

RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
(Support for the Vigida Ceremony and Officials)

RES. NO. 91-203

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2 WHEREAS, the officials of the traditional O'Odham Vigida  
3 Ceremony have recently become aware of a proposal by  
4 the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and  
5 History to establish an archeological zone in the  
6 Quitovac area which encompasses the sacred ceremonial  
7 site of the Vigida; and

8 WHEREAS, the officials of the Vigida are primarily residents of  
9 the Gu Vo District and have sought and received  
10 resolutions of support from the Al Ce:k Community and  
11 the Gu Vo District respectively, and now seek the same  
12 from the Legislative Council; and

13 WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council is given the  
14 constitutional power "to preserve and cultivate native  
15 arts, crafts, and traditions" of the O'Odham; and

16 WHEREAS, the Vigida ceremony has great cultural, ancestral, and  
17 religious significance for the O'Odham's survival as  
18 a people as well as that of the non-o'odham throughout  
19 the world; and

20 WHEREAS, the Legislative Council supports the position of the  
21 Vigida officials that the enactment of the proposal  
22 would jeopardize the continuation of our sacred  
23 ceremony and enable further archaeological,  
24 environmental, economic and political exploitation of  
25 the area by the non-o'odham; and

26 WHEREAS, the Legislative Council was addressed by Mr. Guillermo  
27 Espinosa Velasco, Direccion de Procuracion de Justicia  
28 of the Instituto de Nacional Indegenista (INI), on May

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16, 1991 at which he assured the Tohono O'Odham Nation direct access to the President of Mexico and his staff and also stated the Mexican President's position on preserving the sacred sites of the indigenous peoples in Mexico, including the O'Odham; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council supports and endorses the requests of the Vigida officials in having direct communication with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, to express their concerns to preserve the Vigida ceremonial site; to gain the Mexican government's assurance that the site will remain accessible to the O'Odham in perpetuity; that the Mexican government and its appropriate agencies assist in seeking the return of any and all human and mammal remains, artifacts, and other material having significance to the sacred site that have been taken from the Quitovac area; and that the Mexican government notify the Border Patrol/Immigration and other law enforcement agencies to allow crossing by the ceremony participants free from any sort of harassment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council authorizes the officials of the Nation and namely officials of the Vigida, ANGELO MATTIA, FLOYD FLORES, and ANTHONY FLORES; to travel to Mexico to communicate directly with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tohono O'Odham Legislative Council that it supports, endorses, and authorizes the

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following concerning the Vigida, the sacred ceremonial site, and the position of the Vigida officials:

1. The Legislative Council supports the Vigida officials' position that enactment of the proposal by the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History to establish an archeological zone in the Quitovac area which encompasses the Vigida sacred ceremonial site would jeopardize the continuation of our sacred ceremony and enable further archaeological, environmental, economic and political exploitation of the area by the non-O'Odham.
2. The Legislative Council supports and endorses the request of Vigida officials in having direct communication with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, to express their concerns to preserve the Vigida ceremonial site; to gain the Mexican government's assurance that the site will remain accessible to the O'Odham in perpetuity; that the Mexican government and its appropriate agencies assist in seeking the return of any and all human and mammal remains, artifacts, and other material having significance to the sacred site that have been taken from the Quitovac area; and that the Mexican government notify the Border Patrol/Immigration and other law enforcement agencies to allow crossing by the ceremony

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participants into and from Mexico free from any sort of harassment.

3. The Legislative Council authorizes the officials of the Nation and namely officials of the Vigida, ANGELO MATTIA, FLOYD FLORES, and ANTHONY FLORES; to travel to Mexico to communicate directly with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.


4. That a budget be developed and submitted for Legislative Council approval.

The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Council on the 23rd day of May, 1991 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 1,482.0 for; 117.0 against; 125.0 not voting; 04 absent, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council by Section 1 (b), (c)(8) & (d)(2) of Article VI 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

  
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Edward D. Manuel, Legislative Chairman  
24<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 1991.

ATTEST:

  
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Teresa M. Choygaha, Legislative Secretary  
24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1991.

Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 1991, at 11:20 o'clock, A.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.

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TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Edward D. Manuel*  
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Edward D. Manuel, Legislative Chairman

[  ] APPROVED ) on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1991  
[  ] DISAPPROVED) at 2:51 o'clock, P.M.

*Angelo Joaquin Sr.*  
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ANGELO J. JOAQUIN, SR., Chairman  
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
May, 1991, at 2:56 o'clock, P.M.

*Teresa M. Choyguha*  
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Teresa M. Choyguha  
Legislative Secretary

MOVED: COUNCILMAN JOHN RENOSUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE VIGIDA CEREMONY ANDSECOND: COUNCILMAN VIRGIL LEWISOFFICIALS (AS AMENDED)DATE: MAY 23, 1991

DISTRICTS	REPRESENTATIVES	# OF VOTES	FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING	ABSENT
BABOQUIVARI 229.0	1. Earl A. Francisco (Kenneth Chico)	114.5	X			
	2. Joann Garcia (Frances Niguel)	114.5	X			
CHUKUT KUK 163.0	1. Rosita Ruiz (Rosemary Lopez)	81.5	X			X
	2. Kenneth Williams (Harriet Toro)	81.5	X			
GU ACHI 166.0	1. Percy Lopez ( )	83.0	X			X
	2. Alex Ramon (Fernando Joaquin)	83.0	X			
GU VO 114.0	1. Juan Joe Cipriano	57.0	X			X
	2. Virgil Lewis (Michael Flores)	57.0	X			
HICKIWAN 125.0	1. Lloyd Francisco (Billy C. Manuel)	62.5			X	
	2. Lenora Montana ( )	62.5			X	X
PISINENO 119.0	1. Johnson Jose ( )	59.5	X			
	2. Edward Manuel (Alex Antone)	59.5	X			
SAN LUCY 106.0	** 1. Albert Manuel, Jr. (Max P. Jose)	53.0	X			
	2. John Reno ( )	53.0	X			
SAN XAVIER 127.0	1. Eugene Emis, Sr. (Michael Rios)	63.5	X			
	2. Joanne C. Preston (Carmelita Mattias)	63.5		X		
SCHUK TOAK 107.0	1. Joann Francisco (David Valenzuela, Sr)	53.5	X			
	2. Joseph Juan (Frances Francisco)	53.5		X		
SELLS 310.0	1. Joseph T. Joaquin (Larry Garcia)	155.0	X			
	2. Andrew Patricio (Daniel Lopez)	155.0	X			
SIF ODAK 158.0	1. Mary Ann Antone (Nina Jose)	79.0	X			
	2. Willard Juan, Sr. (Melissa Gregorio)	79.0	X			
TOTAL		1,724.0	1,482.0	117.0	125.0	04

\*\*PASSED VOTES