

Full statement from JRM spokeswoman Catherine Cruz Norton:

In response to the Mr. Ybanez's letter, we are in agreement; the Navy's PA Memo #1 on P-608 Design Studies (i.e. topographic survey, test boring) shares the same determination as the SHPO. The Navy concurs with the SHPO that research designs and other work plans for intensive archaeological investigations are required and are pleased with the outcome of our close coordination with the SHPO. The Navy looks forward to collaborating with the Guam SHPO to develop preservation options and to respectfully investigate an ancient village in the Fena area in accordance with the 2011 Programmatic Agreement.

A collaborative site visit conducted by the State Archaeologist and MCAG Archaeologist to visit boring locations near Lower Kitts Road discovered the latte referenced in the letter in vegetated areas in the surrounding area. Based on preliminary information, one latte set shows disturbance from construction was carried out during the Cold War before the National Historic Preservation Act or other Federal or Guam cultural resources protection law was in place. There is no present construction activity at the Lower Kitts Road vicinity of Naval Base Guam Munitions Site (NBGMS) aka NAVMAG. These areas are distinct from the proposed boring locations specified in PA Memo #1, which are immediately within existing built surfaces and roadways. As a precaution due to known resources in the vicinity, two boreholes will be subject to examination by a Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologist as agreed upon with the SHPO.