



ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2024-14

SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT STATUS TO
PERMANENTLY PROTECT THE CAJA DEL RIO LIVING CULTURAL
LANDSCAPE

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) 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, as well as Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the APCG is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural, and traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations; and

WHEREAS, the APCG promotes the preservation of Pueblo traditional cultural properties, cultural resources, sacred sites, and the ongoing cultural practices essential to Pueblo life; and

WHEREAS, in APCG Resolution 2021-13, the Council affirmed its support for the preservation of the Caja del Rio Traditional Cultural Landscape and urged the United States Forest Service (“Forest Service”) and Department of Energy (“DOE”) to provide meaningful Tribal consultation and fully assess the cultural and environmental impacts of the proposed Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL”) Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade (“EPCU”) Project through a full environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) and the National Historic Preservation Act (“NHPA”); and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, the DOE NNSA published a draft Environmental Assessment (“EA”) with a finding of potential adverse impact to cultural resources, including those that are direct (ground disturbance, construction/maintenance of roads, use of staging areas, rehabilitation post construction, etc.) and indirect (visual impacts, increased use of area for utilities maintenance, recreational purposes, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (“ENIPC”), via letter dated April 30, 2024, formally supported a tribally-led ethnographic study of the Caja del Rio Traditional Cultural Landscape, emphasizing its significance for Pueblo cultural preservation and environmental stewardship; and



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Governors

Officers:
James R. Mountain, Chairman
Dominic Gachupin, Vice-Chairman
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

Acoma

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2024, the All Pueblo Council of Governors adopted APCG Resolution 2024-01, reaffirming the urgent need for a tribally-led ethnographic study prior to any further development decisions in order to preserve the Caja del Rio and protect its significance as a traditional cultural landscape for Pueblo communities; and

Cochiti

Isleta

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024, the Forest Service issued a draft Decision Notice (“DN”) and Finding of No Significant Impact (“FONSI”) for the Final EA for the proposed LANL EPCU and associated Forest Plan amendment, affecting the Caja del Rio landscape and prompting Tesuque Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, and other Pueblos, and the APCG to submit formal objections to the decision; and

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

WHEREAS, the objections submitted by APCG and member Pueblos collectively identify failure by the agencies to uphold the federal Indian trust responsibility, disregard for statutory obligations for meaningful Tribal consultation in compliance with NEPA and NHPA, and neglect of Pueblo environmental and cultural interests; and

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

WHEREAS, Tesuque Pueblo has consistently kept APCG and ENIPC updated at key milestones in the preservation of the Caja del Rio, to ensure opportunities to learn about and provide input on matters impacting the region; and

Pojoaque

Sandia

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2024, the NCAI adopted Resolution LV-24-061, opposing the Los Alamos National Laboratory Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project bisecting the Caja del Rio, highlighting the adverse impacts on Tribal cultural resources and sacred sites; and

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2024, Tesuque Pueblo entered into a co-stewardship agreement with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) to address the lack of funding and human resources resulting in continuing damage to significant aspects of the Caja del Rio landscape, that Pueblos have used for traditional and religious purposes since time immemorial; and

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

WHEREAS, the Pueblo de Cochiti holds an enduring historical and legal claim to over 19,000 acres of land within the Santa Fe National Forest, known as El Ojo de Santa Cruz and portions of the La Majada Grant, based on a 1744 Spanish deed and subsequent Spanish court ruling nullifying an invalid transfer of that land, some of which has been returned to the Pueblo per Pub.L. 98-344 in 1984, but a portion of which extending north, north-east into the Caja del Rio was not returned to the Pueblo by that legislation; and

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni



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Acoma

WHEREAS, despite the Pueblo de Cochiti's documented ownership and the historical injustices surrounding the improper loss of these lands, all of them have yet to be returned to the Pueblo, representing an unfulfilled obligation under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; and

Cochiti

Isleta

WHEREAS, the permanent protection of the Caja del Rio Cultural Landscape through national monument designation provides an opportunity to acknowledge these historical injustices and support the return of these additional Caja del Rio lands to the Pueblo de Cochiti;

Jemez

Laguna

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the Pueblos to support a monument designation consistent with the recent co-stewardship agreement to ensure the permanent protection of the Caja del Rio Cultural Landscape, including the wildlife, cultural resources, and natural resources that exist within the Caja del Rio; and

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

WHEREAS, APCG finds it in its best interest of all Pueblos to adopt this resolution.

Pojoaque

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors supports Tesuque Pueblo's request for a national monument designation to permanently protect the Caja del Rio, its cultural resources, sacred sites, wildlife, and traditional use by Pueblo communities; and

Sandia

San Felipe

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors encourages collaborative efforts with the Pueblo of Tesuque and the Pueblo de Cochiti to advance this monument designation and ensure the protection and preservation of this culturally significant landscape; and

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors supports the return of El Ojo de Santa Cruz and La Majada ancestral land within the Santa Fe National Forest and the Caja del Rio, to the Pueblo de Cochiti as part of broader efforts to rectify historical injustices and honor the sovereign rights of Pueblo Nations; and

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors calls upon federal agencies, members of Congress, and other stakeholders to align with Tesuque Pueblo's co-stewardship agreement and recommendations to protect the Caja del Rio through a national monument designation; and

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni



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Santo Domingo

Taos

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Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors directs the distribution of this resolution to federal agencies, members of the U.S. Congress, the National Congress of American Indians, and other relevant stakeholders to garner broad support for the national monument designation and the return of ancestral lands known as the El Ojo de Santa Cruz and La Majada lands to the Pueblo de Cochiti.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the All Pueblo Council of Governors directs the Chairman and/or his designee(s) to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2024-14 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 21st day of November 2024, at which time a quorum was present, and the same was approved by a vote of 20 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

By:

James R. Mountain, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:

Governor Arden Kucate, APCG Secretary