

Peter Brosnan

PO Box 1498 – Montebello CA 90640

THXPete@mac.com – (323) 810-0851

20 October 2011

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara CA

RE: Lost City Project

To The Board of Supervisors,

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting today. Since 1997, I have worked for Los Angeles County, primarily as child abuse investigator. Several months ago I accepted a promotion and will be on probation in my new position until next month. Today, I have a previously scheduled meeting that I really must attend. To say that, at this moment, I feel “torn between two counties” would be an understatement. Although I feel a great personal responsibility for the “lost city” project, I also have a responsibility to my employer.

However, even were I able to attend today’s meeting, there is little I would be able to say, other than this: The “lost city” project may be dead.

It is certainly dead for 2011. There are several reasons for this. The rainy season will soon be here. I cannot in good conscience allow a near-\$300,000 project to go forward if there is a reasonable chance it will have to be cancelled (Dr. Russell repeatedly argued during our conference call that it can rain or shine anytime – but the chance of bad weather increases later in the year). In addition, we would need to recruit not only a new archaeologist (one willing to work for the low, cut-rate fee Dr. Parker had agreed to) but also a new archaeological team. That team would then need to be “on hold” for a December job call that may never come. Then there are the rentals and supply logistics...

The possibility of re-launching this “dig” in October 2012 is also uncertain. All of the above reasons apply. In addition, it is not clear if our funding will still be available. Our financial backer has made the following statement,

"I am discouraged by the fact that the County of Santa Barbara has the power to pull a permit at the last minute with absolutely no regard for the consequences to the people and the businesses involved. I believe this ability exemplifies a deeply flawed permit granting system that cannot be relied upon."

As you can see, our backer feels about the same way that Dr Parker feels about Santa Barbara County P&D. And, quite frankly, none of us have any faith in the word of P&D staff at this point. They derailed a well-planned project, put a dozen people out of jobs and imperiled very existence of the Dunes Center, all on less than 72 hours notice. So we have very real concerns about what surprises P&D – or Freddie Romero – may have next October. Finally, Dr. Parker’s analysis of recent dune movement indicates there might not be anything left to recover by 2012. Perhaps the non-permitted looters will save something for eBay.

Nevertheless – we will proceed with the “expedited” permit application process and will make every effort to keep all doors open for October 2012.

Finally – speaking of “keeping doors open” – it is vital that the Dunes Center keep *its* doors open. It is an irreplaceable educational resource for thousands of children in Santa Barbara County.

Therefore, I am today writing a personal check for \$1,000 to the Dunes Center. I challenge all of those whom I believe are responsible for severely jeopardizing and possibly killing the “lost city” project – including Glenn Russell, Chandra Wallar, Freddie Romero, Dianna Black and others – to do the same.

Respectfully,

Peter Brosnan
Montebello CA
18 October 2011