

P.O. Box 4339
San Felipe Pueblo, NM 87001



Phone: (505) 867-3381/3382
FAX: (505) 867-3383

Office of the Governor

December 2, 2016

Office of the Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs,
Lawrence Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
1849 C Street, NW, MS 3071, Washington, DC 20240

RE: Ensure meaningful tribal input into infrastructure-related reviews and decisions and the protection of tribal lands, resources, and treaty rights

Dear Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action:

The Pueblo of San Felipe attended the October 27, 2016 meeting in Albuquerque NM attended by representatives from The Department of Justice, Department of the Army and Department of the Interior, and publicly commented on the need for consultation to be:

1. Timely and Meaningful, not just a check off on a box
2. Conducted (at a minimum) in accordance with existing law and policy; but ideally conducted in the spirit of the law, including cultural preservation laws
3. Properly conducted on Eagle Take Permitting

BIA's website cites "moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust to tribes" (Seminole Nation v. United States, 1942). Protecting tribal land, resources (including cultural resources on ancestral tribal land) and fulfilling treaty rights requires restraint in ground breaking activities, time to fully consider and communicate with Leadership, and commitment to more than just making money for non-tribal interests.

Until the United States Government decides that Indians just might know what they are talking about when we oppose projects, decides to stop pushing project through despite tribal protestations (or with indefensible consultation), and decides to honor the words you have already committed to, you will never be able to fulfill the treaties, laws and regulations in place. San Felipe would likely support and participate in writing good new legislation, if the US has the will to follow through on implementation.

We will not give up on holding you accountable to your words, or working to protect our livelihoods, both temporal and spiritual, for ourselves and generations to come.

The Pueblo of San Felipe stands with Standing Rock; and we urge you to act today to uphold your moral obligations and to hear the cries of those who are working in protection of our Mother.

Sincerely,
Pueblo of San Felipe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Sandoval", written over a horizontal line.

Governor Michael T. Sandoval

cc: Honorable President Barack Obama
NM Congressional Delegation