



All Pueblo
Council of
Governors

Officers:
Mark Mitchell, Chairman
Jerome Lucero, Vice-Chairman
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

Resolution

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2023-08

**MEMORIALIZING PRESIDENT BIDEN AND INTERIOR SECRETARY
HAALAND'S DECISION TO ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAW PUBLIC
LANDS FROM FUTURE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN 10-MILE
WITHDRAWAL AREA SURROUNDING CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK**

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors is comprised of the New Mexico Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni, and one Pueblo in Texas, Ysleta Del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the All Pueblo Council of Governors is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural, and traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations;

WHEREAS, the 20 Pueblos possess governmental authority and sovereignty over their lands and sovereignty over the protection of their languages, cultures, and traditions;

WHEREAS, the Pueblos possess their own cultural territory and sovereign right to protect their cultural resources, including their traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not these cultural resources are located within each Pueblo's current exterior boundaries;

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (DOI) leased approximately 91 percent of available federal lands in the Greater Chaco Region and has severely impacted traditional cultural properties including sacred sites and other areas of significance to the cultural vitality, health, and wellbeing of the Pueblos and other Tribes;

WHEREAS, Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the Greater Chaco Region is partially nestled within DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office (FFO), and in 2012 DOI began undertaking efforts to amend its 2003 Resource Management Plan to account for new technologies in hydraulic fracking, among other things, that could allow for even more development; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate any further harm to sacred sites and traditional cultural properties, the All Pueblo Council of Governors joined as a Cooperating Agency to the BLM FFO's Resource Management Plan Amendment;



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Acoma

WHEREAS, despite requests from the All Pueblo Council of Governors to DOI and calls to halt oil and gas lease sales, DOI during that time continued to issue leases in the Greater Chaco Region, including the BLM FFO in January 2017 issuing leases of 843 areas of public lands for fracking activities within 19 miles of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park;

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

WHEREAS, with the exception of a short time during the Trump Administration, DOI had in place an informal pause on new oil and gas leasing in the 10-mile area, and the Trump Administration eventually reinstated this pause after calls from the Pueblos and other stakeholders to do so, and Congress eventually mandated a moratorium through its annual appropriations legislation;

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

WHEREAS, the Pueblos and the Navajo Nation met government-to-government in 2017 to assess impacts of mineral development and seek opportunities to preserve the remaining approximate nine (9) percent of federal lands in the Greater Chaco Region, and over subsequent meetings and negotiations in 2018 the concept of the 10-mile withdrawal area was borne;

Picuris

Pojoaque

WHEREAS, over the years, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and other stakeholders took steps to learn from the Pueblos and Tribes about their connections to Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region and the impacts of mineral development, including oil and gas leasing, on traditional cultural properties and the environment and the health impacts of front-line communities;

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

WHEREAS, together the Pueblos, Navajo, and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation designed and advocated for the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, which would withdraw federal lands from new mineral development in the 10-mile withdrawal area while preserving the rights of Navajo and Navajo allottees to develop on their land;

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

WHEREAS, Navajo stepped away from its agreement with the Pueblos and its advocacy to Congress, changing its position from supporting a 10-mile withdrawal area to a 5-mile withdrawal area and then to no withdrawal;

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

WHEREAS, in 2019, the All Pueblo Council of Governors successfully advocated for appropriations from Congress to DOI for disbursement to the Pueblos and other Tribes to initiate and develop a tribally-led cultural resource study of the Greater Chaco Region, and the Pueblos have conducted this study through the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association comprised by the self-identified lead Pueblos of Acoma, Jemez, Laguna, and Zuni, and the Hopi Tribe, and the supporting Pueblos of San Felipe, Santa Clara, and Tesuque;

Zia

Zuni



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WHEREAS, during the White House Tribal Nations Summit in November of 2021, President Biden announced that DOI would begin the administrative withdrawal consideration process for a 20-year withdrawal of public lands and minerals from future mineral development in the 10-mile withdrawal area;

Cochiti

Isleta

WHEREAS, dating back to January of 2020, the All Pueblo Council of Governors regularly submitted official correspondence to Navajo leadership to request a meeting to renew the relationship regarding Chaco protections but received no response;

Jemez

Laguna

WHEREAS, finally after three years Navajo accepted an invitation from the Pueblos to meet government-to-government in May of 2023, allowing Pueblo Governors the opportunity to correct misinformation regarding the development and effects of the 10-mile withdrawal—clarifying that Navajo had helped develop the withdrawal and that it was designed to protect Navajo allottee development rights;

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors has long maintained a nuanced and pragmatic two-part approach towards the protection of Chaco by: (1) advocating for withdrawal of federal lands and minerals from future mineral development in an especially critical 10-mile withdrawal area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park and including its outliers; and (2) seeking tribally-led cultural resource studies and sufficient tribal consultation to proceed any development decisions, including oil and gas leasing, throughout the wider Greater Chaco Region;

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2023, DOI announced its decision to administratively withdraw public lands from new mineral development in the 10-mile withdrawal area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park for a 20-year term;

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

WHEREAS, the Pueblos unequivocally celebrated this announcement, along with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, many throughout Indian Country, and other stakeholders; and

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the All Pueblo Council of Governors to recognize the hard work of past and current Pueblo leadership and all stakeholders who contributed to successfully advocating for the protection of Chaco Canyon, as DOI's announcement represents a major step forward in ensuring that all sacred landscapes are protected.

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors firmly supports DOI's Chaco administrative withdrawal decision and recognizes President Biden, Secretary Haaland, their officials and staff, and tribal leadership and staff for their precedent-setting work to center traditional ecological knowledge and stewardship in protecting Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region;

Zia

Zuni



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors recognizes the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, including Senator Ben Ray Luján, Senator Martin Heinrich, Representative Teresa Leger Fernández, Representative Melanie Stansbury, Representative Gabe Vasquez, and past members of the Delegation for their tireless support of Chaco protections and DOI’s administrative withdrawal;

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors recognizes the historic ethnographic work conducted by the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association and their incredible contributions to affirm historical and present Pueblo connections to the Greater Chaco Region;

Laguna

Nambe

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors recognizes all Pueblo Governors for their commitment to fighting to preserve Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region;

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors requests the Department of the Interior ensure unequivocal access to all public roads leading to the Chaco Cultural National Historical Park as well as ensure the safety of all visitors to the park.

Pojoaque

Sandia

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors commits to continuing its efforts to advocate for the protection of our sacred landscapes and calls on all future generations of Pueblo leaders and people to reflect on this work, recognizing that this preservation of sacred landscapes serves as an example for future advocacy, ensuring that Pueblo languages, cultures, and traditions may always continue.

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

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Zia

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CERTIFICATION

Cochiti

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2023-08 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on 22nd day of June 2023, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Nambe

By:

Ohkay Owingeh


Mark Mitchell, APCG Chairman

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

ATTEST:

San Felipe



San Ildefonso

Governor Arden Kucate, APCG Secretary

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni