



Letter of Objection

1 message

Minette Church <minette.church@gmail.com>
To: amy.eschberger@state.co.us

Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 11:15 PM

Please see, attached, a letter of objection to the new application by Transit Mix for the proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry.
Thank you.

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If you use this link for your online shopping, a percentage of what you spend will go to Owen's college fund! At no cost to you. <http://www.upromise.com/guest/2506641170>



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December 13, 2017

Ms. Amy Eschberger
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Ms. Eschberger,

I am writing to object to Transit Mix Concrete Co.'s (TM) application (M2017-049) to establish a quarry on Hitch Rack Ranch. I am a professional archaeologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. I am lead author of a book on history and archaeology in Colorado: Church, Minette C. et al., *Colorado History: A Context for Historical Archaeology*. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, 2007. I am also a citizen who lives just north of the proposed quarry area, in Rock Creek Canyon.

In this letter my concerns are personal, and also professional. I have all the concerns already expressed by my neighbors in this area – about water, wildlife, destructive and dangerous truck traffic density on Hwy 115 - but I also have a professional concern regarding the archaeological site 5EP779 that lies in the proposed permit area. Having seen pictures and gotten copies of the site forms from my colleagues at CRA, Inc., I respectfully disagree with the field assessment of the site offered by CRA, Inc. I would offer a field assessment that this site is, indeed, potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or at the least needs archaeological testing to determine eligibility. I suspect the field technician who did the inspection is not intimate with the history of southeastern Colorado. My primary research for the last 20+ years has been in the archaeology of southeastern Colorado during historic periods, and the collapsed *jorno* or Hispanic beehive oven (not identified as such in the CRA, Inc. site form) along with other features and the artifacts recorded on this site suggest to me that this was perhaps a camp site associated with dam construction (see dam site: 5EP7778). Dam construction, the history of labor and ethnicity of laborers on dam sites, and the associated campsites of the late 19th and early 20th century have been recognized in Colorado and elsewhere as an important historical and archaeological theme (see, for example, the book: Rogge, A. E., D. Lorne McWatters, Melissa Keane, and Richard P. Emanuel. *Raising Arizona's dams: daily life, danger, and discrimination in the dam construction camps of central Arizona, 1890s-1940s*. University of Arizona Press, 2016). In addition, this is further north than one usually finds an *jorno* such as this one, and the site is also intriguing for that reason. This dam was built in the early years 20th century; this was a time of volatile labor relations along the southern Front Range, including the Colorado Cole Field Wars and the significant rise of the Klu Klux Klan in the region. A primarily Hispanic occupation of this site in this period, before the flood of 1921, is significant and the topic is understudied archaeologically or historically.

In my professional capacity, I wanted to take this opportunity to register my concerns about the apparent dismissal of the historical value of the information potentially available at this site. In my personal capacity, I would point out that neighbors and I have already

lost many windshields to trucks hauling quarry rock, as it is, and I have little confidence that they will handle any of the biological or cultural resources, or most importantly, our water, with the care that they profess.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Minette C. Church", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Minette C. Church

Associate Professor, Anthropology: U Colorado, Colorado Springs

Rock Creek Canyon neighbor:

1144 Rock Creek Canyon Rd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80926

Minette. church@gmail.com

719-527-7767