

4 March 2016

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The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer All Aboard Florida
Operations LLC Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

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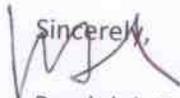
Ruth Stanbridge
Indian River County Historian

I am the Chairman of the Old Vero Ice Ages Site Committee, which is charged with facilitating the site's excavation, and insuring that it becomes a significant asset to Vero Beach and to the world of archaeology. As you no doubt know, it is considered to be one of the most important early man sites in the United States, and has the potential to shed new light on how and when man inhabited our country. Further, I am sure you are aware that our site and the Gifford Bone site are on both sides and underneath the All Aboard Florida track. While we have not received your 90% drawings yet, we understand that you intend to do work on or near both sites. The Programmatic agreement I just received suggests that a monitor be chosen to avoid any harm to our sites. I feel protection of our site is a major part of my responsibility, so I have talked to many respected archeologists regarding your plan.

Based on many years of experience in all phases of archaeological field research, they all confidently state that any construction-related monitoring on virtually any archaeological site requires monitors who are intimately familiar with the geology, geomorphology, and stratification of the locality under study. The heart of the excavation ranges from 2,000 years old to over 24,000 years old, and many of the key discoveries and particles that contribute to its value are microscopic or nearly so. To expect a monitor who is unfamiliar with the potential complexities of any site to adequately assess the consequences of construction-associated activities is unreasonable, at best, and potentially destructive, at worst. The Old Vero Man site has been under extensive multi-disciplinary investigation for the past two years and is currently under study for a third full four-month season. Any monitoring of that locality for AAF construction activities should be done by one of the principals of the ongoing research at the site. The principal investigator, Dr. James Adovasio, the co-principal investigator, Dr. Andy Hemmings, and the two principal site assistants are certainly qualified to assist in any site monitoring activities. Beyond this relatively small grouping, we cannot suggest any other single person nor group of persons who have the requisite familiarity with the Vero locality to assist in site monitoring activities. I would ask that before any activity at the sites are started, these individuals be contacted so that effective monitoring can be carried out to protect these important sites.

I should note that the same observations obtain for the Gifford site which is also in or near the AAF construction right-of-way. Though this site has not received anywhere near the level of attention accorded to the Vero locality, it, nonetheless, has considerable potential in illuminating issues of prehistoric environments and the early human imprint on those environments.

Sincerely,



Randolph B. Old
Chairman

Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee



Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee

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