

- 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

RESOLUTION

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2015-11

CLOSE THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST TO ENERGY AND MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT DESIGNATION OF JEMEZ MOUNTAINS AS A TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY

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, 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 & traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations; and

WHEREAS, through their inherent & sovereign rights, the All Pueblo Council of Governors will promote the language, health, economic, and educational advancement of all Pueblo people; and

WHEREAS, the land now known as the Santa Fe National Forest has been occupied and used by the Pueblos from time immemorial and continues to be of profound spiritual and religious importance because of the sacred areas within, and the necessary uses of the forest, including subsurface use of aquifers and natural springs, to maintain Pueblo culture and tradition; and

WHEREAS, in response to the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the United States Forest Service (Forest Service) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a 2008 Record of Decision to facilitate geothermal leasing in the western United States; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2015 the Forest Service began a two year process to explore geothermal leasing in the Santa Fe National Forest on approximately 194,000 acres of Santa Fe National Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service manages and controls the surface of the National Forest System but the BLM is the agency that would issue the geothermal leases and permits for development of geothermal leases on those lands; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service provides consent or non-consent to the BLM for lands considered for geothermal leasing on Forest Service lands and the BLM cannot lease such lands over the objection of the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, although geothermal electricity is considered to be “green energy,” the known adverse impacts include impacts to vegetation, wildlife, habitats, air quality, water quantity, water quality and land through subsidence and increased potential for induced seismic activity, all of which exacerbate impacts to cultural resources of the Pueblo Nations; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service and BLM are seeking to mitigate any adverse impacts to sacred places and resources through lease stipulations; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has contracted the assistance of ethnographers to collect specific information about cultural and traditional uses of material and sites in the forest, supposedly to assist in preserving sacred areas and materials; and

WHEREAS, exposing information about sacred sites, traditional cultural properties and uses of the Santa Fe National Forest may not be possible because of internal confidentiality requirements at some Pueblos and in any event does not and cannot ever fully protect what must be protected according to the traditions of the Pueblos; and

WHEREAS, even without geothermal leasing, because of climate change, forest fires, flooding, recreational uses of the forest, interest from industry, and governmental policy and regulations, traditional Pueblo cultural properties, resources and uses of the forests by the Pueblos are already under attack and access too limited;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the All Pueblo Council of Governors support the closure of the Santa Fe National Forest to energy and mineral exploration and development, and request that the Forest Service withhold any consent to the BLM for leasing of any of the Santa Fe National Forest to geothermal and other mineral or energy exploration, leasing, or development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the All Pueblo Council of Governors request the Forest Service and BLM to host meetings as soon as possible to fully inform Tribal Leaders for the 20 Pueblo Nations of their plans in the forest, and to listen and act on the concerns and comments of Tribal Leadership.


NOW FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors support the designation of the Jemez Mountains as a Traditional Cultural Property to be protected and closed permanently to mining and energy development due to the cultural

and traditional importance and the countless materials and items of cultural patrimony found within.

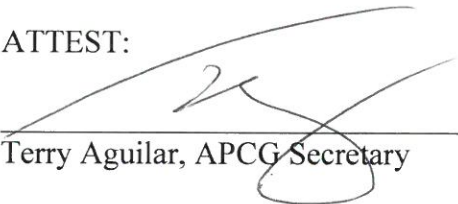
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2015-11 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 10 day of August 2015, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

By: 
Governor E. Paul Torres, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:


Terry Aguilar, APCG Secretary