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To: [Governing Body Public Comment](#)
Subject: New submission from your Governing Body Public Comment form
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 8:46:52 AM

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Submitted on: Monday, February 23, 2026 at 8:46am

- First Name: Stefanie
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- Your Email Address: [REDACTED]
- Your District: District 2
- Meeting Date: Please Select One
- Section of Agenda you would like to comment on: Public Comment
- Your Comment: COMMENTS ON THE OBELISK for Meeting on 24 Feb 2026

1. What about the question that it is owned by the state.

2 The court gave the city two options: restore the obelisk and if you are being true to history and restoration principles that includes the north plaque with only the word "savage" chiseled out since that event is now historic too or move the obelisk in accordance with state DCA guidelines. There are similar monuments already at the national cemetery. It is appropriate for a war memorial to be in a veterans cemetery where it will be better protected and open to the public

3 Is it a structure? The definition of structure excludes "small" monuments. If the council wants to designate it as a structure which the city atty in Webber's administration said it was not, then it is a non-conforming structure (built before 1957 so grandfathered in as long as it remains as it was) and the law clearly states that nonconforming structures cannot be repaired or rebuilt but only removed. 14-5-2 6A The outcome would be leaving the obelisk as is if the decision is for it to remain on the plaza, with plaques describing its history from inception to today.

4. It is not a monument to Hispanics and it is not an erasure of Hispanic history. It is a memorial to UNION soldiers . If you have read John Bienvenu's blog on the subject it was John Slough who headed the Colorado Volunteers who pushed for the monument. Most soldiers who died at Glorieta were Colorado Volunteers (only 100 died on both sides compared to tens of thousands at Gettysburg).

5 Although the Battle at Glorieta stopped the movement of the Confederacy to the Pacific Ocean or the CA or CO goldfields, for most New Mexicans their resistance was to the TEXANS who made up the invading Confederate force. It is important to remember that Texas invaded NM in 1841 claiming the Rio Grande as its western boundary...only 20 years or so before this Confederate invasion.

6 New Mexicans regularly enslaved Navajo people before, during and after the Civil War. Unlike earlier "slavery" by Spaniards who were supposed to acculturate the

indigenous peoples they kidnapped on the plains and then free them after 25 years of servitude, the capture of Navajo people was for the rest of their lives. Counterfeiters at Bosque Redondo (an excellent book) has documents showing Manuel Chaves a colonel in the NM Volunteers was a slaver as was most of his family. There are primary sources complaining that Navajo people were kidnapped on the Long Walk to Bosque Redondo by "Mexicans" who were going to enslave them (officer John Sloan) There is a letter from Kit Carson asking permission to give Navajo women and children to his Ute allies who would sell them to "Mexicans" thus ensuring the destruction of the Dine culture So No...--Not Anti-Slavery; Anti Texan.

Stefanie Beninato 