

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 21, 2002

REPLY TO: FHWA020625A

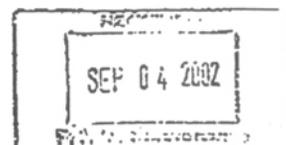
Michael G. Ritchie, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Region Nine, California Division
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2724

Re: Imperial Highway Interchange Reconstruction Project, Interstate 8, Brawley,
Imperial County.

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Thank you for submitting to our office your June 24, 2002 letter and Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) regarding the proposed reconstruction of the Imperial Avenue Interchange at its intersection with Interstate 8, in the City of Brawley in Imperial County. The proposed project will involve the reconstruction of the existing "trumpet" over crossing to accommodate a four-lane "diamond" type over crossing. Soundwalls are also proposed along the northern extent of the project corridor at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way line. Along the southern extent of the project area, new right-of-way will be acquired. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project appears adequate and meets the definitions set forth in 36 CFR 800.16(d). A systematic pedestrian survey by qualified archeologists identified no known archeological properties located within the project APE.

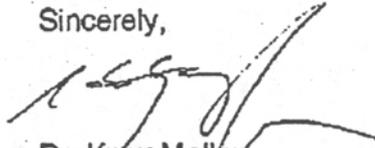
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is seeking our comments on its determination of the eligibility of the Date Drain, an earthen, water conveyance linear feature that lies partially within the project APE, for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in accordance with 36 CFR 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FHWA is also seeking our comments on its determination of the effects the proposed project will have on historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800. Our review of the submitted HPSR leads us to concur with FHWA's determination that the Date Drain is not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under any of the criteria established by 36 CFR 60.4. The property has no strong associations with significant historical events or persons, has lost considerable integrity of design, workmanship, and setting, and is not an example of outstanding engineering design or function. On the basis of these comments, we can now concur with FHWA's determination that the proposed project, as described, will have no effect on historic properties.

**EXHIBIT 24****OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION LETTER**

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Thank you again for seeking our comments on your project. If you have any questions, please contact staff historian Clarence Caesar at (916) 653-8902.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Knox Mellon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer