

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
(Roosevelt Reservation Status on Main Tohono O'odham Reservation)**

RESOLUTION NO. 26-067

- 1 **WHEREAS,** the Tohono O'odham and our ancestors have from time immemorial inhabited
2 lands from the Gila River area in present-day Arizona south to the Sea of Cortez in
3 what is now northern Mexico; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** in 1854 the United States created an international boundary with Mexico that cuts
5 through Tohono O'odham lands and that now forms the 62-mile southern
6 boundary of the Tohono O'odham Nation's main reservation; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** on May 27, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation setting
8 "apart as a public reservation, all public lands within sixty feet of the
9 international boundary between the United States and the Republic of Mexico . . .
10 [to be] kept free from obstruction as a protection against the smuggling of goods
11 between the United States and said Republic" (the "Roosevelt Reservation"); and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** on February 1, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson issued an Executive Order
13 reserving for the Papago Indians (now, the Tohono O'odham Nation) the primary
14 portion of the Nation's main reservation that lies immediately north of the U.S.-
15 Mexican border (the "1917 Reservation"); and
- 16 **WHEREAS,** the 1917 Executive Order did not recognize or preserve the Roosevelt
17 Reservation, but instead reserved "all surveyed and unsurveyed land" within
18 designated townships and ranges to the border; and
- 19 **WHEREAS,** the United States Congress confirmed the 1917 Reservation by the Act of July 28,
20 1937, 50 Stat. 536, and the Act of May 27, 1955, 69 Stat. 67; and
- 21 **WHEREAS,** United States Customs and Border Protection ("CBP"), has acknowledged in the
22 2019 "Agreement Between the Tohono O'odham Nation and United States
23 Customs and Border Protection for Conditions for Grants of Easement for Rights-
24 of-Way for Integrated Fixed Tower Project, Access and Approach Roads, and
25 Traditional Northern Road,"
26 unlike national forests, wilderness areas, and other federal lands on the
27 international boundary dividing the United States and Mexico, the
28 Nation's reservation is not public land, it is reserved for the benefit of the
29 Nation and its members . . .
30 ; and
- 31 **WHEREAS,** for decades, the Nation has enacted resolutions approving border security
32 measures, including for border vehicle barriers; an Immigration and Customs
33 Enforcement office lease; CBP operating base leases; checkpoint permits;

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Integrated Fixed Tower system and roads; and border road construction, maintenance, and rights-of-way (Resolution No. 26-006); and

WHEREAS, a number of past resolutions drafted by CBP and approved by the Legislative Council reflected CBP's mistaken assertion that the Roosevelt Reservation extends the length of the 1917 Reservation's international boundary with Mexico; and

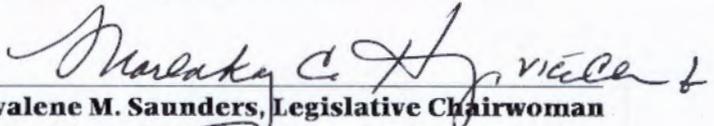
WHEREAS, the Agricultural and Natural Resources, Appropriations, Domestic Affairs, and Cultural Preservation Committees recommend amending and correcting Legislative Council resolutions and actions inaccurately referring to the Roosevelt Reservation on the 1917 Reservation.

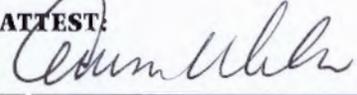
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council that

- (1) the Roosevelt Reservation does not exist on the Nation's 1917 Reservation; and
- (2) references to the Roosevelt Reservation's existence within the 1917 Reservation are deleted from all Legislative Council resolutions and other actions, including without limitation Resolution No. 04-095, Resolution No. 14-472, Resolution No. 14-518, Resolution No. 15-478, Resolution No. 15-479, Resolution No. 16-283, and Resolution No. 17-114.

The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 17th day of FEBRUARY 2026 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 2,876.0 FOR; 445.1 AGAINST; [01] NOT VOTING; and [03] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council by Article III; Article VI, Section 1(c), (f), (i), (j), and Section 2(d); Article XVI; and Article XVIII of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, adopted by the Tohono O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984).

TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL


Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman
18th day of February, 2026

ATTEST:

Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary
18 day of February, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 26-067

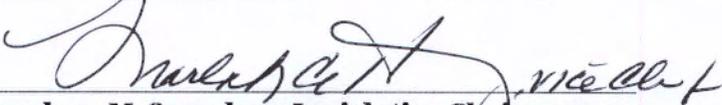
(Roosevelt Reservation Status on Main Tohono O'odham Reservation)

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Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation on the 18th day of February, 2026 at 4:53 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



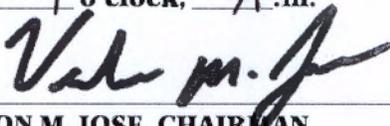
Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

APPROVED

on the 19 day of February, 2026

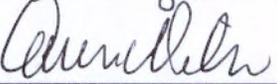
DISAPPROVED

at 9 o'clock, A.m.



VERLON M. JOSE, CHAIRMAN
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 19 day of February, 2026, at 9:40 o'clock, a.m.



Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary

ACTION: ROOSEVELT RESERVATION STATUS ON MAIN TOHONO O'ODHAM RESERVATION

MOVED: COUNCILWOMAN THEORIA CAMPILLO

SECOND: COUNCILWOMAN EVELYN JUAN MANUEL

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

DISTRICT	LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES	# OF VOTES	FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING	ABSENT
SIF Oidak 251.2	1. WAVALENE M. SAUNDERS (Mary Lopez)	125.6	X			
	2. FRANCIS HOMEWYTEWA ()	125.6	X			
SELLS 565.7	1. JANET B. ELEANDO ()	282.85	X			
	2. EVELYN JUAN MANUEL (Juan Buendia)	282.85	X			
SCHUK TOAK 195.3	1. THEORIA CAMPILLO (Rebecca Ann Valentine)	97.65	X			
	2. DELISA M. RAMON (Quintin C. Lopez)	97.65	X			
SAN XAVIER 249.8	1. DANIEL L.A. PRESTON III ()	124.9	X			
	2. JANICE FELIX ()	124.9	X			
SAN LUCY 266.3	1. GLORIA M. RAMIREZ (Lorraine M. Eiler)	133.15	X			
	2. ROGER MANUEL (Christina Andrews)	133.15	X			
PISINEMO 240.3	1. PAMELA J. BENAVIDEZ (Nora J. Ruelas)	120.15	X			
	2. NAOMI MONTE (Edward D. Manuel)	120.15	X			
HICKIWAN 222.9	1. LOUIS R. LOPEZ (Loretta A. Ortega)	111.45	X			
	2. DELMAM. GARCIA ()	111.45	X			X
GU VO 279.6	1. LESLIE LUNA ()	139.8	X			
	2. BENNETT CHEWING ()	139.8	X			
GU ACHI 289.2	1. GLORIA JOHNSON ()	144.6	X			
	2. LUCIUS E. LOPEZ (Victoria A. Hobbs)	144.6	X			X
CHUKUT KUK 361.9	1. MARLAKAY HENRY ()	180.95	X			
	2. VIVIAN JUAN-SAUNDERS (Cornelius Antone)	180.95	X			
BABOQUIVARI 398.9	1. JESSE NAVARRO ()	199.45	X			
	2. NED NORRIS, JR. (Leander Mase)	199.45	X			X
	TOTAL	3,321.1	2,876.0	445.1	-0-	[03]