Appendix C-2, *Gila River Indian Community Forum*, contains documentation of the meeting held on the Gila River Indian Community to provide an opportunity for members to provide oral comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The documents include advertisements for the meeting, a sign-in sheet from the meeting, and a transcript of the meeting.

On September 26, 2014, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Study. Currently the Final EIS is available for a 60-day review until November 25, 2014. You are invited to attend the public forum for the opportunity to provide oral testimony or written comment on the Final EIS. ADOT and the FHWA have been invited to participate and will have representatives present.

The Final EIS is available at:
- GRIC Service Centers
- Ira Hayes Library
- Online at azdot.gov/southmountainfreeway

**Boys & Girls Club - Komatke Branch**
**Saturday, November 15, 2014**
**9am-12pm**

If you are not able to attend the forum, you can still participate and give public comment to the Final EIS up until November 25, 2014 via the following:

Mail:   ADOT Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Study
       1655 West Jackson Street, MD 126F
       Phoenix, AZ 85007

E-Mail: projects@azdot.gov

Phone: (602) 712-7006
On September 26, 2014, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Study. Currently, the Final EIS is available for a 60-day review until November 25, 2014. You are invited to attend the public forum for the opportunity to provide oral testimony or written comment on the Final EIS. ADOT and the FHWA have been invited to participate and will have representatives present.

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You Are Invited!

FINAL REVIEWS
ADOT
FHWA
Cooperating Agencies
Legal Review
90-day Public Review
Review and address comments
60-day Public Review
We are Here!

RECORD OF DECISION

Boys & Girls Club - Komatke Branch
Saturday, November 15, 2014
9am-12pm

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Phone: (520) 562-9848 or 9715
Appendix C

MS. KISTO: Good Saturday. Good morning.

My name is Zuzette Kisto. I'm the communications and public affairs director for the community. For those of you that don't know me, I am from Sacaton, Arizona, where I was born and raised and I currently reside. I -- again, a member of the community. Just happy to be here to serve as your moderator today.

At this time we'll go over a few ground rules. So if I could have the lights turned down, please.

Okay. Some of the ground rules I'd like to discuss before we get started is, first of all, I'd like for everybody to have mutual respect, courtesy, and patience over -- are the event guide and principles to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of their position on the study as we follow the ground rules listed below. The study video area -- the video will be shown later on in the agenda. And we are asking that while watching the video, please remain quite, and please turn off your cell phones. Put them on vibrate. And if you're going to have conversations amongst one another, we ask that you leave the room and have them out in the lobby so it's not distracting to the other people that are watching the video. And we also ask that you refrain from interrupting conversations between the study team members and group attendees.
I think that is probably it. We also do have an informational booth back in the corner. And the information has the final environmental impact study booklet. We also have facts sheet. We have court reporters here in the left corner to take individual comments, and then we also have one here up front. The restrooms are down the hall to your left. And I think I covered everything as far as the ground rules are concerned. So you can turn the lights back up.

I would like to talk a little bit about the background. At Gila River Indian Community's request, representatives from ADOT and -- I'm sorry -- Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Association (sic) are here to listen to your comments about the proposed Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway. Comments heard today will be recorded and documented in the record of decision. The final decision-making document prepared by the Federal Highway Administration, the record of decision is expected to be available for public review in early 2015. So we will begin the day with the welcome by Governor-Elect Stephen Roe Lewis. So I'll have him come up at this time.

GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you, and good morning everyone. It's good to see everyone here. And I'd like to thank both the Komatke Community, District 6, and the Boys & Girls Club for hosting this.

And on behalf of the -- the Gila River Indian Community, you know, I think it's important that, by council action, that we -- council chose to hold this hearing in conjunction with -- with the -- our -- the counterparts up on the State side, the Arizona Department of Transportation, because this is such an important issue.

And, of course, you know, we've had a prior vote on this, which was no build. And -- and so you have -- and you can access the community stats, because we have documentation for that as well, those of you community members who want some background on exactly like where your community stands on this and a little bit of the history behind this.

So I think it's important that we, as a community, weigh in on this last public comment period, which was referred to as the Final Environmental Impact Statement. And so this is right -- it's right before the final record of decision that will be made. So those of
At this time I'll have the representatives from the Federal Highway Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation come up to the microphone and introduce themselves. We'll start with...

MR. SAMOUR: Good morning. My name is Robert Samour. I'm a senior deputy state engineer from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

MR. ACEVEDO: Good morning. My name is Carmelo Acevedo. I'm the senior project manager with ADOT.

MR. BARNHART: Good morning. My name is Brock Barnhart. I'm assistant communication director with Arizona Department of Transportation.

MS. YEDLIN: Good morning. My name is Rebecca Yedlin. I'm the environmental coordinator for the Federal Highway Administration.

MR. HANSEN: Good morning. I'm Alan Hansen. I'm with the Federal Highway Administration. And I'm a team leader for planning, environment, right-of-way, and air quality.

MS. KISTO: Next we'll have introductions from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

You already did? Everybody did? Rob, did you come up? Everybody?

Oh. I'm so sorry. Okay. We'll go ahead.

At this time I'll have the representatives from the Federal Highway Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation come up to the microphone and introduce themselves. We'll start with...

MR. SAMOUR: Good morning. My name is Robert Samour. I'm a senior deputy state engineer from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

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MR. BARNHART: Good morning. My name is Brock Barnhart. I'm assistant communication director with Arizona Department of Transportation.

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MS. KISTO: Next we'll have introductions from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

You already did? Everybody did? Rob, did you come up? Everybody?

Oh. I'm so sorry. Okay. We'll go ahead.
1 and move on.
2 Right now in the agenda we will be watching
3 the aerial flyover presentation. And before we begin
4 that, the video is -- as part of the Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement process, a video simulation of proposed
6 freeway was prepared. The video is a simulation flyover
7 of the proposed freeway route.
8 At this time, if the lights can be dimmed,
9 we’ll go ahead and view the video.
10 (Video playing.)
11 MS. KISTO. Okay. So that’s the end of the
12 video. At this time -- I forgot to introduce -- do we
13 have any members in the audience from the Gila River
14 Technical Transportation Team other than Governor-Elect.
15 Would you like to come up and introduce
16 yourself, Mr. Villarreal.
17 COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Good morning. I'm
18 Councilman Villarreal, present from District 6. And I'm
19 representing on the technical transportation --
20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you speak up,
21 please, because we can’t hear you back here.
22 COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Good morning,
23 everyone. Can you hear me okay.
24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
25 COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: My name is Anthony
26 Villarreal. I’m a District 6 council representative. I
27 am a -- I serve on the technical transportation team. I
28 had to ask our CPAO if we even still existed, and I guess
29 we still do, according to resolution, as it’s been some
30 time now since we’ve met.
31 But I’m glad to be here to hear all your
32 folks' comments. Thank you.
33 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Villarreal.
34 At this time we'll go ahead and open the
35 floor to the public testimony forum portion of the agenda.
36 But before we do that, I'd like to go over some ground
37 rules in regards to the format that we'd like to have
38 established.
39 At this time, if you would like to provide
40 testimony, please raise your hand, and we'll have Adeline
41 and Shannon come around and give you a card. And what is
42 on the card is a number. And it will be pulled out. And
43 at the time that your number is pulled up, we will call
44 you to the microphone to provide your testimony.
45 And then you can also go to the two court
46 reporters in the left back corner if you feel you want to
47 just have a one-on-one conversation with them. Or the
48 court reporter here will take the public testimony that’s
49 here at the microphone.
50 So please raise your hand at this time if
51
My name is Albert Pablo, District 6 council representative. I'm glad to see we have a turnout here. And we're waiting to hear your public comments on this -- this final impact statement. So feel free to give your statements. Thank you.

MS. KISTO: So, again, does anybody want to make a comment? I do have a gentleman here, and we have received one card. But if there's anybody else, please feel free to raise your hand.

And I'd like to address a comment that was made by one of the attendees. She's feeling confused, which some of you may be feeling confused in regards to not being able to discuss question and answer with the representatives here.

That was actually afforded in the Environmental Impact Statement period, which has since passed. And right now we are in the Final Environmental Impact Statement phase, which we are affording opportunity, per council motion, to allow the community to provide public comment only in regards to the record of decision which will be completed in January 2015.

Councilwoman Schurz, I see you.

Councilman Pablo, would you like to come up?

COUNCILWOMAN SCHURZ: Good morning, everyone. I'm Carol Schurz from District 2, Hashen Kehk, and I'm happy to be here to listen to testimonies and what our community has to offer in regards to what we're here to do today. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN PABLO: Good morning, everyone.
ahead and open the floor.

We are getting the card that was dropped off at our table, the one card, but we'll go ahead and afford Mr. Wayne -- and I never remember his name. I remember his first name.

MR. NELSON: Nelson.

MS. KISTO: -- Nelson to go ahead and provide public comment.

MS. KISTO: Yes. The tribal council did make a motion in regards to the press release when everybody voted, and they still stand by the members of the community's vote.

(Question by audience member.)

MS. KISTO: Lieutenant Governor-Elect, do you know -- or any of the members of transportation team know if the community made a comment to the environmental statement?

GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Can I refer this to my attorney? We have the attorney here, Javier Ramos. And a comment will be made on behalf of the community. But this will be done by council action.

So Javier Ramos from the community's law office is here for the benefit of all the community members. So if you have any legal questions -- not personal legal questions, but questions regarding the 201, he's -- he's here to -- to answer all -- all those questions and -- and procedural questions as well. Because a comment will be filed on behalf of the community and will be done by council action.

Mr. Ramos, is that correct?

MR. RAMOS: That is correct.

GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Okay. At this time we'll go
MR. NELSON: Good morning. My name is Wayne Nelson. I live here, and I'm a -- I'm a landowner in the area around 32nd Street and around 48th Street. My family -- my family owns probably about 60 to 80 acres there.

One thing that -- my comment really goes to our community. You know, back in 1998, the council that's present warned councilmembers at that time, the council that made this decision to halt or hinder the alignment and the borderland study process is really, in my opinion, a disrespect to the past council.

When they made the borderland study, it was -- it's a resolution. And it's still a standing resolution today. It hasn't been rescinded or amended. And this borderland study, this alignment was made by the past council because they knew this day would come on saving the mountain, whether to have the mountains disturbed or have an alignment that went south of it.

For this council presently, within the last five to six years -- and I was a member of the council from 2004 to 2007. And I've been going to meetings like this since 1998. And at that time, in 1998, this district was on board with this borderland study. Mr. Villarreal was a member of the community here that was in favor of the borderland study and this alignment that came to the community. And then all of a sudden, it gets thrown out the window, and they're going to fight against it.

This -- and this -- this issue here has never left us. But now I read in the newspaper that there's direction to fight this? The State and the Federal Highway? I mean, can we really afford that after the issue with the T0 casino?

I mean, my -- in my opinion, that land there lays docile, and it's been laying docile for 40 years. And our past council and our past economic development director -- do we have an economic development department today? There's no plan for investing in the community's own people, the landowners.

And, you know, with respect to the governor, you want to make a statement on behalf of the community? That doesn't include the landowners. The landowners try to push to have a fair vote again, but it was dissected. It was torn apart. That's not fair. That's not the voice of all the people.

I mean, who -- who is making these decisions to have our attorneys start this action? Is it all 17 council? Is it a handful? I mean, I don't see that in the -- in the newspaper. I see the action sheet, but I don't see who makes these motions.

So my -- and -- and for my testimony is that...
there's a vote, it's either yes or no. There's no I wish. I wish was put in. I wish the freeway would fly away. That's what they voted for. Is that going to be a reality? I don't think so.

But that's how I feel when I see these things, when I see that land over here. And then all you -- all we hear, as landowners, is, oh, you're just money hungry.

I mean, stop investing in sports stadiums and all these other things and invest in your people, because mark my word, it's going to come. You want to throw some more money in making it come, I guess you guys can do it, sitting up there in those 17 chairs. You make that decision. You make everybody else suffer 5 percent of the budgets, taking the children's clothing allowance away.

I just wanted to share that, because that document is there. The document is still active. If you really want to see it, go to the council secretary. It's on a sheet of paper. It's right there. Free. You community members can have it.

I just wanted to share that, because I'm hearing all these things about a statement for the community. It took me almost a year and a half to get into the transportation technical team. And when I got in...
MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

It's kind of difficult to even try to say what you really want to feel because it's already happening. They're at the final stages of what we're looking at that's going to be your future, or our kids' future, the grandkids.

The problem I'm having here with -- is dealing with what we're going to look at as far as preservation of the area that is going to be cut on along the mountain range, as well as what they call the common point. The common point involves some tribe -- allotted land on District 7. And the way you saw the aerial video kind of gives you an impression that the cloverleaf is an expanded cloverleaf that's going to be broadened out and is going to take quite a bit of acreage. Now, what is the compensation here if there's any? Do we know? Does anyone know?

See, the other thing is when you look at that, you also look at -- because the common point or -- the common point is right at Elliot and 59th Avenue. If you go from there all the way to 51st Avenue, we're just below the entryway of the casino. In that area there south of -- west of that 51st Avenue is also allotted land.

Now -- you know, you -- you -- I don't -- I
1. really don't favor that. I really don't favor what's going on right now. But it's not on our land. But we do have some tribal antiquities up there. My question is, too, is how far did they look into the archaeological study to develop the EIS beyond the area of the -- where they say the road is going to be built? How far into the mountain did they look? How far into the mountain did they say that they looked to say that there was no tribal antiquities of any sort, photographs, what have you?

   Well, we only know of one is what has already been identified by our elders. Okay? But what extent beyond that?

   Now, they talk about showing those rattlesnake or snake whatever. The thing of it is, what other animals did they look at? They always look at that as like it's a protected snake. Well, I think -- and I believe you'll follow my -- my point here is that all animals that -- as natives, are God's creatures. And they are protected. We only use them when we're in need of them. That's why they're put there.

   So what real designs are we going to really look at of the highway that goes through the mountain? Do we know? Does the council know? Does our new elected governor know? Does the lawyers know? We won't know until way later.

2. But the thing of it is, you have to consider the fact that it's here. But the thing of it is, we do need to look at and be concerned about it. These are the issues that impact not only our environment, not only our air, not only our area, but also other things that are on the side, like the compensation of each of the areas that involve allotted lands or tribal lands. What are they doing? What is that all about? I have no clue. Do any one of you do?

   So I'm really not in favor of it, of this going -- even though it's off our reservation, it still impacts us. But the thing about this all is that we're at this final stage. And my comment is to say to you that we need to be more vigilant as far as what needs to come to pass to protect our animals, to protect our artifacts and antiquities, photographs, whatever on that mountain, and be well aware of it and continue to drive the forces that gives you to say that we are Native Americans of this land and that we protect our own land and that we carry on from there.

   That sounded good, didn't it?

   Anyway, these are things that we are -- need to be concerned of. It is here. And I -- you know what?

   I'm going back to the common point. Common point at the -- at the Elliot and 59th Avenue area. If anybody
knows that area, is really -- one side is non-
nonmember, and then the other side is the tribal land, or
the reservation. With one side, there's, you know, the
family place there. There's two of them, really, along
the ditch line.
And when you see that aerial thing there,
it's like if they're going to cut into those people's
lands, and I bet you ten to one they get tons of bucks
before we get a dime out of our allotted land, you know.
But what do I know?
But my question is why didn't they make the
common point at Baseline at -- what is it? 59th -- about
59 to 67th Avenue? You know, why wasn't the common point
there at 59th? But when I looked at the drawing and I see
where that all kind of points into where it is right now.
Anyway, that is my comment. And that is my
input to you. But I would like to encourage you and
emphasize the fact that we do need to be vigilant in
trying to make sure that they follow the -- whatever it is
after this, you know, aggressively so that -- make sure
that we protect ourselves and the animals that we have on
our reservation. Okay?
Thank you very much. Appreciate that.
MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Williams.
Is there anyone else that would like to

provide a comment?
Ms. Riddle.
1 you think they want the money, or do you think they want
2 their health? Which is important?
3 As a person coming to you with a lot of
4 health issues, I would say my health is more important
5 than the almighty dollar. I would say yours should be
6 too. That money is only going to last you so many years,
7 a short time. It's just a drop in the bucket. Your
8 health is way more important. Your children's health is
9 way more important.
10 The borderland study, I've already told the
11 tribal leadership that this -- this is an outdated
12 document, that there was no environmental issues addressed
13 in it. It needs to be revamped. It was started in the
14 '70s, when industry was big and heavy. But now that we're
15 finding out and -- how bad certain things are to our
16 health, that needs to be revamped with green technologies,
17 with green plans.
18 So like I said, I'm not -- I wasn't really
19 prepared, at this time, to speak. I know that there's
20 going to be plenty of people that are going to speak that
21 want the freeway on this reservation. But I'm going to
22 tell you, it's not good for the reservation. It's not
23 good for Ahwatukee. It's not good for Laveen. And we
24 won't realize it till it's too late.
25 Once that freeway goes in, it's going to be
twice as wide as the I10 in Gila River. And nobody realizes the impacts of those. I've seen the studies. I've seen the impacts. I've seen what it can do to our children, our future generations. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

So I know I don't have a lot of time, but I'd like a lot of other community members to come up and speak about this issue, because it is important to our people and our community. I would have liked to see more people fill up this room, but I know there's a lot of funerals going on today. And I feel for those families. But just look inside your hearts, and hopefully ADOT will eventually look to our nos from District 6, our nos from our community council, our nos from our people, our nos from our future generation. Think about it.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Riddle.

I was just informed that we do have some council representatives in -- that just came in the door. If I could have Sandra Naaswytewa come up and introduce herself, as well as Lieutenant Governor-Elect Monica Antone.
MS. FRANCISCO: Good morning. My name is Shelby Francisco, and I'm a resident here in District 6. I grew up with a asthmatic child, so I know what it is firsthand to have sick children. I don't think the community really realize that this freeway will have such an impact on our health that it's -- it's not a good thing. You know, it's convenient to jump on the freeway and go wherever we want to go. But it comes with a price. And our community has to remember that. And, you know, I'm sorry that the allottees are having trouble with expanding their services, but they should be afforded what services they want to produce on their lands. I, too, am an allottee in Queen Creek. You know, and if I wished to pursue it, I would.

But I do not support the building of this freeway. Our district here put a resolution in place to not support it. So all the people that attend the district meetings, you're the ones that have the power. Go to your meetings. Be involved. Take that responsibility on yourself. There's nothing wrong with being on opposite ends of the spectrum. But if you want to make a difference, you need to be in your community meetings to do that.

So I do not support the build. You know, we
the people, have spoken. We even did it by vote. So I expect my council to fight it as hard as they can with whatever expenses they need to, to fight it, because we have spoken, and that's what this community wishes.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Francisco.

Ms. Lopez, please come on up.

MS. LOPEZ: You know me. I'm going to say something. But first thing I object to is if they're going to do a presentation with the public here, I would think that the tribe, with all of its money, could afford another mic to where it could go back there and have the people hear what is going on, because when you're sitting back there, you can't even hear. And I'm sorry to say that a lot of you, we didn't get your names or your positions. But, you know, that is not your fault. But I'm just thinking about the community.

What I want to ask is that -- what I'm hearing is most of the -- this meeting was set up by the council. So I guess my number one question is what was the intent? You've heard over and over and over, the councilmen, the wishes of the community. We kept saying no. How many elections and how much money was spent on these elections when the community was saying no? So to the councilmen, especially those who are representing District 6, you know what the answer was.

So the other thing is that the councilmen are coming in. I would think that you would be courteous enough to sit up in the front so those who don't know who you are could at least say, oh, these are our council people and how many have taken the time to come over here. But I'm really confused as to why the...
We can't ask our guests any questions. But the team already knows the comments, the pros and the cons. So that's my question. I don't know. Maybe one of the councilmen can explain.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

Would anybody from the -- thank you, Councilman Villarreal. He's on his way up.

meeting is. And maybe one of the councilmen -- some of the councilmen from our area could tell me. What I'm understanding is that you want to hear the public comments. So I would ask again, how many times do you have to hear the public comments to -- to know the wishes and the -- of the community?

So other than us gathering and coming together, that's my question to the council people. What is the intent of this meeting? 'Cause we're kind of mixed up as to what we can and can't say. And we can't ask any questions to our guests here. And I'm sorry that you have to hear these things, but this is the true feeling of what our community feels. And -- so I'm kind of confused, just like a few of them, what -- what is expected out of this meeting? What I'm hearing is the comments, public comments.

Where's Zuzette?

And -- but, again, the committee knows it. Our community knows it. We've had the vote. And you may not be aware of it, but it's come to community from reservation -- from District 1 all the way to District 7. And we -- every time it was no, no, no. We don't want the freeway.

And it's -- again, just some answers as to the intent. We're supposed to be making public comments.
COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Thank you. And I want to thank Ms. Lopez for asking for clarity on this. My understanding is that when this was brought to our attention, it was -- it was asked that we have another public comment hearing because it was -- they weren't allowed to speak at the last one that they had. This is an opportunity for you all to come up, whether you support it or do not support it. This is a -- this is your opportunity. This is your time.

And I'll read to you a motion that was made at the community council as bringing this forward if I may. This is -- this was on a regular council meeting held October 15th, 2014.

Councilwoman Jennifer Allison stated, "I make a motion that we move forward and have a council-provided public forum joining with ADOT for a -- for our community members to provide oral testimony on the FEIS, Final Environmental Impact Statement." Seconded by Devin Redbird, councilman from District 7.

Second motion, Councilman Anthony Villarreal, Sr., stated, "I make a motion that the community council directs the law office to begin identifying a budget to support litigation in delaying or stopping the proposed 202 South Mountain Freeway after the second of -- after the record of discussion is finalized."
COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Well, yes, since I am up here, I'll go ahead and answer that.

Well, in the beginning, when that -- when that was made and -- to the referendum as a no, it was never stated that there would be a budget set aside for -- to defend the decision of the community. That had to -- that required us going back, taking a look at it, examining this, and to see how this approach would be made. And we have done that. This is a part of that.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Villarreal.

Does anybody else want to provide...

Ms. Rene.

MS. BAREHAND: How about if I just talk from back here, and I think everybody can hear me.

I'm just commenting. I think this -- this public forum is a little -- a little bit too late, you know. The decision is already made for us through council. And we all heard who made the motion and seconded it.

I would urge all our voters from Gila River that vote to remember who was on council, who made these after your own wishes were ignored. We all voted against this. I don't know how many times it had to go through. And still they kept trying to push it through. And now it's going to be through. It's going to be a reality.

And then they have the nerve to tell us that we want to come over here and ask questions, yet we can't ask any questions of the ADOT people? What good is this going to do? It's going to be recorded by court reporters? And then where's it going to go? In the archives? On microfilm? Who's going to know we're making these comments?

Your council -- your governor-elect is here. The councilmembers are here. These people are the ones that we elected to represent each one of us. And yet do they at the district level?

And it's up to us too. You all should be
going to your district meetings. If you don't vote, then
you're doing a dissatisfaction to your children, your
grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren. We all sit
here and say, well, look at us. They're pushing us around
again. They're doing this. You know, all white people
see is desert land. It's nothing to them.

Land is the most important thing that we
have for our own people besides water. And you all know
that. And where is our water? We don't even have any
water anymore in our rivers. Go by -- go over Salt River.
You go over all the rivers, and they're all dry. And
where is that water going? Who is it benefitting? Not
us -- not us Native Americans.

So I would say that you remember who voted
on this, who passed this measure. And it's just sad
because we are against this, and yet it's going to happen
to us anyways, just as it has for years past, centuries
past. We're still getting -- I hate to use this
expression, but we're still getting the shaft. And it is
not through our own doing. It's through our council
representatives that represent us. What are they doing?
They're representing what they think is best for us.
Well, sometimes, I mean, it's sad to say that they don't
know what is best for us. We can only say that ourselves.
And that's all I have to say.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Barehand.
Anyone else like to provide a comment at
this time?
Sir, come on up.
MR. MORAGO: Good morning. My name is Joseph Morago. I'm a resident of District 3. I have been opposing this freeway for many, many years, mainly because of the environmental impact that it will have on our community. I have worked in our community for almost 20 years with the elders, with inmates, with the elderly. And in that 20-year period, I have seen an increase of asthma, heart disease, diabetes. Diabetes are now--is now being related to environmental impacts.

This freeway will not help our community. It will not help the community off the reservation. It will not help anybody. We are destroying our future. We are destroying our kids. We're going to be like countries around the world that have to wear masks in order to be out where outside because of the pollution and the air.

Those of you that live in this area, in District 6 and 7, and us that live on Gila River, we know how the winds blow out here. We know how dusty it's going to be. We know what happens with the weather. It's not going anywhere. The swamp and everything, the pollution that's going to be coming from all the cars, the millions of cars that are going to be traveling on this road, is going to stay within these mountain regions. It's going to impact all of us. It's going to--I have a two-month-old granddaughter. I heard her coughing this morning. What's going to happen to her when this freeway comes up? How is she going to be able to breathe?

What about the people that come -- the kids that come and play in this building? The freeway is going to--they're going to see the freeway when they walk out this door. What about the Head Start that's over here? What about the school that's down the road? And these are--these are just the people that are affected. The elders that lead over here at the service center here, they're going to see it. What about the new service center in 7? All of them are going -- our own hospital, when they go to be treated for these diseases, is right here, and they're going to be looking at this freeway. Those that are on dialysis, those that are having all these issues, are going to see it.

Not to mention the cultural effects of our mountain. Us O'odham. All believe that this mountain is sacred to us. That is part of our Huhugam. That is part of our life.

You know, we worry about all the animals, about the wild horses. Our own casino is named Wild Horse Pass. This is an area for the horses. What about them? What about all the other animals? They're already saying that the Mexican jaguar can't even come and migrate this
it happens during rush hour -- we've all been on a freeway
You know, they talk about -- and the other
thing that they talk about is these drainage ditches and
stuff that I see in their video. Look what happened in
South Phoenix when all the rains came this summer. Yes,
they may say that's a hundred-year storm, but it's going
to happen again. It will continue to happen. Who's going
to be able to save our community? We need to stop this
freeway.

You know, I don't take the attitude that
there's nothing we can do. I've stood before MAG. I've
stood before all these groups. I've stood before council.
I will fight this freeway all the way. I will continue to
fight. I understand how we feel about stuff. I
understand how the landowners feel. I understand
everything.

Show me a plan that works. That's all we
need is something that works. This is bad for our people.
This is bad for our children. And we cannot let this
freeway go through.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, sir, for your
comment.

Anybody else like to come up, provide public
area because of the wall on the border that they're trying
to put up. U of A has studied about the cactus that are
dying, hashan that have lived for centuries in our desert
are dying because of the pollution and the stuff that are
impacting.
I look at -- you talk about economic
benefits. And I see it, when the freeway comes. I looked
at your video. There is no access to that freeway from
our community. There is no frontage road that they're
planning on putting on from -- until it gets to 59th
Avenue until it gets to the freeway. This is by ADOT's
own video. They're telling you what they are going to do
to our community. We are not in their plans. We are not
involved. It doesn't matter they're not even putting it
on our reservation. They're putting it less than a mile
off. They're putting it a few feet away. Yet we are
going to feel the impacts. With no frontage roads and no
access, what happens if we have an environmental accident?
What if we have an environmental spill? Where do we go?
Where does Ahwatukee go?
I went to a meeting in Ahwatukee last month.
I almost got lost because there's no way to get out of
there. If anything happens, people are going to die.
Pure and simple. The emergency response can't get there.
Nobody can be there. Evacuations are going to happen. If
MR. ESCHEF: Hi. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Stewart Eschef. I'm from Salt River.

And I just want to commend all you guys that are saying --

THE REPORTER: I can't hear him. I can't hear him.

MS. KISTO: Excuse me, sir. Can you speak up a little bit louder, because our court reporter is getting your testimony, and she can't hear you.

MR. ESCHEF: Hi, you guys. My name is Stewart Eschef. I'm from Salt River. I see a couple of you I know among the O'odhams.

And I just want to say, you know, I commend you guys for speaking up, because we have the same issues back home, you know. Not a lot of people get involved with community information and things going on in the -- in the community. Then we -- you know, we have council as well. And, you know, the councilmembers, they're there to be the voices of the people. So if the people are actually saying no already, then the council has no other way to go but say, well, my people want it this way, you know. This ADOT and everything, like, you know,
MS. RIDDLE: My apologies. Our legal rep has -- gave me this document that they have prepared for us. I wanted it to go into the record.

So "Preliminary overview of comments on the South Mountain Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement in Section 4(f) Evaluation issued September 2014 regarding impacts to cultural resources.

November 15, 2014. The agencies are noncompliant with the requirements of the Section 106 review process. The FEIS confirms the process is incomplete and only affirms partial proposed mitigations with no complaint. Pragmatic agreement at this late phase of the project, the agencies are noncompliant with the Handbook For Integrating NEPA and Section 106, March 2013, by CEQ, Office of the -- Office of the President, and the ACHP because they have not issued a Section 106 compliance agreement.

"In addition, the agencies confirm that there will be adverse effects and -- to -- would affect two sites South Mountain traditional cultural property, and one site contributes to the SMTC property.

"Did not sufficiently consult the tribes early nor consistently through the project, did not, therefore, have the input to properly spoke and identify cultural resources and TCPs missed or ignored as a
substantial part of public comment and our tribal input, as evidenced by comments within the FEIS.

"Ignored the community's position for a no-build option inside of this election as to why they must cause irreversible harm to Muhadagi Do'ag.

"Propose access to sacred sites by foot under the highway without assessment of the quality and hindrance of such mitigation proposal, for example, View Scape.

"Have ignored volumus (sic) comments that have validated the mountain beyond the land itself, the View Scape, and therefore have not properly assessed the full TCP.

"Claim that they have received no information about the value of air, ground, or water attributes during the consultation phase with tribes, so did not weight these values in its assessment and now claim Section 106 review and these components is now not required.

"The statement evidences the agencies' shortcomings in consultation and the devastating and inaccurate effects of noncompliance with Section 106.

"Argues that a fraction, 0.3 percent of the total area and two-tenths of the total mountain range, is impacted. But such a fraction only considers land and not other attributes missed in the faulty and incomplete Section 106 review process, thereby neglecting a true and accurate impact.

"Suggests that the mitigation managers will continue to reduce effects on the mountains, however, such measures are not secure. No timelines, other than up until the record of decision, the last day, is cited.

"Because the Section 106 process is not complete, faulty, and the records show that the agency now possess volumes of data to better assess and identify sites, the agency should immediately revise and execute full TCP studies for the many aspects they missed, correct the inadequacies of the reports, and avoid harm to Muhadagi Do'ag."

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Riddle.

I see we have some new attendees that showed up. So I'd just like to give a brief overview of what we are doing here today.

On October 15th, the community council made a motion to have a public forum and include representatives from the Federal Highway Association as well as Arizona Department of Transportation. This public forum is to allow community members to provide public comment. You are more than welcome to talk to the
MR. TASHQUINTH: (Speaking in native language.)

Good afternoon. I welcome you from ADOT or from the State or wherever you come from. I welcome you to the land of our people, the Akimel O’odham and the Pee-Posh. You are guests here. You have come to our lands again to bring this EIS study. We have told you -- in this district, District 6, we have told you no.

You come here, and you want to talk of this, and those mountains are already marked up. That’s what you do all the time. You say you want to come smoke the pipe, sit down and talk, let us hear what you have to say. But you don’t want to hear what we have to say.

We have been here for thousands and thousands of years. Our grandfathers, our great-grandfathers helped all of the American settlers coming through here, from the time the Spanish came, to the Mexicans, and to the Americans. Chief Antonio Azul made a handshake deal with the lieutenant that came through here. He asked to hold our horses. He did it. The Spanish government didn’t like it. They came up and demanded those horses. Antonio Azul said no. I made a handshake. I made a man’s promise. I’m keeping them. If you want them, come and take them. He had over a thousand warriors dressed and painted and ready for a fight.
signed a treaty with you. We gave you our word. We gave you our promise. Many of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers served in the service, whether they were in the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force.

They joined up. They fought alongside many of them, the black, the white, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, all the other peoples. And yet you treat us like this. You disrespect us like this.

We already have a resolution that says no build. Our council representatives, our governor, our lieutenant governor, the newly elected ones and all those past and present. That's us. We are the people. We have spoken in that vote. 720 people have spoken and said no build.

And yet you don't listen to us. You don't hear us. You don't care about us. You want to eradicate us. You want to exterminate us.

My question is why? Your Christian God tells you to love one another. Your Christian Bible tells you to take care of your brothers and sisters, not to steal, not to lie, not to cheat, not to covet your neighbor's lands and goods. And yet here you are, coming back to us when we, the people, the Akimel O'odham and the Pee-Posh people, have told you and told you, especially here at District 6.
they will put it in their stories and their songs, and
they will sing about what we used to be and how we were at
one time.

All of the people that walked in here with
me, we have always said that.

Everybody, what do we say? No build.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

MR. TASHQUINTH: What do you say.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

MR. TASHQUINTH: What do you say.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No build.

MR. TASHQUINTH: Who are you.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Akimel O’odham.

Pee-Posh.

MR. TASHQUINTH: Who are you.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Akimel O’odham.

Pee-Posh.

MR. TASHQUINTH: There you go. We’re Akimel
O’odham and Pee-Posh. That’s who we are. Write that
down, that all the people that are here are Akimel O’odham
and Pee-Posh. And if there are other tribes that are here
or if there are any other supporters that are here with
us, then they back us up and support us, because we are
people. We are the children of God.

That’s all I have to say. Right now.
1               MS. SPRING: I don't know how to follow that
2 up, but I'll try.
3               I would like to tell you that this FEIS is
4 incomplete. It does not speak to the Gila River Indian
5 Community people. It does not take into regards any of
6 our people. It doesn't have any statistics from our
7 community. It doesn't say how many people live in 51st
8 Avenue. It doesn't say how many people live in the
9 circles. It doesn't say anything about our clinic being
10 right there, our dialysis center being right there. It
11 doesn't say anything about the new school that's going to
12 be built there. It doesn't say anything about this Boys &
13 Girls Club, how many people attend this Boys & Girls Club.
14 Has no numbers, no figures. They could care less.
15               That's why we say that you're racist. And
16 that's why we say that you don't care about us. And
17 that's why we say that you're disrespecting us. Not
18 because we just think that, but we read your book. And
19 your book doesn't say anything about us. You could care
20 less about us. Certainly doesn't say anything about our
21 culture, you know. How could you understand our culture?
22 You don't even listen to anything that we say, at any time
23 do you do that.
24               We are still here. We still visit our
25 mountain. We still give thanks to our mountain. We

Page 55
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Page 56
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And anybody that lives around here, I mean, you should know, if you look out your window, down towards the Phoenix area, nothing but clouds of smoke all over the place. And so South Mountain protects us from that. And if they build a freeway, which they anticipate -- I don't know -- 150, 200 vehicles per day coming in here -- and that was one of their justifications for building it, so that 17,000 vehicles wouldn't travel to 51st Avenue. But, no, we'll just allow 150, 200,000 to come through, you know. That's no justification.

Anyways, that all of that smoke, all that smoke will be trapped here. And everybody that's affiliated, we all do that -- I don't know about all of us. But a lot of people do. We lived around this community hundreds of years. I think if your FEIS was going to be anywhere near complete, you would take into consideration the air pollutants that are going to come into this community not for 10 years, not for 5 years, not for 20 years. Because that's probably how long you people have lived out here. But our people, we have lived out here since the beginning of the United States Government. So if you're going to stick any numbers out there, you need to at least forecast another 500 years, 'cause that's how long we intend to be here, we hope to be here, if you don't try to kill us off with this.

We do consider it -- I myself consider it to be genocide on our people, building that freeway right there. Don't -- I mean, can't you see the landscape here? The South Mountain is right there. The Estrella Mountain is right there. Our own Gila River CEQ said -- and it's not in your study. I know you guys could care less. But, you know, they said that South Mountain protects us, at this point, from the pollutions that's going there.
We just came from there. We were all just there. We ran from over there -- well, I didn't run, but my friends did. And it's all taped off. It's all yellow taped, black taped off right where you're going to blow up the mountain, you know, build your little freeway for people --

Oh, if you didn't know -- and I don't know who has read this FEIS. I'm sure not too many people. But let me enlighten you that it says that they'll save 20, 24 minutes at the most on their commute from Phoenix. Which has nothing to do with us. We don't have -- that commute saved time. That's how much this means to them.

I mean, what they want to do.

Anyways, as I was saying, blasting up the mountain, where's all that dust going to go, all those particles going to go? Huh. I don't know. Maybe towards 51st Avenue and all over us. I mean, you're going to be breathing in those toxins. Your kids are going to be breathing in those toxins. Your little grandbabies are going to be breathing in those toxins. They're going to be out here playing in their little field, thinking everything's okay. The whole time, they're getting poisoned, 'cause you know, carcinogenics from the freeway, from the emissions, those travel. They're little
1 tiny little particles. They get stuck in your lungs and
2 your everything, and they cause cancer, you know,
3 bronchitis, you know, asthma, all those types of things.
4 Your kids, your grandkids.
5 They don't care. They don't live out here.
6 They could care less. They have no concern. It's not in
7 here. Believe it. If you don't believe me, here. You
8 can read our book. You know, I'm sure they have some out
9 here. You can ask them. They don't talk about it. They
10 could -- no. They don't care. Just letting you know.
11 Protect the animals? There's protected
12 animals in that mountain, our sacred animals that have
13 been around for way longer than any of us have been
14 around. They mention them. Oh, too bad for them. Pretty
15 much what it says. They're not going to have a habitat,
16 especially for the wild horses that run wild. They're not
17 going to be able to have -- be in that place.
18 Not only does it say that, you know, the
19 wild -- the turtles, the eagles -- there's eagles that
20 nest around here. I'm sure many -- well, many of you
21 might not know that, but they are. They're not going to
22 have -- this all affects their wildlife habitat. It's in
23 here, but they just say, well, that's just one of the
24 things that happens when you build a freeway. So too bad.
25 That's just how they are. And that's how
MS. TACALLA: Good morning. My name is Roberta Tacalla. I come to tell you guys that, you know, I'm against this freeway.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.

MS. TACALLA: One of the main reasons --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Roberts, pull it down, the

mic.

MS. TACALLA: Can you guys hear me now.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

MS. TACALLA: My name is Roberta Tacalla, and I'm a Tohono O'odham, and I come from the Village of Santa Rosa, but I was born and raised here in -- well, born and raised in Phoenix but grew up in Sacaton.

I'm familiar with this area because of the O'odham territory that extends within the boundaries beyond -- if you were to -- you know, if you were to take away the boundaries, this land would expand all the way into Phoenix.

But I'm against this freeway just because of the fact of how many times have we seen so many drug cartels coming through from Tucson to Phoenix? It opens the door again to our families, the violence, the crimes, the pollutions.

And I'm against this. I'm against this because I have -- standing here is my grandchild, which is from this district. And it means a lot for me to -- to represent and be strong for him. I'm his voice. And many others within my family -- I have four grandchildren. I have a mother that lives here in this community but not in this particular one. She's from District 4.

And so I come up here, again, it's because I want you guys to think about the pollution, the crime, the statistics that are not in that book.

I haven't read through it, but at the same time, I'm hearing stories, and I see it. I see it firsthand coming from Tucson. I see what this -- this drug cartel has done. And this opens the door from their end all the way up to Canada. And a lot of people don't know that.

I come straight from the border, and I see this every day and what it's doing to my community, the pollution. I mean, you guys may sit there and not think about the negative. But there are negatives. And, again, I come because I want you guys to understand that my children are being affected and what this, our land, our elders have always said; do not sell your land.

And this is the land that we have, what little we have. We have politicians in here. We have government in here. They need to -- they need to understand for their people and what this means to their...
MS. JACKSON: Everybody hear me? All right. Good morning. It's still morning.

I want you to know that a lot of us have been awake and been planning and been preparing for this day for at least the last week. The runners, all of us who have come through here had a journey this morning while you were probably still in bed or getting dressed. We started at the -- at where the proposed blast site is. We rode in a pickup truck there, dusty, and got blessed. And we heard about the mountain, and we heard -- we sang a song, and we were blessed by Mike here.

And then very brave men, women, young girls, elder women, they ran for you. For you. All the community members that are in here. Not to be too disrespectful, but I don't really care about what these people are here for. We're here to talk to you, because you're going to stop it. We're going to stop this freeway.

So we could come in, and we could reference the FEIS all we want. But let's be honest, they don't care what we have to say. Our comments about Elder Brother, about Muhadagi Do'ag, that doesn't mean anything to them.

We can talk about the pollutants. We can reference their wildlife, and -- we can reference all the
We all stayed together. We all remember what we're doing, why we're doing this. And when we were coming in here, we knew we were in a better place and we were in a stronger place to come and speak to you today.

So while I do -- of course I do encourage you to make those statements at the court reporter and look at the FEIS, see the discrepancies. See how minimal attention our community gets in that big report. And then also think about this. And I will say it. Our community, our own community, our own tribal leadership should have done a better job of dissecting this information and getting it to the people in a way that we could all understand.

And I don't mind saying it, because I went to the table and had a meeting with our tribal leadership. And I was one of the few who were there. There are things that are supposed to be in this form that we agreed on that aren't here. The resolutions were supposed to be blown up so you could all see. The motion that was made in the past by the elders concern committee where they said we, as elders, stand against this freeway and to protect the mountain. They have said that.

And it's not here. We are the voice. And we have to go through every one of you and tell you, be strong. Be brave. Be courageous. We can do this.
I'm going to give in to the things that are all plaguing our community; drugs, alcoholism, poverty. I'm going to do something. We all did do something.

And if this is it, then do it. Make a statement. Speak up. Start talking to your people. This isn't over.

And I told my daughter, who did run the whole -- who ran all day today for us, for our family.

And I told her one day when we were driving home -- which I will also mention that my children have always gone to school in Ahwatukee. We've lived in Ahwatukee for a while. I have a lot of concern for that community as well.

But I told her that one of these days, maybe in 15 years, you're going to still be fighting this. Remember what we did. Remember who was there. Remember what your elders said.

Don't give up, everybody. Don't give up. What they don't know is what's coming. This is just the beginning. We're not going to stop. We're going to keep fighting.

Now, I don't -- I am simply just a community member. I'm simply a mother, student, somebody who works and really cares, has deep love, deep love for her people, a person that just woke up one day and said, no, I'm not
MR. PEDRO: (Speaking in native language.)

Thank you guys for all coming out today, and thank you for everybody in support of us fighting the freeway.

And like everybody said before -- I'm sorry if this seems very repetitive, but ADOT is racist. They hold up resolutions. It's in the FEIS. They hold up resolutions for other surrounding communities where they've gone, but not for the Gila River Indian Community. That definitely shows their amount of bias towards us. I mean, we voted, and there's been district resolutions. Council passed resolutions that they don't want the freeway anywhere, not on the reservation or not off the reservation. And the last time they were here, they had signs that didn't even have the right information. And then they told us that, well, it's correct, but it just depends on how you understand it.

Now, we have -- Muhadagi Do'ag is sacred. It's a sacred mountain to us. But not only that, there is a lot of Huhugam and Hopi O'odham sites there. There's pottery scattered. There's whole villages there. There are two main villages in the pathway of the freeway. And in the FEIS, they are called Pueblo del Alamo and Villa Buena. Now, those are ancient villages of our ancestors, the same people who looked upon the mountain, who prayed...
1 upon the mountain, just as we do today.
2 And yet they have no concern of that. They
3 say they'll mitigate on how to not impact it. But when
4 you're -- you know, when you're bulldozing a site, you
5 know, that's already affecting it.
6 And also, this is not only part of -- the
7 Loop 202 is not only part of the Arizona system, but also
8 the south corridor is the future of capitalism in Arizona.
9 And capitalism is not paid in favor of indigenous people.
10 We are here today, in the reservation, because our lands
11 have been stolen by Milligan. And they --
12 You all live on stolen O'odham land. If you
13 live in Arizona, Southern Arizona, from Phoenix down on
14 into -- deep into Mexico, you're on occupied O'odham land.
15 And you need to understand that, because this is our
16 place. And we are all indigenous people. But where are
17 you indigenous from? And you're not giving the respect
18 that we deserve from our area. And you get respect from
19 your own area. We are all indigenous people. But where
20 are we from? You've got to remember where we're from.
21 Now, the Loop 202 is a -- is a part of a
22 system to enhance trade, international trade between the
23 U.S., Canada, and Mexico. It's called the CANAMEX
24 Corridor, and some even call it I-11, that it will -- I-11
25 will go all the way from Canada into Mexico. And do you
26 know they -- this helps facilitate trade and -- through
27 border militarization? This helps them facilitate in
28 trade.
29 And like Roberta said earlier, drug cartels
30 use these same roads and affect the same people. We're
31 all here. And we all said no. And I've told all of you
32 people -- I've seen every last one of you at all of your
33 meetings before. And whatever it takes, by any means
34 necessary, we will stop this freeway.
35 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Mr. Pedro, for your
36 comment.
37 Next we'll have Ms. Shelby.
by the fact that the EIS statement didn't make reference
to Gila River. Well, that's because Gila River isn't
involved. It's not on our land at all. So what comments
could be made if they were going to be affecting --
directly affecting Gila River? And it isn't.
Overall, we do have those impacts, yes,
coming from the freeway. It's going to be rough, I think,
because, personally, I -- I see that it's coming whether
we like it or not. But that's also because that's what
progress is called. I mean, we have to wake up to that
fact.
And what -- what I also saw was the fact
that the impact that -- without -- without that freeway,
the impact would have been on 51st through Beltline
through Riggs. That traffic would have tripled within ten
years, had not this bypass been created.
And even today, I don't like the traffic on
that -- on this route today. The only time that -- it
made me remember when I was a child, the traffic that we
had through there was when we had to close off 51st to
Maricopa Road on the same road because of the fire we had
back in -- near Maricopa. They closed off the roads
because they had the locky-loos come through. And it was
such a quiet road, that it just took me back to my
childhood.

MS. SHELBY: Hi. I'm Lisa Shelby from here
in District 6 community.
I guess I didn't really want to say
anything, but just hearing the other comments being made
and also from what I've seen in the video -- and that was
kind of my question, which would have been to DOT. But
the -- by the fact that, in viewing the video and the --
showing the -- the route for the freeway, I saw like --
like a yellowish line alongside that freeway. And I'm
thinking that's our borderland. So, in fact, it would
be -- the freeway would be on the Ahwatukee side, meaning
off reservation. And it flows all the way up to here,
where we are -- basically through South Mountain. So it
was saying to me that the freeway isn't on our land.
And I think that was the main issue in the
beginning, because in the beginning, we were shown two
options or three options. One was off; one was on. And
we all got excited because of the freeway showing on our
reservation.
And I'm also hearing today that DOT is not
listening to us. But, you know, they did by the fact that
the alignment is on the other side of the border. It's
not on our land.
And what was bothering me is the fact that
we aren't being listened to. But, yes, we are. And also
MS. ORTIZ: Hi. My name is Anna Ortiz.

My -- I'm kind of nervous.

My -- my mom's people come from the village right here in Santa Cruz. My dad's people come from Tijo. I've been here all my life.

I wasn't going to say anything. And I just heard a lot of things -- a lot of things that I have something to say about.

When you guys came, did anybody offer you something to eat? Something to drink?

Everybody can point fingers and say, you know, it's because this; it's because of that. But this is our home. Yeah. Our people, we're here from way before. But what are we now? When the lady was saying you don't have to say why it's important; you don't have to tell what the story is. I know the story. But my little girl sits back there, at 12 years old, and I've never told it to her.

How many of you guys and your kids and your grandkids know the story?

The councilman came up, and he said there wasn't a budget to defend what we proposed. But our tribe gave how many millions of dollars to name a stadium after us. Really?

And how many times do you read in the paper...
they're giving away money to outsiders, people that -- for
what? I'd like to know for what. I've never asked. And
maybe I shouldn't.

When we're all talking about it, when these
things come up in our houses, in our families, between one
another, we have things to say. I know I do. When it's
just me and my mom or me and my sister or me and just
somebody I can be rude with, I have a lot of things to
say. But I've never, given the opportunity, stood up and
said anything about what I feel about how things are and
the way that we take care of each other.

Our kids, yeah, we could talk about our
kids. But how many of us send our kids to school every
day regardless? How many of us -- is it so important --
I -- I was wondering that just before all these kids came
in. Where are all the kids at? Why -- why didn't anybody
bring their kids? How many -- how many people younger
than me know what's going on and what it's going to cause
and all these issues?

For us -- well, for me, I don't trust a lot
of people. And it's hard to send my kid to school where I
can't pick and choose, okay, yeah, you can be her teacher;
no, you can't be her teacher.

But in our community, we have a choice.
We're supposed to be all related, and we're all supposed
to help each other. And we're talking about what's going
to happen to us. It's not up to anybody else but us what
happens to us.

And our future, yeah, it -- it's up to our
kids. And I worry. I worry. Because I've worked with
kids from the time -- from 2002 to right now. The class
that I have, there's only one kid -- one kid -- they were
eighth graders when I was working there. And there's only
one that is now pursuing higher education. Just one out
of all those years that I worked with the school.

And just like that, when we vote for our
council and... I -- I stopped voting. I used to be
dedicated to the cause and go. And I used to go to Santa
Cruz. They used to have us go vote in Santa Cruz. But
for some reason, something that I never understood,
something that made me mad was they didn't have them
vote -- the villagers in Santa Cruz, they didn't vote
there. We had to come to District 6. And for why ever --
I don't even know why it made me mad. But I didn't want
to come vote somewhere else that wasn't where I could
vote.

And all these outsiders, it's scary. When I
was younger, they used to take us to the community
meetings where we used to have to ask them for money when
we were doing something or -- and I haven't been to a
community meeting in I don't know how long. It just -- it
just seemed like no matter what people said, no matter how
many times, just like that, they voted, and yet still, it
doesn't matter.
The council, whatever votes do, they're
going do what they're going to do. And you get enough
people -- and that number he used -- Mike used, it was,
what, 720 people? There's more than 720 people in this
community. Where was everybody else?
I don't know what the future has. I don't
know what we're all looking towards. I know -- what I do
know is that my responsibility is to my child, my
children, all my nieces, all my nephews, all the kids that
I come across, to tell them and explain to them why it's
important to get a good education, why they need it, and
why it's going to help all of us in the end, not just our
families, not just them and them and them, but all of us.
It's -- it's hard to put everything together
in my head the way it's running through my head.
But I worry. I worry about what's going to
happen. Yeah, if -- if that freeway comes through and --
I don't want it. No way. No way. Everything that comes
of it and because of it, the health -- we're -- it's up to
us. The same thing with our health. We have to make sure
that our kids aren't eating McDonald's and junk just
because. We have to tell them, you know what? You
pick -- you dropped that trash, you pick it up. You see
trash, you throw it where it belongs. The things that we
teach our kids and the things that we want them to know,
it takes us to be those good people to make sure that they
come up behind us and they have the same beliefs and they
do the same things that we do.
It's hard. But I trust that if there's
enough people -- all you guys, you guys are here, and you
cared enough to be here. And that says something about
all of you. And I thank you all for letting me see that,
because I thought, when I came here, I was going to see
like five, six people. And this is way more than I
thought I was going to see.
And it's my fault for -- for not coming and
trying to know what's going on myself. But I can talk a
lot of stuff about the things that I think without knowing
anything.
Thank you for the education. Thank you for
the true facts that I heard that I didn't even know
myself. Thank you for making me angry enough to want to
do something about it.
I hope that all these kids, the ones coming
up, even the babies, find it in themselves to feel
something and do something. The people that can. ‘Cause,
1 yeah, you get enough voices -- and it does make -- it does
2 make it harder.
3 Thank you.
4 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Ortiz.
5 Next we'll have Ms. -- we'll just have you
6 come up now. You're familiar. I remember. But the name
7 is not coming to me.
8 Oh, yes. This is Ms. Connie Hunergardt.

1 MS. HUNERGARDT: Thank you, Euzette.
2 Can everybody please hear me? Thank you.
3 First of all, as I sat here and listened to
4 everybody speak, I hear you with heavy hearts. My heart
5 is heavy too. I heard Ms. Shelby speak long ago about the
6 progress. Times have changed. She's so right.
7 I remember coming back home, as a child,
8 over 50 years ago -- I'm going to just say over 60 years
9 ago, so you can figure out my age as I stand here.
10 But as a child, I remember seeing that Gila
11 River run. I remember seeing it go bank to bank. I
12 remember seeing my grandparents -- I'm a Perkins from
13 District 1. I'm also -- those are my paternal
14 grandparents. And my maternal grandparents are Ellas from
15 across the river.
16 But what I want to say, I remember, many
17 times, my grandparents, we'd go visit one grandparents;
18 we'd go visit the other. My grandfather would wade --
19 he'd take a walking stick way out in the middle of the
20 river to see, can we cross the river. Sometimes he would
21 take a child on his back to see if he could get to the
22 other side. And many times -- and I could not understand.
23 But his faith was so strong. Those rapids and the water
24 would be just twirling around.
25 And the water was clean in those days. It

Page 84
I also would like to -- and due respect to ADOT. I had the opportunity to work for the Arizona Department of Transportation, a great department, many, many years ago. And I want to tell you, when it came to the reservation, they were at heart. They met with many reservations, and they would check what those studies would be. They checked the lifestyle. They checked the water. They'll check -- somebody had so many horses, well, what's going to happen to my horses if you come on? They did all their homework. They wanted to make sure that road went through or went by their house. They crossed their T's and dotted their I's, ADOT did.

But then I heard this one lady speak up a while ago. And she said she went to her council representative -- and please, please go to your council representative -- and please, please go to your representative. You guys elected your representative at each council. And I go to mine. I had a problem this past year. I'm also a landowner. But you know what? I really don't own that land. It's allotted land. It belongs to the U.S. Government. We're only there in name only. That's it. And that's what we forget about. But most importantly, the land belongs to God, not to us. Not to us.

And another thing I want to tell you, she even spoke about council. You know, maybe, if all of
you -- or all of these issues that you're talking about could have been aired out at your council meeting, or go to your council community meetings also. It just takes that one vote. One vote to change everything. So please, please remember that. Go vote. Go speak up.

A lot of you spoke up now. You go do that. You have that right, every single one of you. And thank you very much for hearing what I had to say. And I'd like to say God bless each and every one of you. And what happens, it's in God's hands. It's in God's hands. And so I ask, you pray for what this decision is going to be.

Thank you very much.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hunergardt.

Come on up.

And after the young lady, we will have Darius come up to the microphone.

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COUNCILMAN VILLARREAL: Just real quickly, I think there may have been some misunderstanding what this -- this motion that was made. What this does is authorizes a budget to defend the community's position in a no-build of the freeway. I wanted to make that clear, because it sounded as if we were just letting this go to deaf ears.

I'm a District 6 representatives. You have District 6 representatives in the room. You have councilmembers. They all are in support of defending the community and defending the health of this community. Whether the record and discussion is made, this is the position of the community that we're going to take. Whether those folks that are coming up here and are up in -- in support of that freeway, it doesn't matter at this point. The decision has been made by this community. They did speak through their vote.

So I want to make that real clear. So we're going to defend you no matter what. And the defense fund has always been there. But this authorizes a budget solely to defend the decision of this community. I wanted to make that clear to you all.

And we're still here for you. We're going to be here even after this meeting to answer any questions, clarifications, whatever it is that you may --
I know there's probably other issues. And this is the
time to grab us. That's why we're here.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you very much Councilman
Villarreal. Next we'll have Carmelita Webb.

MS. WEBB: Well, good morning, all. We all
heard -- well, we all heard the voice of our elders and
people -- people older than me. And I am a child of
District 6 community, 13 years old.

And -- well, I'd like to say the -- even if
it's on or off the reservation, the pollution, the air and
everything is going to come towards us. And I myself --
and we like being -- I like being outside. I like taking
walks every day. I wake up every morning to get ready for
school. I look up to the mountains, and I pray every
morning, once I get up, to have a good day.

And I hear other teenagers talking about
going out and leaving their families. Now, even if it's
on or off, the bus route still goes through here, so
they'll have a bus that takes probably close to -- close
to the freeway. And they might go out, get into trouble,
do something bad for themselves, which causes probably
more trouble for teenagers nowadays. They may want to go
out and do whatever.

But -- yeah. And I just wanted to come up
to say I listened to all you -- all -- everyone who speak,
I listened to all your comments. And it just gave me the
courage to come up here and say what I wanted to say. If
I were to legally vote, I would vote no. But now we have
no choice. The choices already have been made. And if we
MR. ENOS: Hello. My name is Darius Enos, and I'm from Santa Cruz Village, well, actually, between Gila Crossing and Santa Cruz, at that cul-de-sac. My dad is building a -- like a mud house. And it's a very good example of sustainability that I don't -- I'm not sure if the tribe has looked into when fulfilling our housing needs. But it's for sustainable purposes. It's going to keep our -- our family cool in the summer, and it's going to keep us warm in the winter. And it's going to be a reproduction of how homes were built prior to what we call so-called progress.

And I know that's been a theme that's been discussed is progress; it's coming. Well, did you know that with progress, it -- comes all these -- these bad statistics for our community? We say that manifest destiny's coming. It's happening. But all of these -- these things, these diseases, these -- alcohol abuse, domestic violence, violence against women, the sexualization of women. We -- we don't really value who we are as O'odham and as -- as a people, as spiritual beings and -- that was placed in this desert.

Why we don't really necessarily question why we're here, because we're participating in the economy. We're trying to feed our families. And yet originally, we had the water to -- to make our own gardens, to provide...
for our own families. And we also had lawyers to defend
those -- those gardens, whether it be from the Apaches,
whether it be from Spaniards, whether it be from the
Miligan.
And -- and I want to commend the runners. A
lot of you that are from here -- especially if you're from
here, I'm very proud of you guys. Especially if you're
young. You could be anywhere else. You could be watching
cartoons. If it was me at that age, I'd be watching
cartoons.
The Dineh, Eric, thank you for being here.
If you're from any other tribe. I think there's even a
non-native running.
So this particular issue, there's people
that aren't even O'odham that are fighting this freeway.
So it's not necessarily just an O'odham issue. But for
the purposes of this forum, it is. But I just wanted to
tell you guys that little tidbit and give you guys hope
that, you know, it's not just us that are in opposition to
this freeway.
And the main thing I wanted to say was --
was this quote, these statistics from this book called
'Bird on Fire: Lessons From the World's Least Sustainable
City.' And it's by a man named Andrew Ross. So -- so one
of the quotes that -- that stood out -- I barely have,
I like, an example copy of the book. I haven't purchased
the whole thing yet. So there's a lot more information
on -- in this book, I'm pretty sure, that I haven't even
tapped into yet.
But one of the statistics was from 1990 to
2007, Arizona added fossil fuel pollutants faster than any
other state. The rate of increase was more than three
times the national average.
And if you guys think about what this
freeway, what kind of impact does that have on our
pollution? I think -- I'm not too sure Gila River has air
quality awards for really good air quality, but what is
that going to do to our -- our health?
And there's also other -- by 2005, the
Valley's infamous brown cloud was drawing the lowest
national grades from the American Lung Cancer Association
for air quality in both ozone and particulates. And in
2010 we claimed the number one spot for dust pollution.
So I don't know if that's something that's
in the FEIS. But it's definitely something to consider.
And I'm not sure why there isn't a FEIS for different
communities, whether they be on reservation or off
reservation. I don't have -- I don't -- honestly, I don't
know if anyone has time to look at, you know, Buckeye's
FEIS or Laveen's FEIS or Ahwatukee's FEIS. Our main
concern is -- is our community. And why couldn't there be
a separate FEIS for us to look at, whether it be on or off
the reservation?
So with that being said, that is -- I think
that is a form of blatant racism. We're a marginalized
community as it is. We -- like the elder, Mike
Tashquintch, said, we've given a lot, in our history, to
the non-natives. And we continue to do that today with
casino revenue.
So I think we're a very important
population, and -- and -- we are. And I hope that people
consider that when they're making their decisions, whether
it be like the political vote or a political speech. But
there's things that you can do that doesn't involve
politics, like -- like Renee does or -- or Mike or the
runners. They took their time out of their day to make a
statement. They ran from Muhadagi Do'ag to here along the
freeway and the potential freeway lines route. And I just
wanted to give you guys hope, and remember that we did --
we do continue to give a lot to the state of Arizona.
And, you know, I've been here before. I've
talked in front of people. I've been to a few council
meetings. And I'm glad that Councilman Chris Villarreal
stepped up and said that. I think a lot of us are
wondering what is council -- what their position is with
MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is Monique. And I'd just ask you to open your hearts today and listen.

I'm here just to share my reason why I'm against the freeway. That mountain is sacred to us. It's our creator's home. I've shared so many prayers on that mountain. I run through that mountain four to five times a week.

I'm sorry I'm crying, but it just hurts, because I've shared my heart with that mountain so many times.

One of the most personal prayers on that mountain was about my grandma. Coming through that mountain, my creator told me what was going to happen here. And I knew. And as I was finishing, I got the call and found out that she was going. But I told -- told them I knew.

But I'm just asking that you try to understand that it's not just a mountain. It's -- it's a part of us. And if you -- even if it's not going through our community, our boundaries, it's still our mountain. It's still a piece of us. I ran across the whole mountain and just being on the other side, I didn't feel that that wasn't a part of our mountain. The minute that I stepped on that mountain to the end, finishing here, it was still our mountain. That's our creator. That's a part of us.

And I'm just here just to say to try and open your hearts and try to understand and put yourself in our shoes and just open your heart and try to understand. If you were us, if you were me, how would you feel? Just try. You might get lost in your job and money, but let it go and open your heart and try to understand. Close your eyes and just try to feel it. That's all I have to say. Thank you.
I'm getting told I'm going to be going soon anyway, you know; it's not going to affect me. But it's going to affect all our grandkids, great-grandchildren. And that's something that everybody needs to think about. If we only think about ourself, we're just being selfish. If means money for us, okay, yeah, let's do it. You know? That's not right.

Our land, you know, it -- we were connected to Salt River. We're not connected to Salt River anymore. As you all know, there's Phoenix, Scottsdale. We were one whole big -- you know, our tribe was really big at one time. And slowly, they're getting into, you know, taking land here and there. Slowly it's happening. And you guys are not even aware of it.

And I'm kind of ashamed to, you know, think about the people that are making these choices. I'm ashamed for -- I'm not them, but it's -- it's a shame, because they're not thinking about our people.

Anybody that has the right to make the choices, what they want to do, that's what they're going to do. And, you know, they're not listening to the people.

Anybody has something to say -- and just like Lisa had said, yeah, when we're talking about change and stuff like that, you know, and talking about there's not enough money for the budget on this, and it's going to cut into the per cap. That's okay. That's fine with me.

I don't care. Because per cap, all that just has all the people, the young people here, all they're using the per cap is drugs, alcohol. They're -- they don't think about their families. So that's money for everybody, per cap. That's fine.

I could stand here and say, yeah, I want the...
1 children are getting sick. You guys don't understand it.
2 You don't see it. And it will be worse if that freeway
3 goes through here.
4 I recently started running. And we do run
5 that mountain. And, you know, we've seen the lines that
6 are out there. And, you know, running is not an easy
7 thing to do. I can tell you that right now. But, you
8 know, it -- it helps. If you're a runner and you pray,
9 you'll understand what I'm talking about. And when we do
10 this, we always pray for -- when I'm out there, I pray for
11 my family. Sometimes when we -- you know, I'm out there,
12 I pray for our community.
13 I'm not from here, but I've been here for a
14 lot of years, so I kind of figure myself as being from
15 here. And I pray for everybody that lives in this
16 community.
17 I was in the women's run. Every village we
18 went through, I prayed for that community. I didn't pray
19 for myself. There was a lot of women that went through a
20 lot when we did that run.
21 And I just hope that, you know, a lot of you
22 here, if you have anything to do with it, you know, I just
23 hope you guys make the right choice.
24 That's all I have to say.
25 MS. KISTO: Thank you, Monique and
MR. JACKSON: Good morning. My name is Alvin Jackson. I'm from District 1 original.
And I just want to remind everyone to get out and vote. Because you don't realize how important
that is.
Some lady here had commented before about how this has come up for group discussion and election,
votes, about what the community wants. But still we're talking about it? You've got to remember that you are all
citizens. You're all citizens of the state of Arizona and of the United States. You need to get out and vote. Let
those people know what you want.
Politicians, the only thing they understand is a vote either for them or against. That's all they understand. No politician has ever probably run for office just one term and then given it up.
I would ask that the current governor-elect of our community draft a letter to Doug Ducey to see what
his stance is on that -- this matter is. And you have to let him publish in our tribal paper and then have his
response printed in the paper also so when he comes to us for reelection -- 'cause I'm pretty sure he will run
again -- that he will know how the members of this community will vote.
The master elections are coming up. You need to get involved. You don't think that stuff. Your vote counts. Currently, in Southern Arizona, one of the offices has to go for a recount probably because it's that close. You have to vote.
On the way down here, driving down Riggs Road -- you know, we've got the border patrol running up and down Riggs Road. And that affects everyone within the community. There's a notation over here saying that this thing's coming up for funding in the year 2015.
Those monies, which could have gone towards all this border enforcement and stuff like that probably could have been used for funding for all of this freeway stuff we wouldn't have to be paying for.
You need to know or research which one of the parties or the people running for the office, what their stances are, and then vote for whatever the best for -- not only for this community but for this country.
Sorry. Just get out and vote. That's all I ask.

MS. KISTO: Sir, go ahead, if you'd like to come up and comment.
tribes are still fighting the white man. The white man can say what they want. What do we get? Little bit. Not as much.

It is true what the elders said many years ago, before Christianity came in. The medicine men, they already knew what was going to happen around the world. They already knew what was going to happen. To this day, they said our young people today may go and graduate and learn the white man’s way, to be educated, come up here, and protect our people.

It is true South Mountain is very sacred land from the south to Salt River to this day, that’s in the Navajos and the Hopis. There’s a story behind that South Mountain. It’s very sacred. And also the Man in the Maze, that’s his home.

White people want to destroy. You talk about land. Look at all the land that you guys want to use. We can do a lot of things with that land. We can get the water running through there, do some crops, harvest it. People that have cattle and horses, we can do hay on it. There’s a lot of things that we can do.

But it’s us. The laziness. And that’s how the white man’s going to look at it. But screw the white man. Their fathers, their great fathers -- General Custer took all the land, pushed all the Native Americans from

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. Or good afternoon in Indian time.

I hear the people, the elders. I hear two worlds, the white man world and the Native American world. Many years ago, this -- this is our land to this day.

We’re not the only Native Americans in Arizona that are fighting the white man. We’ve got a lot of nations, the Palos, the native tribes all over, and even the Mexicans across the border. We forget who we are sometimes when we look at running for office or government to see what we need for our people.

Sometimes we look at the money for our land and our homes and our people and our elders. All that land, we can use it. We can make profit of our own tribal lands. We can put hay on it, farm on it, vegetables, something that we can use.

These casinos where the white man works, they’re destroying our family and our nation. These casinos is about money, property. Who’s going to get so and so. The money was supposed to be vested in our people, to education for schools, benefit for things that we need for our elders, things that -- try to look on the bright side. But every time we look at it, it’s about land, the freeway, the new casinos coming.

To this day, Navajo Nation, a lot of the
the north to the south to the west. Because the land, the oil, and the copper. We get in these casinos. These casinos are supposed to be benefit for our people, to give them jobs, you know, to better their lives. But we're still fighting with these casinos because there's more non-Indians in the casino. It was a lot better when it was still under Gila River Gaming Enterprise. But now, when the new company came in, everything went downhill.

We're losing our young people. We're losing our people that are supposed to help benefit our tribe. To this day, many of our young people that are working the casinos, there's a lot of misunderstanding in the politics. Our budget, money-wise, our benefits, our 401(K).

To this day, what I think, and to all the nation, you open a one-step freeway, we forget who we are. We are the Gila River people. We're the third-largest tribe. I think so. They say there's two largest tribes that's going to take over, going to wipe out the reservation, the Navajo Nation and the Tohono O'odham Nation. They want their land back. All these years they've been put through.

That's why they want another casino. The monies, the fundings, our per cap should get a little bit more instead of being selfish and putting new things for the state. Some of our elders need transportation.

Tomorrow, there are things that we need to be done on the reservation. It is true.

But our elders have spoken. The Great Spirit -- before the white man had came in this world, the Christianity began in the long ago, the old people said. The Old Man in the Maze said there was somebody more powerful than him, stronger than him that we're going to hear a lot. We're going to lose our language. Everything is going to die. It is true. It is written.

To this day, we -- we -- as we look at ourselves, we still don't trust anybody, especially Christian people. Our government, the President, don't understand the history, how we became and how we united. But long ago, there was a tribe called the AIM. They fight with what they believe in. To this day, there's a lot of American Indians that are still fighting. They want what's best. But with the politics, the council, the government, it's about money.

There's something you can do with these lands. Our agriculture, our farming. All the culture and farming was taught many years ago to our people up the Gila River. All this was all green, farmlands, people. Horses and cattle and grain on it, or corn or squash. But...
today, it's a modern life. We want the easy way out of
life.

But as we go through that in life, we're
still forgetting who we are. But the ones that know the
Indian way of life, we're never going to have problems,
because we know -- we know how to survive the white man's
world. To this day, we're as one. This freeway, our
mountain, our sacred is very valuable to our elders. The
wars that we fight, it's not our war. Our war is -- we
fought for what we believe in. That's our war.

And it seems like we're fighting these white
men because they don't understand the Indian way of life.
Same as we live in the white man's world. We live off the
reservation. We're still trying to teach the white man
how to do things like they were trying to teach us long
ago.

Just look at it, everything that we do. We
don't trust anybody nowadays, especially our own
government, especially the President. But as -- that is
us. We are the people with all nations.

You know, we had a good size per cap a
couple years back, 500. Now it's down to 200, 300. This
freeway, if it does go through, if it doesn't go through,
it is said, the white man's still coming. But we can
outsmart the white man. We can outsmart -- this is our
GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: As is our custom, I -- if an elder wants to speak, we're going to keep the mics open for as long as we want. So I'm going to have one of our elders come up and speak. Also, she's one of my relatives too, so I'm going to have to have her speak. Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Rosalinda.

At this time I just want to thank everybody that came out and participated and helped to put this forum together. Just, again, thank you for your time.

I'll have Governor-Elect Lewis come and do the closing.

MS. PEREZ: Hello. I've been on this reservation over 35 years. And I moved off of it to go into Phoenix. Myself and my children ended up having asthma. And it was really bad, to where they had to have medication, the machines at home to breathe on every four hours, inhalers.

And we finally got a house down here, moved down here, going to be ten years ago. My children are now off the medication. They no longer take machines. Their inhalers are only used only during the dust storms that we have here. And they do sports. They're doing things that they couldn't do before. And my worry is if the freeway comes in, what that's going to do to us again, having asthma, and to all of you who have asthma.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Thank you, Rosalinda.

At this time I just want to thank everybody that came out and participated and helped to put this forum together. Just, again, thank you for your time.

I'll have Governor-Elect Lewis come and do the closing.
When we go on to become educated, we learn that we can assume marginality, which means that you are empowered to live within two worlds. But we have the power to choose those -- those things in life that affect us in a productive way. And we can leave those alone that do not affect us, those negative things. We have that power. That's marginality.

And we go to the movies when we want to. We come back home, and we're among our family and do the things we want to do as Native people. We go to the different places, restaurants to eat, and we run into each other down in Chandler, different places, and enjoy the other things in life. But yet we come back home, and we're a community, and we're all family.

And we -- you know, like my sister was saying, there are seven of us that had to share the same tub. And we didn't like it -- want to be the last one either. But in those -- well, you older folks who know about that, you know what that's all about.

The river was our lifeblood, as an Indian community, because we were a farm nation. You know -- and you see the river today. So I'm telling you today, as Native people and community members, you know, look into your hearts and trust, you know, your beliefs and go with your decision and do it for yourselves, because you know
GOVERNOR-ELECT LEWIS: Thank you. And I can't say anything better than those words, just that I'm so proud of my community. I'm proud of the young people that are here. I'm proud of the elders that are here. I'm proud of the veterans that are here. I'm proud of everybody that's come together, our leadership here. And, you know, it's incumbent upon us, as leaders, to keep on listening to the people. 'Cause our government only protects us and its legitimacy when we do right by the people, when we listen to the people, when it's the people's best interest that are served, our community as a whole are served by our government. And so we have to -- that's -- that's our responsibility. That's our charge. And we have to keep on. Keep on. It's a hard -- but it's easy. And it's so easy, as well, to listen to the people's wishes. You know, I'd like to, you know, end this in a good way as well. It's our custom that we -- we end with a meal. And a couple of -- of housekeeping. One is we're recording this, and so you see the camera in the back. And that's -- that's the community's equipment. So this will be recorded for posterity's sake. And, you know, we'll -- this will be able to be accessed by our community members. Also, you know, there was a -- referred to
1 in Komatke. My parents grew -- were born here and grew up here, my grandparents as well, and their parts as well. So we're from here. So I'm home.

So as is customary, I see that District 6 still prefaces that we invite and we welcome anybody and everybody that's here. And that's what this group is like. It's not just special for Arizona Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration or whoever else staff is here to share this morning with us, to hear the comments from the people that have spoken. But it's for everybody.

And so the people that spoke, thank you very much for sharing your feelings, your emotions, your thoughts, your ideas, because that's what makes us who we are, strong people, because we're able to say things and speak things. And we're also able to listen and understand.

So with this time, because it's past the noon hour, I've been asked to say the prayer. And I forgot to ask him whether it should be a long prayer or a short prayer. So I'm going to use a prayer that some of you may know that I learned from my parents and from the missionaries here when I went to school.

For those who may not be aware, I'm from here. That's why I get the honor of -- of this -- this moment. I was born in Santa Cruz, grew up in Santa Cruz.
Joish.

Bless us, oh Lord, and these, thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you.

MS. KISTO: Again, please feel free to leave your name, e-mail address at the table as you exit the door. And help yourself to a lunch bag.

Again, thank you so much for coming. Really appreciate your attendance.

(TIME NOTED: 12:08 p.m.)

STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

I, CHARLOTTE LACEY, Certified Reporter No. 50859 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing printed pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this ____ day of __________ 2014.

CHARLOTTE LACEY, RPR
Certificate No. 50859