



ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Officers:
E. Paul Torres, Chairman
Governor Val Panteah, Sr., Vice Chair
Governor J. Michael Chavarria, Secretary

RESOLUTION

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2017-12

CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL PERMITTING AND LEASING FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS THAT WOULD IMPACT TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES AND SACRED SITES IN GREATER CHACO REGION

- 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
- WHEREAS**, the All Pueblo Council of Governors is comprised of the 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; and
- 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; and
- WHEREAS**, through their inherent and sovereign rights, the All Pueblo Council of Governors will promote the language, health, economic and natural resources, and educational advancement of all Pueblo people; and
- WHEREAS**, each APCG member is an indigenous nation within the United States with its own cultural territory and sovereign right to protect its traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within each Pueblo's current exterior boundaries; and
- WHEREAS**, the protection of each Pueblo's traditional cultural properties and sacred sites is necessary to each Pueblo's cultural preservation now and into the future; and
- WHEREAS**, preserving the traditional cultural properties and sacred sites that exist in Chaco Canyon and in the Greater Chaco Region, including, but not limited to, the Great North Road, the West Road, and Pierre's Site, along with protection of the night skies, soundscapes, view shed and sight-lines within and surrounding Chaco Canyon is essential to the cultures and traditions of APCG members; and
- WHEREAS**, this resolution is a companion resolution to APCG Resolutions No. 2014-04 and No. 2015-17 that call for the protection of Chaco Canyon and all traditional cultural properties and sacred sites affiliated with Chaco Canyon and request meaningful government-to-government consultations with federal agencies over actions or management plans that may affect the Greater Chaco Canyon region; and

WHEREAS, in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt created the 36,000-acre Chaco Culture National Historical Park to protect significant ancient ruins for future generations but thousands of traditional cultural properties and sacred sites are located throughout the Greater Chaco Canyon region and are unprotected; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Chaco Canyon region was historically a center of Puebloan culture and economic life where Pueblo people built great houses, astronomical observation sites, and ceremonial kivas, and these areas continue to be places of prayer, pilgrimage and living connections to our ancestors; and

WHEREAS, the Chaco Culture National Historical Park and other sites in the Greater Chaco Canyon region, administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management Farmington Field Office (BLM) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region (BIA), have been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) due to the world-wide cultural and physical significance of these sites to humanity; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of a federal agency to make the determination of whether a traditional cultural property exists prior to taking federal action, and it is likely that the Greater Chaco Region contains, in addition to other cultural properties, at least one, if not more, Cultural Landscapes that could qualify as traditional cultural property; and

WHEREAS, the BLM and BIA have not initiated any ethnographic work with the Pueblos to determine whether one, if not more, cultural landscapes exist in the Greater Chaco Region that may qualify as a traditional cultural property, but are proposing leasing of lands, and considering the issuance of permits for development at this time; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling and related infrastructure, including roads and pipelines, in the Greater Chaco Region negatively impact and harm Pueblo traditional cultural properties and sacred sites and degrade and impair the cultural landscape(s) that include these traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has leased over 91% of public lands in northwest New Mexico, including in the Greater Chaco Canyon Region, for oil and gas development with over 40,000 wells; and

WHEREAS, much of the remaining 9% of unleased lands in northwest New Mexico administered by the BLM or the BIA is in the Greater Chaco Canyon region; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry has developed new extraction technologies by combining horizontal drilling with industrialized hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), creating increased industry interest in the Mancos shale in the Greater Chaco Canyon region; and

WHEREAS, the BLM and the BIA acknowledge that the agencies have not analyzed the impacts of fracking in the Greater Chaco Canyon region and yet have approved over 400 fracking wells since 2013, which have already harmed the cultural landscape(s) in the region and threatens other traditional cultural properties and sacred sites within cultural landscape(s); and

WHEREAS, the BLM and the BIA are working jointly to amend the BLM's 2003 Resource Management Plan to include consideration of the impacts of fracking in the Greater Chaco Canyon region and further agreed to halt all leases within a 10-mile radius of Chaco Canyon until it finished amending its Resource Management Plan, which it expects to issue in late 2018, and until completion of tribal consultations and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, over the opposition of the Pueblos, the BLM Farmington field office issued leases on 843 acres of public lands for fracking activities within 19 miles of Chaco Culture National Historical Park; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico House of Representatives passed House Memorial 70 in March 2017 in the 53rd Legislature, First Session, reaffirming New Mexico's commitment to protecting and preserving tribal, cultural and historical sites and resources in the Greater Chaco Canyon landscape and "requesting that the BLM and BIA desist from any leasing or issuance of permits without prior tribal consultation in the greater Chaco landscape" throughout the process for completion of amendments to the BLM's resource management plan in accordance with federal law; and

WHEREAS, despite its previous agreement not to do so, and without completion of any ethnographic study to determine the existence of one, if not more, traditional cultural landscapes within the Greater Chaco Region, the BLM and BIA have been issuing permits and recently began a process to lease areas adjacent to the 10-mile radius of Chaco Culture National Historic Park, and in close proximity to known sites of importance on the Great North Road; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of permitting and leasing of lands by BLM and BIA for fracking activities in increasingly closer and closer proximity to Chaco Culture National Historic Park and other known sites of cultural significance threatens irreparable and irreversible harm to Chaco Canyon and traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, including existing traditional cultural landscape(s) in the Greater Chaco Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the All Pueblo Council of Governors calls upon the BLM and the BIA to immediately institute a moratorium on all oil and gas related permitting and leasing in the Greater Chaco Canyon region to protect traditional cultural properties and sacred sites in the region until the BLM and BIA initiate and complete an ethnographic study of cultural landscape(s) within the Greater Chaco Region, and the Farmington Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/EIS) for the Mancos-Gallup Formations 2003 Regional Management Plan.


CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2017-12 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 21st day of September 2017, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 8 absent.

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

By: 
APCG Chairman E. Paul Torres

ATTEST:


Governor Val Panteah, Sr., APCG Vice Chairman