



ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL Office of the Chairman

Joe Garcia, Chairman

Amadeo Shije, Vice Chairman

John Gonzales Secretary/ Treasurer

**ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2007 - 12**

TITLE: COMPANION RESOLUTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF MT. TAYLOR AND ALL SACRED SITES AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES RELATED TO THE PUEBLOS OF ACOMA AND LAGUNA. AND THE NINETEEN PUEBLOS OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, the All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC) is comprised of the nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico including 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

WHEREAS, Indian tribes possess inherent government authority and sovereignty over their reservation lands; and

WHEREAS, this resolution should be read in tandem with All Indian Pueblo Council Resolution No. 2006-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson has declared 2007 to be the Year of Water in New Mexico and has acknowledged the Pueblo of Acoma and her sister Pueblos as one of the oldest water managers in the region with an expansive knowledge of the hydrologic cycle in the Rio San Jose watershed; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson further recognized that the knowledge and traditional cultural practices of each Pueblo within its respective watershed has enabled the continued survival of each Pueblo through the centuries in their respective homelands; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson has directed the New Mexico Environment Department, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and the Office of the State Engineer, among others, to consult with the Pueblo of Acoma and other affected tribes regarding major state actions with the potential to impact the cultural, social and physical concerns of tribes in New Mexico. *Executive Order No. 2005-003 Statewide Tribal Consultation Policy on the Protection of Sacred Places and Repatriation;*

- WHEREAS,** the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has failed to meaningfully consult with all affected Tribes on uranium exploration permits in the Mt. Taylor region; and
- WHEREAS,** the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has *not* performed an environmental analysis of the significant, permanent and irreparable damage to the regional hydrologic balance, drinking water sources, and cultural resources which will result from the issuance of uranium exploration permits in the Mt. Taylor District; and
- WHEREAS,** the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department was obligated to meaningfully consult with all affected tribes under Executive Order 2005-003; and
- WHEREAS,** by failing to consult with the nineteen Pueblos and other affected tribes on uranium and coal mining developments around Mt. Taylor, the cultural significance of the mountain to the affected tribes and resulting disproportionate impact to Native American cultures was not adequately documented and as a result, no attempts to mitigate the adverse effects of the exploration and other mining activities through a Memorandum of Agreement with the affected tribes was undertaken; and
- WHEREAS,** Governor Bill Richardson issued Executive Order 2005-056 to afford all residents of New Mexico meaningful involvement in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulation and policies under environmental justice principles ensuring that low-income communities of color would have a voice in these decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** the cultural rights of tribes to lands traditionally used for subsistence and cultural activities from time immemorial should be protected under religious freedom and environmental justice principles, and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Mining Law of 1872 is an unjust and outdated law that sacrifices indigenous cultures and their sacred sites to environmentally and culturally destructive mining companies, and
- WHEREAS,** the drilling of exploration wells throughout the watersheds of Mt. Taylor violates the religious freedom of the First Nations of the Southwest, including the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache Tribe, who hold the Mt. Taylor region and source water originating therefrom sacred and indispensable to their traditional cultural practices.

WHEREAS, significant and irreparable cultural and religious damages have resulted from exploratory drilling and the failure of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to consult with Acoma, the nineteen Pueblos , and other affected tribes prior to issuance of Roca Honda Exploration Project, Permit No. MK014EM and La Jara Mesa Exploration Project, Permit No. C1008EM

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the nineteen Pueblos support Acoma's demand for consultation with all regulatory agencies to determine probable impacts to regional groundwater, the La Jara and San Mateo Creek drainage areas, and cultural properties within the Acoma Cultural Province resulting from exploratory drilling; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the All Indian Pueblo Council urges the appropriate federal and state agencies seek Congressional authorization to declare the land around Mt. Taylor, within the Acoma Cultural Province, unsuitable for mining activities due to its widespread cultural significance as a sacred site by all regional Tribes, including the nineteen Pueblos and the unique value of the area's hydrologic resources to northwestern New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the All Indian Pueblo Council requests the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the United States Forest Service, the New Mexico Environment Department, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the Office of the State Engineer and others to incorporate these concerns into its environmental assessment of adverse effects to traditional cultural properties and regional water resources triggering the need for an environmental impact statement to examine these significant impacts, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT AIPC does hereby advocate for changes to the 1872 Mining Law to recognize and protect sites sacred to indigenous communities throughout the United States and its territories, as well as environmental health and the well-being of all affected communities.

CERTIFICATION:

I, Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 2007-12

was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 21 day of June, 2007, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 absent.

ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL

/s/ Amadeo Shije for,

Joseph A. Garcia, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ John Gonzales

John Gonzales, Secretary/Treasurer