

**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
31

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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**

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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 13TH
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).

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28 **TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

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30 
31 Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

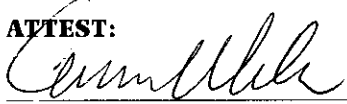
32 14TH day of January, 2026
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ATTEST:



Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary

16 day of January, 2026

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 1:55 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.


TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL


Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

☒ APPROVED

☐ DISAPPROVED

on the 20 day of January, 2026
at 9:35 o'clock, A.m.


VERLON M. JOSE, CHAIRMAN
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 20th day of
January, 2026, at 10:10 o'clock, A.m.


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
GU ACHI 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
TOTAL		3,321.1	3,321.1	-0-	-0-	[04]