

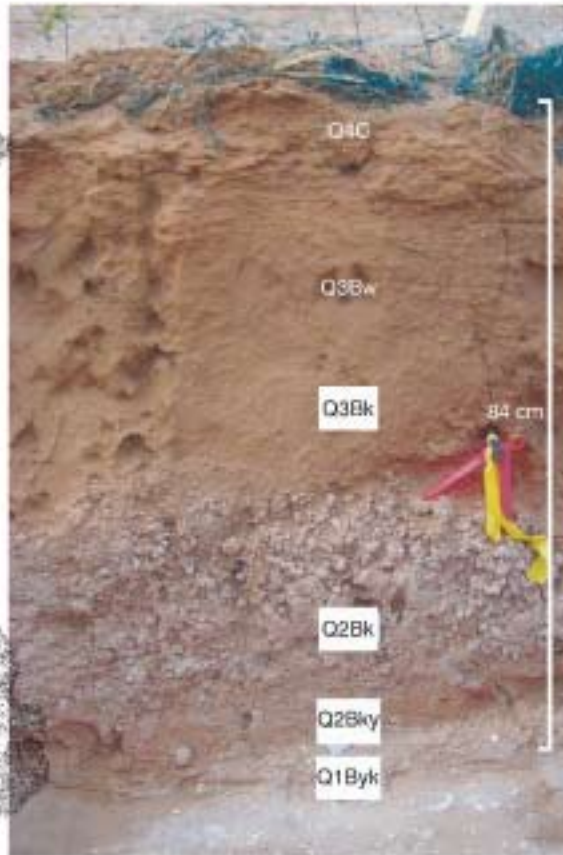
CULTURAL RESOURCE

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Archeological Investigations at Three Prehistoric Lithic Sites along U.S. 380 and Chupadera Arroyo, Socorro County, New Mexico



Office of Contract Archeology
University of New Mexico



ABSTRACT

Between 6 March and 12 May 2000, the Office of Contract Archeology, University of New Mexico completed data recovery excavations and geomorphological at three sites within the proposed construction zone along highway US 380, east of San Antonio, Socorro County, New Mexico (UNM Proposal No. 185-655D, Contract No. CO3859, Project No. TPM-380-1(23)12, Control No. CN1665). LA 67451, LA 126619, and LA 126620 consist of multiple component lithic scatters with suspected Archaic affiliations and possible Paleoindian components. Janette Elyea was the project director, John Mark Sheppard was crew chief, and Byrd Bargman, Tod Dikeman, Stephen Pezetti, Stanley Brown, and Tim McEnany were crew members. William Doleman, with assistance from Scott Worman, directed the geomorphological studies and Richard Chapman was the principal investigator.

The New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD) is engaging in a project to widen and improve highway US 380 within Socorro County, New Mexico. This project began at mile mark 12.1 (about 20 km east of San Antonio, New Mexico) and ends at mile mark 24.1. This multiphase

project was surveyed for archeological remains in March 1999 by Ecosystem Management, Inc. (Wells and Kramer 1999). Between 12 October and 3 November 1999, the University of New Mexico Office of Contract Archeology (OCA) tested eight sites for evidence of subsurface cultural deposits. Three of the tested sites contained intact cultural materials within the proposed construction zone and further work was recommended. The three sites are on New Mexico State Trust lands and work was conducted under New Mexico State Land Office Archaeological Excavation Permit No. 87.

The excavations recovered artifact assemblages with distinctive projectile point forms ranging from the early through late Archaic Period (5500 BC-AD 400). Sparse materials from the Paleoindian period (12,000 BP to 7000 BP) were also recovered at one of the sites (LA 126619). Early Archaic Jay phase materials were located at LA 67451, and materials from unknown periods were recovered from LA 126620. Although the diagnostic lithic assemblages all appear to date to the Paleoindian and Archaic periods, nine radiocarbon assays from the two sites all date within the Formative period from AD 650 to AD 1660.

New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department

