



October 8, 2015

Ms. Melanie O'Brien
Manager, National NAGPRA Program
National Parks Service
United States Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street NW Room 846
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Melanie:

As we move forward to the next cycle of NAGPRA Review Committee meetings, the SAA plans to continue our constructive engagement with you and the Program. Below are some of the steps that the SAA will be taking as part of its commitment to successful NAGPRA implementation.

Because the SAA recognizes the important role of the Review Committee, attendance at the Review Committee meetings has been, and continues to be, a top priority. Toward that end, it has set aside funds to cover travel costs for at least one SAA representative to attend each Review Committee meeting. Representatives from the SAA Committee on Repatriation, in coordination with our Government Affairs Manager, David Lindsay, will attend Review Committee, and their notes will be shared with him, myself, and, when necessary, our Board of Directors and other committees.

SAA will then provide you with comments on the positive developments as well as any concerns, focusing on the issues of Review Committee process that were raised in our letter of August 31, 2015.

You know the Committee on Repatriation's Chair, Nell Murphy (nmurphy@amnh.org), and Lauren Sieg (lesieg@verizon.net), our DC based member, who was part our visiting group to your office this last August. Although other members of the Repatriation Committee may attend Review Committee meetings, depending upon their location, please consider Chair Murphy as primary contact.

The SAA stands ready to talk over any such matters that you or others in the Program wish to further discuss. Should you have any questions about this letter and our proposed plan, do not hesitate to contact me. As previously stated, we are ready to assist in any way we can to advance the important activities taking place under the Act, and to overcome barriers to the Act's full implementation.

We look forward to working with National NAGPRA Program and its Review Committee members on our common goals of fairness, balance, and transparency.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Gifford-Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Gifford-Gonzalez
President

Cc:

The Honorable Jonathan Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Stephanie Toothman
Associate Director for Cultural Resources,
Partnerships, and Science
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
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