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February 2, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center - Carla McConnell, DSC-P
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: Comment on Manhattan Project Sites, Draft Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment (ID: 30977)

Dear Ms. McConnell:

Board of Directors

Stan Primak

David Horpedahl

Jill Cook

Bill Wadt

Kent Pegg

Bill Enloe

John Davies

Jeannette Wallace

Bill Godwin

Denise Lane

Steve Laurent

Johnnie Martinez

Kevin Holsapple

Please accept our organization's comments on the National Park Service Draft Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment (DSRS/EA) concerning a Manhattan Project Site park unit. Our organization operates several programs having strong interest in this matter. The Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce is an association of about 300 businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in positive community and economic development. Our accredited MainStreet program, affiliated with the National Historic Preservation Trust works on downtown vitality – Bathtub Row, Fuller Lodge, and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic District are contained with the Los Alamos MainStreet District. Through the leadership of our MainStreet program, the Los Alamos Creative District has been designated as a New Mexico Arts & Cultural District within these areas. Finally, our Los Alamos Meeting and Visitor Bureau program operates visitor centers in Los Alamos and White Rock and is an important resource for understanding visitation and tourism in our area.

Our organization is working together with Los Alamos County, the Los Alamos Historical Society, and other interested local organizations in evaluating the DSRS/EA and developing comments and feedback for you. You will find our comments to be consistent with those from these other organizations.

We enthusiastically welcome the consideration of a National Park unit to interpret the story of one of the most significant and important episodes in our nation's history, the Manhattan Project. We support the preferred option, "Alternative E" with the following comments:

- "Alternative E," as recommended by the DSRS/EA of the Manhattan Project Sites, would benefit from the addition of Hanford and Oak Ridge as units of a Manhattan Project Historical Park, if resources are

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available. We believe that Los Alamos would be the natural headquarters of the unit.

- The Department of Energy will be an important partner and should continue to be responsible for maintenance, safety, and security of DOE facilities at these sites.
- All three locations should become a full National Park Service unit, with the Department of Energy and local communities as supporting partners. A key will be to provide proper and sufficient resources to enable success.
- We encourage National Park Service personnel to collaborate with local resources to produce a rich, cost effective visitor experience.

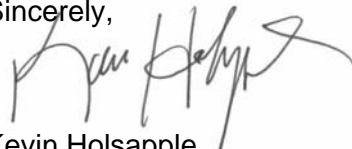
The community will expect to be able to continue to utilize Fuller Lodge, Ashley Pond, Fuller Lodge Lawn, and other current public spaces for community uses as is currently the case. It will be important to have a strong, viable agreement to address this need and provide for this.

An idea that we are interested in for aiding in the interpretation of the Manhattan Project through some of the very technology that it precipitated is the establishment of a "visionarium" capability in our downtown in conjunction with the park unit. The visionarium would allow visitors to experience the facilities of Los Alamos circa the 1940's in virtual reality.

We think that there is an opportunity to collaborate on a joint visitor center in the heart of Los Alamos (we would suggest the corner of Main and Central). Such a facility would be a natural first stop for visitors to Los Alamos and would feature not only the Manhattan Project National Park, but also Bandelier National Monument, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Bradbury Science Museum, the Los Alamos Historical Museum, the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, area Pueblos, and area recreational attractions. We are currently the operator of the visitor center here and we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on a joint visitor center. We believe that this would enhance the visitor experience as well as enable economies of operation.

Thank you for listening to and accepting our input. Our organization stands ready to assist the National Park Service in completing your studies and moving toward establishing the Park unit.

Sincerely,



Kevin Holsapple
Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors of LACDC