



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20240
<https://www.blm.gov>



November 8, 2023

The Honorable Verlon Jose
Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, Arizona 85634

Dear Chairman Jose:

The Secretary has asked me to respond to your October 31, 2023, letter regarding SunZia's activities on State and private lands within the San Pedro Valley area, which are occurring in connection with the Limited Notice to Proceed in the San Pedro Valley ("San Pedro Valley LNTP").

Your letter specifically requested that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) withdraw or suspend the San Pedro Valley LNTP in order to halt continued activities in the San Pedro Valley area until the BLM and the Nation, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, and Archaeology Southwest could consult regarding the objections raised under Section XIII of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project Programmatic Agreement (PA) in the August 4, 2023, letter and in the email sent by Archaeology Southwest (via Director Welch) on October 5. In response to your request, the BLM has ordered an immediate temporary suspension of SunZia's activities authorized within the San Pedro Valley LNTP, covering an approximately 50-mile segment in Arizona located entirely on non-Federal land.

I respectfully request to meet with you at your earliest convenience within the next 5 days to consult regarding your objections and discuss a path forward. I note that my previous requests in June and August were unsuccessful, as were the BLM New Mexico State Director's requests to schedule government-to-government consultations, and I am hopeful that this communication, paired with the temporary suspension, will chart a path forward.

Please reach out to me to schedule a consultation. You can reach me at tstonemanning@blm.gov, and please copy my assistant at apautz@blm.gov. We look forward to continued collaboration with you.

Sincerely,

Tracy Stone-Manning
Director

Enclosure - Director Welsh October 5, 2023, Email

cc: Pueblo of Zuni Governor, The Honorable Val R. Panteah, Sr.
Archaeology Southwest President and CEO, William Doelle