



Office of the Speaker THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

September 8, 2022

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

I Maga'hagån Guahan, Governor of Guam

governor@guam.gov

SUBJECT: Public Access to 10th Annual Programmatic Agreement Workshop

Håfa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in getting full access from Joint Region Marianas (JRM) for the public to information regarding our cultural historic sites impacted by the 2011 Programmatic Agreement (PA).

I discussed with Rear Admiral Nicholson at the start of the 10th Annual Programmatic Agreement Workshop meeting on September 8, 2022, that the public should have full access to this annual PA workshop meeting to hear firsthand information regarding the treatment of our historic properties and receive an update on the Department of Defense's compliance with the 2011 Programmatic Agreement. My office requested in advance of today's meeting by email a virtual link to the meeting but was not provided a link or a response until 10:00 am, 2 hours after the meeting had already started and after many important projects such as the Live Fire Training Range Complex, the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range, the Urban Combat Training Range Complex and Camp Blaz were discussed. Several community stakeholders who also RSVPed with JRM and requested a virtual link contacted my office days prior to the meeting because they did not receive a response either to their requests.

I have attended the last five annual programmatic agreement workshop meetings since 2017 and each year I have asked JRM and the State Historic Preservation Office for the public to be included and have listening access. This is the first year that public and media access was denied by JRM to my recollection. Eventually, a virtual link and public access was allowed today, but not before 4 major DoD projects were discussed despite my request to pause those discussions until the public was included. While it is not mandated by the 2011 Programmatic Agreement, it is a practice that has allowed the media to more fully inform the people of Guam as to the findings over the past year at each of the sites and the impact of construction on burial sites and other cultural resources. It is a policy that the State Historic Preservation Office and the Guam Preservation Trust have insisted on prior to today.

I have repeatedly discussed at these PA meetings and in discussions with Joint Marianas Region (JRM) and the State Historic Preservation Office over the last 5 years that the public must be allowed at minimum to listening access in these meetings to learn about our cultural and historic properties and ancestral burials within the military installations. I asked JRM for public access to Magua before it was

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displaced, public access to the significant ancestral burials at Sabanan Fadang before they were covered up, public access to the cultural landscapes of our ancient villages in the north and south, and public access to information and maps of our historic sites and properties within the DoD construction areas. All of these requests have been denied.

I sent a letter to the Rear Admiral today requesting that the recording of today's meeting and tomorrow's meeting be shared with my office and the public so that they can hear updates regarding our historic sites. I also requested that the Public Access program as promised in the 2011 Programmatic Agreement be shared and promoted widely with the people of Guam and should include tours of any of the remaining historic sites and properties within the footprints of these construction projects so that the community can see and feel the cultural landscapes in their rawest forms that will soon be displaced and occupied by these military facilities.

I am respectfully requesting that you demand full public access as detailed above from JRM related to our historic properties and cultural landscapes so that our community can be fully informed not only about the progress of these military projects but also of our significant history and culture in these areas occupied by the military. I ask that we meet to further discuss this matter, and work together to hold DoD accountable to the intentions and purpose of the 2011 Programmatic Agreement so that we can achieve true preservation of our cultural heritage and sacred sites, and complete community access and involvement in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Legislature

cc: Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio
State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick Lujan