



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Vargas:

Thank you for your letter of July 15, 2020, to Mr. David Vela, former Deputy Director, Operations, requesting that the National Park Service (NPS) undertake a reconnaissance survey to recognize the national significance of Chicano Park and its murals as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

I write to inform you that the NPS will conduct the requested reconnaissance survey. The survey will conduct a preliminary assessment to evaluate the eligibility of Chicano Park, a National Historic Landmark, and its murals in San Diego, California for designation as an affiliated area. A summary report on the survey findings will be prepared and sent to your office once the transmittal review process is complete. Expenditures for such reconnaissance surveys by law may not exceed \$25,000. It should also be noted that the benefits of potential affiliated area designation vary and only in some cases, if directed by Congressional legislation, include NPS financial assistance.

Given existing workloads, the reconnaissance survey will not begin until early 2021. The length of time for any survey project is dependent on the complexity of the site(s) and available staff resources.

The Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12 office will provide the overall direction of the study team assigned to the project. Please contact [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should you have further questions regarding the reconnaissance survey process. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in, and support for, the NPS. A similar letter will also be sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Caldwell
Acting Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands

cc: Regional Director, National Park Service, Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12