

June 16, 2022

Dear Wakasa Memorial Committee:

The Topaz Museum Board invites you and your supporters to participate in our Topaz Community Outreach Survey. The survey, which is being distributed to the public, solicits feedback and opinions on the future of the Wakasa Monument and the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Mr. James Hatsuaki Wakasa's killing next April. We are attaching the press release announcing the launch of the survey, along with information about two additional components of the community outreach: four in-person meetings and two virtual meetings. As soon as those details are finalized, information will be publicly distributed.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on a stone conservation plan directly addressing the technical aspects of the recommendations made by the National Park Service. The archaeology plan regarding the excavation site is similarly underway. We will be transparent about the plans and their implementation and will work closely with the National Park Service and Utah SHPO in that regard.

Our immediate priority is the conservation of the Wakasa Monument and implementing the outreach plan with input from all of our stakeholders regarding the monument's future and that of a 2023 commemoration. The community archaeology project that you suggest in your letter of June 6, 2022 is not a priority at this time.

We appreciate your feedback. As mentioned previously in our letter of April 8, 2022, "we will continue to implement the National Park Service's recommendations with advice from the greater Japanese American community" in fulfilling our fiduciary responsibilities as stewards of the Topaz Museum and incarceration site.

Sincerely,

Topaz Museum Board of Directors

Jane Beckwith, President

Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Kiley Chase, Lorelei Draper, Sherrie Hayashi, Mark Nelson, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, Teresa Thompson, Patricia Wakida

cc:

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6,7,8, National Park Service

Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service

Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS

Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Michelle Magalong, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

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Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JAACL

David Inoue, Executive Director, JAACL

Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District