

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**(Declaring the San Pedro Watershed as a Historic Property of Traditional Cultural**  
**Significance and Requesting a Formal Determination of Eligibility for Listing**  
**in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-015**

1       **WHEREAS**, the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council is authorized to exercise its inherent  
2        powers "by providing laws, ordinances or resolutions . . . to promote, protect and  
3        provide for public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the  
4        Tohono O'odham Nation and its members" (Tohono O'odham Const. Art. VI, §  
5        1(c)(2)); and

6       **WHEREAS**, it is the "responsibility of the Tohono O'odham [Legislative] Council to use all  
7        practical means, consistent with other essential considerations of the Tohono  
8        O'odham national policy, to improve and coordinate its plans, functions,  
9        programs and resources to the end that the Tohono O'odham Nation may . . .  
10       preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of Tohono O'odham  
11       national heritage" (Tohono O'odham Const. Art. XVIII, § 2(d)); and

12       **WHEREAS**, the San Pedro Watershed Traditional Cultural Property ("TCP") is an  
13        interconnected and multi-cultural landscape of historical and cultural  
14        significance that reflects more than 12,000 years of Indigenous history and use  
15        represented by more than 2,000 documented cultural sites and the innumerable  
16        springs, perennial river flows, travel routes, plant and medicine gathering areas,  
17        and significant landforms that have supported diverse lifeways, and that  
18        continue to be used, cared for, and held as highly significant by associated  
19        Indigenous communities; and

20       **WHEREAS**, in January, 2024, the Legislative Council passed Resolution 24-012, which  
21        opposed construction of the SunZia transmission line and, in part, acknowledged  
22        that the cultural, religious, spiritual, ancestral, and historic identity and vitality  
23        of the Tohono O'odham Nation ("Nation") and its Members is inextricably and  
24        forever linked to the San Pedro Watershed and adjoining landscapes; and

25       **WHEREAS**, Resolution 24-012 also recognized that many Members of the Nation directly  
26        trace their ancestry and heritage to the Sobaipuri O'odham and the Hohokam  
27        who thrived for centuries throughout the San Pedro Watershed; and

28       **WHEREAS**, Resolution 24-012 further resolved to support "any actions that the Nation can  
29        take to oppose the continued destruction of sites that are of cultural and historic  
30        significance in and around the San Pedro River Valley . . ." and

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-015**

**(Declaring the San Pedro Watershed as a Historic Property of Traditional Cultural Significance and Requesting a Formal Determination of Eligibility for Listing in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places)**

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1       **WHEREAS, despite clear communications regarding the significance and integrity of the San**  
2       **Pedro Watershed TCP, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) has, without**  
3       **completing meaningful consultation with the Nation, approved the right-of-way**  
4       **and Limited Notice to Proceed for the SunZia transmission line; and**

5       **WHEREAS, the BLM is preparing to issue a Limited Notice to Proceed to enable construction**  
6       **of the RioSol transmission line adjacent to the SunZia line, effectively doubling**  
7       **the adverse ecological, cultural, and visual impacts to the San Pedro Watershed,**  
8       **all without initiation, much less completion of cultural landscape study required**  
9       **by the Arizona Corporation Commission as Condition 27 of the Certificate of**  
10       **Environmental Compatibility; and**

11       **WHEREAS, the owners and developers of the SunZia and RioSol transmission lines agreed in**  
12       **2015 to complete, prior to commencing construction, an inter-tribal cultural**  
13       **landscape study of the Arizona portion of the proposed 400 ft-wide right-of-way,**  
14       **including about 40 miles through largely undisturbed sections of the San Pedro**  
15       **Watershed; and**

16       **WHEREAS, the Cultural Preservation Committee and the Domestic Affairs Committee have**  
17       **reviewed this Resolution and recommend its approval by the Legislative Council.**

18       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tohono O’odham Legislative Council strongly  
19       **opposes all further actions to construct the RioSol transmission line and to**  
20       **energize the SunZia transmission line through the San Pedro Watershed TCP.**

21       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council finds and declares that the San Pedro  
22       **Watershed possesses exceptional integrity as a traditional cultural landscape**  
23       **and distinctive and ongoing significance as a historic property.**

24       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council supports the formal determination of  
25       **eligibility of the San Pedro Watershed TCP for listing in the U.S. National Register**  
26       **of Historic Places.**

27       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council invites and encourages San Carlos  
28       **Apache Tribe, Zuni Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Gila River Indian**  
29       **Community, Ak Chin Indian Community, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the Inter-Tribal**  
30       **Association of Arizona, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation**  
31       **Officers, and the National Congress of American Indians to provide information**  
32       **concerning historical and continuing traditional cultural uses of the San Pedro**

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 26-015**

2 **(Declaring the San Pedro Watershed as a Historic Property of Traditional Cultural Significance and  
Requesting a Formal Determination of Eligibility for Listing in the U.S. National Register of Historic  
Places)**

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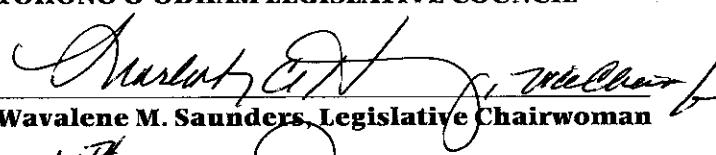
1                   **Watershed and to otherwise support the determination of eligibility of the San  
2 Pedro Watershed TCP.**

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council invites and encourages the BLM, the  
4 United States Forest Service, the United States National Park Service, the Arizona  
5 Corporation Commission, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, the  
6 Arizona State Lands Department, Cochise County, Pima County, Pinal County,  
7 Graham County, and other San Pedro public trustees and land stewards to  
8 support the protection and perpetuation of the cultural and ecological values of  
9 the San Pedro Watershed, including the formal determination of the eligibility of  
10 the San Pedro Watershed TCP for listing in the U.S. National Register of Historic  
11 Places.

12 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Legislative Council authorizes the Offices of the Chairman  
13 and Attorney General to: (1) submit comments and/or correspondence in  
14 opposition to proposed and/or ongoing destruction in the San Pedro Watershed  
15 TCP; (2) submit correspondence encouraging the formal determination of  
16 eligibility of the San Pedro Watershed TCP for listing in the U.S. National Register  
17 of Historic Places; (3) take other actions in furtherance of the intent of this  
18 Resolution and Resolution 24-012.

19 The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
20 day of JANUARY 2026 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 3,321.1 FOR;  
21 -0- AGAINST; -0- NOT VOTING; and [04] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council by  
22 Article VI, §§ 1(c)(2); Article, XVIII, §2(d) of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation,  
23 adopted by the Tohono O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting Deputy  
24 Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the  
25 Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984).

26  
27                   **TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

28  
29  
30                     
31                   **Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman**  
32  
33                   16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 26-015**

2 **(Declaring the San Pedro Watershed as a Historic Property of Traditional Cultural Significance and**

3 **Requesting a Formal Determination of Eligibility for Listing in the U.S. National Register of Historic**

4 **Places)**

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6 1 **ATTEST:**

7 

8 **Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary**

9 6 **16 day of January, 2026**

10 **Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono**  
**O'odham Nation on the 16th day of January, 2026 at 1:35 o'clock, p.m.,**  
**pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the Constitution and will become**  
**effective upon his approval or upon his failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48**  
**hours of submittal.**

11 **TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

12   
**Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman**

13 **[✓] APPROVED**

14 **on the 20 day of January, 2026**

15 **[ ] DISAPPROVED**

16 **at 9:35 o'clock, A.m.**

17   
**VERLON M. JOSE, CHAIRMAN**

18 **TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION**

19 **Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 20th day of**

20 **January, 2026, at 10:10 o'clock, A.m.**

21   
**Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary**

**ACTION: DECLARING THE SAN PEDRO WATERSHED AS A HISTORIC PROPERTY OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUESTING A FORMAL DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR LISTING IN THE U.S. NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**MOVED: COUNCILMAN FRANCIS HOMEWYTEWA**

**SECOND: COUNCILMAN ROGER MANUEL**

**DATE: JANUARY 13, 2026**

DISTRICT	LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES	# OF VOTES	FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING	ABSENT
SIF OIDAK 251.2	1. WAVALENE M. SAUNDERS ( <i>Absent</i> ) (Mary Lopez) ( <i>Present</i> ) 2. FRANCIS HOMEWYTEWA ( )	125.6 125.6	X X			X
SELLS 565.7	1. JANET B. ELEANDO ( ) 2. EVELYN JUAN MANUEL (Juan Buendia)	282.85 282.85	X X			
SCHUK TOAK 195.3	1. THEORIA CAMPILLO (Rebecca Ann Valentine) 2. DELISA M. RAMON (Quintin C. Lopez)	97.65 97.65	X X			
SAN XAVIER 249.8	1. DANIEL L.A. PRESTON III ( ) 2. JANICE FELIX ( )	124.9 124.9	X X			
SAN LUCY 266.3	1. GLORIA M. RAMIREZ (Lorraine M. Eiler) 2. ROGER MANUEL (Christina Andrews)	133.15 133.15	X X			
PISINEMO 240.3	1. PAMELA J. BENAVIDEZ (Nora J. Ruelas) 2. NAOMI MONTE (Edward D. Manuel)	120.15 120.15	X X			
HICKIWAN 222.9	1. LOUIS R. LOPEZ (Loretta A. Ortega) 2. DELMA M. GARCIA ( )	111.45 111.45	X X			
GU VO 279.6	1. LESLIE LUNA ( ) 2. BENNETT CHEWING ( )	139.8 139.8	X X			X
GUACHI 289.2	1. JEROME F. JOAQUIN (Gloria Johnson) 2. LUCIUS E. LOPEZ (Victoria A. Hobbs)	144.6 144.6	X X			
CHUKUT KUK 361.9	1. MARLAKAY HENRY ( ) 2. VIVIAN JUAN-SAUNDERS (Cornelius Antone)	180.95 180.95	X X			X
BABOQUIVARI 398.9	1. JESSE NAVARRO (Alberta J. Ray) 2. NED NORRIS, JR. (Leander Mase)	199.45 199.45	X X			X
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,321.1</b>	<b>3,321.1</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>[ 04 ]</b>