



All Pueblo  
Council of  
Governors

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

RESOLUTION

**ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2025-02**

**TO URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RESTART THE CHACO RMPA, DEFEND FEDERAL AND STATE CHACO LAND WITHDRAWALS, AND PASS THE CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING THREATS TO THE GREATER CHACO LANDSCAPE**

**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 Greater Chaco Region, encompassing Chaco Culture National Historical Park (“Chaco Canyon”) and surrounding cultural landscapes, holds profound spiritual, historical, and cultural significance to many Pueblos and Tribes, including the Hopi Tribe, in the Southwest; and

**WHEREAS**, for over a decade, the All Pueblo Council of Governors has advocated for protections of Chaco Canyon and Greater Chaco Region by taking official actions, including but not limited to, passage of the following resolutions:

- RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2024-06 (APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CHACO HERITAGE TRIBAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBER TRIBES);
- RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2024-05 (REAFFIRMING THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE CHACO HERITAGE TRIBAL ASSOCIATION);
- RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2023-10 (OPPOSING H.R. 4374 “ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ACT);
- RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2023-08 (MEMORIALIZING PRESIDENT BIDEN AND INTERIOR SECRETARY HAALAND’S DECISION TO ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAW PUBLIC LANDS FROM FUTURE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN 10-MILE WITHDRAWAL AREA SURROUNDING CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK);



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- 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 NO. APCG 2022-06 (SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LANDS AND MINERALS SURROUNDING THE CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2021-04 (SUPPORTING THE 30 X 30 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF U.S. LANDS AND INLAND WATERS AND 30 PERCENT OF U.S. OCEANS BY 2030);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2019-10 (REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION WITHDRAWING CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO SURROUNDING CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK FROM ALL FORMS OF MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL LEASING);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2018-27 (AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS TO SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT A PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT PUEBLO ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE GREATER CHACO REGION);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2018-10 (SUPPORTING LEGISLATION WITHDRAWING CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO SURROUNDING CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK FROM ALL FORMS OF MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL LEASING);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2018-02 (APPROVING BRINGING A LEGAL ACTION SEEKING TO ENJOIN THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FARMINGTON FIELD OFFICE FROM CONDUCTING THE COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE NOW SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8, 2018);
  - 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);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2017-11 (AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS TO BE A COOPERATING AGENCY WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FARMINGTON FIELD OFFICE AND THE



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- Acoma BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS NAVAJO REGION [FOR THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT]);
- 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 NO. APCG 2015-17 (COMPANION RESOLUTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHACO CANYON AND ALL TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES AND SACRED SITES AFFILIATED WITH CHACO CANYON);
  - RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2014-04 (SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHACO CANYON AND ALL TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES AND SACRED SITES AFFILIATED WITH CHACO CANYON);
- WHEREAS**, in 2023, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing approximately 336,404 acres of federal land from new oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile buffer around Chaco Canyon for 20 years; and
- WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State Land Office also withdrew state trust lands within the same buffer from future leasing, creating a cooperative, balanced framework that preserved this landscape while recognizing valid existing rights, including those of tribes and tribal allottees, and allowing for necessary infrastructure development; and
- WHEREAS**, the ongoing lack of an updated Resource Management Plan for the region presents a growing risk, as oil and gas development continues under a 2003 plan that does not account for horizontal drilling, cumulative impacts, changing development patterns, and the BLM’s previous Resource Management Plan (RMPA) was terminated without completion; and
- WHEREAS**, the failure to restart and complete the RMPA creates an urgent regulatory vacuum, exposing cultural resources, air and water quality, and nearby tribal communities to unmanaged harm from extractive development; and
- WHEREAS**, President Trump’s Executive Order “Unleashing American Energy” and the Project 2025 policy agenda have targeted PLO 7923 for rescission, and the new Interior Secretary has been directed to reassess all public land withdrawals which may imminently reverse the carefully negotiated protections now in place; and
- WHEREAS**, a filed lawsuit in federal court, *Navajo Nation v. United States*, No. 1:25-cv-00055 (D.N.M) and introduced federal legislation, H.R. 606, the Energy Opportunities for All Act, seeks to overturn the withdrawal; and
- WHEREAS**, the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, S. 1412 and H.R. 2861, has been reintroduced in Congress to make the withdrawal permanent, but has not yet passed, despite growing threats to the current protections.



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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that All Pueblo Council of Governors declares an immediate emergency exists due to the renewed federal policy focus on rescinding PLO 7923, the absence of a valid land management plan, and the failure to secure permanent legislative protection for the Greater Chaco Region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APCG calls upon the U.S. Department of the Interior to immediately restart and complete the RMPA for the Greater Chaco Region, incorporating robust tribal consultation, ethnographic data, and modern environmental science to ensure responsible and culturally sensitive development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APCG urges the Secretary of the Interior to defend and fully implement Public Land Order No. 7923, and encourages sustained cooperation with the New Mexico State Land Office and tribal governments to preserve the landscape's cultural integrity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APCG calls on the United States Congress to immediately pass the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, making permanent the 10-mile buffer around Chaco Canyon and codifying the federal withdrawal to safeguard it from future executive rescission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of APCG until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

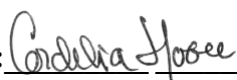
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors authorizes the Chairman or his designee to take all actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, including communicating this support to relevant federal agencies and other stakeholders.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2025-02 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 22nd day of May, and 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:   
Cordelia Hooee, APCG Secretary

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