

Date**RE: Archaeological and Environmental Field Survey Notification, Rocky Ripple Levee Project**

Dear,

The City of Indianapolis, Department of Public Works (City) is planning to design and construct a proposed Flood Risk Reduction Project along the West Fork White River at the Town of Rocky Ripple and Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. The City and its consultants will require access to properties adjacent to the river to conduct archaeological and environmental field reconnaissance. Indiana Code IC 32-24-1-3 authorizes the City to enter upon the land to examine and survey it.

In support of the City of Indianapolis Rocky Ripple Levee Project, field staff from AECOM Technical Services, Inc. will be conducting an archaeological and environmental field study within the proposed project limits on your property during the week of July 19, 2021. These surveys are required as part of the environmental permitting process for the proposed project.

Environmental Field Survey

AECOM will conduct a preliminary assessment of potential habitat for federal and state listed rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) species and document land use and land cover throughout the Project area. Dominant vegetation types and presence of potential habitat and/or species at each site will be noted.

Identified resources will be flagged, photographed and the GPS location collected. Flagging/pin flags will be removed prior to leaving the site. Wetland boundaries, stream corridors, state and federally listed species habitat within the study corridor will be recorded using a sub-meter accurate GPS for incorporation into reports.

Archaeological Field Survey

Prior to the initiation of the archaeological field reconnaissance, AECOM will arrange for one-call utility identification and marking within the proposed project limits on your property. The AECOM field team will be clearly identifiable while conducting field operations, as each team member will be wearing hard helmets, high visibility vests marked with the AECOM logo, and carrying a shovel and wooden/mesh shaker screen.

The archaeological field survey will be conducted under the guidelines established for these types of activities by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), and under the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The survey will therefore involve the systematic visual inspection of the project location on your property, supplemented (where necessary) by the hand excavation of shovel test pits at the survey interval required by the DHPA for this type of setting (measuring between 25 feet and 50 feet between shovel tests). Each shovel test will measure approximately 16 inches in diameter and will be excavated between 10 and 20 inches below the ground surface. All removed soils will be screened through wire mesh, in an effort to identify archaeological materials and/or deposits, with soils replaced back into the excavated test pit immediately upon completion (typically within 20 minutes of excavation). In addition to the visual examination and set-interval shovel testing, AECOM archaeologists will be recording field notes, collecting map points (through use a mobile GPS unit) and taking photographs of the proposed project area and surrounding landscape, necessary for reporting the results of the field survey to the DHPA.

Any archaeological materials or specimens recovered during the archaeological survey conducted on your property will be processed and analyzed at AECOM's Cincinnati, Ohio office. Once the findings report has been reviewed by the DHPA, AECOM will contact you to request your preferred disposition of the materials, either returned to your



possession or donated for permanent curation at an approved facility in Indiana (such as the State Museum in Indianapolis).

The City of Indianapolis and AECOM appreciate your patience and consideration as our archaeological and environmental field teams conduct the necessary field studies in support of the project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone at 513.317.5623, or email at christopher.leary@aecom.com. Additionally, you may contact Sam Cain at 913.201.3111 or via email at samuel.cain@aecom.com.

Yours sincerely,

AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Christopher G. Leary
Cultural Resources Group Director