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February 27, 2024

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attention: David Hill, Principal Chief 1007 East Eufaula Street Okmulgee, OK 74447

Subject: Hernando County, Florida Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Broad-Level Tiered Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 Single Family Housing Rehabilitation CDBG Grant 23DB-H08 Request for Comments

Dear Environmental Review Contact:

Hernando County is considering funding the project listed above with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under HUD regulation 24 CFR 58.4, Hernando County has assumed the environmental review responsibilities for the project, including tribal consultation related to historic properties. Historic properties include archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, traditional cultural places and landscapes, plant and animal communities, and buildings and structures with significant tribal association.

The Hernando County Single Family Housing Rehabilitation program may supply Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the rehabilitation of single-family owner-occupied housing to provide a suitable living environment by increasing the supply of safe, decent, affordable owner-occupied housing.

Hernando County will conduct a review of this project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. We would like to invite you to be a consulting party in this review to help identify historic properties in the project area that may have religious and cultural significance to your tribe, and if such properties exist, to help assess how the project might affect them. If the project might have an adverse effect, we would like to discuss possible ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects.

To meet project timeframes, if you would like to be a consulting party on this project, please inform us of your interest within 30 days. If you have any initial concerns with impacts of the project on religious or cultural properties, please note those concerns in your response by contacting Veda Ramirez, Housing and Supportive Services Director, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, at (352) 540-4338 or by e-mail at <u>vramirez@hernandocounty.us</u> and please copy J. Corbett Alday, Vice President, Guardian CRM, Inc., at (352) 437-3902 or e-mail at <u>Corbett.Alday@GuardianCRM.com</u>.

Sincerely,

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Elizabeth Narverud Chairperson Hernando County Board of County Commissioners