

dzimmerman@azstateparks.gov

1-877-MY-Parks|AZStateParks.com

Note: Please use azshpo@azstateparks.gov to initiate consultation.



Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

From David De La Torre <David.DeLaTorre@chandleraz.gov>
Date Thu 2/19/2026 6:03 PM
To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>
Cc Mikayela Liburd <Mikayela.Liburd@chandleraz.gov>; Christopher Andres <Christopher.Andres@chandleraz.gov>

1 attachment (111 KB)
ChandlerHistoricPropertyDesignations.pdf;

You don't often get email from david.delatorre@chandleraz.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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We have received the letter addressed to Kevin Weight, dated February 6, 2026, and signed by Christopher L. Southerland regarding the Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project.

The City of Chandler does not see any issues with the APE and proposed methodology as described in the letter. Attached is a list of properties with historic designations in the City of Chandler. We are happy to provide more information regarding these properties if needed.

We are about to begin the process of updating the list of properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. More information can be provided regarding these eligible properties as well.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

David de la Torre, AICP
Acting Planning Administrator
Development Services Department, Planning Division
Phone: 480-782-3059



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communication is strictly prohibited. Please delete if received in error and notify sender. Thank you kindly.

City of Chandler, Arizona

List of Historic Property Designations

Zoning case Number	Title	Historic Designation Type	Location	Council Approval Date (final adoption for ordinances)	Date Entered in the National Register
N/A	San Marcos Hotel	National Register of Historic Places	1 N. San Marcos Place	N/A	April 29, 1982
N/A	Suhwaro Hotel	National Register of Historic Places	58 W. Buffalo Street	N/A	June 10, 1994
N/A	Chandler Commercial Historic District	National Register of Historic Places	Historic downtown Chandler square (1-63 E. Boston St, 11-95 W. Boston St, 1-98 S. San Marcos Place, 58 W. Buffalo St.)	N/A	September 22, 2000
N/A	Chandler High School	National Register of Historic Places	350 N. Arizona Avenue	N/A	November 20, 2007
PLH23-0066	Silk Stocking Neighborhood Historic District	Historic Preservation District and National Register of Historic Places	Approximately 17 acres located north and east of Arizona Avenue and Chandler Boulevard	April 4, 2024	August 30, 2011
PLH22-0025	South Village Neighborhood	Historic Conservation District	Approximately 56 acres generally bounded by Arizona Avenue on the west, Frye Road on the north, railroad tracks on the east and Pecos Road on the south	July 14, 2022	N/A
PLH23-0028	McCullough-Price House	Historic Landmark District	300 S. Chandler Village Drive, Chandler AZ 85226	June 29, 2023	N/A
PLH23-0034	Goodyear Canal	Historic Landmark District	Runs along the west side of Basha Road extending from Ocotillo Road on the north southwardly approximately 2,000 feet	June 29, 2023	N/A
PLH26-0001	Dobson Residence	Historic Landmark	2751 S. Nebraska St, Chandler AZ 85286	Pending Approval	N/A

Updated 2/19/2026



RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation

From Matthew Kriegl <matthew.kriegl@mesaaz.gov>

Date Thu 3/5/2026 4:47 PM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>; Historic Preservation <HistoricPreservation@MesaAZ.gov>

Cc Meg Eaton <Meg.Eaton@mesaaz.gov>; Kellie Rorex <Kellie.Rorex@MesaAZ.gov>; Robert Apodaca <Robert.Apodaca@MesaAZ.gov>

 1 attachment (218 KB)

PHX EA - Section 106 Letter - Final Signed - MESA.pdf;

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Christopher L. Southerland,
Please see the attached letter from the City of Mesa.
Thanks,
Matt

Matthew Kriegl
Historic Preservation Officer
City of Mesa | 480-644-2214

From: 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:16 AM
To: Matthew Kriegl <matthew.kriegl@mesaaz.gov>; Historic Preservation <historicpreservation@mesaaz.gov>
Subject: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation

Dear Stakeholder,

On behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration, please find the attached letter initiating formal Section 106 consultation regarding the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project.

The FAA respectfully invites your review and input as part of this consultation process. Additional details are provided in the attached letter, and we welcome the opportunity to address any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Federal Aviation Administration



Historic Preservation Office
City of Mesa, Arizona

Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177
PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

March 5, 2026

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Christopher L. Southerland:

This letter is intended to respond to the Invitation to comment on the FAA request to review the initial APE and proposed methodology to assess potential effects on Section 106 properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800 § 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the City of Mesa Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the plans provided with your letter.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementing the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project). The Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established Study Areas to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). A Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. The assessment of effects will focus on reviewing historic and cultural properties located within the APE to determine if a significant or reportable increase in noise or a change in visual setting would diminish the integrity of a property's setting for which the setting contributes to historic or cultural significance.

A total of 916 NRHP-listed properties were initially identified. Consultations to identify other listed or eligible resources are ongoing. In addition, 17 tribal lands/reservations, 17 state historic sites, and 192 cemeteries were identified within the initial APE. A list of historic and cultural resources, including tribal lands, identified will be included in the forthcoming EA. Due to its size, all historic properties within the City of Mesa (NRHP and local) are located within the Initial Area of Potential Effect.

Upon review of this letter, the Mesa Historic Preservation Office agrees with the initial APE and proposed methodology. Our office does not have any comments at this time, however, please keep our office updated if there are any cultural resource compliance actions that result from this project. Additionally, we request that coordination between all stakeholders (including SHPO and THPOs) continues.

City of Mesa Historic Preservation Office
480-644-2214 | historicpreservation@mesaaz.gov



Historic Preservation Office
City of Mesa, Arizona

I can be contacted at matthew.kriegl@mesaaz.gov or 480-644-2214 if there are any questions or if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Kriegl".

Matthew Kriegl
Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Meg Eaton, City Archaeologist
Robert Apodaca, Deputy Director, Civil Plan Review
Kellie Rorex, Senior Planner

City of Mesa Historic Preservation Office
480-644-2214 | historicpreservation@mesaaz.gov



SHPO-2025-1479 (185071) FAA PHX Modernization Initiation of Section 106 Consultation

From David Zimmerman <dzimmerman@azstateparks.gov>
Date Fri 3/6/2026 4:27 PM
To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>
Cc Mary-Ellen Walsh <mwash@azstateparks.gov>

📎 2 attachments (813 KB)

SHPO-2025-1479 (185071) PHX Modernization - Section 106 Letter -APE-GC.pdf; 2025-1479 AZ SHPO_Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project Scoping.pdf;

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Christopher L. Southerland, Acting Director
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

Dear Mr Southerland,

Please see the attached SHPO response and comments for the FAA Phoenix Modernization Project request for SHPO concurrence on the Area of Potential Effects for the proposed undertaking.

I am also attaching the SHPO letter dated December 16, 2025, that was sent in reply to the FAA initial scoping letter. A number of our comments on the initial scoping will apply to future continuing consultation under Section 106.

Thank you for consulting with the Arizona SHPO. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Zimmerman
Archaeological Compliance Specialist
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
Arizona State Parks & Trails
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85085
(928) 732-9644
dzimmerman@azstateparks.gov
1-877-MY-Parks|AZStateParks.com

Note: Please use azshpo@azstateparks.gov to initiate consultation.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SHPO-2025-1479 (185071)

Rec: 02-06-26

February 6, 2026

Kathryn Leonard
Historic Preservation Officer
State of Arizona
1110 W Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Kathryn Leonard:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementing the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project). An early coordination letter providing information about the Project and soliciting input was previously sent to your organization on November 20, 2025.

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The FAA has determined that the Project is an undertaking as defined under the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR § 800.16(y)). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation with your organization and request concurrence on the definition of the initial area of potential effect (APE) and proposed methodology to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE and assess potential adverse effects on Section 106 properties.

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The Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established Study Areas to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. (Please see the attached **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect.**)

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- DVT – Phoenix Deer Valley Airport
- FFZ – Falcon Field Airport
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- P19 – Stellar Airpark
- SDL – Scottsdale Airport

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Noise exposure levels will be calculated via high fidelity four-dimensional (lateral, vertical, speed) flight scenario modeling using FAA’s Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) at points within the APE representing the receptor point sets. Noise exposure results will be evaluated for the purpose of identifying potential adverse effects to historic properties that are listed and/or eligible to be listed in the NRHP. In the event that a significant or reportable noise increase, as defined in FAA Order 1050.1F, is identified at a receptor point, the surrounding area will be examined for the presence of NRHP-listed or eligible to be listed historic properties.

Request for Concurrence

The FAA requests that you review the initial APE and proposed methodology to assess potential effects on Section 106 properties and provide your concurrence. Based on your review, we would appreciate any additional information you may have pertaining to NHRP-listed or NRHP-eligible properties.

FAA Contact Information

Your timely response within the next 30 days will greatly assist us in our environmental review of the Project. Please provide your response using one of the following methods:

Attention: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AIV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

For additional information and the most recent developments on this project, please visit the PHX Area FAA Modernization Project community engagement website https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/phx.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

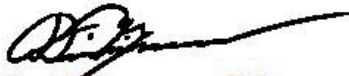
Attachments:
Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect

SHPO understands that FAA had defined the Area of Potential Effect for the proposed undertaking as coterminous with the Supplemental Study Area boundary identified in Exhibit 1.

SHPO concurs with the adequacy of the APE.

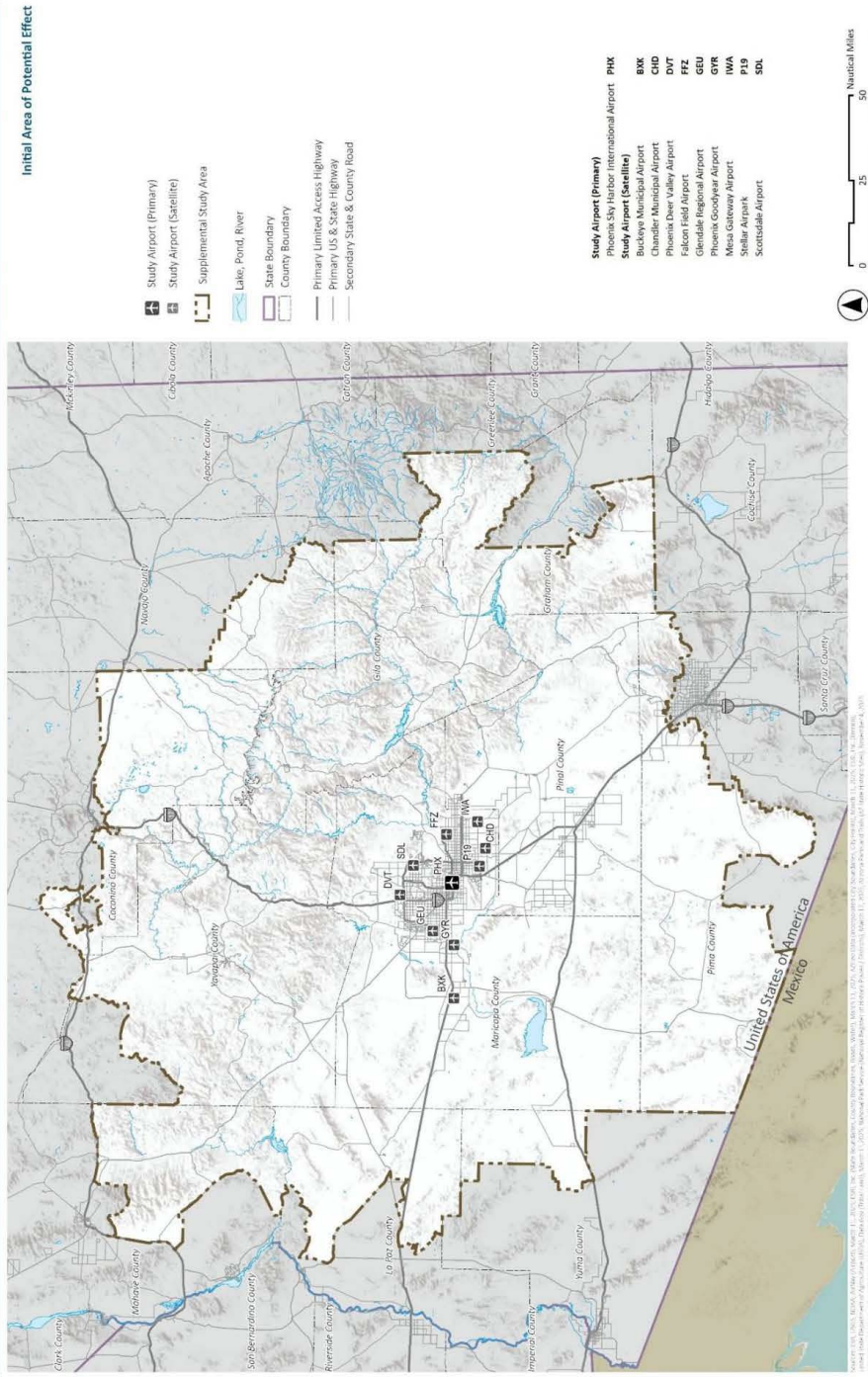
SHPO stresses that continuing consultation with tribal stakeholders is essential to the 106 process, and is the only way to identify places of traditional cultural and religious importance to tribes. SHPO requests that any additional information received from tribes or other interested parties be shared with SHPO, and SHPO reserves the right to exercise our responsibility to reassess our response and modify our concurrence as necessary.

SHPO appreciates the opportunity to advise and concur on the proposed APE for the undertaking. We look forward to receiving continuing Section 106 consultation.



David Zimmerman, M.A
Archaeological Compliance Specialist
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
March 6, 2026

Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect





Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA
STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director



December 16, 2025

Christopher L. Southerland, Acting Director
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization
Delivered by email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

RE: Multiple Counties; Phoenix Area Modernization Project; Environmental Assessment Scoping Letter;
Federal Aviation Administration; SHPO-2025-1479 (183974)

Dear Mr. Southerland:

Thank you for informing our office about the proposal under consideration by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the Phoenix Area Modernization Project. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider potential environmental impacts associated with changes to air traffic procedures. If the project moves forward, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be reviewing this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended (54 USC 306108).

The proposed project would modify aircraft departure routes and altitudes associated with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and nine additional satellite airports located within Maricopa County. The FAA-defined *General Study Area* encompasses portions of counties adjacent to all 10 airports where proposed routing changes would originate, and flight paths altered below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). These counties include Maricopa, La Paz, Yavapai, Pinal, and Gila.

In addition, the FAA identified a *Supplemental Study Area* extending beyond the *General Study Area* to address potential effects on cultural resources for which quiet settings constitute a defining characteristic. This area includes portions of the counties listed above, as well as portions of additional counties where routing changes would occur between 10,000 and 18,000 feet AGL. These additional counties include Yuma, Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Graham, and Pima (per FAA Exhibit 1, Project Study Areas). Proposed flight procedures would continue at altitudes above 18,000 feet AGL over Cochise and Apache Counties; however, these areas are excluded from further environmental impact analysis. Santa Cruz and Greenlee counties are not anticipated to experience changes to existing flight paths (per FAA Exhibit 2, Project Study Areas and Proposed Flight Procedures).

In the EA project scoping letter received on November 20, 2025, SHPO was invited to provide early input on potential concerns regarding cultural resources, to identify additional consulting parties that should participate in the Section 106 process, and to identify community stakeholder groups who may be interested in providing public input. Our comments are below.

1. Relating to a similar project in 2017, a federal appeals court ordered the FAA to abandon a flight path change at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport which raised noise to unacceptable levels in historic districts. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit determined that there had been insufficient public input on the project's potential effects. SHPO

State Historic Preservation Office, 1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-4009 | AZStateParks.com/shpo

- appreciates the opportunity to be involved early in the process of reviewing potential future changes to flight paths over the state's historic resources.
2. Please provide our office any visual, auditory, and vibrational analyses completed as part of the environmental review as the results will be used to inform on the area of potential effects in the subsequent Section 106 review.
 3. Efforts to identify historic properties should occur in study areas for all 10 airports.
 4. Any flight path that brings an increase in noise above current levels should be considered a potential Adverse Effect.
 5. Potential adverse effects to places of traditional cultural and religious importance in the General and Supplemental Study Areas, including seasonal impact that may affect ceremonial practices, must be considered in consultation with affiliated tribes. Please inform our office of tribal concerns, if they are raised.
 6. Consulting Parties that should be invited to comment include the National Park Service and all Certified Local Governments (CLGs) located within the study areas to address effects of the proposed action on historic and cultural resources.
 7. Community stakeholder groups that should be invited to comment include the Arizona Preservation Foundation, as well as municipal, local and neighborhood-based historic preservation organizations located in the General and Supplemental Study Areas.
 8. Lastly, SHPO wishes to be informed of concerns brought to FAA by any of the parties listed above.

We appreciate your cooperation in complying with historic preservation and NEPA requirements. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 480-714-1473 or via email at slawson@azstateparks.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan Lawson, Architect
State Historic Preservation Office

ecc:

Arizona Preservation Foundation, Mr. Jim McPherson, Board President, jmcphersoniii@gmail.com

Certified Local Governments

City of Casa Grande, Ms. Jaclyn Samowski, Planner, Jaclyn_Samowski@casagrandeaz.gov

City of Coolidge, Mr. Gilbert Lopez, Town Manager, GLopez@Coolidgeaz.com

City of Cottonwood, Ms. Kristina Hayden, Senior Planner, khayden@cottonwoodaz.gov

Town of Florence, Ms. Maricella Benitez, Town Planner, Maricella.Benitez@FlorenceAZ.gov

City of Glendale, Ms. Gumoor Tschudy, Associate Planner, GTschudy@glendaleaz.gov

City of Globe, Ms. Connie Callaway, Grants Manager, ccallaway@globeaz.gov

Town of Jerome, Mr. William Blodgett, Zoning Administrator, W.Blodgett@jerome.az.gov

City of Mesa, Mr. Matthew Kriegl, Historic Preservation Officer, Matthew.Kriegl@mesaaz.gov

Town of Oro Valley, Mr. Matt Jankowski, Parks and Recreation, mjankowski@orovalleyaz.gov

City of Peoria, Mr. Nathaniel Washburn, Library and Cultural Services Manager,
Nathaniel.Washburn@peoriaaz.gov

City of Phoenix, Ms. Helana Ruter, Historic Preservation Officer, Helana.ruter@phoenix.gov
Town of Payson, Mr. Darren Coldwell, Town Manager, TownManager@paysonaz.gov
Pima County, Mr. Ian Milliken, Cultural Resources and Heritage Preservation Manager,
Ian.Milliken@pima.gov
City of Prescott, Mr. Alex Bramlette, Planning Manager, alex.bramlette@prescott-az.gov
City of Scottsdale, Mr. Jesus Murillo, Planner, jmurillo@scottsdaleaz.gov
City of Sedona, Mr. Nate Meyers, Sedona Historical Society Director, director@sedonamuseum.org
City of Tempe, Mr. Zachary Lechner, Historic Preservation Officer, Zachary_lechner@tempe.gov

L.2 Section 106 Consultation (Tribal)

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Section 106 Example Letter (Tribal)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

February 6, 2026

Mark Altaha
White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona
THPO
P.O. Box 507
Fort Apache, AZ 85926

Subject: Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Mark Altaha:

The purpose of this letter is to initiate formal government-to-government consultation regarding a proposal to implement airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead federal agency for government-to-government consultation for the Project.

The primary purpose of government-to-government consultation is to ensure that Federally Recognized Tribes are given the opportunity to provide meaningful and timely input regarding proposed FAA actions that uniquely or significantly affect the Tribes. This policy is provided in Federal Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*; Presidential Memorandum, *Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation*; DOT Order 5301.1A, *Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures*; and FAA Order 1210.20, *American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures*.

Consultation Initiation

With this letter, FAA is seeking input concerning any Tribal lands or sites of religious or cultural significance that may be affected by the proposed project. Early identification of Tribal concerns, or known properties of traditional, religious, and cultural importance, will allow the FAA to consider ways to avoid or minimize potential impacts to Tribal resources. We are available to discuss the details of the proposed project with you.

Project Description

The FAA is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts associated with the implementation of airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The EA will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result implementing the Project. An early coordination letter providing information about the Project and soliciting input was previously sent to your Tribe on November 20, 2025.

The proposed Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established a General Study Area to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various

historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. (Please see the attached **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect**).

Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be studied, including the primary airport Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The nine additional satellite airports are:

- BXK – Buckeye Municipal Airport
- CHD – Chandler Municipal Airport
- DVT – Phoenix Deer Valley Airport
- FFZ – Falcon Field Airport
- GEU – Glendale Regional Airport
- GYR – Phoenix Goodyear Airport
- IWA – Mesa Gateway Airport
- P19 – Stellar Airpark
- SDL – Scottsdale Airport

A total of 17 Tribal lands/reservations have been identified within the Supplemental Study Area.

Confidentiality

We understand that you may have concerns about the confidentiality of information on areas or resources of traditional, religious, and cultural importance to your Tribe. We are available to discuss these concerns and develop procedures to ensure the confidentiality of such information is maintained.

FAA Contact Information

Your timely response within the next 30 days will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into our environmental review of the Project. In addition, we respectfully request that you use one of the following two methods to confirm whether your Tribe intends to participate in this government-to-government consultation:

Attention: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

For additional information and the most recent developments on this project, please visit the PHX Area FAA Modernization Project community engagement website https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/phx.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

Attachments:
Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect

Section 106 Distribution List (Tribal)

Organization	Role	Title	Last Name	First Name	Address	City, State Zip
White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona	THPO	Mr.	Altaha	Mark	P.O. Box 507	Fort Apache, AZ 85926
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona	THPO	Mr.	Anton	Shane	10005 E. Osborn Road	Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona	THPO Archaeologist	Ms.	Eiselt	Sunday	10005 E. Osborn Road	Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah	THPO	Mr.	Begay	Richard	P.O. Box 4950	Window Rock, AZ 86515
Governors Office of Tribal Relations	Director of Tribal Affairs	Mr.	Chavez	Jason	1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 235	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation, Arizona	Chairman	Mr.	Rocha, Jr.	Buddy	2400 West Datsi Street	Camp Verde, AZ 86322
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Tribal Historian	Mr.	Darrow	Michael	43187 US Highway 281	Apache, OK 73006
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Cultural Coordinator	Ms.	Hartford	Naomi	43187 US Highway 281	Apache, OK 73006
Colorado River Indian Tribes	THPO	Mr.	Etsitty	Brian	26600 Mohave Road	Parker, AZ 85344
San Carlos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation, Arizona	THPO	Ms.	Grant	Vernelda	P.O. Box 0	San Carlos, AZ 85550
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona	THPO	Dr.	Hoerig	Karl	7777 S Camino Huivisim, Building C	Tucson, AZ 85757
Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico	THPO	Ms.	Houghten	Holly	P.O. Box 227	Mescalero, NM 88340

Organization	Role	Title	Last Name	First Name	Address	City, State Zip
Hualapai Indian Tribe of the Hualapai Indian Reservation, Arizona	THPO	Ms.	Jackson	Ka-Voka	P.O. Box 310	Peach Springs, AZ 86434
Tonto Apache Tribe of Arizona	Chairman	Mr.	Johnson	Calvin	Tonto Apache Reservation #30	Payson, AZ 85541
Tonto Apache Tribe of Arizona	Cultural & NAGPRA Representative	Ms.	De Cola	Jeri	Tonto Apache Reservation #30	Payson, AZ 85541
Hopi Tribe of Arizona	THPO	Mr.	Koyiyumptewa	Stewart	P.O. Box 123	Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039
Ak-Chin Indian Community	Director, Cultural Resources	Ms.	Peters	Elaine	42507 W. Peters & Nall Road	Maricopa, AZ 85138
Ak-Chin Indian Community	Cultural Specialist	Ms.	Wind	Tracy	42507 W. Peters & Nall Road	Maricopa, AZ 85138
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	Planning Project Manager	Ms.	McCalvin	Erika	16304 North Fort McDowell Road	Fort McDowell, AZ 85264
Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona	THPO	Ms.	Steere	Peter L.	Cultural Affairs Office, PO Box 837	Sells, AZ 85634
Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona	Cultural Resources Specialist	Mr.	Francisco	Jefford	Cultural Affairs Office, PO Box 837	Sells, AZ 85634
Gila River Indian Community	THPO	Ms.	Williams	Reylynne	P.O. Box 2193	Sacaton, AZ 85147
Gila River Indian Community	Archaeological Compliance Specialist	Mr.	Benallie Jr.	Larry	P.O. Box 2193	Sacaton, AZ 85147
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe	President	Mr.	Ogo	Robert	530 E. Merritt Street	Prescott, AZ 86301

Section 106 Responses (Tribal)

 Outlook

Re: Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation

From Mark Altaha <MarkAltaha@wmat.us>

Date Sun 2/15/2026 3:53 PM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

 1 attachment (253 KB)

Section 106 letter.pdf,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please refer to the attached tribal consultation letter.

Thank you,

Mark Altaha - THPO
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Historic Preservation Office
Fort Apache, Arizona

From: 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 7:07 AM

To: Mark Altaha <MarkAltaha@wmat.us>

Subject: Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation

Dear Mark Altaha,

On behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration, please find the attached letter initiating formal government-to-government consultation regarding the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The FAA respectfully invites your Tribe's review and input as part of this consultation process. Additional details are provided in the attached letter, and we welcome the opportunity to address any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Federal Aviation Administration



White Mountain Apache Tribe
Office of Historic Preservation
PO Box 1032
Fort Apache, AZ 85926
Ph: (928) 338-3033 Fax: (928) 338-6055

To: Christopher Southerland – Acting Director, Central Service Center
Date: February 15, 2026
Re: *Proposed Phoenix Area FAA Airspace Modernization Project*

.....

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office appreciates receiving information on the project dated; February 06, 2026. In regard to this, please refer to the following statement(s) below;

Thank you for allowing the White Mountain Apache tribe the opportunity to review and respond to the above proposal to implement airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project, Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona.

Please be advised, we have reviewed the information provided and determined the proposed project will have a “*No Adverse Effect*” to the White Mountain Apache tribe’s cultural heritage resources and/or historic properties. We agree with the proposed project plans.

Thank you for the continued tribal engagement and consultation, and collaborations in protecting and preserving places of cultural and historical importance.

Sincerely,

Mark Altaha

White Mountain Apache Tribe – THPO
Historic Preservation Office



Outlook

Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

From Vanessa Nosie <vnosie11@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/17/2026 10:26 AM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

Cc Vernelda Grant <vernelda.grant@scat-nsn.gov>; Vern Grant <apachevern@yahoo.com>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project.jpg;

You don't often get email from vnosie11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Southerland,

I've attached a signed Tribal Consultation Response Letter for you to review. If you have any questions, contact Vernelda Grant, Director/THPO, at 928-475-5797 or email apachevern@yahoo.com and vernelda.grant@scat-nsn.gov.

A'hi'ye (Thank you),

***Vanessa Nosie, Archaeology-Aide
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Archaeology/THPO Department***



Received from Tribal Admin *2/10/26*
 E-mailed *2/17/26* (in *1/17/26* & date)
 Scanned *2/17/26* (in *1/17/26* & date)

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
 Historic Preservation & Archaeology Department
 P.O. Box 0
 San Carlos Arizona 85550
 Tel. (928) 475-5797, apachevern@yahoo.com

Tribal Consultation Response Letter

Date: February 6, 2026
Contact Name: Christopher L. Southerland *PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov*
Company: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration
Address: 800 Independence Ave., SW. Washington, DC 20591
Project Name/#: Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

Under Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are replying to the above referenced project. Please see the appropriate marked circle, including the signatures of Vernelda Grant, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and the concurrence of the Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe:

- NO INTEREST/NO FURTHER CONSULTATION/NO FUTURE UPDATES**
 We defer to the Tribe located nearest to the project area.
- CONCURRENCE WITH REPORT FINDINGS & THANK YOU** *for consulting w/ the Tribe.*
- REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
 I require additional information in order to provide a finding of effect for this proposed undertaking, i.e. Project description ___ Map ___ Photos Other *Can we schedule a zoom mtg RE: this request? We are interested in flight path + activities for PHX, DVT,*
- NO EFFECT**
 I have determined that there are no properties of religious and cultural significance to the San Carlos Apache Tribe that are listed on the National Register within the area of potential effect or that the proposed project will have no effect on any such properties that may be present. *FFZ, IWA, SDL*
- NO ADVERSE EFFECT**
 Properties of cultural and religious significance within the area of effect have been identified that are eligible for listing in the National Register for which there would be no adverse effect as a result of the proposed project.
- ADVERSE EFFECT**
 I have identified properties of cultural and religious significance within the area of potential effect that are eligible for listing in the National Register. I believe the proposed project would cause an adverse effect on these properties. Please contact the THPO for further discussion.

We were taught traditionally not to disturb the natural world in a significant way, and that to do so may cause harm to oneself or one's family. Apache resources can be best protected by managing the land to be as natural as it was in pre-1870s settlement times. Please contact the THPO, if there is a change in any portion of the project, especially if Apache cultural resources are found at any phase of planning and construction. Thank you for contacting the San Carlos Apache Tribe, your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

DIRECTOR/THPO: *[Signature]* *02/10/26*
 Vernelda J. Grant, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Date

CONCURRENCE: *[Signature]* *2/12/26*
 Terry Rambler, Tribal Chairman Date



Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

From Eiselt, Sunday <Sunday.Eiselt@srpmic-nsn.gov>
Date Wed 2/18/2026 1:30 PM
To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>
Cc Anton, Shane <Shane.Anton@SRPMIC-nsn.gov>; Garcia-Lewis, Angela <Angela.Garcia-Lewis@SRPMIC-nsn.gov>; Martinez, Martha <Martha.Martinez@SRPMIC-nsn.gov>

You don't often get email from sunday.eiselt@srpmic-nsn.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The FAA is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts associated with the implementation of airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The proposed Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established a General Study Area to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be studied, including the primary airport Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX).

The SRPMIC THPO will continue to participate in this undertaking. We look forward to additional information as the project develops.

B. Sunday Eiselt Ph.D
THPO Archaeologist
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
10,005 E. Osborn Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Sunday.Eiselt@srpmic-nsn.gov
Office: (480) 362 3347





ATTN: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Operations Support Group-FAA Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project Consultation Request

From Larry Benallie Jr <Larry.BenallieJr@gric.nsn.us>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 9:08 AM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

Cc Eiselt, Sunday <Sunday.Eiselt@srpmic-nsn.gov>; Reyllynne Williams <Reyllynne.Williams@gric.nsn.us>

 1 attachment (550 KB)

FAA Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project Consultation Request 022426 .pdf;

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

GRIC-THPO response attached.

Respectfully,

Larry Benallie, Jr.

Archaeological Compliance Specialist

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Gila River Indian Community

P.O. Box 2193

Sacaton, Arizona 85147

(520) 562-7153

Larry.BenallieJr@gric.nsn.us

[Government to Government Consultation Toolkit](#)



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

POST OFFICE BOX 2193, SACATON, AZ 85147

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

(520) 562-7162

February 19, 2026

Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, Texas 76177

RE: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Director Southerland,

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office (GRIC-THPO) has received your consultation letter dated February 6, 2026. The FAA is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts associated with the implementation of airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The proposed undertaking involves changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes. The FAA has established a General Study Area to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). The FAA also advises that because the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various historic and cultural properties, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL is also being prepared. The General Study Area also includes Tribal lands. This undertaking is a Federal undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be evaluated in the EA: 1) Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX); 2) Buckeye Municipal Airport (BXX); 3) Chandler Municipal Airport (CHD); 4) Phoenix Deer Valley Airport (DVT); 5) Falcon Field Airport (FFZ); 6) Glendale Regional Airport (GEU); 7) Phoenix Goodyear Airport (GYR); Stellar Airport (P19); and 10) Scottsdale Airport (SDL). The FAA is seeking confirmation for participation in government-to-government consultation process.

The GRIC-THPO will participate in the consultation process for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The proposed project area is within the ancestral lands of the Four

Southern Tribes (Gila River Indian Community; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Tohono O'Odham Nation). This undertaking is located within the consultation areas of the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The THPO offices from both Communities will be active participants in the consultation process.

Thank you for consulting with the GRIC-THPO. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our office at 520-562-7162.

Respectfully,



Reylayne Williams
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Gila River Indian Community



Response to Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation

From Alicia Becenti <Alicia.Becenti@navajo-nsn.gov>

Date Thu 3/12/2026 3:50 PM

To 9-AVS-ASW-PHX-Modernization-Comment (FAA) <PHX-Modernization-Comment@faa.gov>

 1 attachment (516 KB)

PHX EA - Tribal Letter - Final Signed - Begay - 260206.pdf;

You don't often get email from alicia.becenti@navajo-nsn.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon FAA Team,

The Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Department acknowledges receipt of the Arizona State Land Department's letter, dated February 6, 2026, regarding the Invitation to Consult letter. I recently received the later today, March 12, 2026.

At this time, the Navajo Nation has no concerns, and you may go forward with the project.

If anything changes on your end or if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alicia Becenti, Senior Archaeologist
Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Dept.
Cultural Resources Compliance Section (NNFRF)
Phone: (928) 871-7153/7198
Alicia.Becenti@navajo-nsn.gov



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

February 6, 2026

Richard Begay
Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah
THPO
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Subject: Invitation for Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Richard Begay:

The purpose of this letter is to initiate formal government-to-government consultation regarding a proposal to implement airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead federal agency for government-to-government consultation for the Project.

The primary purpose of government-to-government consultation is to ensure that Federally Recognized Tribes are given the opportunity to provide meaningful and timely input regarding proposed FAA actions that uniquely or significantly affect the Tribes. This policy is provided in Federal Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*; Presidential Memorandum, *Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation*; DOT Order 5301.1A, *Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures*; and FAA Order 1210.20, *American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures*.

Consultation Initiation

With this letter, FAA is seeking input concerning any Tribal lands or sites of religious or cultural significance that may be affected by the proposed project. Early identification of Tribal concerns, or known properties of traditional, religious, and cultural importance, will allow the FAA to consider ways to avoid or minimize potential impacts to Tribal resources. We are available to discuss the details of the proposed project with you.

Project Description

The FAA is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts associated with the implementation of airspace modernization measures as part of the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project. The EA will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result implementing the Project. An early coordination letter providing information about the Project and soliciting input was previously sent to your Tribe on November 20, 2025.

The proposed Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established a General Study Area to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various

historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. (Please see the attached **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect**).

Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be studied, including the primary airport Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The nine additional satellite airports are:

- BXK – Buckeye Municipal Airport
- CHD – Chandler Municipal Airport
- DVT – Phoenix Deer Valley Airport
- FFZ – Falcon Field Airport
- GEU – Glendale Regional Airport
- GYR – Phoenix Goodyear Airport
- IWA – Mesa Gateway Airport
- P19 – Stellar Airpark
- SDL – Scottsdale Airport

A total of 17 Tribal lands/reservations have been identified within the Supplemental Study Area.

Confidentiality

We understand that you may have concerns about the confidentiality of information on areas or resources of traditional, religious, and cultural importance to your Tribe. We are available to discuss these concerns and develop procedures to ensure the confidentiality of such information is maintained.

FAA Contact Information

Your timely response within the next 30 days will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into our environmental review of the Project. In addition, we respectfully request that you use one of the following two methods to confirm whether your Tribe intends to participate in this government-to-government consultation:

Attention: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

For additional information and the most recent developments on this project, please visit the PHX Area FAA Modernization Project community engagement website https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/phx.

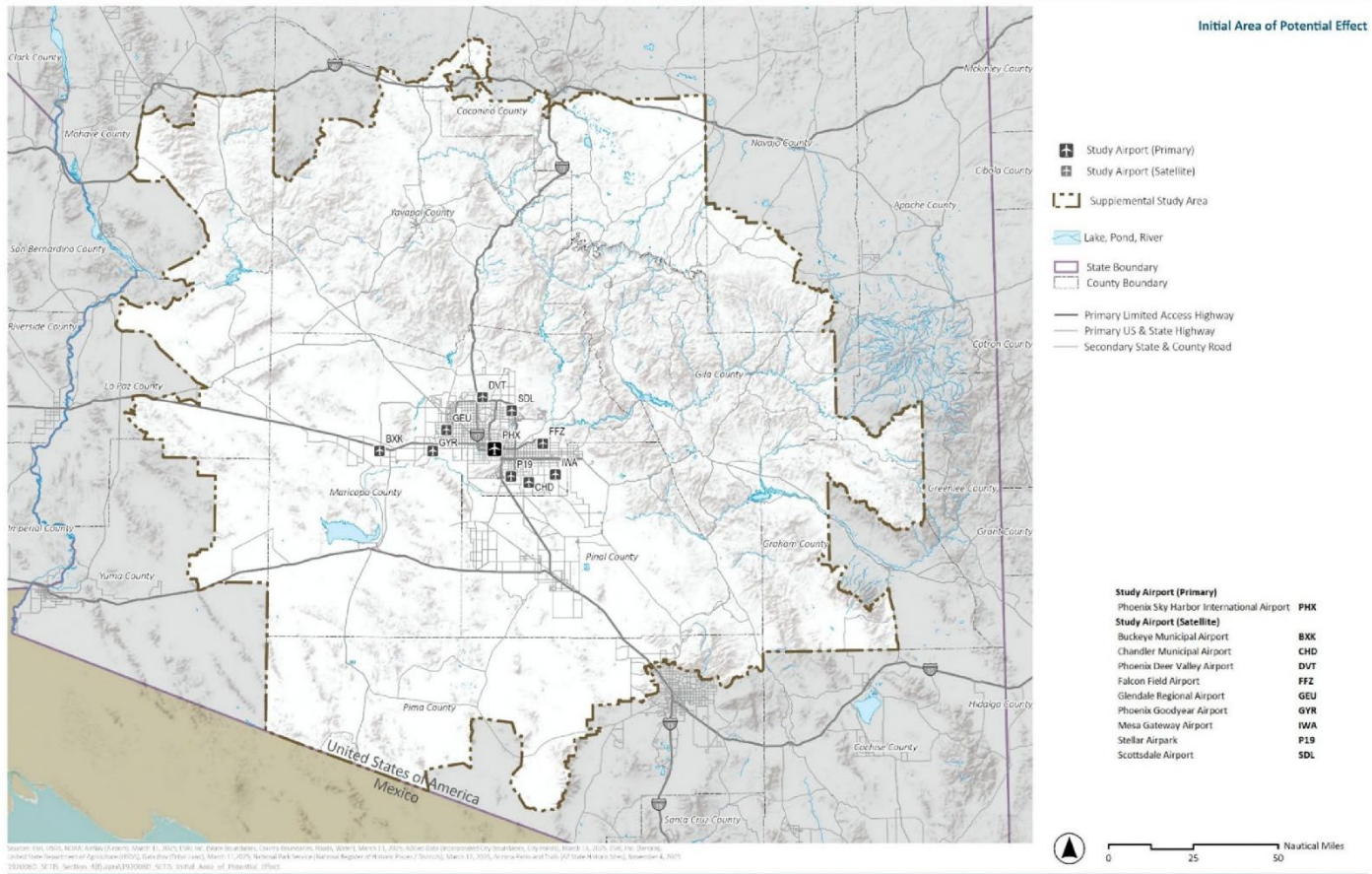
Sincerely,



Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

Attachments:
Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect

Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect



L.3 Section 4(f) Coordination

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Section 4(f) Example Letter



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

February 06, 2026

Mr. Bert Frost
Regional Director, Intermountain Region
National Park Service
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 Coordination for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project

Dear Mr. Frost:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that will consider the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementing the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project (the Project).

The purpose of this letter is to inform the National Park Service (NPS) that the FAA will assess potential impacts to resources subject to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (DOT Act), 48 U.S.C. § 303(c). These resources – referred to in this letter as “Section 4(f) properties” – include resources managed by the NPS. Where appropriate, resources identified as being funded with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) are referred to as “Section 6(f) resources.” The FAA will consider potential impacts to Section 4(f) properties and Section 6(f) resources in the EA.

Project Description

The Project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. The FAA has established Study Areas to evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing, including those that would occur below 10,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Additionally, since the General Study Area includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and various historic and cultural properties where other noise is very low and a quiet setting is a generally recognized purpose and attribute, a Supplemental Study Area extending up to 18,000 feet AGL has been identified. (Please see the attached **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect.**)

Ten airports within the General Study Area and Supplemental Study Area will be studied, including the primary airport Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The nine additional satellite airports are:

- BXK – Buckeye Municipal Airport
- CHD – Chandler Municipal Airport
- DVT – Phoenix Deer Valley Airport
- FFZ – Falcon Field Airport
- GEU – Glendale Regional Airport
- GYR – Phoenix Goodyear Airport
- IWA – Mesa Gateway Airport
- P19 – Stellar Airpark
- SDL – Scottsdale Airport

Identification of Initial Area of Potential Effect

Federal regulations require the FAA to define an Area of Potential Effect (APE) as the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking. The FAA initially defined the APE as contiguous with the Supplemental Study Area boundary (see **Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect**).

Data from federal, state, and other GIS databases maintained by public and private entities identified 3,105 Section 4(f) properties within the initial APE. Section 4(f) properties include national forests, state parks and forests, local parks and recreation areas, national wildlife refuges, state fish and wildlife areas, and public wilderness areas. A total of 43 Section 6(f) resources were also identified within the initial APE.

Methodology to Assess Potential Effects on Section 4(f) Properties

Under Section 4(f), the FAA may approve a transportation project that requires use of a Section 4(f) property only if there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use and the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from the use. Use of a Section 4(f) property can be either physical or constructive. The Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project does not include land acquisition, construction, or other ground-disturbing activities that could result in physical use of Section 4(f) properties. Accordingly, the EA will assess the Project's potential for constructive use from noise. Constructive use occurs when the impacts of a project on a Section 4(f) property are so severe that the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) are substantially impaired. As stated in FAA Order 1050.1F, Appendix B, paragraph B-2.2.2):

“Substantial impairment occurs only when the protected activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4(f) property that contribute to its significance or enjoyment are substantially diminished. This means that the value of the Section 4(f) property, in terms of its prior significance and enjoyment, is substantially reduced or lost. For example, noise would need to be at levels high enough to have negative consequences of a substantial nature that amount to a taking of a park or portion of a park for transportation purposes.”

Under FAA Order 1050.1F, the FAA is responsible for determining whether Project-related impacts would substantially impair a Section 4(f) property. When making this determination, the FAA consults with officials having jurisdiction over the property.

Consistent with FAA Order 1050.1F, the FAA's noise analysis for the Phoenix Area FAA Modernization Project will identify any “significant” or “reportable” noise increases. As defined in that order a significant noise increase is an increase of 1.5 dB or more in a noise sensitive area that is exposed to noise at or above the DNL 65 dB noise exposure level, or that will be exposed at or above the DNL 65 dB level due to a DNL 1.5 dB or greater increase, when compared to the No Action Alternative for the same timeframe.

A reportable noise increase is an increase of:

- DNL 3.0 dB or more in areas exposed to aircraft noise between DNL 60 dB and DNL 64.9 dB or
- DNL 5.0 dB or more in areas exposed to aircraft noise between DNL 45 and DNL 59.9 dB.

In the event that a significant or reportable noise increase, as defined in FAA Order 1050.1F, is identified, the FAA would consider further whether the increase would result in a constructive use of a Section 4(f) property or a Section 6(f) resource. For a Section 4(f) property or Section 6(f) resource managed by the NPS, the FAA would consult with the NPS to seek concurrence with its findings. Information supporting the FAA's findings will be contained in the Draft EA and provided to the NPS as part of the consultation process.

Request for Concurrence

The FAA requests that you review the initial APE and proposed methodology to assess potential effects on Section 4(f) properties and Section 6(f) resources and provide your concurrence. Based on your review, we would appreciate any additional information you may have pertaining to Section 4(f) properties and/or Section 6(f) resources within the initial APE.

FAA Contact Information

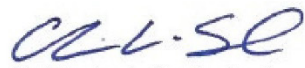
Your timely response within the next 30 days will greatly assist us in our environmental review of the Project. Please provide your response using one of the following methods:

Attention: Phoenix Area FAA Modernization
Operations Support Group
FAA-ATO Central Service Center AJV C-250
10101 Hillwood Pkwy
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Email: PHX-MODERNIZATION-comment@faa.gov

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Sincerely,



Christopher L. Southerland
Acting Director, Central Service Center
Air Traffic Organization

Attachments:
Exhibit 1. Initial Area of Potential Effect

Section 4(f) Distribution List

Organization	Role	Title	Last Name	First Name	Address	City, State Zip
Department of the Interior, National Park Service	Regional Director (Intermountain)	Mr.	Frost	Bert	12795 Alameda Parkway	Denver, CO 80225
Department of the Interior, National Park Service	Regional Director (Pacific West)	Mr.	Levasseur	Randy	555 Battery Street, Suite 121	San Francisco, CA 94111
U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region Regional Office	Regional Forester	Ms.	Martin	Michiko	333 Broadway SE	Albuquerque, NM 87012
Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Environmental Protection Specialist	Dr.	Alam	Shawn	1849 C St NW, MS 2629	Washington, DC 20240

Section 4(f) Responses

To date, no response letters from the Section 4(f) stakeholders have been received.